Coronavirus: 'Nature is sending us a message', says UN environment chief

Exclusive: Destruction of wildlife and the climate crisis is hurting humanity, with Covid-19 a 'clear warning shot', say experts

theguardian.com
America is unusual in having a major party devoted to climate denialism and protecting the “right” to own an assault rifle. The GOP has been a hotbed of conspiracy theories and its reluctance to face reality of coronavirus set back efforts to save lives.
The clean air, empty streets from LA to Beijing look like a mirage, and no one wanted it this way.

But will coronavirus teach us how to fight climate change early, and in the right way? Or will we be doomed by return-to-normal capitalism?

My new column

Will a coronavirus mirage of clean air, water inspire climate action — or make t...
A coronavirus shutdown brings smog-free skies, cleaner streams and traffic-free streets. But will it inspire us to fight climate change when it's over?

🔗 inquirer.com
“This pandemic is a painful reminder of our vulnerability to systemic shocks and of the need for mass mobilization to tackle a crisis, whether driven by coronavirus or climate change.” @MindyLubber addresses COVID-19 during the #Ceres2020 digital event.

Mindy Lubber
CEO and President, Ceres

If months of denial led to swift and total disruption of our lives from the coronavirus, imagine what will happen after years of denial on climate change.
With #Coronavirus dominating the headlines, we can't forget about another major global threat: Climate change.

We need to pass the "Restore Mother Nature" Bond Act to restore our environment and protect against climate change. Become a citizen cosponsor:

Pass the Mother Nature Bond Act - Become a Citizen Cosponsor

now.ny.gov
I entirely agree with the international energy agency: we have to prepare now the green recovery package we need to recover from #Covid_19 economic downturn and to speed up our response to the climate crisis. And it will be a double win!

Put clean energy at the heart of stimulus plans to counter the coronavirus crisis...
The coronavirus is turning into an unprecedented international crisis, with serious repercussions for people’s health and economic activity

ieu.org
"The threat from #ClimateChange is as real as the threat from Covid-19, though it seems far away": Mary Robinson in @guardiannews on need to ensure #covid19 economic recovery packages do not entrench fossil fuel dependency and worsen the #ClimateCrisis.

Covid-19 economic rescue plans must be green, say environmentalists
Campaigners urge governments to tie any bailouts to aviation and cruise industries to requirements for climate action
theguardian.com

7:16 AM · Mar 24, 2020 · Twitter Web App
The good news is that a mounting body of evidence demonstrates that pursuing low-carbon and climate-resilient growth is the best way to unlock lasting economic and social benefits. @GlobalOptimism #TheFutureWeChoose #coronavirus

Responding to Coronavirus: Low-carbon Investments Can Help Economies
As governments look to help their economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, stimulus packages should also build resilience to the impacts of ...

🔗 wri.org

3:21 PM · Mar 17, 2020 · Twitter Web App
Coronavirus is forcing people around the world to work from home and travel less but an unexpected consequence has been a reduction in carbon emissions. Simon Kuper wonders... will this make us change our habits in the long-term?

Governments need to make good use of this pandemic

The coronavirus has achieved something that policy couldn’t: pushing us into green living

& ft.com
To recover from the covid-19 pandemic, we need a Green New Deal gizmo.do/cNGnZdD
Right now, we all need to work together to save lives and keep our communities safe from Covid-19. But with the right recovery, this could be the moment we take the measures that solve the climate crisis at the same time we escape from this one.

Covid-19 needs our attention right now, but recovery measures could be part ... The coronavirus pandemic is the global priority. But climate change will still be there once Covid-19 is under control. The right recovery could fix both.

greenpeace.org.uk
Moreover, the Trump administration’s response to COVID-19 has been remarkably similar to how it has handled climate change: with a combination of denial and delaying tactics that will ultimately cost the public far more than taking quick action. #DemDebate

Coronavirus and climate change: 6 ways the Trump administration has botche...
Deny. Dismiss. Delay. Sound familiar?
grist.org

8:25 PM · Mar 15, 2020 · Buffer
Measures to contain coronavirus have reduced 15% to 40% of China's output across key industrial sectors. This equals 25% or more of the country’s CO2 emissions over the past two weeks, the equivalent of NY state's annual emissions.

Analysis: Coronavirus has temporarily reduced China’s CO2 emissions by a quarter. As China battles one of the most serious virus epidemics of the century, the impacts... carbonbrief.org
A friendly reminder: The coronavirus is not a good thing. We should not cheer its effects on reducing pollution.

The whole point of climate action is to save lives.

If anything, this pandemic is proving we can (and will) rapidly eliminate fossil fuels.

thecorrespondent.com/330/no-the-cor...

New data from @CopernicusEU #Sentinel5P reveal decline of air pollution, specifically NO2 emissions, over Italy. This reduction is particularly visible in northern Italy which coincides with its nationwide lockdown to prevent spread of the #coronavirus 👉

esa.int/ESA_Multimedia..
The coronavirus outbreak is temporarily reducing carbon emissions from some major sectors. But it’s also diverting time and resources away from efforts to combat global warming. Here are the climate lessons we can glean from this health scare.

Coronavirus ‘Really Not the Way You Want To Decrease Emissions'
Cheap oil, lower investment in renewables and a post-virus rebound will likely offset the emissions drop, but there are climate lessons in the response to the...
The #Coronavirus pandemic and #ClimateCrisis are happening at the same time. 200+ groups are demanding that any aviation bailout protects workers & communities while driving down climate pollution for the long haul: biologicaldiversity.org/programs/clima..

11:47 PM · Mar 20, 2020 · Twitter Web App

We are facing the #COVID19 pandemic, economic recession, climate emergency, and extreme inequality. We need a massive #GreenStimulus to put millions of Americans back to work. I'm a proud signatory on this open letter. Read our proposal + add your name!

A GREEN STIMULUS TO REBUILD OUR ECONOMY
An Open Letter and Call to Action for Members of Congress

A Green Stimulus to Rebuild Our Economy
An Open Letter and Call to Action to Members of Congress
medium.com

10:08 AM · Mar 23, 2020 · Twitter Web App
Thank you @SpeakerPelosi for working to safeguard our children and grandchildren as we protect our economy. Let’s not leave the next generation a mess to clean up. Asking the airlines to reduce their pollution 50% by 2050, in exchange for $50 billion from taxpayers, is only fair.
"Moving forward, it’s vitally important that Congress prioritize the low income communities and communities of color hit hardest by the #coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing climate and environmental injustice crises."

Read our full statement: [lcv.org/article/lcv-st...](lcv.org/article/lcv-st...)

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**LCV STATEMENT ON EMERGENCY RELIEF PACKAGE**

March 25, 2020 | Press Releases

Washington, D.C. — The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) issued the following statement on the almost $2 trillion emergency relief package in response to the coronavirus pandemic from Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Tiernan Sittenfeld:

“We appreciate Congressional Democrats’ hard work to put the health and well being of families first and keep massive corporate polluter handouts out of this aid package.

“Moving forward, it’s vitally important that Congress prioritize the low income communities and communities of color hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing climate and environmental injustice crises, provide additional funding for states to protect our elections, and invest in the struggling clean energy and outdoor recreation industries that will be essential for leading our country out of the downturn. We look forward to working with Congressional leaders to ensure these communities and workers in green industries don’t get left behind and that we can build a more resilient and just clean energy economy.”

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1:30 PM · Mar 25, 2020 · Twitter Web App
Gee, if COVID-19 isn’t a hoax after all, is it possible climate change isn’t either? Should we perhaps learn something from this crisis, believe scientists, and avoid getting caught flat-footed next time?

12:55 PM · Mar 19, 2020 · Echofon

Lisa Savage for US Senate 🌿
@LisaForMaine

The #COVID19 crisis shows the failure of the old system, & the need for a new one that puts people, planet, & peace over profit. We must raise our voices to demand solutions as big as the problems we face, from pandemic to climate crisis. The time is now!

5:02 PM · Mar 23, 2020 · Twitter Web App
Thanks Matthew--agreed. #COVID—19 will increasingly demonstrate how fragile is our dependence on vast human technology & infrastructure and how quickly that can fail us in the face of a global crisis, be it #CoronaVirus or #ClimateChange.

@MatthewModine
With crisis can come opportunity

@NASA & climatologists can use this tragedy to demonstrate how human behavior effects a world without borders

Economies based on purchase & consumption is an environmental disaster & unsustainable for 7.6 billion people
The White House is proposing to bail out the fossil fuel industry. We need more coronavirus testing, not more fracking. We should be working to pass a #GreenNewDeal and deliver climate justice, not delivering an unjust payout to Trump’s billionaire oil and gas cronies.

Jeffrey Stein @JStein_WaPo · Mar 10

BREAKING: White House likely to push federal aid for shale companies hit by coronavirus/international energy shock

Trump confidante & oil billionaire Harold Hamm lost $2 billion yesterday. Hamm reached out to admin but says he didn’t make “direct” contact

washingtonpost.com/business/2020/...
“As you’re looking at spending a trillion+ dollars to address this crisis, why don’t we stop investing in business as usual and start looking at investing in a cleaner, healthier & more equitable future?” — @GinaNRDC on #COVID19 stimulus bill: on.nrdc.org/2UdMZXa @aliveShi
Good piece from @craigaltemose pointing out that we have a crisis inside another crisis, and we might as well work on both of them at once.

What if we responded to the climate crisis with the same urgency as the coro...
Once the peak of the global pandemic has passed, the global community should maintain some of the measures implemented to manage the coronavir...

bostonglobe.com
The Trump administration's response to COVID-19 has been remarkably similar to how it's handled climate change:

- Downplay the danger
- Reject, restrict, or misrepresent the experts
- Delay action
- Make it political
- Blame someone else
- Ignore reality
Join us for a digital town hall tomorrow at 7:30PM! We will discuss our demands regarding a #COVID19 response, the broader capitalist context for the crisis, and how it all ties in with our ongoing Public Power campaign.

RSVP @ actionnetwork.org/events/covid-1...
Global inaction on climate change offers grim lessons in the age of coronavirus: “Only in hindsight will we really understand what we gambled on and what we lost by not acting early enough,” one climate scientist said.
The emerging "debate" over the threat of the Coronavirus is a carbon copy of the long-standing "debate" over the risks of climate change. @NiskanenCenter's @JosephMajkut wants us to be better than this. A lot is riding on it.
"My climate grief and my grief about the coronavirus pandemic feel devastatingly similar. Both crises represent tectonic shifts in the way the world works."

Beautiful piece from @MaryHeglar

What Climate Grief Taught Me About the Coronavirus
How to find humanity amid an ever-present dread
🔗 newrepublic.com

12:12 PM · Mar 26, 2020 · Twitter Web App

We’re mad about these lost weeks on coronavirus. And think about those lost years on carbon pollution. There is a climate crisis looming right up behind this crisis.

3:21 PM · Mar 17, 2020 · Twitter Web App
I heard a weird conspiracy theory somewhere that we need a front like the Coronavirus to force humans all over the planet go into lockdown mode therefore helping in saving the planet / climate change and tbh i'd actually be ok with that.

10:30 AM · Mar 19, 2020 · Twitter Web App

The denial, lack of preparation, muzzling of exports and other failures of the Trump Administration with coronavirus is also happening with the climate crisis, where havoc is happening a bit more slowly but the devastation will be much greater.

10:23 PM · Mar 8, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone
Don't call it a silver lining — no real silver linings here. But climate change is so urgent issue, and will be with us long after coronavirus moves on, so it's good to know there could be a bit of decent news on the carbon footprint side of things.

Social Distancing? You Might Be Fighting Climate Change, Too
Isolation and other shifts in behavior during the coronavirus outbreak could also alter our greenhouse gas emissions. But will the changes stick?

nytimes.com
Question for discussion. How do you get people to take threats seriously before it impacts them or someone they know? We see this with weather warnings and climate change and definitely noticed it with Coronavirus. It seems distant or "meh" until the personal circle is affected.
As I said weeks ago, Trump's response to the #coronavirus epidemic is like climate change in fast motion: fire the experts, ignore the science, trash the messengers, and deny, deny, deny. If we don't learn hard lessons from this, the human race is suicidal.
Former RELPer @emilygrubert says solving the climate crisis requires support for healthcare, a living wage and job security.

"I think with the coronavirus response, we’re starting to see a lot of those same types of arguments being applied."

Here's what a coronavirus-like response to the climate crisis would look like. We asked eight experts if the global mobilization to slow the pandemic might pave the way for climate action. 🌍LATIMES.com
"[The Green New Deal] could put people to work doing tasks the country urgently needs—including those that actively fight climate change and its impacts"

In times of peril, we need bold solutions to fix big problems. And that's what the #GreenNewDeal is.

Green Jobs Are the Answer to the Coronavirus Recession
The climate case for making the government the employer of last resort
newrepublic.com
"Once #COVID_19 gets under control, the world cannot exhale and go back to normal. We need to move on to tackling the other deadly crisis that cannot wait." —@Jamie_Margolin

We Must Respond to Climate Change Like We're Responding to Coro...
Rapid change and disruption of business as usual is possible!
🔗 teenvogue.com
Some argue investment into eco-enterprise could revive economies struggling under #COVID19 and help transition to a greener future | #Climate #Coronavirus

Can 'green stimulus' help Europe tackle coronavirus and climate?
Some argue investment into eco-enterprise could revive economies struggling under COVID-19 and help transition to a greener future
🔗 news.trust.org

8:00 AM · Mar 25, 2020 · TweetDeck
UNACCEPTABLE: We can’t use one crisis like #coronavirus to make another crisis like climate change worse. Any aid package should do no harm, benefit the public good, and put #FamiliesFirst. #PeopleNotPolluters

U.S. oil industry asks Trump for regulatory relief during...
The American Petroleum Institute has asked U.S. President Donald Trump for help suspending certain regulatory ...
reuters.com

4:23 PM · Mar 23, 2020 · Falcon Social Media Management
"The #COVID19 outbreak presents a chance to rethink, not only how we work and telecommute, but our entire #economy and how we can make it more robust and resilient to challenges emerging from health, climate and nature loss". @UNEP's Steven Stone at @UNECE #RFSD2020.
Diseases like coronavirus remind us why we need robust institutions and investments in public health, and a government that is ready to respond at any moment. That means using science-based policy and confronting climate change, which will affect how diseases emerge and spread.

9:00 AM · Jan 28, 2020 · Twitter Web App

What climate change, coronavirus and other issues make clear is this: humanity will not thrive in the 21st-century unless we evolve beyond a “me first” or “me only” mentality. We need to shift economically, politically, and socially from an economic to a humanitarian bottom line.

3:04 PM · Mar 9, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone
When it comes to disaster / pandemic preparedness, the cycle of panic and neglect is familiar.

So, what lessons have we learned from major disasters about dealing with the “curse of NIMTOF (Not In My Term Of Office)”? [wrld.bg/zvBO50yQsCc](wrld.bg/zvBO50yQsCc)

#buildbetterbefore #COVID19
"People and communities that are already uprooted due to conflict, displacement, the climate crisis or other disease outbreaks are the ones we must urgently prioritize" - @DrTedros #COVID19 #coronavirus
"We have an opportunity to use stimulus measures to boost growth following the COVID-19 health crisis to both curb air pollution and help address the climate crisis."

Read more from our latest blog ➤

Responding to Coronavirus: Low-carbon Investments Can Help Economies
As governments look to help their economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, stimulus packages should also build resilience to the impacts of ...

8:50 AM · Mar 20, 2020 · Hootsuite Inc.
Earlier this week, Dr. R. Dubrow sent this message to our students, urging action on both #Coronavirus and #ClimateChange. Similar modes of thinking, collaboration, and urgent action needed. These are difficult times but we must move forward, together.

**COVID-19 and climate change**

We are in the midst of two major crises -- the COVID-19 epidemic and the climate crisis -- that have much in common. Both will have major adverse impacts on our health and the economy. Both have the potential to kill many people. Both are global problems that require global solutions. And there are clear paths forward to mitigate both crises that will require international cooperation and unprecedented societal mobilization.

Both crises are urgent, albeit on different timescales. The coronavirus pandemic is unfolding over weeks to months to several years, and the climate crisis is unfolding over years to decades to centuries, depending on what we do. Although the pandemic is more urgent and immediate in real time, the climate crisis is a fundamentally deeper and more far-reaching existential challenge.

We have a time window of weeks to prevent a disastrous pandemic that will cause tremendous suffering, and we have a time window of a decade to prevent changes to our climate that could be truly catastrophic. Let's summon the political will needed to overcome COVID-19 and then apply the lessons learned in international cooperation and urgent societal mobilization to the far more intractable challenge of climate change.