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February 28, 2019



Welcome to your monthly dose of *good news* about climate change.

Climate change can feel heavy sometimes. But we have the solutions we need to create a healthier, more just, and sustainable world, and people across the globe are working hard to make it happen. *The Climate Optimist* will bring you helpful tips and good news each month to help you stay focused on our shared mission to improve health by tackling climate change.

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What We're Reading & Watching



[Join us](#) on March 14 for a screening of this documentary from Bloomberg Philanthropies followed by a panel discussion with our Director Gina McCarthy



A report by the Union of Concerned Scientists outlines recent attacks on science, but also examples of scientists pushing back.



Understanding how you can play a positive role in keeping climate change in check is empowering. Check out [8 Things You Can Do](#)

about how cities & states are offering a realistic but hopeful take about moving forward.

[Read now](#)

To Care For The Planet, via NYTimes.

[Read now](#)

[Watch Now](#)

Profiles in Climate Courage

Climate Change Has An Image Problem: Here's One Solution



Images are essential for successful communication, but for most the images associated with climate change are polar bears and glaciers, not people, which is a significant barrier to engagement. The UK-based organization Climate Outreach is out to change that. They've created a searchable image library to help us better visually communicate how climate change is impacting us now and what the solutions look like.

[Check it out!](#)

#ScienceNotSilence

Two rapid-response collaborations between our researchers and media could help protect us from harmful carbon and mercury emissions.



EPA Power Plant Standards Examined

Our [study](#) showed that EPA's Affordable Clean Energy Rule (ACE) may be worse for climate and health than no carbon regulations at all. But science alone doesn't create change, so we connected the study's researchers with media to explain why the ACE rule matters for the nation, courts, and our health. This effort led to our study being:

- Raised during Andrew Wheeler's confirmation hearing as EPA



Mercury Protections on the Brink of Rollback

In advance of an expected proposal by EPA to weaken the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), we prepared a science brief for reporters and arranged a press call on the most up-to-date research on the health and environmental effects of mercury.

Armed with scientific evidence and facts, when EPA announced the proposed rollback, journalists were ready to ensure the public understood how our health was

- Administrator. [Watch now.](#)
- Cited by legal experts as evidence for why ACE may not be legally sound. [Read now.](#)
 - Covered in media outlets such as the [New York Times](#), [The Hill](#), and [Scientific American](#) so everyone can know and take action.

Learn more in our [study](#) and [fact sheet](#) .

at stake. Most major news stories incorporated our messages, ensuring that sound science was part of the policy discourse, including:

- [Reuters](#)
- [NPR](#)
- [Washington Post](#)
- [USA Today](#)

Learn more in our [science brief](#) .

Climate Change in the News

Journalists are starting to write about climate change and public health



Until we all understand that climate change is a problem for people *right now* , we need the media to write stories about what's at stake, and the solutions.

We are helping to train media about how climate changes health, and we were thrilled to join a webinar with the Association of Health Care Journalists, who went on to blog about the "Imperative for covering climate change as a health issue."

[Read now](#)



“ We can face climate change because it is nothing but carbon pollution and we have solutions right now. The clean energy sector is growing. We know how to cut carbon emissions without busting the bank. ”

GINA MCCARTHY, C-CHANGE DIRECTOR
ON WBUR, 12/21/18

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AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

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