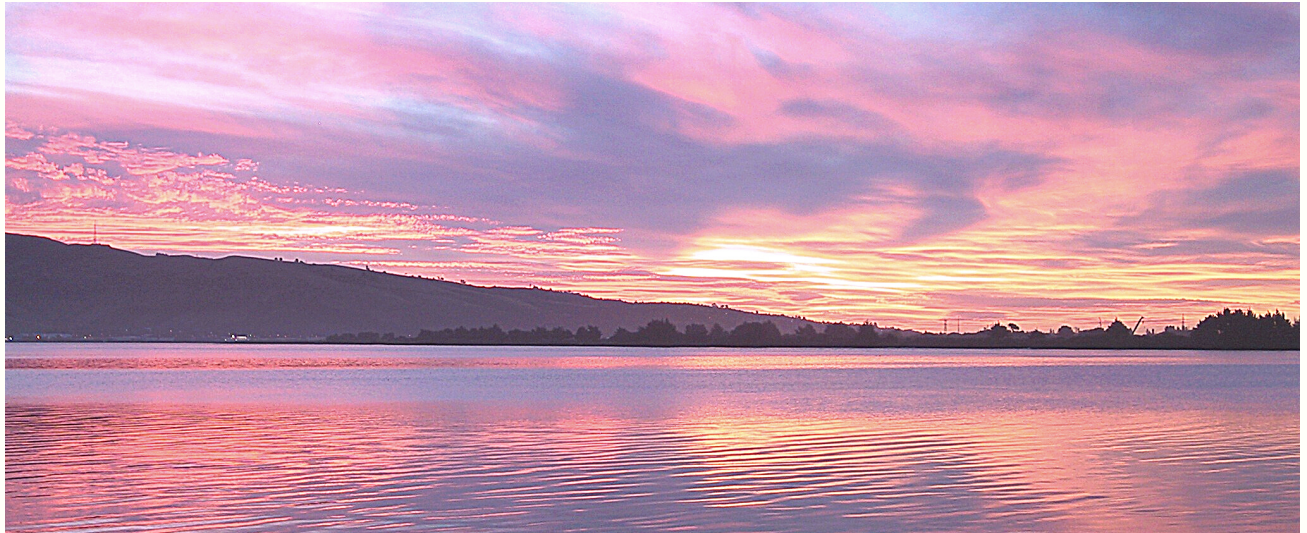


THE YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST



Unfinished Presidential Business Left in Environmental Litigation

Environmental Legislation Committee

In an ideal situation, when a president is elected, they would make their next steps off of the previous president and continue the cycle of building off each other. Currently, that is not much of the case. With the results of the 2020 election, President-elect Joe Biden is set to make major changes in environmental litigation as his predecessor President Trump leaves behind many unresolved legal questions. During the one-term of Trump's presidency, he and his administration in agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and others have made many explosive and dramatic changes that have incited a trail of ongoing legal battles. To stop the long list of lawsuits, Biden's administration is

expected to reverse just about every decision made by Trump's team, once he steps into office. This major reversal of a previous president's decisions is nearly identical to Trump's transition into office, reversing many of Obama's plans in 2016 and 2017. Because of the decisions Trump's administration has made during his term, this has contributed to their difficulty working through a complete litigation process for some of their biggest environmental policies, especially the rollback of Obama's climate regulation and the shrinking national monuments. Although the courts plan to keep certain cases open for Biden to debate, much of everything will be closed due to Trump's reversals.

How Can You Reduce Food Waste?

Sustainable Waste Management

It's estimated that Americans waste around 60 million tonnes of food. Not only is this saddening due to the fact that a large amount of the global population is struggling because of starvation, but it has a large harmful effect on the already harmed environment. Food waste is something we've all heard about, but many people don't realize the sheer number of ways food waste affects our planet, from its excess usage of water to its slow decomposition into the Earth.

One of the most harmful effects of food waste is its emittance of methane, a highly dangerous gas for the environment. When food waste is dropped in landfills, which is what happens when it is thrown away, it starts to decompose and rot. However, decomposition results in the production of methane gas, which is 25% more effective at capturing heat than CO₂. Methane and CO₂ are already produced in high amounts during the production of food - throwing it away just adds more.

It is important as global citizens to do our part in combating the adversity that is climate change. A great way to do that is starting at home with food waste - and all it takes is a little bit of organizing and planning.

One of the best ways to reduce food waste is by planning - planning exactly what you want to cook that week, planning exactly what you want to buy at the grocery store, and learning about yourself and your eating habits. Reducing waste is not that complicated, all it takes is just paying attention to yourself. Not only does it decrease food waste, but it allows you to live a healthier lifestyle.

Furthermore, a lot of food waste is largely due to expired products that were forgotten in the back of the fridge. Creating a clear and easy to follow organization system for the fridge, pantry, and overall kitchen allows you to keep track of exactly where everything is.

As I said before, not only will these tips help you help the planet, but it will help you as a person. Obviously, there are way more fun and creative ways to reduce food waste, like using a watermelon shell to make pizza. And that is a great thing to try. But environmental action comes from establishing a lifestyle, and it's important to ease into it. Simply organizing and planning should do the trick.

A FACT FOR YOU

More than 700 million people do not have access to clean water and more than 2 billion have sanitation problems. 6 to 8 million people die annually from water-borne diseases and disasters.



Wait, I Can Plant Trees From My Phone?

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

With everyone stuck at home for the ninth month straight, major changes happening in American politics, and the world seemingly on the verge of collapse, it can be easy to feel helpless -- as if any action you take to aid the world becomes lost in a black hole of other issues. One such issue quickly climbing up the ladder is the climate crisis. Being in a global pandemic for months straight has begged a new question regarding the issue: how can we stop the world from collapsing when we can barely leave our own house?

Well, as it turns out, there is something you can do - something so simple that all you have to do is download a free web browser and you can plant trees with every search! Ecosia, founded in 2009 by Christian Kroll as an effort to combat deforestation, is a CO2 neutral web browser that donates 80% of their profits to tree planting programs, bringing water, plants, and animals back to drought-ridden areas. Downloading Ecosia is incredibly simple: go to ecosia.org, click Add Ecosia, and that's it! Now you can plant trees while searching the web!

With over 15 million active users and only 11 years since their founding, Ecosia has quickly grown into the largest planter of native trees on the planet. They have already planted over a whopping 115 million trees in over 9,000 planting sites across the world (as of December 6, 2020).

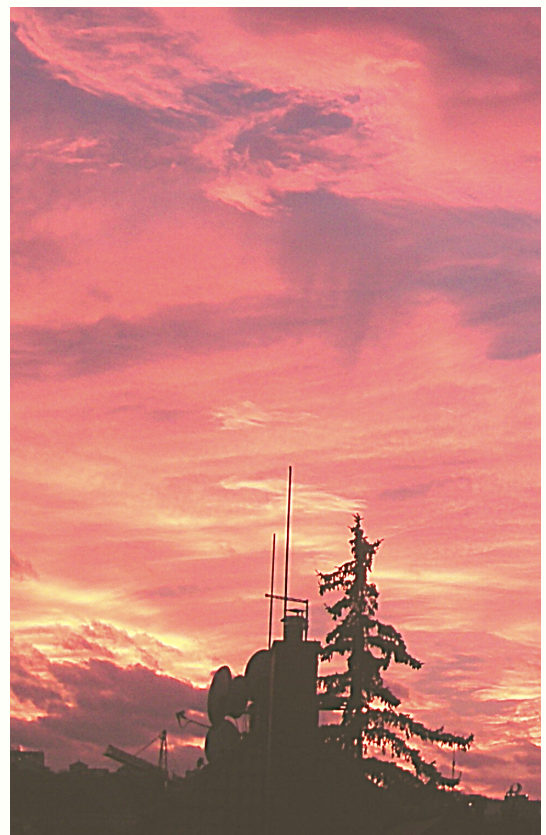
“

how can we stop the world from collapsing when we can barely leave our own house?

Their groundbreaking efforts have resulted in roughly 17,771 metric tonnes of CO2 being removed from the atmosphere each day. It was reported in July 2020 that Ecosia, on average, is able to fund a tree every 0.8 seconds -- averaging to 75 per minute or 108,000 per day -- with the revenue they make from advertising.

The impact Ecosia has had on the world and the fight against climate change is so much more extensive than anyone could have ever guessed. As Kroll says, “Each one of these 100 million trees brings us closer to a different future. A future in which the planet matters more than profit, where environmental and social justice is advanced not repressed, where ‘tech for good’ is not just a slogan but the norm, [where] renewable energy is the only acceptable option.”

In a world where the science of climate change is still questioned, where action remains slow and climate justice is nowhere near completion; in a world that refuses to take common responsibility for common problems, it becomes our responsibility to step up and take action where we can. Ecosia is doing just that: planting change one tree at a time.

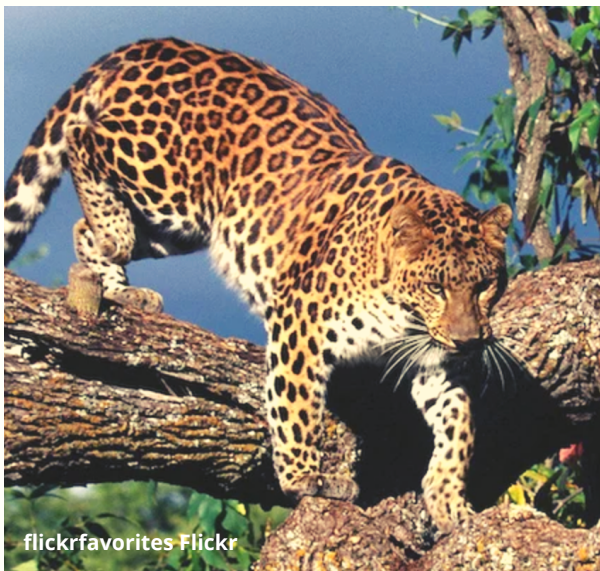


Animals That May Go Extinct by 2030

NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Amur Leopard

The first animal is the Amur leopard, the most endangered leopard species. The Amur leopard is native to the Amur-Heilong region in China. There are less than a hundred left in the wild and around 180 in captivity. Amur leopards have a paler coat than most subspecies of leopards, and large, dark, widely spaced rosettes with thick, unbroken rings. They are adapted to cold weather and have a thick coat of fur that can grow up to seven centimeters in the winter. They have also adapted to life in the temperate forests that make up the northernmost part of the species' range. There have been many efforts to save these creatures, such as laws banning their captivity and their population has tripled over recent years, however, the number is still extremely low. Factors like habitat destruction have left the Amur Leopards without a home and have ultimately caused their endangerment.



Bornean Orangutan

The next species is the Bornean orangutan, a species that has become endangered due to human activity, such as hunting, logging, and agriculture-related deforestation. The Bornean Orangutan is a species of orangutan native to the island of Borneo. There are about 41,000 left in the wild and in recent years their population was cut in half. The name orangutan means "man of the forest" in the Malay language. With the Sumatran Orangutan and Tapanuli Orangutan, the Bornean Orangutan belongs to the only genus of great ape native to Asia. Like humans, orangutans have opposable thumbs. Their big toes are also opposable. They are also highly intelligent and observant. There have been many stories of these creatures escaping their cages in zoos after observing how their cage is open and closed. Many efforts have been also made to save them; however, it is not enough. Other factors such as deforestation and fires are also playing a significant role in the Bornean Orangutan's endangerment. If something is not done soon, these amazing creatures will go extinct.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Downey, K. (2016, December). Bornean Orangutan. Retrieved December 19, 2020, from <https://www.neprimateconservancy.org/bornean-orangutan.html>

EcosiaORG. (2020, July 09). How 100 million trees are changing the world. Retrieved December 19, 2020, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-iEZJ8uaxU>

Gilmer, Ellen M., editor. "Trump Leaves Unfinished Business in Environmental Litigation." Bloomberg Law, 7 November 2020, news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/trump-leaves-unfinished-business-in-environmental-litigation

Kubala, Jillian. "20 Easy Ways to Reduce Your Food Waste." Healthline, Healthline Media, 20 Nov. 2017, www.healthline.com/nutrition/reduce-food-waste.

Platt, J. (2018, May 09). Amur Leopard Population Triples--to 103. Retrieved December 19, 2020, from <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/amur-leopard-population-triples-to-103/>

Pullano, N. (2020, February 03). 16 unique animals that could go extinct by 2030 -- and how to change that. Retrieved December 19, 2020, from <https://www.inverse.com/science/16-animals-becoming-extinct-2020s-heres-how-to-help>

"5 Ways Food Waste Is Destroying Our Beautiful Planet." New Food Magazine, 21 May 2018, www.newfoodmagazine.com/article/43551/five-ways-food-waste-environment/.