



The Environmental Information System at Eco-Auditing Laboratory, National Botanical Research Institute is focussed on "Plants & Pollution". This is the E-mail Publication that Feature News, Information and Events Related to Plants & Pollution.

The Focus of ENVIS has been on Providing Environmental Information to Decision Makers, Policy Planners, Scientists and Engineers, Research Workers, etc. all over the World.

Eco-Auditing Group is Involved in R & D on Eco-Monitoring, Environmental Impact Assessment, Eco-Friendly Models that are Technologically and Economically Feasible for Phytoremediation of Polluted Lands and Polluted Waters etc.

## News

### ClientEarth issues final legal warning to Defra over air pollution plans

Environmental law firm ClientEarth has today sent a final legal warning to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), warning that unless it significantly improves its plan to cut air pollution across the UK it will face further legal action. The move reignites a long-running campaign to bring air pollution down to safe levels as soon as possible. The resulting strategy - published in December - includes plans for new Clean Air Zones in major cities around the country in a bid to cut the UK's air pollution levels down to legal levels by 2025. However, ClientEarth argue the proposed measures fall "woefully short" of what was ordered by the court, and is warning it will take the government back to court unless Defra produces new plans to bring air pollution within legal limits in the "shortest time possible". The pre-action letter sent to Defra demands that new plans to tackle air quality are drawn up which give "proper and full consideration" to all clean air measures available to the government. It labels the current plans "clearly defective" due to their failure to consider the use of all potential measures to bring air pollution down to safe levels. [Readmore...](#)

**Date:** 01 March, 2016

**Source:** <http://www.businessgreen.com>

### Diesel pollution blamed on weak state regulation

PORTLAND, Ore. – While air quality issues are at the center of public attention, environmental and health advocates are saying Oregon must address a dirty diesel emission problem. While other states, including neighboring California, have raised standards, Oregon continues to allow old diesel engines to pollute at a much higher rate than those with new clean diesel technology. In fact, diesel big rigs don't even need an emissions test to be registered in the state. "What's happening now is [California's] cleaning up its act. Some of those older engines are being sold into Oregon which contributes more to the fact that we have old dirty engines...to some extent we're the dumping ground," said Chris Hagerbaumer, deputy director of the Oregon Environmental Council. New engines on big rig trucks and heavy construction equipment burns 95 percent cleaner than old diesel engines. And the old ones can be retrofitted to run that clean as well, according to experts. [Readmore...](#)

**Date:** 03 March, 2016

**Source:** <http://www.kgw.com>

### China's Five Year Plan to radically tighten air pollution targets

Li cited targets to improve environmental standards across the board, but focused in particular on measures to tackle urban smog that would deliver "good air quality" day readings for 80% of the year. The targets are part of the forthcoming 13th Five-Year Plan (FYP), a policy blueprint that will shape China's economic development over the next five years up to 2021. The premier's speech was delivered on the opening day of the session and set the tone for discussions that will continue until March 16. The full list of proposals will not be published until the close of the twin legislative sessions. However, Li's speech has already indicated that the government will limit factory emissions of tiny harmful particulate matter (PM2.5) – a major cause of air pollution – down by 25%. This is the first time in the China's history that a specific PM2.5 target has been included in a FYP. Professor Hu Angang of Tsinghua University's School of Public Policy and Management said that the 13th Five-Year Plan will provide a guide for how 'green development' will be implemented, and how it will align with economic growth. "Achieving green growth means reducing energy and resource intensity and decoupling the emissions of key pollutants from economic growth and urbanisation," he said. [Read more..](#)

**Date:** 11 March, 2016

**Source:** <http://www.climatechangenews.com>

### Treescrapers: Merging concrete with nature

Now as architects increasingly look for innovative ways to improve the look and feel of buildings – not to mention their sustainability credentials – a new breed of skyscraper is springing up in Europe and Asia. Welcome to 'treescrapers', which as the name suggests, have multiple trees built into balconies rising up the building. Milan's Vertical Forest is the prototype of this style and has just won the title of 2015 Best Tall Building Worldwide from the Council of Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat. The Taiwanese capital of Taipei is to unveil its version next year – through the Agora Garden whose 20 storeys will be home to orchards and herb gardens. These developments build on a growing trend in high level urban construction – softening parts of our concrete jungles by incorporating greenery into their designs. But Agora and Vertical Forest – both Gold-certified under the LEED environmental ratings – go farther than other living buildings by planning trees into the design from the start. Trees are far more challenging for an architect to embody into a plan than other vegetation because of their extra size and weight. A problem shrub can be treated or extracted in a few minutes; a problem tree, especially one with penetrating roots, could damage the building. [Read more...](#)

**Date:** 14 March, 2016

**Source:** <http://www.eco-business.com>

### Marine Pollution: What Everyone Needs to Know

What if you could get an overview of all the issues threatening our oceans, the trends for each issue, and what can be done to reduce these threats, all in one slim volume ((251 pages, with references)? Well that great gift to humanity has been accomplished thanks to author Judith S. Weis, Professor Emerita of Biological Sciences at Rutgers University and Oxford University Press. Marine Pollution: What Everyone Needs to Know, is a no-nonsense, comprehensive treatment of what humankind is doing to the 71% of the planet that is blue, how that impacts you, and what you can do about it. I had the great pleasure of hearing Weis present this important material at The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California, a showcase of the amazing creatures most directly impacted by marine pollution. Weis' presentation was part of the excellent lecture series curated by the Aquarium to highlight their exhibits and environmental outreach. Aquarium of the Pacific lectures are live-streamed and archived, so check out the series here. [Read more..](#)

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**Source:** <http://www.huffingtonpost.com>

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