

From: Bruce Riordan bruceriodan@berkeley.edu
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To: Bruce Riordan bruceriodan@berkeley.edu

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News from the Berkeley Climate Change Network 4/21

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1. Welcome to Earth Week: Record-Setting Heat for One-Third of the Planet's Humans

From Nexus: The "**worst April heat wave in Asian history**," says climatologist and weather historian [Maximiliano Herrera](#), has already broken hundreds of records across the continent. Thailand broke its all-time high temperature record, reaching nearly 114°F and roads melted in Bangladesh where Dhaka saw its highest temperature in 63 years. Eleven people died of heatstroke at a political rally in Mumbai. Our **Institute for South Asian Studies** is currently fundraising for a 4-year South Asia climate research and action project. **Any leads much appreciated.**

2. \$70M Gift for Climate and Health at Berkeley's IGI

\$70M from The Audacious Project (their largest scientific gift ever) is for "[Engineering the Microbiome with CRISPR to Improve our Climate and Health.](#)" Led by IGI Founder **Jennifer Doudna** and IGI's Microbiology Director **Jill Banfield**, the project is a collaboration of IGI, UC Davis, and UCSF. All info [here](#).

3. Can you say BIDMaP?

The [Bakar Institute of Digital Materials for the Planet](#) is one of Berkeley's fabulous new contributions to the climate fight. As they say "Leveraging machine learning to accelerate breakthroughs for climate change." Led by Director **Christian Borgs** (EECS) and Co-Director and Chief Scientist **Omar Yaghi** (Chemistry), BIDMaP brings together one of Berkeley's oldest colleges (1868!) with our rapidly growing (literally) data science

research and education. Get a cool look at where we are going [here](#).

4. Berkeley Runs One of the Most Effective Carbon-Eating Places on the Planet

ESPM's **Dennis Baldocchi** and his team are restoring **Dutch Slough**, a 1200-acre wetland in eastern Contra Costa County, that stores carbon at a higher rate than nearly all other sites studied around the world. It is in the top 1% of [thousands of locations studied worldwide](#) by Berkeley-supported **Fluxnet**, from pine forests to arctic tundra. Why? How? Who? Find out [here](#).

5. Planting Trees for the (Hotter) Future

OK, our weather is (finally) warming up and CA cities are starting to spend Millions of \$\$\$ to combat extreme heat. This may be a very good time to revisit the great 2016 work by **Joe McBride** (CED) and **Igor Lacan** (Cooperative Extension) on **what to plant**. Bottom line 1: Many cities' favorite street trees won't survive in a hotter climate. Bottom line 2: Go study cities that today are hotter than you to figure out what will thrive in your town 20-50 years from now. See your next road trip and much more in McBride and Lacan's excellent [slide talk](#).

6. Plastics = More GHGs (production, use and disposal) Globally Than Aviation!

David Wooley (Goldman) recently collaborated with UCSF and the UC Sacramento Center on a big paper and briefing for the CA Legislature on the massive issues around **microplastics**. The report basically found that microplastics are "ubiquitous and potentially harmful to human digestion, reproduction, and respiration." See the report [here](#). Even the 4-page Exec Summ may scare you right out of your microfibers. And, just because it is Earth Week, our contributions to the wonderful [Beyond Plastics](#) are 2X Match.

7. BCCN/CLEE Webinar on State \$\$\$ and Legislation for Extreme Heat

May 9th 2 pm - 3:30 pm via ZOOM **BCCN** and Berkeley Law's **CLEE** will conduct a webinar featuring State of California agency leaders working on extreme heat. We will learn all about big funding coming for heat action and research, new legislation, the rollout of the Extreme Heat Action Plan and more. To sign up email brucerjordan@berkeley.edu.

8. Funding News: UCOP Climate Action Grants for Berkeley Research

Berkeley faculty are PI's on 30 UCOP Climate Action Seed Grants that were approved for full proposals. These were turned in on April 6. Next up: 9 larger Matching Grants led by Berkeley PI's were also approved for full proposals — due first week of May. The proposals span a wide range of climate topics. Good luck to ALL!

9: Big Opportunity: The California Biodiversity Network

The [CBN](#) brings together key environmental experts and community leaders who are united to conserve California's globally renowned and highly threatened natural heritage. The network is a key partner in the implementation of [California's 30x30](#) conservation initiative. The network aims to be **inclusive across all sectors**, engaging environmental stewards, governmental and tribal representatives, scientists, and educators working at local, regional, and statewide scales. Get complete info [here](#) on goals, activities, funding

and more.

Bruce Riordan

Berkeley Climate Change Network

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bruceriodan@berkeley.edu

510.306.0130

