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**Subject:** News from Berkeley Climate Change Network - July 19  
**Date:** July 19, 2023 at 12:12 PM  
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## NEWS FROM THE [BERKELEY CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORK](#) - JULY 19

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### 1. Why We **Should** "Politicize" the Weather - Paul Krugman (riffing off DeSantis)

The #1 space at the top of BCCN News is always reserved for ONE big climate impact story. Just a reminder WHY we are here. Since the last issue June 29, as you know, it's been a record-smashing deluge. Yikes! So today let's just use [Paul Krugman's excellent quick summary and commentary](#).

### 2. Ex-Berkeleyan David Gelles: **Climate Change Comes In the Kitchen** (literally)

Did you see this one? Berkeley J-School grad David Gelles is the NYT's new lead climate writer. Gelles was sitting down to write his first [Climate Forward newsletter](#) last week — in his Hudson Valley NY kitchen — when climate change literally hit home.

### 3. Berkeley J-School: **New Hire to Transform Climate Change Coverage**

Big Journalism School news — Filmmaker, journalist and media trailblazer [Jason Spingarn-Koff has been hired as the Knight Chair of Climate Journalism](#). Dean Geeta Anand:

"Jason's mandate is to turn our school into a center for reinventing how stories about climate change are told. We aim to create new models, forms and narratives of journalism that pierce through the malaise of disinterest, denial and fear to inform public understanding of the existential threat of global warming."

### 4. **Funding News:** UCOP Awards and CA 5th Climate Assessment Proposals

UCOP has sent APPROVED or DECLINED letters to Berkeley's 35 PI's leading Climate Action Grant proposals. Official announcement in August/September. (Embargoed till then.) Also, proposals were submitted last Friday to the CA 5th Climate Assessment. News back likely in August/September.

## 5. MOFs for Water: Another Cool Berkeley Breakthrough

Berkeley researchers—Chemistry's Woonchul Song, Zhiling Zheng, Ali H. Alawadhi, and Omar Yaghi — have developed a [hand-held "water harvester"](#) powered by sunlight only that could be a solution to water scarcity even in hot, dry locales. The device uses Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) to extract and convert water molecules from the air into drinkable water. See the [study](#) just published in Nature Water.

## 6. CITRIS Core Seed Funding: Sustainability and Climate Resilience

The [CITRIS Seed Funding Program](#) issues short-term, competitive awards to advance [information technology research](#) and catalyze early work that can benefit industry, the public sector and society at large. One category: Sustainability and Climate Resilience. Team-based proposals are invited from PI's at Berkeley, Davis, Davis Health, Merced and Santa Cruz. The call opens on August 15th with a focus on interdisciplinary solutions.

## 7. Science at Cal — It's Elemental: Lithium Recovery for a Sustainable Electrified Future

[Midday Science Cafe](#) this Thursday the 20th, Noon - 1:30 pm VIRTUALLY — Michael Whittaker (Berkeley EPS) and Meg Slattery (ex-LBL) tackle the challenges posed by the global demand for Lithium for EV batteries and other climate-friendly tech. [Register first](#). And check out other [recent Midday Cafes](#) on carbon removal and vehicle electrification.

## 8. Big New Bay Area Report: \$110 Billion Needed for Sea Level Rise Solutions

MTC/ABAG and the BCDC have just released a [major report](#) on the problems, solutions and costs for protecting the Bay Area from sea level rise. Includes:

- The likely cost and solutions for SLR flooding for the Bay Area's 9 shoreline counties
- What and where those solutions are needed
- A best estimate of how much it will cost over the next two decades --\$110 Billion Dollars
- And the (current) estimated available funding- \$5 Billion dollars

## 9. A New Bay Area Searchable Treasure: 30 Years of Estuary News

Estuary News, the magazine covering the preservation, management and restoration of the San Francisco Estuary for over thirty years, has ceased publication. Estuary News kept countless people in the Bay Area and beyond informed about the state of the waterway at the heart of Northern California. But wait...an [amazing archive has been developed](#) to serve as a key resource into the future. Not only are all the [back issues](#), from 1992 to 2023 posted, the editors have also selected a handful of stories, from more than a thousand, that represent [The Story of the Estuary](#).

## 10. Thinking About Going to Dubai for COP28 in November? UC Badge Process?

The UC System, as an official observer at the COP gatherings, issues a certain number of passes to faculty, staff and students. Get all the info and apply ASAP [here](#).

**++ BONUS FOR NON-SCIENTISTS**

OK, it was 40°C in Beijing this week and yesterday 52.2°C (all-time China record) in the far west desert. Tired, like me, of trying to remember how hot that is? Having trouble with the old formula? Solution: Just print out this [BCCN Bonus Chart: C to F Conversion Table](#) and get right in step with the rest of the world.

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*Funded by: RCNR, CIEE, VCRO, Law, CED, Haas, Goldman, SPH, Chemistry, CDSS, Engineering, LBNL*

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