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Subject: News from the Berkeley Climate Change Network Aug 30
Date: August 30, 2023 at 10:10 AM
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News from the Berkeley Climate Change Network - Aug 30

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Try the [BCCN Web Site](#) for COOL RESOURCES

1. Impact of the Week: **"It's Just Unheard Of"** (West Virginia and the WSJ)
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3. Expanded and Improved **BCCN Unofficial Climate Class Guide**
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11. **Climate Scientists and Poets Together** - Book Launch This Thursday 4 pm!

1. "It's Just Unheard Of" (WVA and the WSJ)

That's Kent Carper, President, Kanawha County Commission after [flash flooding tore through parts of West Virginia](#) (again). "This came from nowhere. We had almost no warning whatsoever, which is very unusual." One area received nine inches of rain in less than an hour. **(Another) sign of the times:** The Wall Street Journal's very direct report on the [heat-fires-floods of Summer 2023](#) quoted Michael Mann and other top-of the line climate scientists. Things ARE changing.

2. UCOP Climate Action Grants Announced

UCOP'S 38 Climate Action Grants include 5 led by Berkeley PI's. Congratulations to teams led by Ted Grantham, Helen Fitzmaurice, Melinda Redmond, Peter Nelson and Dan Kammen. See [basic info about the 5 projects and the other 33 winners](#). Also, Berkeley faculty were Co-Pi's on 4 other winning proposals. Finally, UCOP has awarded 15 Innovation and Entrepreneurship awards for climate — \$1M each to the 10 UC campuses, the UC Health System, The UC Natural Reserve System, LBNL and LBL. The Berkeley \$1M I&E funding will be split among the Blum Center for Developing Economies, Engineering's Disaster Lab, CITRIS Foundry, and the BCCN. **NOTE: We are still working on ideas to capitalize on the many excellent Berkeley proposals that did not make the UCOP cut.**

3. Expanded and Improved BCCN Unofficial Climate Class Guide

Thanks for all your additions to the [Fall 2023 guide to climate-related classes](#). Now with a handy TOC. There's still time: **If your class didn't make v1.2 send us an email ASAP.**

4. Bakar BioEnginuity Fellowships — Apply by Sept 15th

From the [BBH website](#): "The Berkeley BioEnginuity Fellowship is different than most fellowships. We encourage you to orient the last stages of your doctoral research toward greater societal impact, which may involve moving your research in new interdisciplinary directions to tackle existential societal problems, for example the **impacts of the climate crisis** or equitable health care technologies. For some, this might mean a direct 'reduction to practice'. For others, the impact could come from an 'open source' translation. While moving towards impact is a central aspect of the Fellowship, no prior entrepreneurship experience is expected. In the application process you'll describe how your STEM/bioconvergence research can benefit society in a meaningful way, and how the [Berkeley BioEnginuity Fellowship](#) will move you towards that goal."

5. Are YOU Using AI or Machine Learning for Climate Research?

So far, we have collected info blurbs from more than 20 Berkeley researchers who are using AI and ML for climate problems. Don't worry, we are keeping the intel to ourselves — we want to get a better sense of the AI/ML climate picture for future planning and fundraising. Please send a short description — even a few sentences will do — to bruceriodan@berkeley.edu. On a related note: **Marianne Cowherd** in the Stephens Lab is using AI on snow measurement data issues to better understand the Sierra snowpack and **would like to link with others on similar efforts**. Reach her at cowherd@berkeley.edu

6. Are YOU working on “enhanced geothermal energy?”

Enhanced geothermal is getting more play these days — apparently there are LOTS of hot rocks below us — including this [NYT piece](#) on Monday. Our Clean Energy Campus Initiative is [exploring geothermal](#). BCCN is trying to identify campus or LBNL people working on this. Please email bruceriodan@berkeley.edu.

7. Climate Funding Opportunities (due this week)

[Manifest Climate](#) is a fast grants program that awards \$25K - \$100K to scientists to accelerate their most ambitious bio x climate ideas. The application takes 30 minutes. You get a decision within 21 days. No IP is taken. Apply by **August 31st**. [Climate and Health Inter-Disciplinary Awards](#) — Burroughs Wellcome Fund is supporting collaborative exploratory work that opens new ground for comprehensively assessing or mitigating the impacts of climate change on human health. **Deadline: August 31, 2023**. Get the full info [here](#).

8. Whole Lotta Heatin' Goin' On

Check out the [Extreme Heat Challenge: An Open Call for Policy Ideas to Tackle the Extreme Heat](#) a new accelerator run by the Federation of American Scientists. Or, try Grist's new [Guide for Keeping Communities Safe in Extreme Heat](#). Or...Stanford's zoom panel discussion [This Is Not Your Usual Heat Extreme](#) September 12th at 11 am.

9. Kids Have a Right to Sue Nations on Climate (says U.N.)

In [20-page document](#), the Committee on the Rights of the Child says all countries have a legal obligation to protect children from environmental degradation — including by “regulating business enterprises” — and to allow their underage citizens to seek legal recourse. NYT story [here](#).

10. Twelve Reasons Why Cities Need More Trees

Want a GREAT 5-minute read? The CulturalTutor has a great quick rundown of [12 important ways](#) that trees in cities make our lives so much better. Yes, trees won't solve the climate crisis but they can be an important player in tackling heat, storms, air pollution, noise and more.

11. Climate Scientists and Poets Together - Virtual Book Launch This Thursday 4 pm

[Dear Human at the Edge of Time: Poems on Climate Change in the United States](#) is a companion to the forthcoming [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#) (NCA5), to encourage stories of climate justice and stories of resilience. Get all the info and register [here](#).

The poetry anthology includes work from across the U.S. including Berkeley CLEE's own **Leana Weissberg!**

BCCN Climate Calendar

[UC Labor Center Open House - Thursday 4-6 pm](#)

[Berkeley Food Institute 10 Year Anniversary Celebration Sept 7 - 3-6 pm](#)

[CEGA Evidence to Action: Realigning Tech for Social Impact - Sept 28](#)

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Berkeley Climate Change Network

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

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Bill McKibben:

1. *Build massive amounts of solar and wind*
2. *Electrify everything to run on it*
3. *Conservation and efficiency*
4. *Research the hell out of the hard stuff (aviation, cement, etc.)*
5. *Stop cutting down trees for cows (or anything else)*

