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Subject: NEWS FROM THE BERKELEY CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORK MAY 15
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NEWS FROM THE BERKELEY CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORK - MAY 15

Funded by: RCNR, CIEE, VCRO, Law, CED, Haas, Goldman, SPH, Chemistry, I&E, Physics CDSS, Engineering, Education, Journalism, Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities, LBNL

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1. Why We Do This Work: BC Fires - Brazil Floods - Olive Oil Heat
2. Was the 2023 CA Snow Bonanza a Freak?
3. City of Alameda Stops Big Geo-Engineering Test on the Hornet
4. Good News X 3: Renewables, Efficient EV's, and Heat Pumps
5. Can Climate Tech Save the Planet? We Asked ChatGPT 4.0
6. Berkeley SPH Postdoc Wins Fellowship: Climate and (bad) Fungi
7. Science @Cal Recruiting for KQED Climate Event
8. Large Building Fossil Fuels Emissions Tax on Berkeley Ballot?
9. The Hottest Topic: Big Changes in California's Electricity Pricing
10. DEADLINE TODAY: Berkeley Possibility Lab Looking for Researchers

1. Why We Do This Work: BC Fires - Brazil Floods - Olive Oil Heat

Dozens of "Summer" wildfires in British Columbia have caused [air pollution alerts in 4 U.S. states](#). Southern Brazil sees [heartbreaking flood scenes](#) for the 2nd time in less than a year. Half the annual rainfall in 10 days. Experts predicted olive oil prices would skyrocket with [scorching heat](#)...and they were right.

2. Was 2023 CA Snow Bonanza a Freak?

A new study says YES, the 2023 snow storms that ended our megadrought were likely a ["once-in-a-lifetime event."](#) UCLA's Daniel Swain (not part of the new study): "I would not be surprised if 2023 was the coldest, snowiest winter for the rest of my own lifetime in California." Meanwhile snow extent in the Northern Hemisphere THIS YEAR was the [smallest on record](#).

3. City of Alameda Stops Big Geo-Engineering test on the Hornet

The City [ordered](#) UW to halt a [marine cloud brightening experiment](#) on the USS Hornet in Alameda — a decommissioned aircraft carrier and museum — citing health and environmental safety concerns.

4. Good News X 3: Renewables, Efficient EV's, and Heat Pumps

Ember [released](#) a [report](#) that found 30% of the world's electricity came from renewable sources in 2023. (It was also the year with [most electrical use in history](#).) In the U.S. heat pump installations [outpaced gas furnace installations](#) for the second year in a row, spurred on by government incentives. [Making EV's more efficient](#) could cut grid demand significantly and save billions.

5. Can Climate Tech Save the Planet? We Asked ChatGPT 4.0

You will find many different answers to this Q on campus. Check out 4.0's [reasonable and "thoughtful" answer](#) when BCCN popped the question. (As always, it is ALL HANDS ON DECK.)

6. Berkeley SPH Postdoc Wins Fellowship: Climate and (bad) Fungi

Dr. Lisa Couper has been awarded a prestigious [Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology](#) (PRFB) from the NSF to study the effects of climate change on the evolution and environmental biology of pathogenic fungi!

7. Science @Cal Recruiting for KQED Climate Event

Science at Cal is recruiting climate scientists for a live KQED event at their SF HQ on August 21, 6-8pm. Focus will be on several climate themes. Each theme will have dedicated tables with activities, scientists, and its own KQED science journalist. Both journalists and climate scientists will engage with attendees. Extreme Heat, Walkable City, Electrification, Sea Level Rise, and Fire Proofing and more. ALL stages of researchers are invited. Dee Rositer rossiter@berkeley.edu.

8. Large Building Fossil Fuels Emissions Tax on Berkeley Ballot?

Berkeley PhD student Carlos Francisco Ng Pitti and others are trying to qualify a November city ballot measure to tax large buildings in the city for their fossil fuel emissions. Intended, of course, to accelerate the shift to electrification. See the ballot measure [here](#). Contact Carlos to help [here](#).

9. The Hottest Topic: Big Changes in California's Electricity Pricing

The battle has been hot and heavy over the CPUC's decision to implement an income-graduated fixed charge for electricity. Will this hurt or help California to achieve its climate and justice goals? See the always-smart [Energy Institute@Haas blog](#) for Sev Borenstein's latest on the CPUC's decision last week, including a lively "comments" section.

10. DEADLINE TODAY: Berkeley Possibility Lab Looking for Researchers

The Possibility Lab is inviting California researchers and experts to join the [Abundance Policy Research Consortium](#) to help develop an evidence-based, fundamentals-first policy agenda for California focused on expanding access to 12 human essentials: food, water, energy, housing, healthcare, transportation, safety,

human essentials: food, water, energy, housing, healthcare, transportation, safety, employment, education, childcare, eldercare, and digital connectivity. Apply by May 15!

BCCN Climate Calendar

- [UCOP Community-Engaged Climate Research Workshop May 23 Zoom](#)
- [The Climate Restorers film and talk at Brower Center June 6](#)
- [Energy Innovation Summit in SF June 12-14](#)



The Mapparium, Boston MA

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[Berkeley Climate Change Network](#)

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*"No one can stomach the loss
of what must be lost
and so we hasten collapse
clinging to systems too heavy to hold."*

– Anna Sis Bartel - from "When We Tell the Story" in [Dear Human at the Edge of Time](#)

