

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Climate Heroes That Offer Hope

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Headlines about the climate crisis are mostly negative, hopeless, and depressing. Now and then, some rays of sunshine appear behind the clouds. People are working on solutions! Civilization can be saved! Here are some positive stories reported in *The Guardian (U.K.)* and *Science Daily*.

Two companies have created and are testing carbon capture in Iceland. "The world's largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide out of the air and turn it into rock has started running in Iceland. The companies behind the project are Switzerland's Climeworks and Iceland's Carbfix." (*The Guardian*, 9/8/21.)

Windfarm operators in China are leading an offshore windfarm boom, and installations are expected to double this year.

Media activists are targeting "greenwashing ads," million-dollar propaganda campaigns by the fossil-fuel industry. "Oil companies are trying to act as if they're on top of the problem, they're dealing with it, they care, so that they can avoid the type of public pressure and ultimately political regulation that would truly force them to change at the pace that we need them to." (*The Guardian*, 9/11/21.)

Fossil Free Media wants ad agencies to break ties with fossil-fuel companies, and more than 100 PR and ad agencies have signed a pledge to stop working with fossil-fuel clients.

Publishers, editors and writers at over 200 health journals worldwide simultaneously published an editorial "calling on

world leaders to take emergency action to limit global temperature increases, halt the destruction of nature, and protect health."

International government leaders who signed the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement can be credited with the scrapping of three-quarters of plans for new coal power plants in 44 countries.

Leaders of 26 states and cities in the U.S. have filed lawsuits against oil and gas companies for environmental damage caused by floods and other disasters, claiming that fossil-fuel company executives lied and suppressed warnings from their own scientists.

Research analysts at KPMG have validated data and predictions reported in a 1972 MIT study, *The Limits to Growth*, published by Club of Rome, presenting "various outcomes for what could happen when the growth of industrial civilization collided with finite resources." Gaya Herrington, who holds a degree in econometrics from the University of Amsterdam and a master's in sustainability from Harvard, said the data are still correct, and there is hope. "The key finding of my study is that we still have a choice to align with a scenario that does not end in collapse. With innovation in business, along with new developments by governments and civil society, continuing to update the model provides another perspective on the challenges and opportunities we have to create a more sustainable world."

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