People in Green Cities Live Longer

City dwellers tend to live longer if they are in leafy neighborhoods, according to a study that linked green areas to lower rates of premature death. Trees in cities are already credited with cooling and cleaning the air and absorbing planet-warming gases, now researchers have found they also keep death at bay. The research, pulled data from 9 countries, including superpowers China and the U.S., as well as trends for the rest of the world and estimated that global fossil fuel production by 2030 would be at levels between 50-120% over Paris Agreement targets. But by 2030, global planned production would lead to 39 Giogastones (Gt) of CO2 emissions, 53% higher than what is needed to reduce temperature rises to 2°C or 1.2°C, more than is needed for 1.5°C, the report said.

French gas networks could mix in green hydrogen in future

The French gas network could be adapted to pipe a mix of natural gas with 20% hydrogen to 2030 onwards, as part of efforts to cut carbon emissions, operators said recently. Hydrogen produces water when it burns rather than greenhouse gas CO2, offering a clean fuel if it is produced from renewable sources such as wind or solar energy. In France, hydrogen is now mostly produced from oil and gas and mainly for industrial use, accounting for about 3% of French emissions. In its long-term energy plan, France aims to decarbonize industrial hydrogen production by about 10% by 2023 and it set aside 100 million euros ($110 million) this year to encourage hydrogen use, particularly for industry.

Italy’s Snam pledges to spend more money on green business

Snam pledged recently to spend more on green business and set up a new hybrid energy system as it moves to position itself for the industry-wide transition to cleaner energy sources. In its business plan for 2023 the group said it would increase its investments in its sustainable energy unit “Snam Tec” by 65% to over 1.4 billion euros ($1.55 billion), more than 20% of its overall investments. Snam, which makes most of its revenue from gas transport in Italy, is keen to develop the use of hydrogen in its pipelines and hopes to have the hydrogen blend at 10% by year end in experiments it is conducting with European funds and foreign investment.

Source: Reuters

Fossil fuel polluters from U.S. to China far off climate targets

The world’s major fossil fuel producers are set to bust global environmental goals with excessive coal, oil and gas extraction in the next decade, the U.N. and research groups said recently. The report reviewed specific plans from 10 countries, including superpowers China and the U.S., as well as trends for the rest of the world and estimated that global fossil fuel production by 2030 would be at levels between 50-120% over Paris Agreement targets. But by 2030, global planned production would lead to 39 Giogastones (Gt) of CO2 emissions, 53% higher than what is needed to reduce temperature rises to 2°C or 1.2°C, more than is needed for 1.5°C, the report said.

China to cut renewable power subsidy to $807 million in 2020

China will cut its renewable power subsidy to 5.67 billion yuan ($807 million) in 2020 from 8.1 billion yuan in 2019, according to the Ministry of Finance said recently. China’s coal consumption will stop funding large solar power stations. The subsidy for 2020 will be allocated to wind farms, biomass power generators and distributed solar power operators, as well as solar power projects for poverty alleviation purposes, in 11 regions across the country, according to the finance ministry. China also plans to end subsidies for new onshore wind power projects at the start of 2021.

Birthday big: France plans to invest 44 billion euros in clean energy projects

France hopes to generate investment worth about 44 billion euros ($49 billion) over the next decade on projects to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, authorities said recently. A game plan approved by the cabinet recently showed France will try to reduce its carbon footprint by more than 55% by 2030 compared with 2005, and would close down all its coal-fired power plants in the next eight years. Wind, solar and hydroelectric power should account for at least 35% of Europe's energy consumption by 2030, up from about 15% in 2016, with investments worth about 9 billion euros. Other investments include natural gas networks and recycling projects. Athens expects this effort to consist largely of government spending, combined with European Union funds and foreign investment.

Source: Reuters

Sustainable News Bulletin

Bi-Monthly News Bulletin

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