

How much danger is Florida in of [running out of drinking water](#)?

LINK: https://go.grist.org/e/399522/-newsletter-utm-campaign-daily/2b789df/1794598731/h/lKmv0SFcwHhL_k35y9L6MEO1YPWfzSo0BN0YUJzob1E

Overuse of Florida's groundwater and paving over its wetlands also places the state's fresh water supply in jeopardy of [saltwater intrusion](#). Good summary of how that works in this article if you're unfamiliar.

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/01/08/saltwater-intrusion-floridan-aquifer-sea-level-rise-drinking-water-jacksonville-wetlands-florida/>

And speaking of water, how much water do your personal choices suck up? [An amazing story here](#).

144 gallons of water are required to produce one disposable diaper!

As this article makes clear, and as I've written before, perhaps the best thing you can do for the environment is buy less stuff. Less stuff = less waste, fewer raw materials used up for manufacturing, less mining and logging, fewer CO2 emissions to ship that stuff all over the world, and less water to produce it. Beef also requires vastly more water to produce and slaughter than other types of meat, fyi.

But personal choices can only help the planet so much, and it becomes frustrating being a water miser around your house when the condo complex down the street wastes hundreds of gallons of water a day watering its lawn in the winter to make it appear less dead and golf courses blow through the stuff at a rate of hundreds of thousands of gallons a day in some cases.

Tips on reducing personal water consumption included in the story.

LINK: <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/sarasotaco/2025/01/13/water-footprint-in-the-home/>

Conservation groups were thwarted in their efforts to [upgrade federal protections for manatees](#) by having them listed as "endangered."

LINK: <https://baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2025/01/14/florida--manatee--endangered?emci=85d7fb97-7bcf-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&emdi=8f4c5d15-4fd4-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&ceid=1955550>

Another last-minute conservation failure of the Biden Administration: [reducing shipping speed limits](#) to protect critically endangered North Atlantic right whales.

LINK: https://grist.org/oceans/federal-regulators-drop-efforts-save-north-atlantic-right-whales/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

Developers in Miami want to [make it easier to cut down trees](#) there. The city is already woefully behind its stated tree canopy goal of 30% and I can testify from a May visit last year, Miami is unbearable without shade.

LINK: https://substack.com/redirect/9ef82f69-9186-4932-9024-82a88047c1cf?j=eyJ1ljoizZjpbXMifQ.ULDNPt4cyY7ln_fL0WSseM1GCe9twX-JNuAuSgn9RIE

Everglades nerds will love this DEEP DIVE on its condition. The annual Audubon Florida [State of the Everglades report](#).

LINK: [https://fl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/sote_fall2024_web.pdf?ms=aud-email-advocacy_\(fl\)_fall_2024_sote&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=advocacy_\(fl\)_fall_2024_sote&emci=12a2d3ff-6dcc-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&emdi=c31ab988-03cd-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&ceid=907790](https://fl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/sote_fall2024_web.pdf?ms=aud-email-advocacy_(fl)_fall_2024_sote&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=advocacy_(fl)_fall_2024_sote&emci=12a2d3ff-6dcc-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&emdi=c31ab988-03cd-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&ceid=907790)

The biggest environmental story of the week is probably one you didn't hear about and it's surprisingly good news from the U.S. Supreme Court which has decided not to hear a case where Utah attempted to sue the federal government to [give the state control of federal land](#) within its borders.

This is part and parcel of the right-wing mania to do away with public lands – national parks and wildlife refuges included – and sell them off to the highest corporate or private bidder.

LINK: https://www.landdesk.org/p/scotus-kills-utah-land-grab?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=258189&post_id=154818422&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

As has become an annual tradition, 2024 was the hottest year on record. What's new, average temps around the world in 2024 [exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius](#) over pre-industrial levels for the first time. 1.5 Celsius is the level at which scientists around the globe believed warming had to be contained to avoid the worst climate change impacts... like those experienced during the 2024 hurricane season in Florida... like those being experienced this wildfire season in Los Angeles.

Limiting global warming to 1.5 Celsius has now been deemed impossible. We're heading into an era of worst-case scenarios.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/10/world-temperature-in-2024-exceeded-15c-for-first-time?utm_term=6788f6076c83b255258287a7e82de796&utm_campaign=DownToEarth&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight_email

Don't tell [Donald Trump's pick for energy secretary](#) there's a link between climate change and the L.A. fires. He considers connecting them "hype." Bear in mind, he's a multi-millionaire executive of a fracking company. During his Senate confirmation hearing this week, he denied there is any such thing as "dirty" or "clean" energy.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/15/chris-wright-energy-secretary-climate-change?utm_term=6788f39d33efa5ad34206182b5540773&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email

[U.S. farmers are embracing wildflowers](#). Research indicates strips of native plants on as little as 10% of farmland can reduce soil erosion by up to 95%.

A little-known program withing the US Department of Agriculture is trying to expand the program.

LINK: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/dec/26/us-farmers-embracing-wildflowers-prairie-strips-erosion-pollinators>

Speaking of programs hidden deep within the USDA and the 1,000-plus page Farm Bill, the most important document for fighting climate change and biodiversity collapse no one knows about, here's one that [helped a Florida farmer protect Florida panthers](#) and his farm by targeting feral hogs.

LINK: https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/protect-water-and-land/land-and-water-stories/florida-panther-farm-bill-conservation-easement/?en_txn8=NewSch.WJEMSA2501NPNZNZZE02Z00-ZZZZZ-ST00&lu=72cbb21b-3a33-4505-b2f6-1dc548534a04&en_txn1=e.ch_fl.eg.x.gpn.0108.n.sas.unv

Ten days into the new year and [the world's richest 1%](#) have already used up their fair share of the global carbon budget for 2025. It would take someone from the poorest 50% of humanity three years to create the same amount of pollution.

The richest 1% – about 77 million people, including all those earning more than \$140,000 a year – are responsible for more than twice as much carbon pollution each year as the poorest half of humanity.

Climate change is a class issue.

This is why calls for reducing the global population are misguided when talking about carbon emissions and climate change. A tiny minority of people contribute vastly more to this crisis than the vast majority of the global population.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/10/worlds-richest-use-up-their-fair-share-of-2025-carbon-budget-in-10-days?utm_term=678114031f3fab5989765f15af986efa&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email