

Here's someone doing something about it. Bob Hawkinson owns a landscaping company in Jacksonville. He's always been troubled by the amount of waste his industry creates, particularly [plastic bags for mulch and plastic plant pots](#). Hawkinson estimates the landscaping industry consumes about 3 billion mulch bags per year. One mulch bag is equal, in plastic, to 36 grocery bags.

Over the past decade, Hawkinson has worked with a chemist to create biodegradable plastics with landscaping applications including biodegradable weed eater trim line, plastic flags, plant pots, pot labels and mulch bags that block weeds as they degrade without poisoning the soil.

[https://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/inno/stories/inno-insights/2025/01/07/jax-entrepreneur-recede-bioplastics.html?utm\\_source=st&utm\\_medium=en&utm\\_campaign=ae&utm\\_content=JA&j=38112123&senddate=2025-01-07&empos=p4](https://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/inno/stories/inno-insights/2025/01/07/jax-entrepreneur-recede-bioplastics.html?utm_source=st&utm_medium=en&utm_campaign=ae&utm_content=JA&j=38112123&senddate=2025-01-07&empos=p4)

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“Forever Chemicals” in [Florida drinking water](#).

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2024/12/05/pfas-forever-chemicals-drinking-water-florida-cocoa-beach-stuart-lawsuit-epa-dark-waters/>

... and your Chick fil-A sandwich.

[https://hub.outsideinc.com/e3t/Ctc/LW+113/cy08X04/VVVnnF1ds\\_h2W8HGPwj6VJfknW5VG-2S5rjM5LN5\\_C1IT5nR32W50kH\\_H6lZ3mpW5PFKH94Q3HxkW7sfwQm1R-VMSW6q0Jbg3LMvwTV-TIMY2-S\\_k4W2bFX6M26LWhIW6-SLTs2Qmp-hW33yy6N43r2kgW5b0k3G43LFkzW27rV9Q4vQYSbVvFgfx2Dy0DWW4pSW8T5dFsv3W4Z5JWf5D4QzrW4KRgwT3nw2bYW7j2k85fYy53W6mLgg33Kl0n9VRpQxn4gMp0cW9bWKbP7Mr1LLW8x0WWw3Q6LypW5\\_CnCh20kymcV-F0-T6NMl0jW6cQd1P8H3KVVW5RKcmg52Vzq8VYCwMH7MjpszjW3DhPyJ7x1PM1W3xbQGV45F-p7N9dG6D0MyWJCW6ydF3j2LHvF1W2rqcGP6fqf-XW4lfK595lpRjpW9grfH\\_2LSZ9DW83cVP51QkPBLW6MYlyN1bh\\_bjf4Cl-Mj04](https://hub.outsideinc.com/e3t/Ctc/LW+113/cy08X04/VVVnnF1ds_h2W8HGPwj6VJfknW5VG-2S5rjM5LN5_C1IT5nR32W50kH_H6lZ3mpW5PFKH94Q3HxkW7sfwQm1R-VMSW6q0Jbg3LMvwTV-TIMY2-S_k4W2bFX6M26LWhIW6-SLTs2Qmp-hW33yy6N43r2kgW5b0k3G43LFkzW27rV9Q4vQYSbVvFgfx2Dy0DWW4pSW8T5dFsv3W4Z5JWf5D4QzrW4KRgwT3nw2bYW7j2k85fYy53W6mLgg33Kl0n9VRpQxn4gMp0cW9bWKbP7Mr1LLW8x0WWw3Q6LypW5_CnCh20kymcV-F0-T6NMl0jW6cQd1P8H3KVVW5RKcmg52Vzq8VYCwMH7MjpszjW3DhPyJ7x1PM1W3xbQGV45F-p7N9dG6D0MyWJCW6ydF3j2LHvF1W2rqcGP6fqf-XW4lfK595lpRjpW9grfH_2LSZ9DW83cVP51QkPBLW6MYlyN1bh_bjf4Cl-Mj04)

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Florida moves backwards on electric cars and [Publix is a big reason why](#).

LINK: [https://jasongarcia.substack.com/p/florida-moves-backwards-on-electric?utm\\_source=post-email-title&publication\\_id=687064&post\\_id=154194372&utm\\_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=false&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm\\_medium=email](https://jasongarcia.substack.com/p/florida-moves-backwards-on-electric?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=687064&post_id=154194372&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=false&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email)

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A DEEP DIVE on how [gopher tortoise burrows](#) support a community of other species.

LINK: <https://www.oriannesociety.org/fieldnotes/gopher-tortoises-are-a-keystone-species/?v=f69b47f43ce4>

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Donald Trump [illegally fired 18 inspector generals](#) during his first days in office leaving the Department of Interior, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other departments that shape the country's environmental and climate policy without independent oversight. It is anticipated he'll fill these positions with loyal hacks beholden to him and polluting industries.

LINK: [https://grist.org/accountability/paranoia-and-distrust-how-trumps-mass-firing-of-government-watchdogs-will-affect-climate-policy/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=daily](https://grist.org/accountability/paranoia-and-distrust-how-trumps-mass-firing-of-government-watchdogs-will-affect-climate-policy/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily)

Scientists for the federal government, likewise, fear for their jobs under an administration antagonistic to science and facts.

LINK: [https://grist.org/politics/science-researchers-worry-jobs-under-trump/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=daily](https://grist.org/politics/science-researchers-worry-jobs-under-trump/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily)

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is who the federal government relies on to achieve its most ambitious construction projects. Projects historically attempting to reengineer nature. Projects like draining the Everglades. Projects like correcting earlier efforts to drain the Everglades.

The history of the USACE is riddled with [billion-dollar failures and environmental ruin](#). What would you expect from an organization whose motto is “let us try?” Would you hire a contractor whose motto was “let me try?”

My numerous problems with the Corps of Engineers stem from the group’s hubris in thinking it can control nature, and its willingness to do – or try – whatever the government asks/tells it to do, regardless of whether the Corps engineers think it can or should be done. These are, after all, military people. They don’t ask questions. They should. Asking questions, saying “no,” may have saved billions of dollars and prevented the loss of irreparable ecosystems.

LINK: <https://www.propublica.org/article/us-army-corps-engineers-usace-mistakes-timeline>

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These playgrounds for kids are designed to become [storage tanks for water during flooding](#).

LINK: [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/03/hoboken-new-jersey-kids-play-stormwater-capture-zone-playground?utm\\_term=677fbb7ba9024e1aaba6fc3e7a79c539&utm\\_campaign=DownToEarth&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/03/hoboken-new-jersey-kids-play-stormwater-capture-zone-playground?utm_term=677fbb7ba9024e1aaba6fc3e7a79c539&utm_campaign=DownToEarth&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight_email)

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Further afield... [California banned the use](#) of most expanded plastic foam (Styrofoam) food containers on January 1, a move conservationists estimate could eliminate up to 3.9 billion pieces of foam ware every single year.”

LINK: [https://www.newsweek.com/worlds-fifth-largest-economy-about-ban-most-polystyrene-foam-2007620?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=beacon](https://www.newsweek.com/worlds-fifth-largest-economy-about-ban-most-polystyrene-foam-2007620?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=beacon)

In Boston, the first building to use [fossil-fuel-free cement](#) has been constructed. Traditional cement is produced by heating limestone in large kilns to around 2,500°F, a process that releases carbon dioxide both from the fuel burned and as a natural byproduct of the limestone. Cement production accounts for roughly 8% of global carbon emissions, more than the aviation industry, which contributes around 2%.

LINK: [https://happyeconews.com/sublime-systems-fossil-fuel-free-cement/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source\\_platform=mailpoet&utm\\_campaign=weekly-top-5-news-7](https://happyeconews.com/sublime-systems-fossil-fuel-free-cement/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet&utm_campaign=weekly-top-5-news-7)

[“Tile whipping” in the Netherlands](#) is challenging residents and municipalities to replace their impervious surfaces with grass, gardens, trees, and flower beds.

LINK: [https://happyeconews.com/what-is-tile-whipping/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source\\_platform=mailpoet&utm\\_campaign=weekly-top-5-news-7](https://happyeconews.com/what-is-tile-whipping/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet&utm_campaign=weekly-top-5-news-7)

Paris is undergoing [a major urban forestry transformation](#).

LINK: [https://happyeconews.com/paris-urban-forest-plan/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source\\_platform=mailpoet&utm\\_campaign=weekly-top-5-news-7](https://happyeconews.com/paris-urban-forest-plan/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet&utm_campaign=weekly-top-5-news-7)