

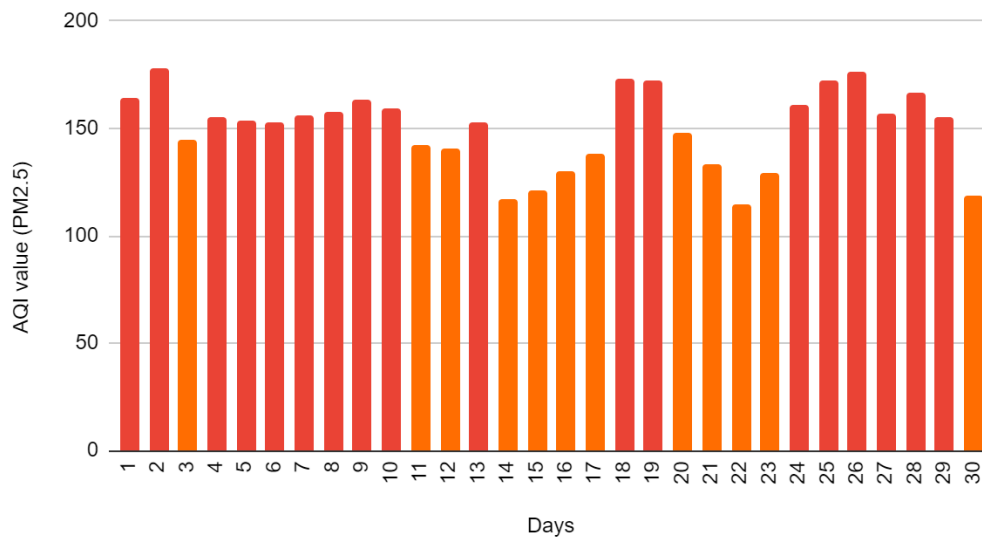
Our Concern



E-Newsletter April 2022

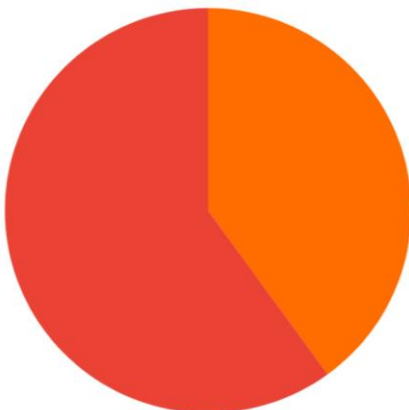
Kathmandu Valley Air Quality overview (PM 2.5)

April



Data retrieved from: <https://aqicn.org/city/nepal/kathmandu/us-embassy/>

● Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups ● Unhealthy



For April, not a single day remained good or moderate, i.e. AQI value exceeded the range 0 to 100.

- 18 days were unhealthy with AQI values ranging from 151 to 200. During such period everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.

- 12 days were unhealthy for sensitive groups with AQI values ranging from 101 to 150, wherein sensitive groups may experience health effects. During such period, active children and adults as well as people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion to avoid health effects.

News and Views

WHO says 99% of world's population breathes poor-quality air

The UN health agency says nearly everybody in the world breathes air that doesn't meet its standards for air quality, calling for more action to reduce fossil-fuel use, which generates pollutants that cause respiratory and blood-flow problems and lead to millions of preventable deaths each year. WHO said 99% of the global population breathes air that exceeds its air-quality limits and is often rife with particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs, enter the veins and arteries, and cause disease. Air quality is poorest in WHO's Eastern Mediterranean and Southeast Asia regions, followed by Africa.

Published on: April 4, 2022

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/world/who-says-99-of-worlds-population-breathes-poor-quality-air>

NAST develops eco-friendly electric scooter

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology has developed an electric scooter in collaboration with the Lumbini government. The preliminary version of the eco-friendly two-wheeler was launched by the Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Pampha Bhusal at a programme here today. The innovation is viewed as significant at a time when the entire world is searching for alternatives to fossil fuels bearing in mind its negative consequences on the environment, depleting reserves and skyrocketing prices. The innovation is claimed to be appropriate in terms of roadways in Nepal and its topography.

Published on: January 6, 2022

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/kathmandus-notorious-traffic-jams-a-few-solutions>

Higher fuel taxes will hasten move to green energy, World Bank says

Nepal Oil Corporation currently sells petrol at a record high price of Rs160 per litre, out of which more than Rs60 goes to the government in taxes. High and volatile oil prices have exposed South Asia's vulnerabilities and underscored the need to become less dependent on fossil-fuel imports, the multilateral funding agency said in its report published on April 13. The dependence on fossil fuels causes, apart from economic problems, environmental damage, which in turn has a negative impact on the economy.

Published on: April 30, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/money/2022/04/30/higher-fuel-taxes-will-hasten-move-to-green-energy-world-bank-says>

Lack of climate technology hinders critical climate action

Scientists stress investment in weather forecasting technology and frequent impact-based weather forecasting. Unprecedented changes in the weather pattern resulting in rare freak rain causing damage estimated at billions have become more frequent in Nepal, bringing severe consequences for the country. In remote mountain regions like Jumla where the communities practice climate-sensitive indigenous agriculture, the impacts of climate change are even more pronounced with a direct threat to food security.

Published on: April 7, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2022/04/07/lack-of-climate-technology-hinders-critical-climate-action>

Climate change putting four percent of global GDP at risk, new study estimates

Climate change could see four percent of global annual economic output lost by 2050 and hit many poorer parts of the world disproportionately hard, a new study of 135 countries has estimated. Countries around the equator or small islands tend to be more at risk, while economies more reliant on sectors such as agriculture are likely to be more affected than those with large services sectors.

Published on: April 27, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/world/2022/04/27/climate-change-putting-4-percent-of-global-gdp-at-risk-new-study-estimates>

Cities drive climate change, and can provide a solution, UN says

UN scientists on Monday laid out ways to rein in emissions and curb climate change, including a chapter on actions that city planners can follow. The world's cities are a big driver of planet-warming emissions but can play a major role in addressing climate change in the near future. UN scientists on Monday laid out ways to rein in emissions and curb climate change, including a chapter on actions that city planners can follow. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report found urban infrastructure and activities caused about two-thirds of today's emissions.

Published on: April 5, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/world/2022/04/05/cities-drive-climate-change-and-can-provide-a-solution-un-says>

Dry conditions are fuelling wildfires but authorities are ill-equipped to tackle them

On Sunday, at least 103 forest fire incidents were recorded across the country, mostly in the western part and this number is expected to rise in the coming days. Over 2,400 fire incidents had been recorded in the last one year, which killed at least 100 people and 432 cattle, according

to data compiled by the authority. Wildfires start from March in Nepal, when farmers burn the remains of crops on the fields. In the last week of March also, haze covered the Kathmandu Valley. Open burning and incidents of forest fire were blamed for the worsening air quality then. The last week of April is considered the peak time for forest fires in Nepal. Environmentalists say that growing incidents of forest fires are a serious problem, which have huge social, environmental and economic impacts. Due to lack of rainfall and growing fire incidents, pollution level worsens in this season. Raising public awareness about the dangers of intentionally starting forest fires, as well as punishing those responsible, could go a long way toward reducing fire incidence," said Bhusan Tuladhar, an environmentalist. "Building artificial ponds, strengthening local level governments, providing training to locals, and providing them with the necessary materials to deal with possible fire occurrences are some of the strategies to deal with fire incidents."

Date: April 26

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2022/04/26/dry-conditions-are-fuelling-wildfires-but-authorities-are-ill-equipped-to-tackle-them>

Forest cover may have increased but agricultural land is shrinking

According to the most recent data, forests comprised 41.69 percent of Nepal's total land in 2019, compared to 39.99 percent in 2000. Similarly, in 2000, agricultural land covered 26.31 percent of the total area, compared to 24.21 percent in 2019. According to Forest Research and Training Centre, while Nepal's forest area rose by 1.7 percent, agricultural land shrank by 2.1 percent with the expansion of built-up area from 2000 to 2019. "The data demonstrates that we are on track to meet our goal of increasing forest cover to 45 percent by 2030," Pokharel added. Despite an increase at the national level, the forest areas decreased in Madhes and Karnali provinces during the period. Latest data show Province 1 has the highest share of the forest area while Madhes Province has the least. According to Upadhyaya, natural disasters, floods and landslides, and rapid urbanization lead to reduction in agricultural lands

Date: April 25

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2022/04/25/forest-cover-may-have-increased-but-agricultural-land-is-shrinking>

India too hot, says Modi, sending fire warning nationwide as Delhi landfill burns

Fires in Delhi's filthy dump yards also contribute to the toxic air that people living in the world's most polluted capital have to breathe. The cause of the landfill fire was under investigation, though such incidents are commonplace during India's scorching summers, when temperatures regularly surpass 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) before the monsoon rains bring relief. The India Meteorological Department forecast heatwave conditions in the east, central and northwest of the country - which includes the capital - over the next five days and flagged risks to the health of infants, the elderly and people with chronic diseases.

Published on: April 27, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/world/2022/04/27/india-too-hot-says-modi-sending-fire-warning-nationwide-as-delhi-landfill-burns>

Good reads:

Earth Day

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/blogs/earth-day>

Saving the dinosaurs: Startups drive to electrify fossil-fuel cars

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/world/2022/04/23/saving-the-dinosaurs-startups-drive-to-electrify-fossil-fuel-cars>

Revolutionary changes in transportation

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2022/04/05/revolutionary-changes-in-transportation>

High and dry

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/editorial/2022/04/05/high-and-dry-1649174046>

How climate change stresses plants

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2022/04/12/how-climate-change-stresses-plants>

Shouldering the burden

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2022/04/21/shouldering-the-burden>

Global environment: The climate crisis is escalating fast

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/global-environment-the-climate-crisis-is-escalating-fast>

Investing in gender

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/blogs/investing-in-gender>

Editorial Team;
Ronish Pandey, Campaign Coordinator at NYCA

Layout;
Sonam Shrestha- Research and Knowledge Management Associate, Clean Energy Nepal



info@cen.org.np



cen.org.np



@CE_Nepal



@CENepal

Copyright © 2022 CEN
Clean Energy Nepal

Write to us:
info@cen.org.np

Our mailing address is
P.O: 24581
181 Moti Marga, Satdobato, Talchikhel, Lalitpur, Nepal

Contact us at:
977-1-5538660