

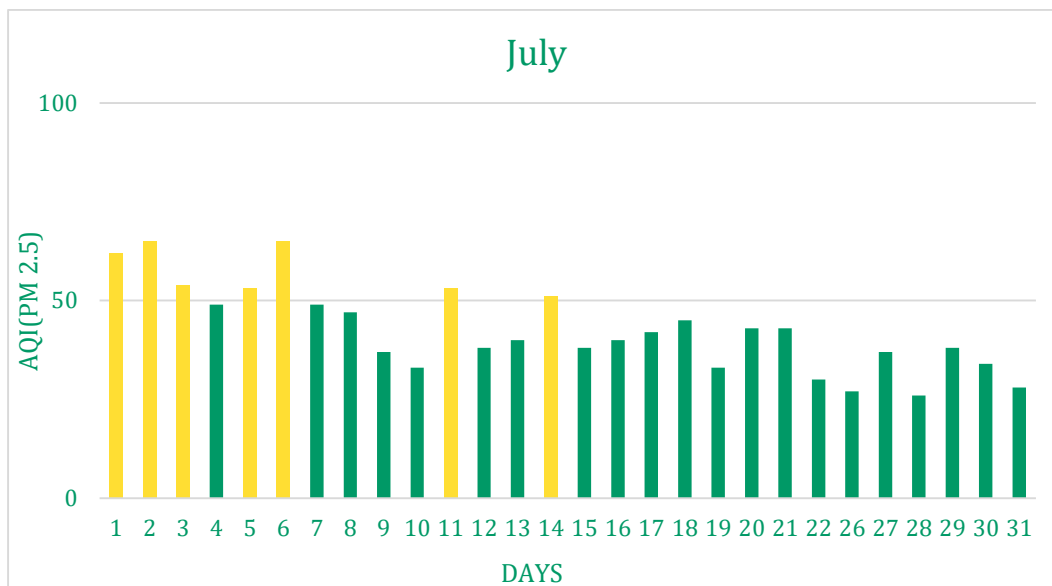
# Our Concern



E-Newsletter

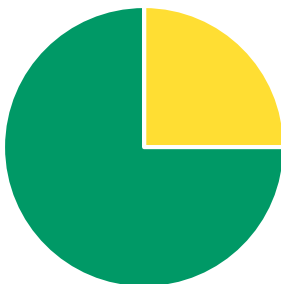
Our Concern, a monthly e-newsletter, is a compilation of news and views from local, and international, media coverage as an attempt to keep our readers abreast on the recent happenings on clean air, energy, and urban mobility and climate change issues.

## Kathmandu Valley Air Quality overview (PM 2.5)



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

■ Good ■ Moderate



- Most of the days in July i.e. 21 days have AQI values from 0 to 50 where air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
- There are 7 days where AQI values reach 51 to 100. During such period, air quality is acceptable; however, there may be a moderate health concern for people sensitive to air pollution. Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
- Data for 3 days were missing

# News and Views

## Air pollution shortens average Nepali's life by 4.1 years: report

The annual update of the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) released by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago in June revealed that Nepal is the third most polluted country in the world and the current air pollution level in Nepal shortens the life of an average Nepali by 4.1 years. The latest WHO air pollution guidelines recommend PM 2.5 to be less than 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Nepal, however, has 47.1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of PM2.5 in its air, as per the AQLI report. It is nine times more than the recommended limit of WHO.

[Published on: July 16](#)

[Source: https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/air-pollution-shortens-average-nepalis-life-by-41-years-report?fbclid=IwAR3ku1682X6Znar2WNU\\_YLJGCotdi5OOOXplrtzIQYoS\\_rImBzVe5ByT5Y](https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/air-pollution-shortens-average-nepalis-life-by-41-years-report?fbclid=IwAR3ku1682X6Znar2WNU_YLJGCotdi5OOOXplrtzIQYoS_rImBzVe5ByT5Y)

## Sajha starts e-bus service in Kathmandu

With the record breaking fuel price hikes in the past year, shift to electric from diesel are the needs for Nepal in both reducing trade gap and reaching net-zero target. Realizing these, Sajha Yatayat inaugurated its electric public transport service with three buses on two routes in Kathmandu. This will be followed by 37 other buses in August. Sajha also plans on inducting intercity electric buses.

[Published on: July 7](#)

[Source:https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/sajha-starts-e-bus-service-in-kathmandu/?fbclid=IwAR01nw\\_oAb8jYRIOftzPtlx54sR5pX8Xmq46gamf3YoMCtLy8oFuFi-2xGk](https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/sajha-starts-e-bus-service-in-kathmandu/?fbclid=IwAR01nw_oAb8jYRIOftzPtlx54sR5pX8Xmq46gamf3YoMCtLy8oFuFi-2xGk)

## Lalitpur city police to use electric vehicles

Lalitpur Metropolitan City Police has become the first local body arm to use electric vehicles for patrolling in an effort to reduce the consumption of petroleum products. A total of five electric vehicles were handed over to the Lalitpur Metropolitan City Police. These vehicles have the capacity to run up to 80 Kilometers once charged for three hours. With the operation of these vehicles through Quick Response Team, Lalitpur City Police saves 35 liters of petrol per day and around NPR 5000 per day. Chiri Babu Maharjan; Mayor of Lalitpur City announced that his office

would from now on only buy electric vehicles. He further said that the newly set aim would help Nepal in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Date: July 21

Source: [https://english.khabarhub.com/2022/21/263877/?fbclid=IwAR3gKdC\\_4rwT\\_Fk7ghvqJ51m4f2vzruuywsdNnEc4dSxpaMUalduJiY1VxY](https://english.khabarhub.com/2022/21/263877/?fbclid=IwAR3gKdC_4rwT_Fk7ghvqJ51m4f2vzruuywsdNnEc4dSxpaMUalduJiY1VxY)

## **Nepal's annual cycling event Kora, going global**

Kathmandu Kora, annual cycling event started over a decade ago with the aim of raising awareness about cycling and building a community of cyclist in Kathmandu has now grown from Kathmandu to nearly 20 cities in Nepal and 3 cities in world. This is exactly what Raj Gyawali and Sailendra Dongol, the president of Cycle City Network, who played an integral role in organising Kora since it started had hoped for. "We started with the aim of building a community, making it festive and fun. These factors are the reason for our growth," Raj Gyawali added.

Published on: July 15

Source: <https://english.onlinekhabar.com/kathmandu-kora-past-future.html>

## **Is our energy ecosystem consumer-friendly?**

Nepal uses most of its energy for cooking and transport purposes. While the use of induction stoves and electric vehicles has been rising, they are still not used in sufficient numbers to achieve energy-efficiency. Nepal's per capita energy consumption of around 300 units is the lowest in South Asia.

Research suggests heat-efficiency of induction cookers is nearly 90 percent, while that of conventional gas stoves is 50 percent. A 2021 study conducted by Amrit Man Nakarmi, professor at the Institute of Engineering, TU, found that cooking on an induction stove is over 50 percent cheaper than cooking on gas. Yet Nepalis are reluctant to fully switch to induction cookers. This could be because our energy system doesn't factor in consumer voice. Instead of jumping into electricity from firewood, people in rural areas can start with briquettes or improved cooking. EV dealers in Nepal see a bright future for electric vehicles: they have been able to meet only 30 percent of demand as India hasn't been producing enough EVs. But the latest budget has been a dampener. In its budget for the fiscal year 2022/23, the government significantly hiked excise and customs duties on EVs.

Published on: July 7

Source: <https://theannapurnaexpress.com/news/indepth-is-our-energy-ecosystem-consumer-friendly-6837>



## Waste to Energy

Managing 1140 metric tonnes of daily waste has always been a headache for the Kathmandu Metropolitan City and the government authorities. The streets in Kathmandu are littered with waste and are stinking for lack of proper waste management. According to NAST senior scientists, 570 metric tonnes of the entire solid waste generated in the Kathmandu Valley can be processed to produce 342 kilolitres or 342,000 liters of fuel. NAST had installed the system to produce fuel from plastic in 2016 itself and has set a target to bring the large capacity technology producing fuel from plastic into the country within one month. Although it has been many years since the technology producing fuel from plastic was introduced in Nepal, works to that end have not progressed. The government should wake up and pay attention to alleviate the fuel crisis to some extent by processing the waste plastic.

Published on: July 7

Source: <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/experts-suggest-producing-fuel-from-waste-plastic-jatropha-ethanol-to-tide-over-fuel-crisis/>

## Nepal's citizen scientists track climate change

Some 350 Sherpas, many of them high-altitude guides, have joined an initiative to monitor melting glaciers, receding snow lines, changes in vegetation, and record temperature and precipitation among the world's highest mountains under an initiative of the Himalayan Climate and Science Institute (HCSI). As climbers, the Sherpa have seen the mountains melt before their eyes, and their crops have been affected by extreme weather, flash floods and landslides. Co-founder of HCSI hope to provide the local community with scientific training to support analysis, data collection and longitudinal field studies.

Date: July 31

Source: <https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/nepals-citizen-scientists-track-climate-change/?fbclid=IwAR0c7eruBsskT79GqouDa7QHZnfpWzQ2fn4BulCn-lgOBPzqhO01YHxkqg8>

## Collaborative forests nurture 350,000 saplings for plantation

Kapilvastu collaborative forest, Shivaraj collaborative forest and Gautam Buddha collaborative forest have produced plants of different species and are distributing them for plantation. This plan has been made to distribute saplings for plantation in forest-encroached area and also to increase greenery and expand forest area, especially in the forest-intruded region.

Date: July 1

Source:<https://english.khabarhub.com/2022/01/260552/>

## Ban on plastic bags

The use of plastic bags below 40 microns will be completely banned from the market. In order to strictly monitor the ban on the use of plastic bags of this category, the Council of Ministers recently endorsed the Action Plan for Ban of Plastic Bags-2022. The action plan has empowered the monitoring committees of all the three tiers of government to seize plastic bags from firms, companies or persons who produce, collect, sell or distribute or store plastic bags of less than 40 microns.

Date: July 28

Source:<https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/editorial-ban-on-plastic-bags>

### Good reads:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jul/19/a-wake-up-call-as-extreme-heat-blazes-across-uk-experts-say-net-zero-is-the-only-way-out?fbclid=IwAR2MXBWkF1m2IDiIKV1ivynqxa9kqb8wclBDuuWujKnPkMriAEPZXGFE3VC>

<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2022/07/01/power-utility-calls-off-bid-to-sell-200mw-to-india-under-long-term-contract>

<https://www.imagekhabar.com/news/321162/>

<https://science.thewire.in/environment/himalaya-black-carbon-havoc/>

<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/over-115-000-vehicles-added-in-eight-months-in-bagmati-province/?categoryId=81>

<https://english.onlinekhabar.com/kmc-incentivise-waste-segregation.html>

<https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2022/07/07/designing-cities-for-everyone>

<https://medicosnext.com/why-landfills-are-not-a-sustainable-waste-management-solution/>

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/waste-in-cities-problem-and-awareness>

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Editorial Team;

Barsha Parajuli- Program Coordinator, Clean Energy Nepal

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

Layout;

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

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[info@cen.org.np](mailto:info@cen.org.np)



[cen.org.np](http://cen.org.np)



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Write to us:  
[info@cen.org.np](mailto:info@cen.org.np)

Our mailing address is  
P.O: 24581  
181 Moti Marga, Satdobato, Talchikhel, Lalitpur, Nepal  
Contact us at:  
977-1-5538660