

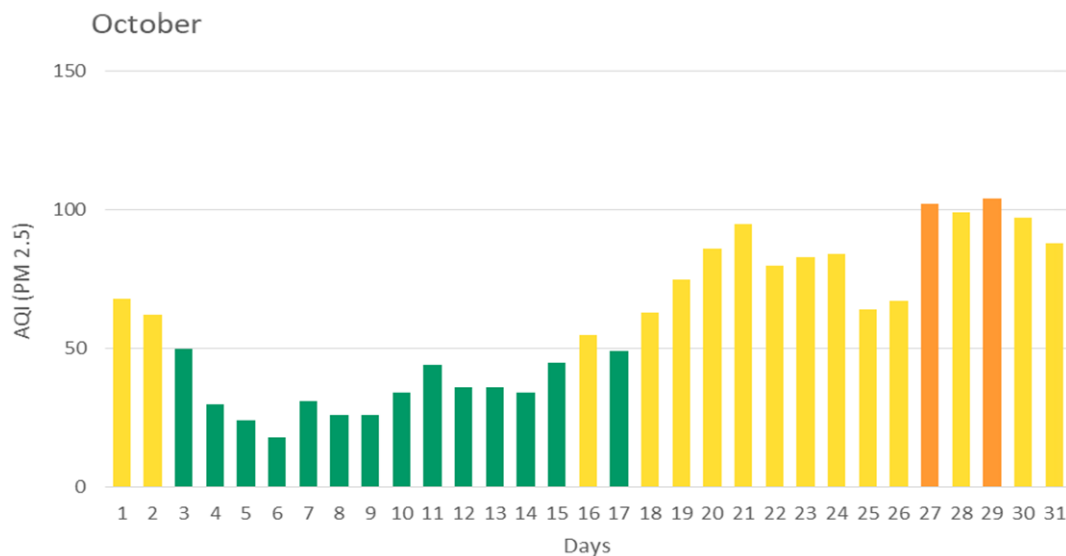
Our Concern



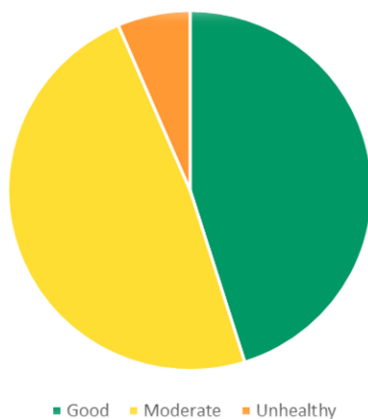
E-Newsletter October 2022

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/>



- In the month of October, 14 days have AQI values from 0 to 50 where air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
- There are 15 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.
- Toward the end of the month, 2 days were unhealthy for sensitive group with AQI values reaching 101 to 150. Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion during such period.

COP-27: An implementation summit

The COP-27 has been regarded as the implementation summit of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The agreement, decisions and commitments made since the Rio Conference, 1992 to Glasgow 2021 (COP-26) will be featured prominently and pressure will be created especially upon the rich and developed countries for the implementation in the COP-27.

Nepal demands the developed and rich countries to revisit their long-term low carbon emission development strategy to maintain the rise of global temperature at 1.5 degree centigrade.

Published on: October 24, 2022

Source: <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/cop-27-an-implementation-summit/>

Nepal sets priority for climate adaptation

Nepal is preparing to attend the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from November 7 to 18. During the session, Nepal being one of the countries highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change due to its sensitive geography, is preparing to raise the issues concerning the impact of climate change on the mountain region with utmost priority. Climate change adaptation, damages and losses, and climate finance are among the issues Nepal will be raising with due priority.

Adaptation means adapting to life in a changing climate while reduction means reducing carbon emissions, the major cause of greenhouse gas effect. During the COP26, Nepal had pledged allegiance to achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2045. 'Net zero emissions' refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere, according to the Climate Council.

Published on: October 14, 2022

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/environment/nepal-sets-priority-for-climate-adaptation>

Nepal to talk up climate losses and seek more funding at COP27

Climate change is getting little attention of Nepali politicians, busy as they are with the upcoming parliamentary elections, despite the calamity it's wreaking on the country's fragile ecosystem. Experts say the government's apathy towards climate change is glaring, especially given the increasing incidents each year of melting glaciers, flash floods and landslides. The incidents have

claimed lives and destroyed property. The numbers continue to see an alarming rise every passing year.

This time, Nepal is preparing to present a five-point agenda to delegates at the upcoming conference. These include highlighting the losses being suffered as a result of climate change and drawing attention of delegates to a lack of sufficient funding to offset those losses.

Published on: October 21, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2022/10/21/nepal-to-talk-up-climate-losses-and-seek-more-funding-at-cop27>

NC pledges zero carbon emission in Nepal by 2045

Nepali Congress (NC) has pledged to enable the nation with zero carbon emission by 2045. In its manifesto unveiled on Saturday for the House of Representatives and provincial assembly elections, NC has made a commitment to adopt different policies and principles to make the country have zero carbon emission by the stipulated time. NC has laid emphasis on green and productive economic development, preservation of forest area, economic generation, eco-tourism, organic agriculture system and food security from carbon credit, timber-based industry and biodiversity protection for zero carbon emission.

Published on: October 30, 2022

Source: <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/nc-pledges-zero-carbon-emission-in-nepal-by-2045/>

Floods and early snow risk killing off Kashmir's nomadic culture

When nomad Mohammed Rabbani and his family left the soaring April heat of their hometown to start their annual trek into the hills of Kashmir to graze their livestock, they took 400 sheep and goats with them. But only about 200 animals will make the 260-km (186-mile) trip back to Rabbani's home in Rajouri, in the west of the Jammu and Kashmir region. During their time in the hills, heavy rains, flooding, and unseasonal snowstorms killed half the family's livestock.

If climate change worsens in the coming years, the nomads will have no option but to end their centuries-old migratory lifestyle, which will eventually affect their cultural legacy and the state's economy

Published on: October 20, 2022

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/world/floods-and-early-snow-risk-killing-off-kashmirs-nomadic-culture>

Delhi stops construction as pollution set to worsen from Tuesday

Delhi has suspended most construction and demolition activities as air quality in the Indian capital is set to worsen from Tuesday because of calmer winds and other meteorological conditions, a government minister said. The air quality index (AQI) peaked at 415 in the Anand Vihar area of Delhi on Monday - more than eight times the "good" level, according to the Central Pollution Control Board. A reading of above 400 is considered "severe" that can affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing illnesses.

"Experts are predicting that wind speed will fall from Nov. 1 and its direction will change," Delhi's environment minister, Gopal Rai, told a news conference on Sunday. "Based on that, it is being predicted that the AQI would go beyond 400 into the severe category."

Published on: October 31, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/world/2022/10/31/delhi-stops-construction-as-pollution-set-to-worsen-from-tuesday>

Environmental toxicity and climate crisis threaten Nepal's medicinal plants

Toxic metals like arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury have been found in three medicinal plants used in Ayurvedic medicines to treat common diseases and ailments. Officials say the medicinal plants might have been exposed to such hazardous metals in the past too but they weren't aware of the level of toxicity.

"This study was carried out to measure the levels of toxicity in medicinal plants," said Dr Basudev Upadhyay, director general at the Department of Ayurveda and Alternative Medicine under the Ministry of Health and Population. "This study will help us compare the level of toxicity in the plants in the future." Toxic metals were assessed in *Tinospora cordifolia* (Guduchi), *Berberis aristata* (Daruharidra) and *Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora* (Katuki) in the study "Impact of Climate Change on Medicinal Plants of Selected Districts in Nepal-2020," carried out by the department.

Published on: October 8, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2022/10/30/renewable-energy-and-nepal>

Switching from gas stoves to have an opportunity of cleaner air inside home

Recent studies have raised concerns about indoor air emissions from gas stoves as they can release hazardous air pollutants and contribute to indoor air pollution while they're operating, and even when they're turned off. Air pollutants commonly associated with using gas stoves include nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), methane. Exposure to such pollutants at home affects asthmatic adults, contributes to both the development and exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and are the main culprit behind the more severe asthma among children resulting in an increased use of rescue inhalers.

Moving away from gas stoves is investing in home energy efficiency measures and helps reduce energy costs while shrinking your carbon footprint. If you're not driven to reduce your carbon footprint, the opportunity to have cleaner air inside your home may be a strong motivator to make the switch.

Published on: 16th September 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2022/09/17/is-gas-stove-bad-for-health>

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