

Our Concern

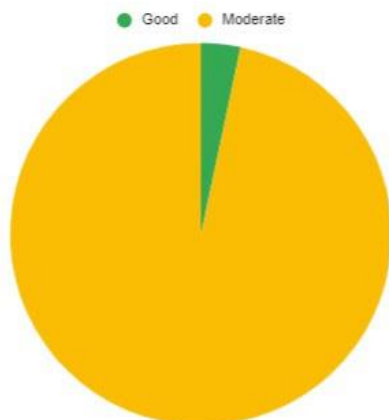
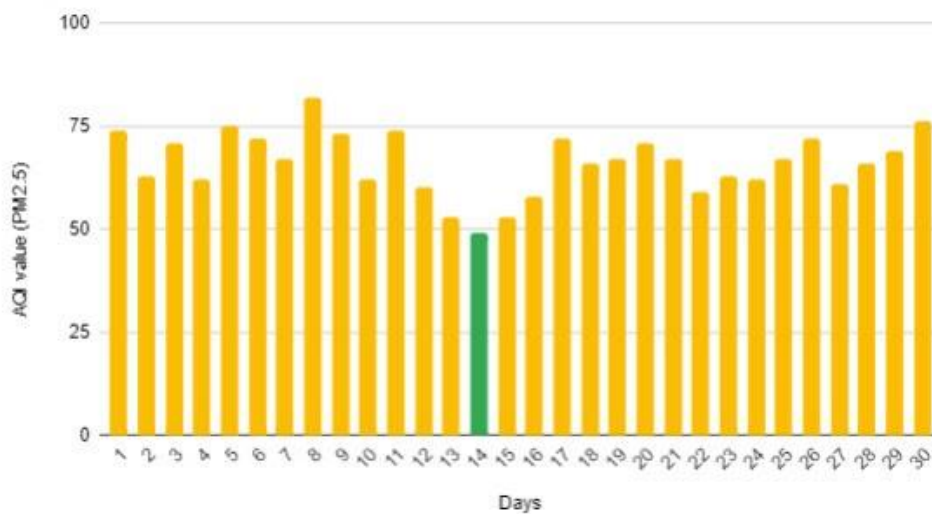


E-Newsletter September 2022

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)

September



- For the month of September, only a single day was satisfactory, posing little or no risk with AQI values ranging from 0-50.

- All the other days ie. 29 days were within an acceptable range. During such period, despite the air quality being acceptable; there may be a moderate health concern for people sensitive to air pollution. Active children and adults, and people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.

News and Views

Net zero carbon Nepal by 2045 is easier said than done, Prime Minister Deuba says

In November 2021 during the World Leaders Summit of 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba proclaimed that Nepal aimed to reach net zero emissions by 2045. However, during the Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Forum 2022, organized by Investment Board Nepal in Kathmandu, Prime Minister Deuba revealed that it is easier said than done to transition the country into a net zero carbon emitter by 2045.

Net zero is a target of completely negating the number of greenhouse gases produced by human activity, to be achieved by reducing emissions and implementing methods of absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. According to a report, for a country like Nepal, financial strains are major problems. Implementing measures to offset any and all carbon emissions to achieve net zero emissions would cost an estimated \$43 billion over 2021-30, which is equivalent to nearly 10 percent of GDP in average yearly financing requirement terms.

Published on: 14th September 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/money/2022/09/14/net-zero-carbon-nepal-by-2045-is-easier-said-than-done-prime-minister-deuba-says>

Climate change likely made Pakistan's extreme rainfall more intense

Scientists say, the torrential monsoon that has submerged more than a third of Pakistan was a one in a hundred-year event likely made more intense by climate change. In the hardest-hit areas of Sindh and Balochistan provinces, where August rainfall was seven to eight times heavier than usual, climate warming made average five-day maximum rainfall about 75% more intense.

The floods have so far claimed the lives of more than 1,400 people and displaced millions, washing away roads, homes, and farmland. Damages are expected to total more than \$30 billion. Pakistan authorities say it could take up to six months for flood waters to fully recede, spiking concerns about waterborne diseases such as dengue and cholera. While climate change may have made this year's monsoon rains worse, the devastation they caused can't be attributed to warming alone.

Published on: 16th September 2022

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/environment/climate-change-likely-made-pakistans-extreme-rainfall-more-intense-study>

Climate change expected to further affect Nepal

As temperatures rise across South Asia, climate and disaster risks in Nepal are expected to further affect people, economy, environment, and development gains, according to the Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) released by the World Bank Group. The number of people in Nepal annually affected by river flooding caused by climate change could reach around 350,000 in 2030, the report states. Nepal adopted the Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID) approach in 2021, as a national long term vision. Despite the country's commitment to addressing climate change, the integration of climate strategies and actions into development plans, policies, programmes, and budgets at all levels of government is still a work in progress. To manage climate risk and achieve an integrated path towards GRID, Nepal needs to take an integrated approach to water, agriculture, and forests, harness the hydropower opportunity and energy transition, manage sustainable urbanization, and strengthen low-carbon resilient connectivity.

Published on: 5th September 2022

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/business/climate-change-expected-to-further-affect-nepal-says-world-bank-report>

IFC extends first ever climate smart trade finance to Global IME Bank

The partnership among International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group and Global IME Bank, one of the largest commercial banks in Nepal has entered into the second partnership. In 2019, IFC invested \$20 million in the bank. The Global Trade Finance Programme is IFC's response to the shortage of trade finance limits in developing economies such as Nepal. While responding to Nepal's shortage of trade finance, this facility also focuses on addressing the impact of climate change by supporting the adoption of energy-efficient technologies, ensuring the sustainability of operations, and cutting carbon emissions.

Published on: 28th September 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/money/2022/09/28/ifc-extends-first-ever-climate-smart-trade-finance-to-global-ime-bank>

Govt committed to address climate change issues

Minister for Forests and Environment Pradeep Yadav has said that Ministry is committed to address the climate change issues. Addressing the inaugural session of the First Assembly of Climate Action Campaign, he said decisions have been made to run various programmes for minimizing the climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. "We have been working at a war-footing to tackle the problem of climate change and the cooperation of all sides is necessary in this connection," Minister Yadav shared. He further said that policies, strategy, laws, regulations, and plans on climate change minimization have been formulated while the National Climate Change Policy, 2076 is under implementation.

Published on: 7th September 2022

Source: <https://english.onlinekhabar.com/pokhara-waste-management.html>

Diversified electricity mix for Energy security

Nepal being one of the most vulnerable countries regarding climate change, with its glaciers melting at an alarming rate, and air pollution from surrounding countries putting Nepali cities among the top polluted cities in the world. These vulnerabilities will result in frequent demand for electricity due to the very large-scale weather events (VLSWEs) to which Nepal is unprepared. Our electricity mix is asymmetrical, depending primarily on hydropower for most of its electricity generation, and the remaining is imported from neighboring India. To this, the savior would be an interconnected grid or a diversified electricity mix.

According to NEA, it has several ongoing interconnection projects between India-Nepal and China-Nepal. These projects will enable Nepal to access reliable electricity from its neighbors to manage excess demand and pave the way to interconnect a higher percentage of VREs for all three countries as the availability of multiple sources across borders with stable power.

Meanwhile, Nepal, with its existing hydropower electricity and immense potential for solar generation, could complement the power requirements of its two large neighbors.

Published on: 25th September 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2022/09/25/interconnected-grid-for-energy-security>

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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