

## Climate Nexus

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**From:** Climate Nexus  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 8:35 AM  
**To:** <Christopher.Vaccaro@noaa.gov>  
**Subject:** NOAA revises science to appease Trump, heatwaves caused 1,500 deaths in France, & more

The latest: [More gas plants coming to US](#)

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### FIRST LOOK

Our Kids' Climate and #ParentsForFuture Global, in partnership with 350.org and Climate Reality Project, will gathering parents and caregivers for a [webinar](#) on

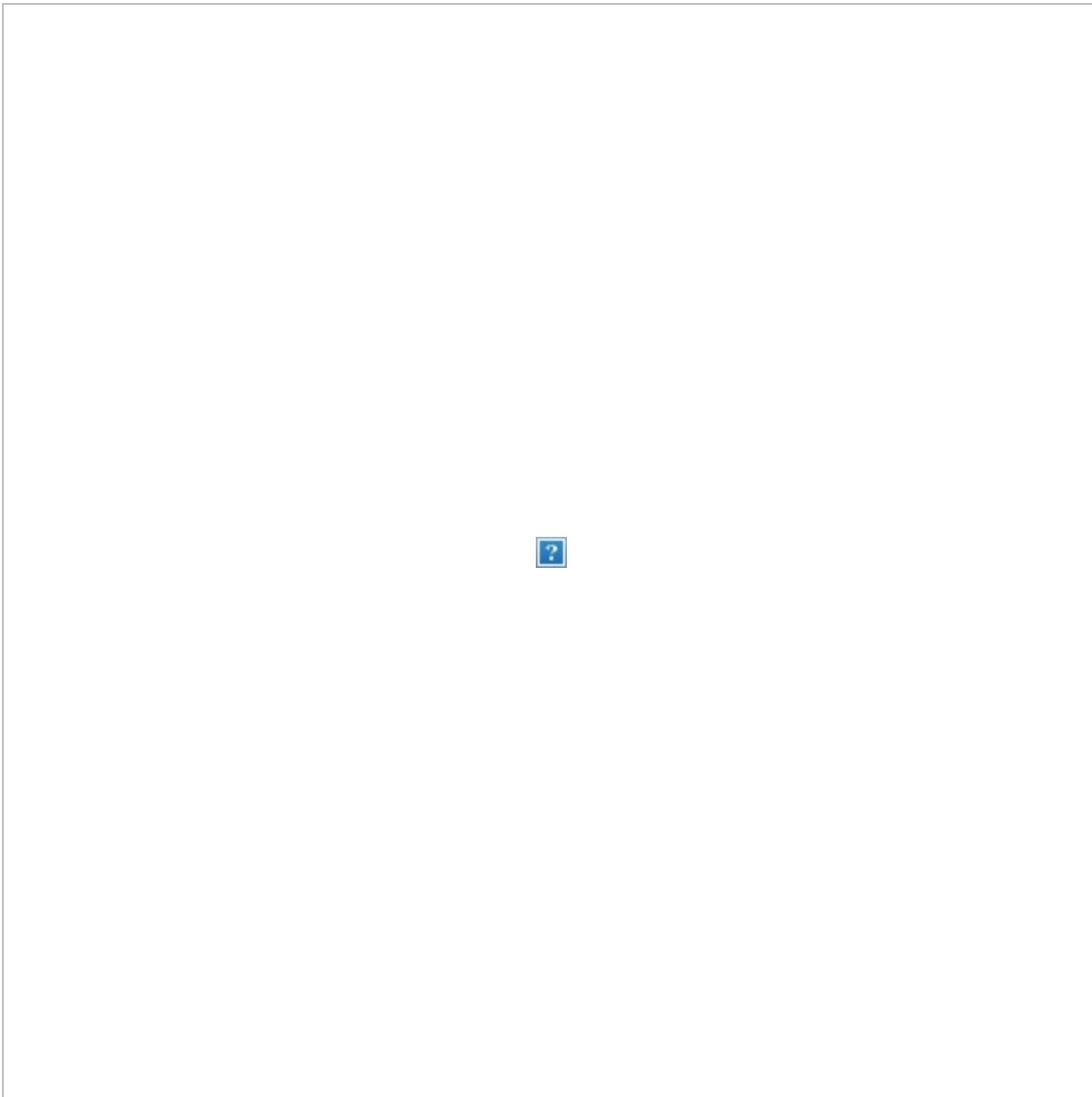


**NOAA Revises Science to Appease Trump:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is coming under fire for going against its own science and backing President Trump's erroneous claims that Hurricane Dorian would hit Alabama. On Friday, NOAA issued a statement disavowing a [tweet](#) made last weekend by the Birmingham National Weather Service, which accurately pushed back on Trump's initial tweets on Hurricane Dorian and Alabama and assured that the state would feel no impacts from the storm. The Washington Post reported that NOAA staff were warned against contradicting the president's false claims in an agencywide directive sent last week following his initial tweets. The president has continued to double down on his false forecast throughout the week, including introducing a map seemingly modified with Sharpie at a press conference last week. "We don't want to get the point where science is determined by politics rather than science and facts," former National Weather Service director Elbert Friday told the AP. "And I'm afraid this is an example where this is beginning to occur." ([Washington Post](#), [AP](#), [NPR](#), [Time](#))

**More Gas Plants Coming to US:** The United States is on track to build nearly 200 additional natural gas-fired power plants over the coming years, despite the growing

climate crisis and economic competition from renewables. A USA Today analysis finds that there are 177 plants under construction or announced across the country, with nearly 2,000 currently in service. As USA Today reports, a new [analysis](#) from the Rocky Mountain Institute finds that 88 gas-fired plants scheduled to begin operating by 2025 would emit 100 million tons of carbon dioxide a year and that most would become uneconomic due to competition from renewables by 2035. "If we are to prevent runaway climate change, these new plants can't be built," Sierra Club director Michael Brune told USA Today. ([USA Today](#))

**Heatwaves Cause Death Spike in France:** Heatwaves this summer caused an additional 1,500 deaths across France, the French health minister said this weekend. Two heatwaves in June and July caused the country's death rate to rise 9.1 percent higher than usual as heat records were broken in multiple cities and France recorded its highest-ever temperature in the town of Gallargues-le-Montueux. Recent heat waves in 2015 and 2018 caused the death rate to spike 10.1 percent and 15 percent respectively. Global warming has amplified the intensity, duration and frequency of extreme heat and heat waves. ([France 24](#), [Reuters](#), [Newsweek](#), [BBC](#), [CNN](#). Background: [Climate Signals](#))



**DORIAN:** Corpses strewn, people missing a week after Dorian hit the Bahamas ([New York Times](#) \$), Dorian Aftermath: Bahamas town "leveled" by catastrophic storm

([MSNBC](#)), tornado fueled by Hurricane Dorian leaves N.C. island town wondering if it can recover ([NBC](#)), Grand Bahama is dead': A firsthand look at Dorian's destruction ([CNN](#)), they rode out Dorian in the outer banks--now comes the hard part ([New York Times](#) \$), counting bodies 'not the priority': Bahamas not lying about Dorian deaths, health chief says ([Miami Herald](#)), alive but lost: In Bahamas, Hurricane Dorian survivors wonder what next ([Reuters](#)), they survived Dorian but wonder how many more hurricanes they can withstand ([New York Times](#) \$), Hurricane Dorian rips through Outer Banks, causing tsunami-like surge as it heads out to sea ([Washington Post](#) \$)

**AUTOS:** Justice Dept. launches antitrust probe of automakers over their fuel efficiency deal with California ([Washington Post](#) \$, [New York Times](#) \$, [Wall Street Journal](#) \$)

**2020:** The 2020 Dems have no serious plan for addressing the single biggest source of US pollution ([Mother Jones](#)), in intimate moment, Biden vows to 'end fossil fuel' ([AP](#)), Tom Steyer qualifies for October debate ([Politico](#)), Team Trump rolls out attacks on 2020 Dems after town hall on climate change ([MSNBC](#)), Democrats bite on burgers and straws — and Republicans feast ([Politico](#)), on climate change, younger Republicans now sound like Democrats ([Grist](#)), fundraising by environmental groups spikes under Trump ([Axios](#))

**CITIES & STATES:** Judge OKs agreement to open medical equipment cleaning plant ([AP](#)), Wisconsin tribe joins groups opposed to Superior gas plant ([AP](#)), seeing what the fighting is all about on Alaska's coastal plain ([New York Times](#) \$), where do Louisiana governor candidates stand on climate change? ([The Advocate](#)), Mississippi beaches have been vacant for 2 months as a toxic algae bloom lurks offshore ([HuffPost](#))

**IMPACTS:** Tropical Storm Humberto could form from system that has Florida in its sights ([Orlando Sentinel](#)), Marine heatwave hits Pacific, raising fears of a new hot 'blob' ([The Guardian](#)), 'like nothing we've seen': Queensland bushfires tear through rainforest ([The Guardian](#)), how climate change is driving emigration from Central America ([PBS NewsHour](#)), we have some bad news about trees ([Mother Jones](#)), Australia bushfires arrive early, destroying historic lodge in 'omen' of future ([New York Times](#) \$)

**OIL & GAS:** Exxon Mobil is funding centrist Democratic think tank, disclosures reveal ([The Intercept](#))

**COAL:** The battle for a paycheck in Kentucky coal country ([The New Yorker](#) \$), utility company forecast offers grim outlook for Wyoming's coal-fired power plants ([Casper Star-Tribune](#), [Wyoming Public Media](#))

**RENEWABLES:** Solar 'just exploded' globally. So did coal ([E&E](#) \$)

**PIPELINES:** Minnesota oil pipeline fight highlights Democratic dilemmas ([AP](#))

**INT'L:** Why Brazilian farmers are burning the rainforest — and why it's difficult for Bolsonaro to stop them ([Washington Post](#) \$), a mountain top called 'Little Man' falls in Norway, and residents weep ([New York Times](#) \$), Brazil deforestation rises in August, adding to Amazon fire worries ([Reuters](#)), as Bolivian forests burn, Evo's bet on Big Farming comes under fire ([Reuters](#)), energy firms plan UK's first carbon-neutral 'industrial cluster' ([The Guardian](#)), Brexit is stalling Britain from taking vital action on climate crisis, says expert ([The Guardian](#))

**FOOD:** The world wastes tons of food--a grocery 'happy hour' is one answer ([New York Times](#) \$)

**ART:** 'It'll be a little apocalyptic': Spanish theatre troupe to take to high seas ([The](#)

[Guardian](#)), when climate change is stranger than fiction ([New York Times](#) \$), climate change activists storm red carpet at Venice Film Festival ([Reuters](#))

**QUOTABLES:** Mick Jagger condemns Trump administration's climate change stance ([Rolling Stone](#))

**RELIGION:** For pope Francis, a perfect moment for an unsettling warning on the environment ([New York Times](#) \$)



- What if we stopped pretending? ([The New Yorker, Jonathan Franzen essay](#) \$)
- Trump can't erase a decade of clean air progress with a Sharpie ([Washington Post, Arnold Schwarzenegger op-ed](#) \$)
- Trump administration is testing corporate environmental resolve ([The Hill, David Hayes op-ed](#))
- Trump is trying to bully California and carmakers into giving up on climate change ([LA Times editorial](#) \$)
- A cruel parody of antitrust enforcement ([New York Times editorial](#) \$)
- Trump's irrational war on environmental rules just outdid itself ([Washington Post editorial](#) \$)
- Here's how to get through to red-state Americans on climate change ([Washington](#)

[Post, Jennifer Rubin column](#) \$)

- The kids are all right. Adults are the climate change problem ([Boulder Daily Camera, Max Boykoff op-ed](#))
- Why climate change is the new 9/11 for insurance companies ([FT, Patrick Jenkins op-ed](#) \$)
- Democratic candidates are building momentum for a National Climate Bank ([The Hill, Reed Hundt op-ed](#))
- A Sharpie-doctored climate crisis ([Washington Post, Tom Toles cartoon](#) \$)
- The gas 'shortage' is industry hot air ([LA Daily News, Wenonah Hauter op-ed](#))
- CNN climate show wasn't just boring ([Wall Street Journal, Holman W. Jenkins, Jr. op-ed](#) \$)
- We need to reconsider concerns about nuclear power ([The Hill, Bernard Goldstein op-ed](#))
- Can the climate cause survive the Democratic primaries? ([Wall Street Journal, James Freeman op-ed](#) \$)
- Burning questions about the Amazon fires ([Wall Street Journal, Mary Anastasia O'Grady op-ed](#) \$)
- Climate change isn't a hoax. But it also isn't a crisis ([Indianapolis Star, Jonah Goldberg op-ed](#))



With CNN using its 7-hour climate town hall to parrot the right's message that fighting climate change means banning burgers, deniers are seeking out the next poison pill to turn people against climate action.

Instead of telling us what not to eat, according to Breitbart and others, alarmists are going to start controlling what we do eat.

We have seen the food of the future. Apparently, it is us.

It all started with a [segment on Swedish news](#), where a behavioral and marketing scientist talked about a seminar he was presenting at a summit on the future of food, which floated the possibility of eating dead people (in addition to insects and pets) to save the climate.

This was picked up by some fringe outlets, [like Shoebat.com](#) and [the Epoch Times](#) (yes, [that one](#)), and then amplified by [ClimateDepot](#) and [Breitbart](#).

Now, having not been at the summit where the idea was initially presented, and lacking strong connections in the Swedish culinary scene, we can't say for certain what the deal is with this presentation.

But we can say with some certainty that no one is seriously considering cannibalism as climate action, and would venture to bet that even the scientist making the suggestions, Magnus Söderlund, wasn't seriously proposing it.

It's actually the craziest outlet--Shoebat.com, which is the blog of a man who was ([supposedly, but probably not actually](#)) in his words "[a radicalized Muslim... involved in terror activity](#)" before turning to pro-Israel advocacy after 9/11 leading to a career [of birtherism and islamaphobia on FoxNews](#)--gets closest to what is the most likely answer. In Shoebat's coverage, it notes that sometimes people float "trial balloons" to begin legitimizing an idea, first introducing it as over-the-top, then seeing how people respond. The blog then goes off the rails, but the interpretation that the Swedish idea wasn't a literal call to start going Hannibal Lecter is probably right.

Given that Söderlund is a behavioral researcher who talked about what it would take to move people to behave in more climate-friendly ways, a more reasonable explanation would be that he was using cannibalism as an extreme example as a way to make a rhetorical point, a very common figure of speech known as hyperbole.

Because, and this would be rather obvious for anyone who isn't eager to attack alarmists for fun and profit, it's much more likely that Söderlund was making a point about how hard it would be for people to embrace the last-ditch survival scenario of eating people, versus a much smaller ask that they eat a little less beef. And if you could theoretically entice people to eat people, you could probably get them to eat more plants, too.

Deniers can rest assured that climate activists aren't quite ready to start literally eating the rich. Because of course there's an easier way to avoid having to eat one another to survive the breakdown of society: kick our fossil fuel habit.

But such a Proposal is apparently just a tad too Modest for some...



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