

Climate and the Environment

[“In New England, Climate Change Is Moving Fast. The Fishing Industry Is Not”](#) by Barbara Moran and Duy Linh Thu for *WBUR* in Boston, MA [middle school/hs] (video, audio, photography)

Fisheries in the Northeastern U.S. are experiencing unprecedented changes, including ocean warming, marine heatwaves, and ocean acidification. Can science and policy move fast enough to save them?

[“Neglected and Exposed”](#) by Alejandra Martinez for the *Texas Tribune* [video, photography] (elem, middle, hs)

This project explores how ineffective air monitoring systems around the Houston Ship channel fail to inform the Latino-majority surrounding neighborhoods unaware and unprepared for poor air quality, leading to short-term and long-term health impacts. This project is available in English and Spanish.

3. **[“The Vanishing, Invisible Forest”](#)** by Andrew Robinson and Dominic Smith for the *Monterey Herald* [video, photography] (elem, middle, hs)

In 2014, a confluence of climate change and over predation led to a sudden loss of 95% of kelp along the Western coast of North America. The resulting loss of biodiversity was shocking in its speed and magnitude. This project documents efforts to recultivate kelp and aquatic life as part of ongoing research about the possible solutions and inherent dangers when man tries to undo the damage caused by climate change.

[“Bright Lit Place”](#) by Jenny Staletovich, Patrick Farrell, and Rowan Moore Gerety for *WLRN Miami Herald News* [audio, text] (elem, middle, hs)

Bright Lit Place, a new podcast from WLRN News and the NPR network, tells the story of how people directly involved in the push to restore the Everglades — and those directly affected by it — understand and make sense of those tradeoffs: Is restoration too big to fail or too small to succeed?

[“State of Change”](#) by Michele Lotker for *PBS North Carolina* [video, audio, photos] (elem, middle, hs)

PBS North Carolina's Emmy Award-winning State of Change project brings climate change to a personal level, with people-focused, solutions-based storytelling that shares the science as well as its impact on communities and individuals. Most importantly, it shows how resiliency provides solutions.

[“The Last Skipper in Ouzinkie: How Gulf of Alaska Villages Lost Their Native Fishing Fleets”](#) by Nat Herz for *Northern Journal, Alaska Public Media, and Anchorage Daily News* [photo, text] (hs)

A permitting system designed in the 1970s was supposed to make Alaska's commercial fishing industry more sustainable and more profitable. But over the last 50 years, it has hollowed out many Indigenous coastal villages where residents no longer can earn a living by harvesting salmon.

Human Rights

[“The Venezuelan Migrant Experience – in Colombia, in Chicago”](#) by Meha Ahmad for WBEZ 91.5 [audio] (elem, middle, hs)

This project is a cross-border conversation on how to support an increasing population of Venezuelan migrants relocating to both Colombia and Chicago. It explores what drives the migration, the positive and challenging impacts of Venezuelan migration on resources and infrastructure in Colombia and Chicago, and solutions both communities are trying to support local and dislocated people.

[“Uncovering Deaths in Pennsylvania Jails”](#) by Joshua Vaughn and Brittany Hailer for Penn-Live Patriot ~News November 9, 2023

Each year an untold number of people die in jails across Pennsylvania. Their stories often go untold and their deaths uncouncted. This project aims to give voice to those lives lost as a result of incarceration. Brittany Hailer and Joshua Vaughn are building a 2022 death-in-jail-custody website of who died in Pennsylvania. Those findings—stories that examine trends that emerge from counties regarding cause of death, race, or facility—will be published and free for anyone to use.

[“The University of Utah Gets Millions From Using the Utes Name. But What Does the Ute Tribe Get?”](#) by Courtney Tanner for Salt Lake Tribune [data, text, photo] (middle school, hs)

This reporting project explores the University of Utah’s partnership with the Ute Indian Tribe – an agreement that has allowed the school to be one of the few institutions allowed by the NCAA to use an Indigenous people’s name and imagery. But while tens of thousands of screaming fans cheer on the Utah Utes every Saturday in the fall, only a tiny number of tribal members attend or graduate from the school.

[“Do Wisconsin’s Black Voters Have an Equal Voice?”](#) By Molly Beck and Eva Wen for Milwaukee Journal Sentinel [text, photo] (ms, hs)

This series examines the experience of Black voters in Wisconsin and, particularly, the state’s largest city, Milwaukee. The two articles in the series examine how voter ID laws have led to confusion for many residents and outlines voters’ attitudes towards the 2024 election.

[“‘Us & Them’ Podcast: Another Small Town Paper Down”](#) by Trey Kay, Todd Melby, Matthew Hancock for West Virginia Public Broadcasting [text, audio] (elem, ms, hs)

There are now more than 200 counties across the country with no source of local news. One of those is McDowell County in West Virginia. Last year, publisher Missy Nester was forced to shut down The Welch News after a valiant effort to keep the paper running. This podcast examines what happens when local news organizations stop telling the stories of a community.

[“Farmworker Housing in America” by Skye Chadde and Esther Honig by Investigate Midwest](#)
[text, photo] (hs)

The inspection system of migrant housing for the workers that are the labor of billions of dollars in agricultural products remains fractured, leaving workers living in poor conditions that could cause health problems with little to no recourse. This series of articles outlines how widespread the problems with housing for migrant workers are and the long-lasting impact of the lack of enforcement.

[“Illinois Made a Bold Promise To End Poverty. In Alexander County, It’s Hard To Tell.” by Julia Rendleman, Molly Parker, Lylee Gibbs, and Jamilah Lewis for Capitol News Illinois](#) [photo, text] (hs)

In a series of stories told through personal narratives, journalists Molly Parker and Julia Rendleman—together with students at Southern Illinois University in partnership with Capitol News Illinois, look to identify solutions, questioning lawmakers and rural policy experts about the causes of poverty in Illinois’ southernmost territory and potential paths forward.

Global Health

[“A Poisoned Community” by Jasmine Aguilera and Cassandra Garabay for El Timpano in Oakland, CA](#) [text, photo, video] (middle school, hs) (English and Spanish)

This series of articles and videos explores why lead poisoning remains prevalent in Latino immigrant communities in Oakland, CA, despite awareness of the dangerous contaminant and the millions in funding available to fix the problem. The series includes investigative stories, informational resources for residents, and describes how residents supported the reporting by testing their own water for lead.

[“A Firehose of ‘Forever Chemicals’ by Marina Schaffler for Maine Morning Star](#) [text, video] (hs)

Focusing on Maine, a state where 93 percent of fire departments are largely volunteer-staffed, this project explores several questions about the health impacts of PFAS exposure that results from chemicals used in fighting fires: How aware are volunteer firefighters of the PFAS risks they face? Who is helping them reduce their exposure? Why is there not more research on local waters at risk from fire departments’ AFFF use? What might it cost the state to rid fire departments of PFAS?

[“Toxic Water in S. Texas Colonias Costs Residents Precious Health and Money” by Carolina Cuellar for Texas Public Radio](#) [text, radio] (middle school, hs)

Following World War II, demand for labor along the U.S.-Mexico border soared in Texas. This led to the development of colonias, clusters of unregulated housing. More than 70 years later, around a half-million Texans live in colonias and the conditions are very difficult. Residents are navigating issues such as flooding and contamination of drinking water. This text and radio series explores the conditions that have led to the recent growth and expansion of colonias

[“‘I Just Don’t Want To Die’: Black Pregnant Women Are Turning to Midwives for Personalized Care—And a Better Chance at Survival”](#) by Karen Kasmauski for the *Virginia Center for Investigative Journalism* [text, photo] (hs)

Nationally, Black women are three times more likely than white women to die while giving birth. Maternal mortality rates, even in affluent states like Virginia, rival those in many developing countries. For this project photographer Karen Kasmauski documents the roles of Black midwives and doulas in Virginia who struggle to increase healthy births

[“‘The Talk’: These Teens From Rural Utah Are Filling ‘The Gaps’ in Sex Ed”](#) by Jesse Ryan for *Salt Lake Tribune* [video, text, photo] (hs)

After years of witnessing the impacts of Utah’s abstinence-focused health curriculum, a nurse practitioner launched a sex education program for teens called the Eastern Utah Teen Council. This short film and article outline the impacts of these efforts and how they fit in with other sexual health education programs in Utah.

[“Choctaw Nation Found a Better Way To Deliver Harm Reduction. It’s Working.”](#) by Elyse Wilde for *Native News Online* [photo, text] (hs)

Through a federal pilot project, the Oklahoma tribe built a new model for addiction care by mixing culture, data, and modern medicine. This print and photo story outlines those efforts.

[“Wildfire Smoke Can Cause Health Problems, Even Death”](#) by Keith Matheny and Eric Seals for *Detroit Free Press* [text, photo] (hs)

Interviewing residents of wildfire zones, scientists, policymakers at all levels of government, and knowledge-holders from Canada’s First Nations, Matheny and Seals provide a comprehensive examination of wildfires, how they are changing, and what it means both to the landscape and air quality.