

**WHAT'S IN THIS
ISSUE:**

GERMANY'S
GOODBYE TO
COAL
PAGE 02

EUROPE SAYS NO
TO SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC
PAGE 02

NO CAR
SUNDAYS IN
BOGOTA
PAGE 03

MAKING FOOD
OUT OF THIN
AIR
PAGE 03

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT NET IMPACT GRADUATE CHAPTER THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



KENEY PARK SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

The Keney Park Sustainability Project (KPSP) aims to support the development and sustainability of community-based food systems that include farmers markets, community gardens, school-based gardening, agricultural project and home gardens. KPSP protects and preserves its 693-acre urban forest by providing individuals employable landscaping and forest management skills. Consequently, it plans to create employable park workers and Environmental Stewards.

UConn's Net Impact Graduate Chapter reached out to KPSP, as part of its Community Outreach program, to extend community outreach opportunities to Business school graduates in the new plantation season in pursuance of its goal to create the next generation of environmentally conscious and self-sustainable citizens.

On March 15th, 2019, fifteen UConn Graduate students helped KPSP in weeding the plantation bed and vegetating lettuce, spinach and cilantro seeds. The volunteers learnt about the impact of the environment on mental, physical and spiritual health and how the practice of sustainable techniques promotes a healthy symbiotic relationship between us and our environment.

On March 29th, 2019, eight graduate students volunteered to soil preparation using KPSP compost and organic squash, pepper, mint, and lavender seeding. The simple backyard gardening techniques introduced during the event sought to instill among the future business innovators, simple environment-friendly habits that promote sustainability while facilitating the attainment of financial self-sufficiency of the project.

GERMANY'S GOODBYE TO COAL

The German coal exit commission which comprised of members from industry, politicians and NGOs, which has agreed an end date of 2038 to ditch coal power for good.

The country is the last major bastion of coal-burning in north-western Europe and the dirtiest of fossil fuels still provides nearly 40% of Germany's power.

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EUROPE SAYS NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

The European Parliament has voted for a complete ban on a range of single-use plastics across the union in a bid to stop pollution of the oceans.



The EU's research on the topic says about 150,000 tonnes of plastic are tossed into European waters every year.

These plastics have a huge effect on marine life. Whales can eat plastic bags, making it impossible for them to eat real food which can eventually lead to death.

When plastic debris breaks down from wear and tear, it does not decompose but break down into much smaller fragments called "microplastics".

These tiny fragments are often consumed by fish and can then be passed on to humans.

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NO CAR SUNDAYS IN BOGOTÁ

This weekly miracle occurs at an event you could call the Peaceful Community Gathering on Wheels, but is actually named the Ciclovía, or BicycleWay.

Starting at seven in the morning, in Bogota city of Columbia, vast stretches of the city's principal avenues and highways are turned over to everyone looking to enjoy a bit of fresh air. All kinds of transportation are welcome—bicycles, roller skates, scooters, wheelchairs, skateboards—as long as they are not motor-driven.

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MAKING FOOD OUT OF THIN AIR



A Finnish tech startup has managed to produce food mainly out of electricity and air, and is now looking to enter the market by 2021.

Solar Foods, based out of the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and the Lappeenranta University of Technology (LUT), is still in its pilot stages of production, currently producing one kilogram of protein-rich edible powder (“Solein”) per day.

Solar Foods hopes this will someday serve as a carbon neutral vegan alternative to meat and soy, both of which are land- and resource- intensive to produce.

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