



Reducing emissions alone won't stop climate change: new research

August 4, 2015 6.06am AEST

Replanting forests is one way to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This is a site in China. CIFOR/Flickr, CC BY-NC-ND

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Based on current greenhouse gas emissions, the world is on track for [4C warming by 2100](#) well beyond the internationally agreed guardrail of 2C. To keep warming below 2C, we need to either reduce our emissions, or take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

Two papers published today investigate our ability to limit global warming and reverse impacts of climate change. The [first](#), published in Nature Communications, shows that to limit warming below 2C we will have to remove some carbon from the atmosphere, no matter how strongly we reduce emissions.

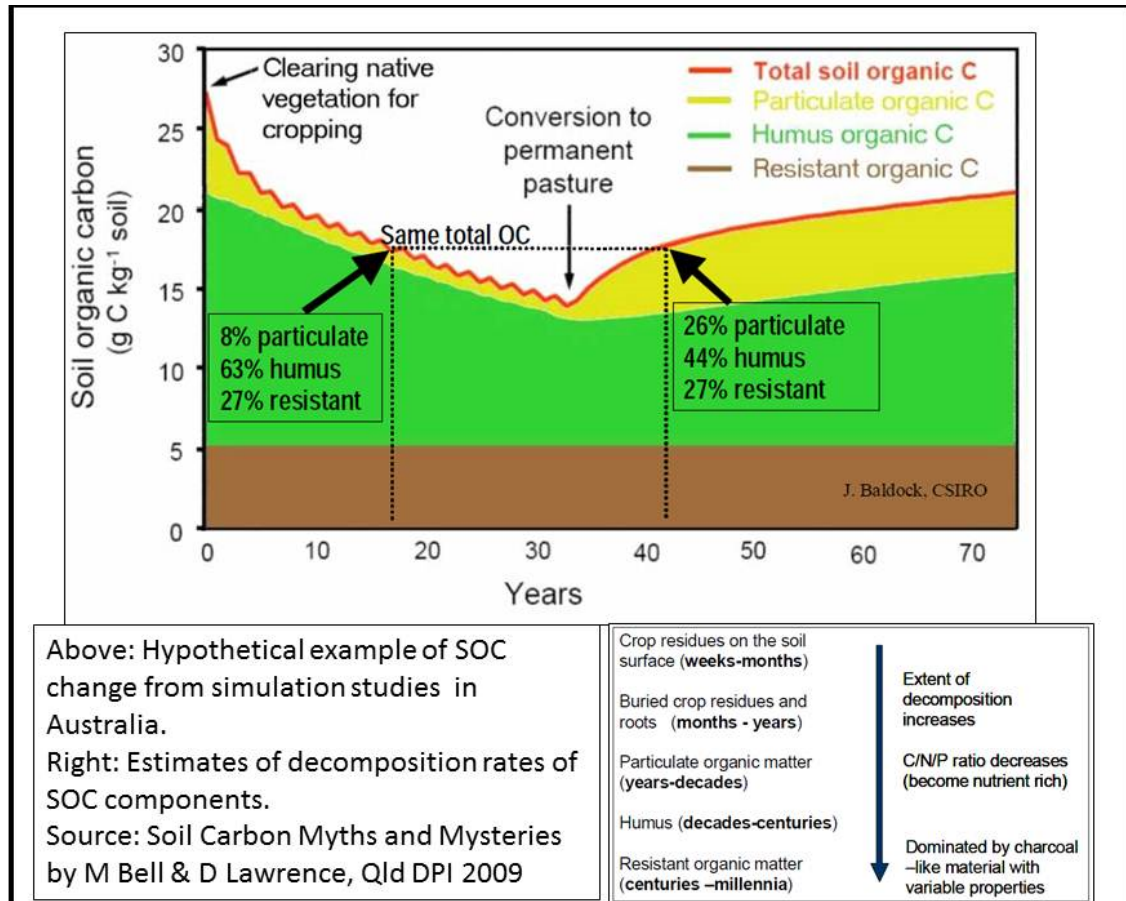
<http://theconversation.com/reducing-emissions-alone-wont-stop-climate-change-new-research-45493>

Perennial pasture soil carbon opportunities more about opinion than science

By Patrick Francis

The value of optimising soil organic carbon (SOC) to farming ecosystems and plant and livestock productivity is unquestionable. In paddocks where soil organic carbon has been depleted which is the common scenario across most of Australia's cropping zones and in grazing land which suffered soil erosion, returning carbon onto the surface as herbage and into the soil as organic matter produces significant beneficial responses.

But in 21st century farming in Australia optimising SOC for a particular soil type, rainfall, agricultural enterprise and farming methodology has become a far more contentious issue as the more science delves into organic carbon composition and dynamics the more scientists and farmers realise how little is known about it.



<http://www.moffittsfarm.com.au/2015/07/24/perennial-pasture-soil-organic-carbon-opportunities-more-about-opinion-than-science/>

Could a global grab for fertile soil, bring civil unrest?



Dr Luca Montanarella

If we still have approximately 800 million undernourished and hungry people on this planet, it is due to serious imbalances in the distribution of wealth, land and natural resources in general.

Market driven preference to allocate part of the fertile soils to producing energy or biofuels instead of food, as well as unsustainable consumption habits and market distortion in the food distribution chain, are causing the perception that our current land resources are insufficient and that we need to further expand agricultural cultivation to new areas. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-23/luca-montanarella-can-healthy-soils-feed-the-world/5332724>

Partnership shares soil, water data

29 July 2015 03:30 AM



Soil-moisture monitoring equipment and a weather station established on two dairy farms at Mount Compass will help farmers make improvements in water use and nitrogen efficiency.

MOUNT Compass landholders will be able to access hourly weather and soil data to aid irrigation and pasture management decisions this season, through a partnership between landholders and Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin.

Soil-moisture monitoring equipment and a weather station established by Natural Resources on two dairy farms will provide weather and soil information to help farmers make improvements in water use and nitrogen efficiency, as well as pasture and crop management, supporting improved productivity, profitability and reduced greenhouse-gas emissions.

<http://www.stockjournal.com.au/news/agriculture/general/opinion/partnership-shares-soil-water-data/2738504.aspx>

Obama's Clean Power Plan: give them a cap and the trade will follow

Sara Phillips ABC Environment 5 Aug 2015



Barack Obama announces strong action on climate change

Clean Power Plan works around a hostile political opposition and avoids the carbon tax headache. Will it provide inspiration for further Australian climate action?

THE NEW YORK TIMES called it "the strongest action ever taken to combat climate change"; Barack Obama's new Clean Power Plan aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions from US power stations by roughly 32 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2015/08/05/4286903.htm>

Why is soil missing from the 'big five' environmental questions of our time?



Professor Johan Bouma

Crop yields are determined by many factors such as crop varieties, occurrence of pests and diseases, and socio-economic conditions allowing profitable farming.

Aside from this, sometimes up to 40 per cent of production gets lost in developing countries while being stored and transported.

In so-called developed countries up to 40 per cent of food is thrown away. More than one billion people are obese, so what does it really imply: feeding the world?

Important, therefore, to make a distinction between what does happen and what might happen, and not become discouraged. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-23/johan-boucan-soils-feed-the-world/5332570>

No, coal is not good for humanity

OPINION

By [Helen Szoke](#)

Updated 29 Jul 2015, 1:19pm Wed 29 Jul 2015, 1:19pm



Photo: [Coal is not the answer to power poverty in places like India and China.](#)
(Reuters)

Tackling climate change and reducing poverty can, and indeed must, go hand in hand. And the role for coal is rapidly shrinking, writes Helen Szoke.

Over the past year, the [coal industry has become increasingly strident](#) in mounting its case that coal is the beacon of hope for the more than one billion people living in poverty who still lack access to electricity.

If the rhetoric of the industry is to be believed, [exporting more and more of our coal to countries including India will provide safe, reliable electricity to poor people](#), as well as continued prosperity for Australia.

But its argument does not stand up to even the most basic scrutiny. And here's why.

[Dr Helen Szoke](#) is the chief executive of Oxfam Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-29/szoke-no-coal-is-not-good-for-humanity/6656184>

Opinion: To Solve Hunger, Start with Soil

By [Anne-Marie Steyn](#) Reprint |  Print | [Send by email](#)

Anne-Marie Steyn is Series Producer of Shamba Shape-Up and a spokesperson for Farming First. The Farming First coalition is currently in New York advocating for agriculture's central role in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.



Experts give advice on potato-planting for greater yields in an episode of Shamba Shape Up.

NAIROBI, Apr 24 2015 (IPS) - Peter looked confused as he recounted how he'd painstakingly planted potatoes to sell and to feed his family of eight, only to find that when harvest time rolled around he had been greeted with tiny tubers not much bigger than golf balls.

A young farmer living in Bomet County in Kenya, Peter had recently been 'shaped up' on film, as part of our farming reality TV show [Shamba Shape Up](#). The show is aired as a six-month-long (one growing season) series of 30-minute television programmes on leading channels in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda 2012 to audiences across Kenya. <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/04/opinion-to-solve-hunger-start-with-soil/>

Why renewable 'biomass' is not as good for the climate as we'd hoped

William H. Schlesinger ABC Environment 23 Jul 2015

Burning biomass to generate electricity is officially listed as being 'carbon neutral'. But claims that it helps prevent climate change are not as straight-forward as they seem.

WHILST I HAVE BEEN living in New England for the past seven years, a new industry has popped up in Maine and the southeastern US — the wood pellet industry.

[Australia's 'dirtiest' power station considers biomass](#)



[Click through for the full investigation](#)

William H. Schlesinger is dean emeritus of the Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, North Carolina, USA.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2015/07/23/4276529.htm>

Labor's renewables target just part of the bigger transition we need

OPINION

By [John Connor](#)

Updated 22 Jul 2015, 3:26pm Wed 22 Jul 2015, 3:26pm



[Photo: It makes little sense to have half of our power generation renewables if the other half is dominated by coal. \(Reuters: David Gray\)](#)

Labor's proposal to make 50 per cent of Australia's energy renewable by 2030 is significant, but it needs to be seen as part of economic modernisation as well as climate outcomes, writes John Connor.

Global investments in renewable energy last year outpaced investments in fossil fuel generation. Yet in Australia, the political football that is our multibillion-dollar energy sector languishes in a morass of policy uncertainty.

[John Connor](#) is the CEO of The Climate Institute.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-22/connor-labors-renewables-target/6639968>

Mining debate rages on

Posted By: **Miranda Kenny** on 19/07/2015 4:00:00 AM |



MINING remains a highly contentious issue for producers across South Australia, and those further afield.

The federal government's decision to back the controversial Shenhua Watermark coal mine on the fertile Liverpool Plains, NSW, last week provoked widespread condemnation from many, most especially as the announcement came only days after the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper was released.

<http://www.stockandland.com.au/blogs/a-matter-of-opinion/mining-debate-rages-on/2738007.aspx>

Coalition's fight for coal defies reality

[Bernard Keane](#) | 6 Aug 2015 1:13PM | [EMAIL](#) | [PRINT](#)



The government's approval for the Carmichael coal project was flawed under its own rules. Greg Hunt's response is to change the rules — but it still won't save this unviable mine.

One of the problems the government keeps finding is that reality defies its crony capitalist approach to policymaking. The government tried to deregulate financial planning and advice at the same time as evidence of a series of remarkable scandals began emerging about the big banks. The review established to provide a pretext for dumping the Renewable Energy <http://www.crikey.com.au/2015/08/06/coalitions-fight-for-coal-defies-reality/>

Obama takes 'biggest step' on US climate policy: experts react

August 4, 2015 1:59pm AEST



US President Barack Obama has unveiled the United States' most comprehensive climate policy so far. EPA/Michael Reynolds/AAP

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US President Barack Obama has unveiled what [he describes](#) as his biggest and most important climate policy yet. The [Clean Power Plan](#), to be run by the Environmental Protection Agency, will see greenhouse emissions from US power stations cut by 32%, relative to 2005 levels, by 2030.

<http://theconversation.com/obama-takes-biggest-step-on-us-climate-policy-experts-react-45644>

Four things that you should know about the EPA Clean Power Plan

August 5, 2015 4:13am AEST



Now regulated for carbon emissions. ismoflickr, CC-BY-NC

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on August 3 released the final rule of the [EPA Clean Power Plan](#), regulations that limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in the US.

<http://theconversation.com/four-things-that-you-should-know-about-the-epa-clean-power-plan-45677>

Obama builds legacy on climate change with EPA Clean Power Plan

August 5, 2015 1:38am AEST



Obama announces the EPA Clean Power Plan at the White House. Jonathan Ernst/Reuters

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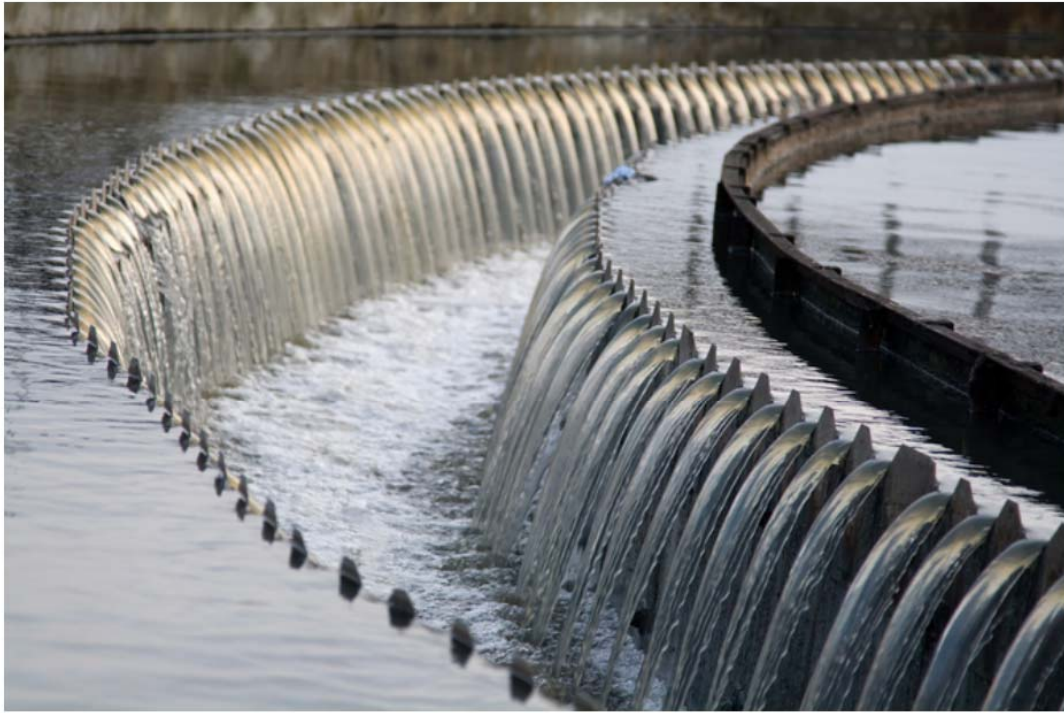
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Editor's note: Years in the making, the EPA Clean Power Plan will go down as President Obama's signature policy in regulating carbon emissions from the electricity sector. If it survives certain legal challenges and is embraced by future presidents, it will lead to profound changes in how the US generates power, notably accelerating a shift away from coal. We've assembled a panel of scholars to

<http://theconversation.com/obama-builds-legacy-on-climate-change-with-epa-clean-power-plan-45641>

The role of water in Australia's uncertain future

August 3, 2015 6:10am AEST



A water treatment pond. Image courtesy Seqwater, Author provided

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If you live in an Australian city, there's a good chance that your water comes from surface water such as streams, rivers and reservoirs filled by rainfall and runoff. If you live in Perth, much of your water (about 40%) comes from groundwater.

But you might be surprised to know that a sizeable proportion of water in Australia came from groundwater in 2010-11.

<http://theconversation.com/the-role-of-water-in-australias-uncertain-future-45366>

Opinion: What Will It Take to Bring a Second Green Revolution to India?

- by Bijay Singh (Ludhiana, India)
- Wednesday, July 15, 2015
- Inter Press Service

LUDHIANA, India, Jul 15 (IPS) - Long-term agricultural growth in India is [slowing down](#). The lands that saw remarkable increases in productivity in the 1970s and 80s, thanks to the technology rolled out as part of the first "Green Revolution", are not yielding the same results today.

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A woman farmer using the treadle pump in Orissa. Credit: Manipadma Jena/IPS

<http://www.globalissues.org/news/2015/07/15/21258>

No soil means no food, no fresh water, no climate mitigation by soil organic matter, no energy crops and no biodiversity!

Professor [Johan Bouma](#)