

# World Nature Conservation Day 28 July 2020

## THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT



As the coronavirus pandemic unfolds across the globe, threatening lives and upending the world economy, an unexpected side effect has been a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions. In this infographic, we'll look at the full environmental impact of the COVID-19 crisis, from the rise of medical waste to the decline of air pollutants.



# CARBON EMISSIONS

## UNITED STATES

**40%**  
LESS DOMESTIC AIR TRAFFIC



New York:  
**50%**  
DECREASE IN CARBON MONOXIDE



Seattle:  
**41%**  
DECREASE IN PEAK TRAFFIC CONGESTION



## EUROPE

**67M**  
FEWER AIR PASSENGERS



DECREASE IN NITROGEN DIOXIDE:

**75%**  
Madrid, Spain

**10%**  
Northern Italy

## CHINA

Improved air quality may have saved the lives of

**4,000**  
CHILDREN UNDER 5 YRS\*



CARBON EMISSIONS FELL BY  
**25%**

\*As of April 2020, the official death toll is 3,322, but is likely higher.

Greenhouse gas emissions have plunged due to the rapid decline in travel and economic activity. They're likely to go back up once the pandemic subsides. But, some pre-existing trends, like the rise of remote work, have now accelerated and will have lasting effects on cutting carbon emissions.





# WASTE

## UNITED STATES

Surge in solid medical waste puts

# 467K

WASTE COLLECTION WORKERS AT RISK

REUSABLE BAGS ARE BANNED IN SEVERAL STATES



# 1B TREES PER YEAR

are needed to **package** shipped goods.



## ITALY



# 111%

INCREASE IN CONSUMER SPEND ON PACKAGED MANDARINS

## CHINA



MEDICAL WASTE QUADRUPLED TO

# 200

TONS PER DAY



While China grapples with medical-waste facilities at near or full capacities, the rest of the world braces for a huge increase in infectious waste. It remains to be seen if a dip in office waste balances out the increase in food and shipping packaging.



# WILDLIFE & HABITAT

## UNITED STATES

### FAKE NEWS!

False reports claimed that **wild turkeys** were now in Oakland, CA, but they've already been roaming the city for years.



## ITALY

### FAKE NEWS!

**Dolphins and swans** **did not** return to Venice's canals. The dolphins were elsewhere and swans are already local regulars.



## JAPAN



**SIKA DEER WANDERED THE STREETS AND SUBWAY STATIONS OF NARA**

## CHILE



**A PUMA SHOWED UP IN THE CENTER OF SANTIAGO**

## INDIA



**A STAG RAN AROUND THE STATE CAPITAL OF DEHRADUN**


Viral social media posts showing wildlife returning to urban areas? Largely fake news, sadly. Most of these animals were already regular visitors, or the location was misrepresented. The popularity of these posts shows the need for people to find meaning in this pandemic.





# ENERGY

## UNITED STATES

**1.5%**   
OF THE TOTAL  
POWER IN THE U.S.  
IS CONSUMED BY DATA  
CENTERS ANNUALLY

## EUROPE

**40%** INCREASE IN  
BROADBAND DEMAND 

**9.1 TERABITS  
PER SECOND** A **new world record**  
for data throughput at  
the Internet Exchange  
in Frankfurt, Germany.

## WORLDWIDE

**63M** STREAMS OF  
STRANGER THINGS S3\*

Comparable  
to driving  
**420 miles +  
189 million  
kg of CO2.**



## SOUTH KOREA



**30%**  
INCREASE IN  
ONLINE GAMING  
ACTIVITY

\*Between Oct. 2018 to Sept. 2019

Broadband demand has risen dramatically thanks to online conferencing, schooling and streaming videos, but not all experts agree it's energy intensive. Some experts argue that big data, like the kind that picks what products to show you on a website, requires more energy.



Many environmental impacts of the coronavirus pandemic will be temporary setbacks or short-term gains. But, pre-existing trends, such as the rise of remote work and shrinking supply chains, have been accelerated. These shifts are most likely to impact climate change in the future.



**Read the full blog post:** [venngage.com/blog/coronavirus-impact-on-environment-infographic](https://venngage.com/blog/coronavirus-impact-on-environment-infographic)