Article Assignment

County

1. Port Miami Dredge Project Damaging more Coral Reefs than expected
   1. Miami Metro Bugle
   2. Maselli (cbs4maselli)
   3. August 18, 2015
   4. <http://miami.metrobugle.com/2015/08/18/portmiami-dredge-project-damaging-more-coral-than-expected/>
2. Miami Flooding Getting Worse With Sea-level Rise
   1. Huffington Post Miami
   2. Ken Kaye
   3. December 18, 2013
   4. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/18/miami-flooding_n_4118528.html>
3. Miami-Dade County issues a precautionary advisory for elevated levels of air pollutants
   1. Miami-Dade County News Release
   2. Tere Estorino Florin
   3. May 22, 2015
   4. <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/releases/2015-05-22-air-pollutants-advisory.asp>
4. Florida vs. The Giant African Land Snail
   1. Miami Herald
   2. Jenny Staletovich
   3. <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article34589934.html>
5. Florida Growers, Adam Putnam debate aerial pest spray for invasive Oriental fruit fly
   1. Miami Herald
   2. Alex Harris
   3. September 21, 2015
   4. <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article35949096.html>

**Summary:** Miami-Dade County issues a precautionary advisory for elevated levels of air pollutants

Due to a brush fire at Big Cypress National Preserve, the county experienced high levels of smoke and haze in the air. The Air Quality Index (AQI) reached moderate levels, and the county recommended members of the county do not spend extended amounts of time outside due to the poor air quality. This could result in irritation of the eyes and respiratory systems, and could especially effect young children, the elderly, and people with respiratory issues. Additionally, the fine particles from the smoke could cause issues such as burning eyes, runny noses, bronchitis, and could aggravate chronic heart and lung diseases.

State

1. Coal Plant Exploits Private Information Ruling To Hide Toxic Ash
   1. Earth Justice
   2. David Guest
   3. December 15, 2014
   4. <http://earthjustice.org/blog/2014-december/coal-plant-exploits-private-information-ruling-to-hide-toxic-ash>
2. Environmental Issues in Florida
   1. Buzzle
   2. Shashank Nakate
   3. September 27, 2011
   4. <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/environmental-issues-in-florida.html>
3. Oil Exploration around Florida Everglades raise questions about state oversight of industry
   1. StarTribune
   2. Jason Dearen and Jennifer Kay
   3. July 25, 2015
   4. <http://www.startribune.com/new-hunt-for-oil-in-florida-raises-environmental-concerns/318532011/>
4. Senate Approves Statewide Water and Natural Resources Policy
   1. The Florida Senate
   2. Maggie Mickler
   3. April 29, 2015
   4. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Media/PressRelease/Show/2235>
5. Florida coal plants 2nd in country
   1. Environment Florida
   2. Megan Severson
   3. September 18, 2014
   4. <http://www.environmentflorida.org/news/fle/new-report-florida-coal-plants-2nd-country>

**Summary:** Florida coal plants 2nd in country

A study shows that Florida’s coal-fired power plants emit as much carbon pollution into the atmosphere as the entire country of Chile. Additionally, it has become known that Florida is the 2nd largest carbon polluter (from power plants) in the country. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed The Clean Power Plan, which would eliminate as much carbon emission as the entire state of Canada emits by 2030. This plan also creates ideas for alternative energy solutions such as solar and wind energy, which has an incredible amount of potential in the state and the nation.

Nation

1. Bird on Fire: Lessons from the World’s Least Sustainable City
   1. Places
   2. Andrew Ross
   3. November 2011
   4. <https://placesjournal.org/article/bird-on-fire-lessons-from-the-worlds-least-sustainable-city/>
2. White House Plan Calls for Even Greater Greenhouse Gas Reductions
   1. U.S. News
   2. Alan Neuhauser
   3. August 3, 2015
   4. <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/08/03/epa-clean-power-plan-calls-for-bigger-greenhouse-gas-reductions>
3. 20 Dead After Devastating Flooding Near Utah-Arizona Border; Child Remains missing
   1. The Weather Channel
   2. By Associated Press- video narrated by Ari Sarsalari
   3. September 18, 2015
   4. <http://www.weather.com/news/news/utah-flash-floods>
4. As Fires Grow, a New Landscape Appears in the West
   1. The New York Times
   2. John Schwartz
   3. September 21, 2015
   4. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/22/science/as-fires-grow-a-new-landscape-appears-in-the-west.html?ref=earth&_r=0>
5. California’s Drought Is So Bad That Thousands Are Living Without Running Water
   1. Mother Jones
   2. Julia Lurie
   3. July 31, 2015
   4. <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2015/07/drought-5000-californians-dont-have-running-water>

**Summary:** California’s Drought Is So Bad That Thousands Are Living Without Running Water

In Tulare County, in the central valley region of California, roughly 5,4333 people do not have running water. The area is a rural, agricultural region, and most of its population has little education, falls under the poverty line, and are Latino (saying they don’t speak English “very well”). Some of these residents have not had running tap water for over a year. In the short term, the county is coming up with temporary solutions. There are portable toilets, sinks, and showers available outside of the Porterville Church, and of the 1,200 homes that are not receiving running water, 1,000 homes have accepted a free bottled water delivery service provided by the county. Additionally, the county is attempting to set up 2,500-gallon tanks, which are filled with water and connected to the home to resemble running water. However, only roughly 170 tanks have been installed so far. This year, the state has set aside $19 million to be spent on emergency drinking water and building an infrastructure so homes can be linked to a municipal water supply. This process is also inhibited by the high agricultural demand of the area; the agricultural industry brings in nearly 8 billion dollars per year for the region. This means that a majority of the water available is being dedicated to keeping crop fields alive.

International (Negative)

1. Find Out What Environmental Problems 20 Latin American Countries Face
   1. Latin Times
   2. Susmita Baral
   3. April 21, 2015
   4. <http://www.latintimes.com/earth-day-2015-find-out-what-environmental-problems-20-latin-american-countries-face-163309>
2. Environmental Issues
   1. Global Issues
   2. Anup Shah
   3. February 2, 2015
   4. <http://www.globalissues.org/issue/168/environmental-issues>
3. The State of Australia: Our Environment
   1. The Conversation
   2. Ian Lowe
   3. May 7, 2014
   4. <http://theconversation.com/the-state-of-australia-our-environment-26035>
4. Ma Jun: China has reached its environmental tipping point
   1. The Guardian
   2. Tom Levitt
   3. May 19, 2015
   4. <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/may/19/ma-jun-china-has-reached-its-environmental-tipping-point>
5. Canada’s Big, Ugly Environmental Problem
   1. Pacific Standard
   2. Jordan Larson
   3. July 3, 2014
   4. <http://www.psmag.com/nature-and-technology/transcanada-keystone-pipeline-canadas-big-ugly-environmental-problem-84646>

**Summary:** Ma Jun: China has reached its environmental tipping point

This article talks about one of China’s most prominent environmentalists, Ma Jun, and the environmental problems China is facing right now. Ma Jun has been studying the pollution and environmental damage that China has been causing for over 20 years. However, Chinese programs are only now addressing these problems. It has recently been discovered that 1/5 of China’s farmland is too polluted to grow crops, 60 percent of its groundwater is unfit for consumption, and air quality is 20 times worse than the recommended safe levels. Although there are some environmental laws put in place, it is up to local government to enforce these laws- which rarely happens. This means that for many businesses it is more beneficial to cut corners and break these laws to gain a profit and can actual harm businesses in the long run if they follow the law, as their market prices will be higher than those that cut corners. Ma’s biggest recommendation is the empowerment of China’s people to support environmental officials to combat the polluting that is continuously happening in their country.

International (Positive)

1. Brazil Leads World in Reducing Carbon Emissions by Slashing Deforestation
   1. National Geographic
   2. Brian Clark Howard
   3. June 5, 2014
   4. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/06/140605-brazil-deforestation-carbon-emissions-environment/>
2. China to Launch Carbon Emissions Market in 2017, Official Says
   1. NBC News
   2. Reuters
   3. September 24, 2015
   4. <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/china-launch-carbon-emissions-market-2017-official-says-n433341>
3. New Zealand creates vast ocean sanctuary
   1. The Guardian
   2. Tracy Watkins
   3. September 28, 2015
   4. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/28/new-zealand-creates-vast-ocean-sanctuary>
4. Brazil Pledges to Cut Carbon Emissions 37% by 2025
   1. The Guardian
   2. Associated Press
   3. September 28, 2015
   4. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/28/brazil-pledges-to-cut-carbon-emissions-37-by-2025>
5. Montreal Protocol has helped slow Ozone Depletion
   1. Zee News
   2. May 29, 2015
   3. <http://zeenews.india.com/news/eco-news/montreal-protocol-has-helped-slow-ozone-depletion_1602788.html>

**Summary:** Brazil Leads World in reducing Carbon Emissions by Slashing Deforestation

Brazil has reduced deforestation by 70 percent, therefore keeping 3.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. This impact is the biggest reduction in carbon emission of any country; this has three times the effect of taking all the cars in U.S. off the road for a year. This success serves as a model to encourage other countries to follow, and shows a completely different path for foresting. Additionally, the Brazilian government has created new protected reserves of forest in the Amazon, emphasizing areas where deforestation had already started. Through the management of the areas, tree loss has stopped.

Conclusion

The first step in creating a more sustainable world is to increase awareness of the real issues to its inhabitants. This is accomplished through the publishing of these environmental articles, and help people become more aware of environmental issues on both a local and global scale. This project helped increase my awareness by allowing me to explore new topics that I would have never known about without self-initiated research, like the increased sea levels in Miami or the instability of the Chinese environment. By raising global awareness, people while have a better understanding of these problems, and feel more inclined to take action in environmental issues. Their knowledge of environmental issues will help them realize their need to participate in making the world more sustainable, and how their role can make a difference. This project introduced real issues occurring in areas near me, and helped me realize that my actions could contribute to solving these problems. I also became more aware of problems outside my immediate surroundings, and how I affected them. A better global perspective helped me gain a better world view, and what my role in the environment should be. Additionally, the more global perspective a person has, the more likely they are to engage in combating these environmental problems. Whether their actions occur locally or on a global scale, every person’s participation can help make a difference. This also allows people to become familiar with environmental issues occurring far away from them, and help them understand their importance and how these issues can impact them. This project allowed me to become more globally engaged through the research of countries and the environmental issues they face that I otherwise would not have had any exposure to. This helps the process by allowing me to increase global awareness through the spread of this information. This type of cycle can continue, and help the population of a globally engaged environmental group, until we can create a fully sustainable world.