

TRENDS SHAKER

Six minutes of positive-impact news **to inspire you to take action!**

[Nature](#) | [Positive Technology](#) | [Society](#) | [Our favourites](#)

Welcome to your newsletter dedicated to social and environmental trends. Every 2 months, we scan the news to bring you a selection of topics that are moving the world and encouraging change around 3 themes - Nature, Society, Positive Technology - from our Impact Together commitment program.

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Edition n°

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Super corals

In the Bouraké semi-enclosed lagoons of New Caledonia, a fascinating discovery was made: corals can thrive in extreme weather conditions. Despite the acidic, oxygen-deprived water, these corals appear to be in good health, offering new hope for the survival of corals in the face of global warming. Scientists are trying to understand the mechanisms that allow these “super corals” to survive. The hypothesis put forward is that specific nutrients in the mangrove, such as iron, nickel and manganese, could play a vital role in their development. Nourishing corals with these metals could offer a pivotal solution for preserving threatened coral reefs. As such, this discovery opens up new prospects for protecting marine ecosystems and preserving underwater biodiversity.

Source: [TF1 - JT 20H](#)

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Meeting with...

Claire Pétreault, Founder of Les Pépites Vertes

A brief description of my project

I created **Les Pépites Vertes** to motivate the new generation to take part in the ecological transition! Using a medium, events and a network, we are providing young employees with the tools they need to drive forward the ecological transition and give them a voice in organisations.

What impact are we looking to achieve?

ADEME estimates that 1 million jobs will be created by 2050 to accelerate the ecological transition. Therefore, our goal is to get as many young people as possible into green and greening professions!

The word that best defines my commitment

Outreach - I like to implement community and communication strategies to drive commitment through outreach, thereby encouraging people to take action!

The social event that had the biggest impact on me

ChangeNOW 2020: we were more than 28,000 participants gathered at the Grand Palais in Paris just before the lockdown, in the same place that hosted the World Fair 100 years earlier. It really felt like we were part of a systemic dynamic!

My greatest hope for the future

All the people who take part in the collective effort. Every year there are more and more of us, and that's what counts.

One or more influencers and/or activists that inspire me

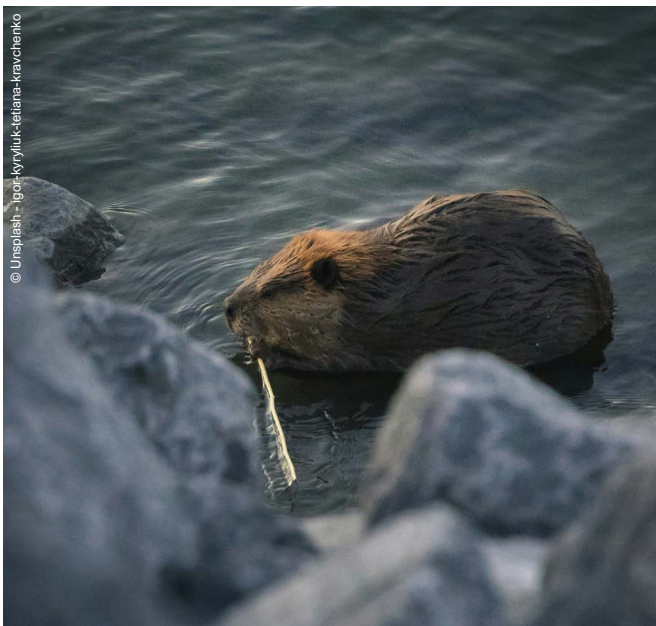
I love the work of Johan le Jeune Engagé (follow his [Instagram](#) account!)

My mantra/motto

The future isn't what will happen to us, but what we make of it!

How can you support or contribute to my project?

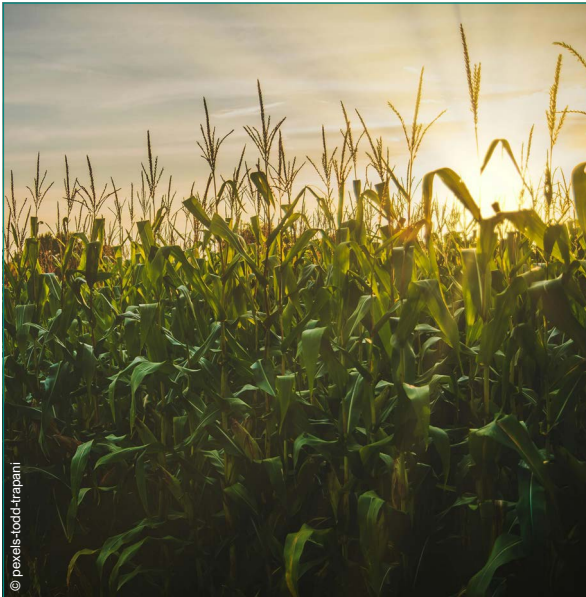
Follow Les Pépites Vertes on [Instagram](#) and on [LinkedIn](#) :D



Our friends the beavers

Source: [Futura Sciences](#)

Beavers are the unsung heroes of the fight against climate change! Their dams help regulate waterways, provide habitats for numerous species and capture CO₂. **These rodents were reintroduced in California and are now praised for their role in drought and flood prevention.** However, satellite monitoring shows that **they are migrating towards the Arctic and modifying ecosystems that are not adapted to their presence. Ironically, the construction of dams in this region is releasing methane gas and contributing to global warming.** Whether we should intervene or not in the management of their migration is currently under debate.



Rethinking our (agri)culture

Source: [Novethic](#)

A group of researchers recently published a new report on the benefits of the environmental transition for agriculture. This report highlights potential annual savings of nearly 10,000 billion dollars and could provide improved living conditions for farmers. **A transition towards sustainable agricultural practices is presented as a solution to reduce environmental, sanitary and economical costs, while promoting agriculture that is more respectful of the environment and health.** Nevertheless, the researchers underline the ideological challenges that could prevent this transition. They are calling for the mobilisation of public authorities, consumers and associations to promote a fair agro-ecological transition.

A billion for the planet

Source: [Carenews](#)

Bastien Sibille heads “Opération Milliard” (operation one billion), an ambitious initiative to finance a fair environmental transition. Launched on LinkedIn, this campaign aims to collect a billion euros to support projects that bring together ecology and social justice. **With a concrete action plan based on collaboration, financial reinforcement and local presence, this initiative offers a promising future.** The initiative will officially be launched on 26 March and will feature a thought-provoking manifesto, as well as an inspiring book to raise public awareness.



Underwater trees for the win

Source: [Good Planet](#)

Christmas trees are being recycled as aquatic habitats in the Swedish archipelago. This initiative, which is praised by ecologists, aims to **restore marine ecosystems.** Since 2016, hundreds of trees have been submerged underwater every year, providing shelter and spawning grounds for fish. This practice, which marks the end of the Christmas festivities in Sweden, is becoming increasingly popular and is raising awareness for the need to preserve the environment.



A bacteria burger for lunch?

Source: [RTL Info](#)

The University of Mons in Belgium is revolutionising food by offering burgers made from... bacteria. Awarded by the European Space Agency, this innovative concept would allow us to produce a patty containing as much protein as meat, but with a much lower environmental impact. **This promising discovery paves the way for a more sustainable food future.**

Craftsmanship: the trades of the future

Source: [Madame Figaro](#)

The advance of artificial intelligence and technology are redefining traditional trades, opening up new avenues for craftsmanship. This evolution has made technology an essential tool for craftsmen, whether in the field of 3D-modelled custom architectural embroidery or the creation of jewellery using computer-aided design and 3D printing. **While safeguarding the sanctity of their manual skills, craftsmen are integrating these new technologies to push the boundaries of creativity.** In France, craftsmanship represents a major economic pillar with its thousands of companies and professionals. **In order to draw in young people, the government is investing in training and innovation. The goal is clear: to develop this key sector in order to shape the future.**



Kenya, top of the (green) class

Source: [France Info](#)

Kenya has established itself as a pioneer in the energy transition, generating 90% of its electricity from renewable sources. **Thanks to its solar, geothermal, hydroelectric and wind power infrastructures, Kenya continues to redefine its energy landscape.** This transformation benefits millions of citizens and is **backed up by educational initiatives aimed at raising environmental awareness among young people.**

Fuelling our environmental imagination through video games

Source: [Usbek & Rica](#)

Cosy games offer an escape from eco-anxiety by addressing environmental themes in a positive way. They are popular for offering a slow, thoughtful approach that explores a range of social and political issues. **Despite their seemingly cute demeanour, these games offer a refreshing alternative to the prevailing dystopian narrative.**

Play

[Stardew Valley](#) | [Alba](#) | [Fall Of Porcupine](#)





A second life for abandoned mines in Finland

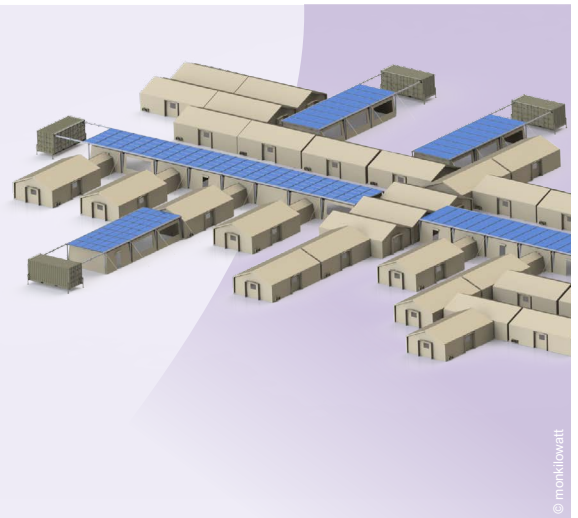
Source: [France Info](#)

Abandoned mines can offer an innovative and inexpensive solution for storing intermittent solar or wind energy. The idea is to turn these sites into gravity batteries, where weights are lifted and released to generate electricity. The first commercial installation of this type will be built in Finland. **With the potential to address peak demand in a more environmentally-friendly way than coal-fired power stations, this technology offers tremendous prospects for renewable energy storage in Europe.**

A small life-saving solar power plant

Source: [Kapaw](#)

Containwatt is a mobile solar power plant that can be installed in just a few days and which doubles as a shelter. Doctors Without Borders is testing this innovative solution in eastern Chad, providing energy for its base and activities in a refugee camp. This initiative demonstrates the NGOs commitment to extending its health services to remote areas while prioritising renewable energy.



The forgotten Emojis

Source: [The Guardian](#)

At an ecological conference, an expert lamented the absence of emojis for some of the organisms she studies, such as aquatic fungi. Fuelled by this observation, other researchers conducted a study into the representation of biodiversity in emojis. The findings show that while animals are well represented, plants, fungi and micro-organisms are neglected. **According to their study, this omission reveals biases in the way we assess biodiversity, and can undermine efforts to raise awareness and promote conservation.** As such, scientists are calling for greater emoji biodiversity!



Greater mobility in Dakar

Source: [Tunisie Numérique](#)

In a bid to improve urban mobility, Dakar is inaugurating a network of electric buses: the Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The project aims to halve journey times between the town of Guédiawaye and Dakar city centre, thereby facilitating the daily transport for 300,000 passengers. Funded by international institutions such as the World Bank, **this initiative puts Senegal at the cutting edge of sustainable transport in Africa, offering a solution to traffic jams and urban pollution.**



A gang of Swiss grannies fighting for the climate

Source: [Mother Jones](#)

A group of elderly Swiss women, the KlimaSeniorinnen, are suing their government for its inaction on climate change. **Their legal battle before the European Court of Human Rights aims to protect senior women from deadly heatwaves.** Their case could transform climate policies in Europe.

Tackling the climate crisis with humour

Source: [NY Times](#)

Comedians, scientists and activists are joining forces to fight against climate change. **From Hollywood to TikTok, comedy has become a powerful tool to overcome the pessimism and paralysis caused by environmental issues.** And this approach is paying off! A comedic campaign has contributed to the adoption of an ambitious climate bill in the State of New York!



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The city of happiness

Source: [Design Boom](#)

A coalition of architects is currently designing Mindfulness City - an innovative and sustainable economic hub in Bhutan, the world's first carbon-negative country. Spanning an area of more than 1,000 km², this project draws on local culture and capitalises on its main indicator - Gross National Happiness - which takes into account well-being, health, education and cultural diversity. The nature-based city is made up of eleven distinct districts, linked by inhabitable bridges to promote connectivity. The city's focus is on green infrastructure and environmentally-friendly design, combining local materials and increasing rural-to-urban population densities. **This ambitious project combines local identity, sustainable development and technological progress.**



© Brick, Yehliu, Achain, BIG

Rancho Cielo: where hope lives

Source : [USA Today](#)

An American judge has decided to transform a former ranch for juvenile delinquents into a revolutionary educational and vocational centre. **Rancho Cielo offers extensive support and training opportunities for young people in need.** Here, students learn practical skills, receive emotional support and are encouraged to further their studies or find stable employment. This bold initiative is transforming lives and has reduced recidivism rates to just 15%.



© Nic County for USA TODAY



Rethinking company uniformity for neurodivergent inclusivity

Source: [L'ADN](#)

Neurodivergent individuals make up 20% of the population, yet face an alarming 85% unemployment rate, despite their often underestimated abilities. EY, the financial consultancy giant, has responded by setting up Neuro-Diverse Centres of Excellence to help integrate these individuals into the workplace. The founder of this initiative, Hiren Shukla, highlights **the untapped potential of this population, arguing that they can enhance teams and improve a company's overall performance. A fresh approach to recruitment and workplace flexibility are the keys to this inclusive revolution.**

Our favourites |



From Japan to France's Var department: a comic strip on the rich history of local distribution channels

The comic strip "Circuit court" takes us back to Japan in the 1960s, when environmental challenges prompted us to rethink our consumption habits, paving the way for the rise of AMAPs (local producer-consumer networks). In France, the first AMAP was set up in the Var department by Denise and Daniel Vuillon, icons of rural and environmentally-friendly farming. This inspiring work, which was awarded at the Angoulême International Comics Festival, celebrates the union between agriculture, the environment and responsible consumption, in a vibrant call to action for a greener, more united world.

Source: [Var Matin](#)



Dive into Miyazaki's universe

Miyazaki's long-awaited graphic novel, "Shuna's Journey", has finally been released in France. Originally published in Japan in 1983, this new book takes you on a journey into the author's stunning watercolour world. Thanks to its recent publication in the United States, Miyazaki decided to publish it in French.

Source: [Studio Ghibli France](#)



Thank you for reading this far!
Did you like this newsletter? Share it around you!

All "watchers"

If you spot positive initiatives, inspiring causes or promising innovations, contact us: valerie.gaudart@engie.com or emilie.trichereau@engie.com