

# Our Concern

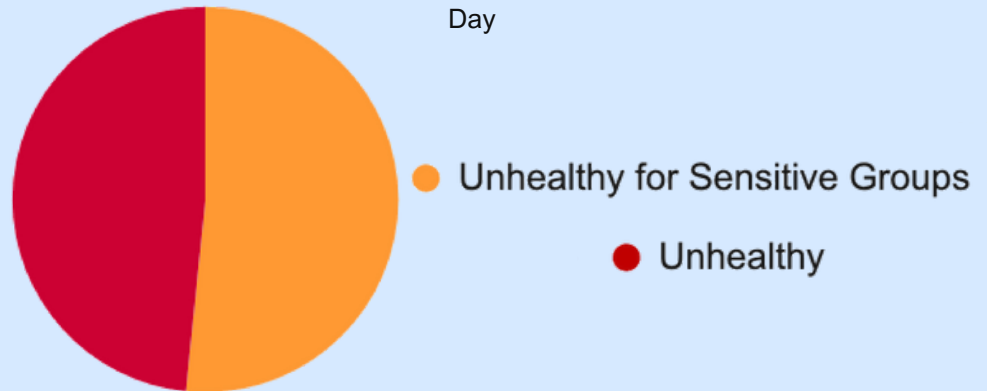
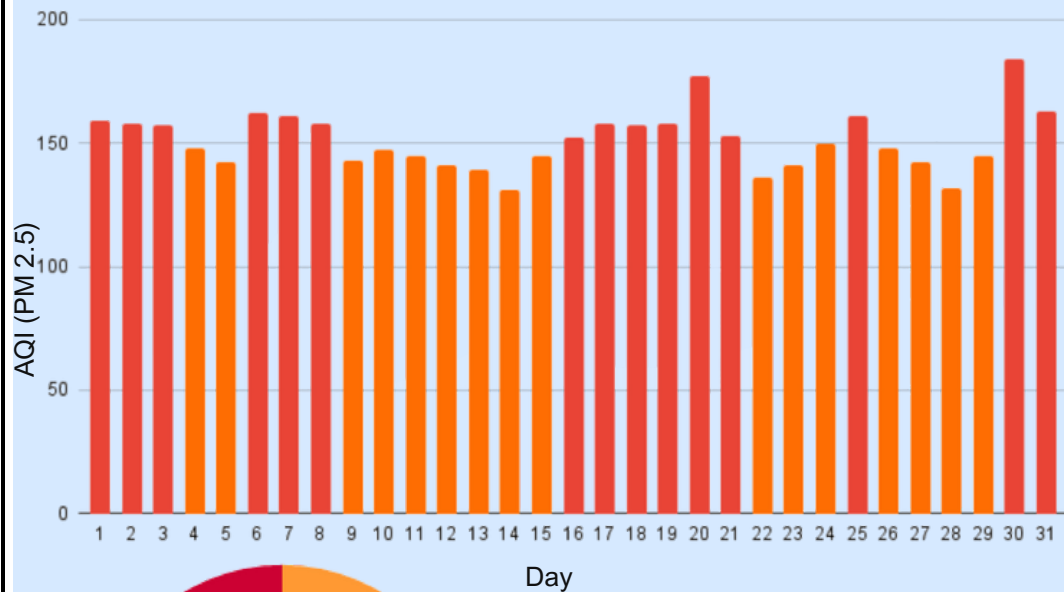


## E-Newsletter January 2023

Our Concern, a monthly e-newsletter, is a compilation of news and views from local, and international, media coverage as an attempt to keep our readers abreast on the recent happenings on clean air, energy, and urban mobility and climate change issues.

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- None of the days in January were satisfactory with AQI values from 0 to 50 where air pollution poses little or no risk.
- 16 days in January were unhealthy for sensitive group with AQI values reaching 101 to 150. Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion during such period.
- There were 15 days where AQI values reached 151 to 200 where everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.

# Air quality degrades throughout country



The air quality has degraded across the country including the Kathmandu Valley lately. According to the Meteorological Forecasting Division, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, the lack of winter rainfall has led to the high level of air pollution in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Tulsipur in Dang, in Dhankuta and in the southern plains. The issue of fog and haze has become more intense in the Tarai due to the lack of precipitation.

Kathmandu's AQI has reached 153 followed by 154 in Bhaktapur. It was measured at 108 in Tulsipur and 106 in Dhankuta.

Source | January 5th

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## Limited charging stations

Limited charging stations have emerged as a prime concern in promoting electric vehicles in the country whose demand is on the rise amid high operational costs for the fossil fuel-driven vehicles. Stakeholders said that the promotion of electric vehicles could help increase domestic consumption of electricity at a time when the country has been forced to spill power in the wet season due to limited domestic consumption and limited exports to India. But potential growth in the adoption of electric vehicles has been hindered by a lack of charging stations and inconsistent government policy regarding electric vehicles. Nepal Electricity Authority has taken the biggest initiative with the state-owned power utility body setting charging stations across the country. "Construction of 30 charging stations has already been completed. Of them, 25 are already in operation, including five in Kathmandu Valley," said Sagarmani Gyawali, head of the charging station construction project at the NEA.



Source | January 28th

# More than 100 high-polluting vehicles detained



Traffic police have detained more than 100 high-polluting vehicles in Kathmandu valley over the past three weeks. The emission tests were conducted in the busiest traffic intersections of the valley on the basis of random sampling. Both private and public vehicles were checked. Of the 181 vehicles checked by the authorities, 100 failed to go through the emission test. Kathmandu Valley Traffic Police Office said the vehicles which failed to pass the emission test were referred to the Department of Environment for legal action. As per vehicle emission standards implemented by the government, permissible level for four-wheelers registered in Nepal in or before 1980 and after 1981 should not exceed 4.5 per cent and 3 per cent of carbon monoxide of the total emission respectively.

Source

January 8th

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# Meteorologists forecast no rain until January end

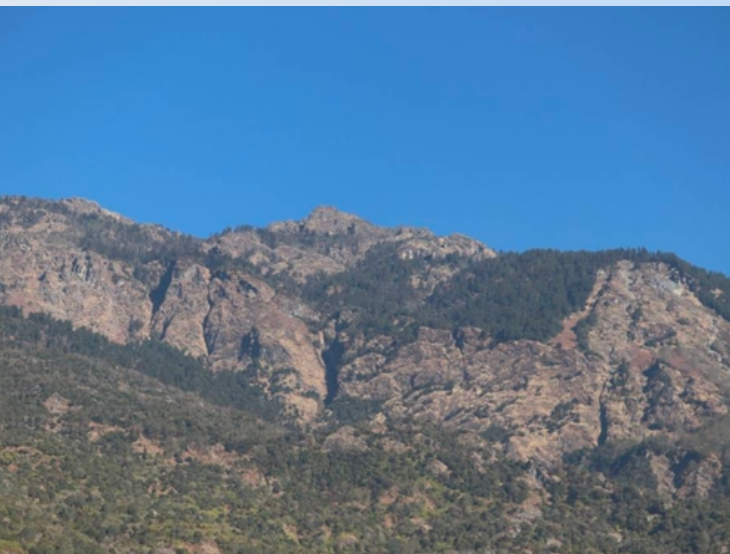
Nepal will not experience any rain until the end of January, according to meteorologists, which will directly impact the production of winter crops this year. There is no sign of humidity in the wind and this will result in a dry winter lasting more than 15 days. The thick layer of particulate matter is seen more during the winter in Kathmandu due to its bowlshaped geography which restricts the flow of wind leading to haze and a rise in pollution levels.



Source

January 28th

# Snow-capped mountains turning black



Until some years back, the mountainous ridges were seen with snow-capped during the winter season. But, the silver-like glittering mountains are now turning to be black rocks arguably due to the effects of climate change. Sindhupalchowk's Upper Helambu, Panchpokhari and Jugal ridge zone used to be appeared snow-capped from mid-November onward. But, in the recent years, snow fall has become a rare event in the mountains. Number of domestic and international tourists turning up here for snow fun with sight-seeing has declined of late. Consequently, it has continued to trigger displacement of the people relying on tourism enterprises.

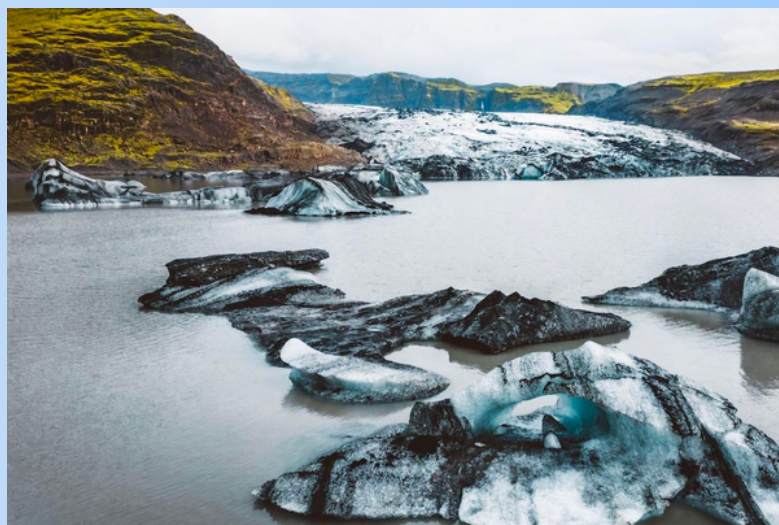
Source

January 23rd

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## Half of world's glaciers to 'disappear' with 1.5C of global warming

Even if the world is successful in meeting its most ambitious climate goal of 1.5C, glaciers could lose a quarter of their total mass by 2100 – raising global sea levels by 90mm. The world is not currently on track for 1.5C. The research finds that country promises made at the COP26 climate summit in 2021, which could lead to 2.7C of warming, would cause “the near-complete deglaciation of entire regions” including central Europe, western North America and New Zealand. If global warming reaches 4C, 83% of the world’s glaciers could disappear, the study adds.



Source

January 5th

# New Zealand roiled by flash floods, landslides



Heavy rainfall hit New Zealand's north island again on 22nd January, causing landslides, flash floods and knocking out roads, with the death toll rising to four after a person who had been missing was confirmed dead. Battered by rain since Friday, Auckland, New Zealand's largest city of 1.6 million people, remained under a state of emergency. Climate change is causing episodes of heavy rainfall to become more common and more intense in New Zealand, though the impact varies by region. Climate Change Minister James Shaw noted the link to climate change on Saturday when he tweeted his support for those affected by flooding.

[Source](#)

January 29th

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## Good Reads

Some supplemental readings if you are interested in diving deeper into contemporary environmental issues in Nepal and beyond. Take a peek for a broader array of topics.

[Time to invest in virtual power](#)

[Climate change and informal settlements](#)

[Climate change worries trans-Himalayan farmers](#)

[Solar energy for household consumption](#)

[Donors offer over \\$9b for Pakistan after devastating floods](#)

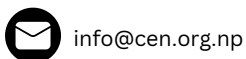
[Climate change and loss of culture](#)

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