

## CREATION CARE GREEN TIPS - OCTOBER

1. Meteorologist Paul Douglas states that the western U.S. has **warmed 2 degrees since 1972** with fires burning bigger, longer and hotter, and that NOAA reports a **doubling of billion-dollar weather and climate disasters just since 2000**. With warming ocean waters causing **hurricanes to intensify faster**, the number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes affecting the U.S has **doubled since 1990**. Environmental conservationists are looking to see **what works in nature that people can adapt and use for climate resilience and carbon drawdown**. HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO: **1) Avoid chemical fertilizers** that contribute to algae blooms and kill the plants and animals that keep water healthy; **2) Look after your car and pets** - leaking chemicals and fecal matter get washed into storm drains and waterways. **Put pet waste in trash cans**; **3) Use a rain barrel** to mitigate stormwater runoff and then release the water into your yard as needed; **4) Protect trees by urging developers and local officials** to conserve and protect habitats **during construction**; **5) Ask elected officials to pass climate legislation**.
2. A study published in the journal *Science* found that with **medium-level human-caused climate change** expected by the end of the century, the world's oceans, rivers and lakes will be **too hot for about 40 % of the world's fish species in the spawning or embryonic life stages**. Biologists studied the **temperature tolerance of 694 fish species**, finding grave implications for the nearly **3 billion people whose primary protein source is seafood**. According to the Alfred Wegener Institute and the Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, **limiting climate warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by midcentury and beyond** will affect only **10% of the fish species**, while warming that comes in at **5 or more degrees Celsius will endanger 60% of species**. URGE YOUR LAWMAKERS to address the climate change that threatens the ability of fish populations to reproduce and replace themselves.
3. A study done by a broad range of scientists and published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology Letters* concludes that **all forms of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) used in waterproofing, nonstick cookware, fire-fighting foams and other heat- and stain-resistant uses be classified collectively as potentially toxic, thus restricted in their uses**. Currently, only two of the PFAS chemicals (PFOA and PFOS) out of the **thousands of PFAS that exist** are being regulated due to evidence that they are the **source of water and soil pollution**. But the new study reveals that these "**forever chemicals**" are **building up in humans**, causing health problems, and taking years to clear from the body. The scientists are calling for **protection of public health from all PFAS** instead of the piecemeal approach used so far, urging government regulators and businesses to curb their use. With mounting **litigation against PFAS** by states and localities across the country, WE CAN ADD OUR VOICES to the efforts to **limit the entire class of PFAS as hazardous substances**.

**4.** Driven by a global price war, falling renewable energy costs, and a pandemic that has slashed demand, **nearly 250 oil and gas companies in the U.S. could file for bankruptcy protection by the end of next year**, according to Rystad Energy, an analytics company. The environmental consequences of this are the **abandonment of unprofitable wells that will continue to leak planet-warming pollutants such as methane, requiring costly cleanup paid for by taxpayers.** In North Dakota fracking country, **abandoned wells have gone from zero to 336 in just the past two months**, while in New Mexico **708 orphaned wells have been identified.** All the while, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, the companies filing for bankruptcy (MDC Energy-Texas, Whiting Petroleum-N.D., Chesapeake Energy, Diamond Offshore Drilling, to name several), **are paying millions of dollars legally set aside for environmental obligations to their executive compensation plans instead.** LET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES know that you support renewable energy and the proper tending of abandoned wells.