

Policy Matters



Your weekly digest of policy reports that **matter**.
Edited by [Toby Green](#) and [Gary Price](#) of *Policy Commons*.

Nutrition and disease in Gaza: Report says “extremely critical”

[New data from Gaza](#) shows how quickly nutrition standards have fallen during the first 120 days of the conflict. Fewer than 10% have access to basic food, and virtually all children under age five have infectious disease, diarrhea, or both.

AI and cybersecurity

- **AI in academia**
 - [This paper](#) uses the recent, unusual experience at the University of Michigan as a case study of institutional-level support for researchers in adopting new, large-scale technologies—in this case, generative AI—and the authors call for more support like this. A hat tip to CNI’s Cliff Lynch for spotting this one. He highly recommends it. Cliff is also one of the experts invited to [imagine the impact of artificial intelligence by 2040](#).
- **AI in local government: The Marvelous Adventures of Countyland**
 - [This remarkable work](#) was AI generated by NACo to showcase what generative AI can do, stimulate discussion on how AI’s used in the public sector, and inspire young people to consider careers as government officials. Our thanks to Washington State University’s Lorena O’English for catching this one.
- **Cybersecurity: Fixing open-source software vulnerabilities**
 - The [Five Eyes alliance](#) argues that bosses and coders should get behind memory-safe coding to boost cybersecurity in [The Case for Memory Safe Roadmaps](#). Meanwhile, the White House has just released an end-of-year report, [Securing the Open-Source Software Ecosystem](#), and [Back to the Building Blocks: a path towards secure and measurable software](#).

Top polluting airports?

Discover the true climate impact of flying, airport expansion, and airline emissions. A [new interactive database](#) gathers passenger emission data from 1,300 airports. (Dubai, London, and Los Angeles, we’re 🇦🇪 at you.)

Bangladesh, climate’s “canary”

Low-lying Bangladesh has long been a bellwether for other countries wondering how climate change will affect their citizens. This makes the collaborative UK-Bangladeshi International Centre for Climate Change well placed to [issue a report showing what climate change means for a country and its people](#).

Venezuelan migrants boost Latin American economies

Poverty and political turmoil has triggered an exodus of nearly 8 million Venezuelans (25% of its population). A [report from the World Bank](#) shows how these migrants are boosting the economies of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile (also [available in Spanish](#)), while UNHCR looks at their [socioeconomic integration](#) (Spanish only).

Open data: Can universities afford the Nelson Memo?

It’s [Open Data Week](#), but the big question is how much does it cost to provide public access to research data? The Association of Research Libraries [looked at six US research institutions and pithily concluded that the cost is “non-trivial”](#) (an average of \$2.5 million per institution per year 🤯). If this grabs your attention, you’ll probably want to read [The Second Digital Transformation of Scholarly Publishing](#) from Ithaka S+R, which comes “highly recommended” by our friends at Clarke & Esposito.

Corporate tax: Why pay more?

In 2017, President Trump cut the federal corporate income tax rate to 21%, but the most profitable corporations are paying considerably less. [A new report from ITEP](#) has the details.

Misinformation can be mitigated

A new paper shows that [misinformation can be mitigated](#) if social media platforms run ads reminding users to think about accuracy before they share.

Coming soon: *Public Health and Social Care*

Interested in grey literature from public health agencies, hospitals, medical associations, health commissions, and the like? Then you’ll be interested in our new database, [Public Health and Social Care](#), launching in May.

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