

Policy Matters



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

Climate.

- **Children.** Until now, there have been no data on the number of children displaced by storms, floods, droughts, or wildfires. UNICEF has just released a [sobering report](#) estimating that 20,000 children are being displaced daily.
- **COP28.** Ahead of COP28 (early November in Dubai), UNFCCC has just released its annual [Global Stocktake](#), showing progress towards the Paris Agreement (TL;DR—the world is off track). The report is one of two that will underpin discussions in Dubai. An accompanying [technical report](#) was released in September.
- **Electric power.** In better news, Ember thinks that [global electric power sector emissions](#) have plateaued.
- **Impact on households.** The US Treasury has estimated the [impact of climate change on US household finances](#).

UK politics. It's party-conference season in the UK, and on the eve of the center-left Labour Party's gathering, PPI have [released a report](#) that finds the ruling right-of-center Conservative Party has lost the "red wall" working class vote that was so crucial to their 2019 victory.

COVID. We almost missed this: Syracuse Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs reckons [COVID-19 mortality rates were higher in states that limited governments from enacting public health emergency orders](#).

Nature. Society depends on the natural world, but how does it govern the risks of depleting natural resources when making financial decisions? In 2020, with the blessing of G7 and G20, a group of countries and companies formed a Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures. They've just released their first [recommendations](#).

Cash transfers. Two papers from NBER confirm that cash matters. The first shows [that giving cash to Kenyans has the same effect as giving cash and training](#); the second, that giving cash to Alaskan parents [reduces both infant mortality and the chance of subsequent referral to social services](#).

Obesity and dietary guidelines. [The State of Obesity 2023 report](#) is a special retrospective on the last twenty years of data trends and strategy around obesity, policy, and dietary guidelines. Speaking of which... U.S. Right to Know has been [investigating conflicts of interest in the United States' 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee](#).

Other titles that caught our eye:

- [Primary health care access among First Nations people living off reserve, Métis and Inuit, 2017 to 2020](#)
- [Climate Change in the Indonesian Mind](#)
- [Developing Australia's critical minerals and rare earths: Implementing the outcomes from the 2023 Darwin Dialogue](#)

Call for inquiries and commissions

Inquiries and commissions are important. For example, the 1987 [Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody](#) started a process that culminates this week with the [Voice Referendum](#) in Australia. Another is the [Grenfell Tower Inquiry](#), currently underway in the UK, which will transform building standards. We think inquiries and commissions that exist only on stand-alone websites like the [Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care](#) are at risk, because they may not be maintained in the long term. **But we need your help to find more; please let us know about important inquiries and commissions in your country, whether old or current.**

Organizing an event?

If you're organizing an event that jives with Policy Matters, [let us know](#). We'll be happy to share the news with our 90,000+ community.

Thanks for staying informed with Policy Matters from *Policy Commons*.

We choose reports from definitive sources around the globe that are data-rich and timely. Most often, they'll be hot off the press, but sometimes we'll include older reports we've just uncovered. From time to time, we also share key product updates and information through this channel.

Visit us!



Twitter



LinkedIn



Youtube