

Policy Matters



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

Climate: Drill, baby, drill

Despite the International Energy Agency warning that to stay within the 1.5°C Paris scenario there need to be no new oil and gas fields, [oil and gas producers are still sanctioning new projects](#) (especially in the Americas), and the majority of producing countries anticipate increasing their production through the end of the decade.

Food and Fashion: Waste not, want not

About a fifth of food around the world is wasted, according to the [UN Food Waste Index](#). More than half of the waste is from households, and this waste is responsible for 5% of climate emissions. Meanwhile, [France's proposed bill to slow down fast fashion and set higher standards for environmental supply chain transparency](#) is an important first step in addressing the hidden water crisis in global trade.

Uranium from Russia versus support for Ukraine

[This report finds that western nuclear fuel supply chains](#) are still dependent on Russian uranium, which points to a political and moral dissonance with stated US and European commitments to support Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression.

Women worse off than men

Two reports reveal that women in the UK are worse off than men. A new survey shows [female musicians facing much higher](#) levels of discrimination, sexual harassment, financial challenges, and structural barriers to career progression, and a report from IPPR reckons generative AI will disrupt the labour market for [women more than men](#).

US government has accelerated spending on AI

Brookings [has been keeping track of US government spending on AI](#) and has found "tremendous growth," especially in defense.

Fukushima nuclear disaster: Treated water discharge into the sea

[This report summarizes the process](#) that led to the decision by the Japanese government to discharge water from the Fukushima Nuclear plant and describes the measures taken to deal with reputational damage.

Solar energy: No silver bullet?

Solar panels pose two big problems: waste and silver. [A new paper finds that waste](#) will reach a crisis point in the next two to three years. And if that's not enough of a worry, if current production forecasts are accurate, the world will run out of silver by 2050.

Newly added organization

Starting this week, we'll draw your attention to organizations recently added to *Policy Commons*.

[The Waste and Resources Action Programme](#) (WRAP) is a climate action NGO working around the globe to change the way things are produced, consumed, and disposed of. Established in 2000, it already works with governments, businesses, and communities in 40+ countries to accelerate the move to a sustainable, resource-efficient economy. Explore 1200+ items in its collection.



CONNECTING THE KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Conference & Exhibition 2024

Monday 8th – Wednesday 10th April
Scottish Event Campus (SEC), Glasgow

We're exhibiting

Book your place:
www.uksg.org/event/conference24

Get the app and use the hashtag
www.uksg.org/app #UKSG2024

Going to UKSG? Join us in supporting The Hidden 5% REF Manifesto.

In the UK, the REF matters. It's the system for assessing how to share out £2 billion of public research funding annually. Driven by academic culture, previous assessments relied almost entirely on journals or books—but they don't adequately capture all research efforts. So a group of academics launched [The Hidden Ref](#) in 2020. Their mission is to celebrate all research outputs in research assessments, not just books and journals. Specifically, they're calling on universities to sign The 5% Manifesto. This will commit them to submit at least 5% of their non-traditional research outputs to [REF 2029](#), an objective we thoroughly endorse. To help promote this worthy cause, we've teamed up with The Hidden Ref to run a [Breakout Session at this year's UKSG](#). Do join us!

What's going to be in our new *Public Health and Social Care* module?

In the weeks leading up to its launch next month, we're sharing examples of what you'll find in our forthcoming *Policy Commons* module. This week: **The Covid Collective**.

The global COVID-19 pandemic was a crisis requiring rapid generation of policy-relevant evidence to inform decision making. One such effort was The Covid Collective. Funded by the UK government, it looked at factors beyond the pandemic itself (conflict, climate change, economic precarities) to see how these drivers intersected with health challenges. Launched in 2020, the project ended in 2023, and the website is already degrading. We're harvesting and preserving the group's outputs, ready for the launch of our new module. One example is [The social economic impacts of Covid-19 in informal urban settlements](#), published in 2021.

Read more about our new *Public Health and Social Care* module [here](#).

Editors' Choice 2024

Many thanks to those who have shown appreciation for Policy Matters; we're flattered. Some have asked that we compile a list of our weekly selections—so here it is, [our Editors' Choice list for 2024](#). Follow it to receive alerts when new items are added. And if you have recommendations of reports we've missed, [please let us know](#).

If you have announcements you'd like to put in front of our readers, please [drop us a line](#).

Thanks for staying informed with Policy Matters from *Policy Commons*—with over 11 million working papers, policy briefs, data sources, and media from 32,000 municipalities, IGOs, NGOs, think tanks, and research centers around the world.

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.

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