

# UN to release handbook of climate change solutions

April 4 2022, by Kelly MacNamara

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UN climate experts are set to release what is expected to be the definitive guide to halting global warming on Monday, in a report that

lays out how societies and economies must transform to ensure a "liveable" future.

With war in Ukraine spurring an urgent energy rethink in the West, analysts say the latest [report](#) from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will also be an important resource for nations seeking a rapid transition away from Russian oil and gas.

In recent months the IPCC has published the first two instalments in a trilogy of mammoth scientific assessments covering how [greenhouse gas pollution](#) is heating the planet and what that means for life on Earth.

This third report will outline what to do about it.

But that answer has sweeping political ramifications as climate solutions touch on virtually all aspects of modern life—and require significant investment.

Two weeks of gruelling negotiations have seen nearly 200 nations struggling to thrash out line-by-line a high-level "summary for policymakers" that distils the hundreds of pages of underlying assessment.

That meeting was supposed to wrap up on Friday, but dragged on through the weekend. The IPCC assessment was originally due to be published publicly on Monday at 0900 GMT, but will now be released at 1500GMT.



One way to cut energy consumption is to change the way people travel.

"Everybody has something to lose and everybody has something to gain," said one person close to the process.

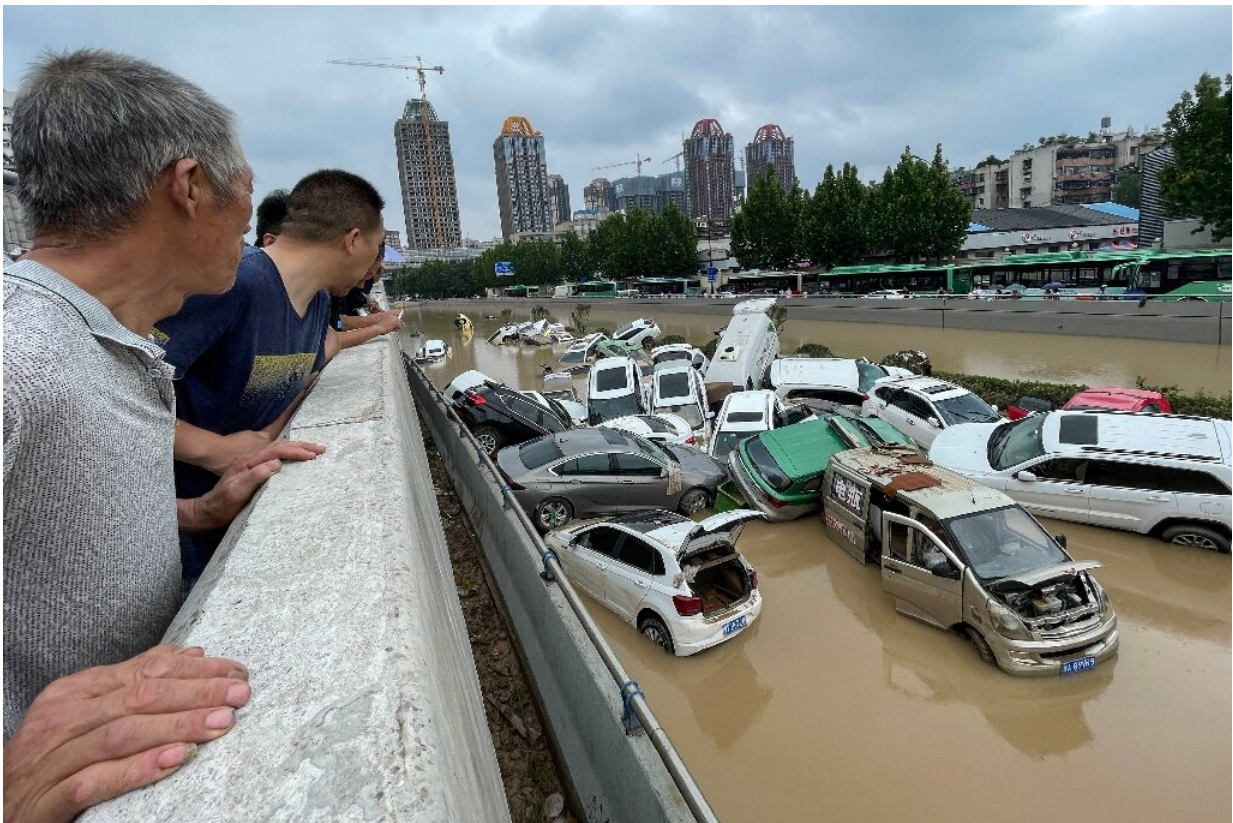
Easy answers are unlikely, with the IPCC expected to detail the need for transformational changes to [energy generation](#) and industry, as well as to cities, transportation and food systems.

To save the world from the worst ravages of [climate change](#), the report is also expected to warn that slashing [carbon dioxide pollution](#) is no longer enough.

And technologies that are not yet operating to scale will need to be ramped up enormously to suck CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere.

A 1.5C cap on [global warming](#)—the aspirational goal of the 2015 Paris climate accord—has been embraced as a target by most of the world's nations.

Barely 1.1C of warming so far has ushered in a devastating surge of deadly extreme weather across the globe.



The cost of allowing further warming is likely to be far higher than the price tag for reducing emissions.

## **Fossil fuels**

UN chief Antonio Guterres warned last month that major economies are allowing carbon pollution to increase when drastic cuts are needed.

"We are sleepwalking to climate catastrophe," he said.

In February, the IPCC report on past, present and future climate change impacts and vulnerabilities detailed what Guterres called an "atlas of human suffering".

The report concluded that further delays in cutting carbon pollution and preparing for impacts already in the pipeline "will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all".

Current national carbon-cutting commitments still put the world on a catastrophic path toward 2.7C of warming by 2100.

"How much more destruction must we witness, and how many more scientific reports will it take, before governments finally acknowledge fossil fuels as the real culprits behind the human suffering being felt across the globe?", said Namrata Chowdhary of 350.org.



Burning oil, gas and coal for energy is responsible for the lion's share of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution.

The main focus of the report is on weaning the global economy off fossil fuels and moving to low- or zero-carbon sources of energy, from solar and wind to nuclear, hydro and hydrogen.

Helping that transition is the fact that [renewable energy](#) is now cheaper than energy generated by fossil fuels in most markets.

The IPCC also details ways to reduce demand for oil, gas and coal, whether by making buildings more energy-efficient or encouraging shifts in lifestyle, such as eating less beef and not flying half-way around

the world for a holiday or business meeting.

With intense political wrangling over the high-level policy summary, some fear the message will have been watered down.

"The [climate](#) crisis is accelerating and [fossil fuels](#) are the overwhelming cause. Any report on mitigation that fails to emphasise that fact is denying the very science to which the IPCC is committed," said Nikki Reisch of the Center for International Environmental Law.

The report's finding will feed into UN political negotiations, which resume in November in Egypt at COP 27.

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