

MAXIMISING THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE ON CLIMATE ACTION IN BELGIUM



Editorial

Uncertain times won't shake our commitment

If you're used to scrolling the news for a break, you might have noticed that what once felt like a moment to relax has become more of a source of unease. It's becoming rare to find stories that offer a sense of optimism, especially when it comes to the future of science and research. The recent developments in the United States, where political decisions are challenging the very foundations of scientific progress, have raised alarm bells beyond the US borders, affecting scientific communities worldwide. At the same time, climate change continues to advance, underscoring the urgency for decisive action and the importance of scientific contributions.

In Belgium too, scientific research is under pressure of budgetary austerity, threatening scientific production. More than 600 Belgian scientists from various institutions have come together to pen an [open letter](#) expressing their concerns about the impact this decision will have on the scientific community and ultimately on our society.

In such uncertain times, it's natural to feel overwhelmed or powerless. Yet, I believe it's important to focus on what we can control and the certainties that remain. At the Belgian Climate Centre, we keep our solid commitment to supporting the scientific community, despite the challenges we face.

Our mission remains clear: **to maximize the impact of science in the fight against climate change**. This translates in supporting researchers and their work, fostering collaboration between the Federal Scientific Institutes, universities and research institutes, and providing a platform that connects science to policy and the private sector, **to ensure that the scientific work translates into real-world impact**.

In this context, I am pleased to announce several new initiatives aimed at fostering collaboration, increasing visibility for Belgian researchers, and supporting scientific dissemination:

We are launching monthly hybrid seminars called "**Climate Cookies & Coffee**", designed to highlight the work of Belgian scientists across universities.

Additionally, we are hosting the second workshop in our “**Science for Climate Action**” series, which will focus on adapting the building sector to heat waves.

We also co-organize with Belspo an upcoming [webinar](#) to provide guidance for Belgian researchers on how to contribute to the next cycle of the Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Finally, we remain committed to improving scientific dissemination, expanding our [climate experts' database](#), and meeting the growing demand for enhanced research support. In particular, we have started regularly showcasing the work of Belgian researchers and universities on our social media channels ([LinkedIn](#) and, more recently, [Bluesky](#)) and we invite scientists to keep sharing with us their latest research so that we can help boost its outreach.

In a world marked by uncertainty, science remains our greatest ally in understanding and addressing the challenges posed by climate change. Through collaboration, perseverance and widely disseminating knowledge, we can fully harness the potential of science to bring profound change for a more sustainable and resilient world.



Dr. Roberta Calce

Scientific Community Manager

BCC Activities

Two projects of the Copernicus Climate Change Service kicked off

The Belgian Climate Centre, together with the [Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium](#) and [VITO](#), works on two projects funded by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). The projects are part of the [C3S National Collaboration Programme](#), that aims to promote the uptake of **C3S products** and **climate services** at national level.

The project [Climate service for Belgian vector-borne disease management](#) aims to develop a **climate service custom-made for the “Vector-borne diseases and zoonoses” unit** at the Belgian federal institute of public health or Sciensano, to address the rising impacts of climate change on public health by facilitating the surveillance and prediction of diseases related to vectors like ticks and exotic mosquitoes.

The second project aims to homogenize and update the [Belgian climatological time series](#) to provide **standardised and accessible datasets** through the C3S Climate Data Store and Open Data platforms. These high-quality datasets will support climate research, evidence-based decision-making, and international collaborations.

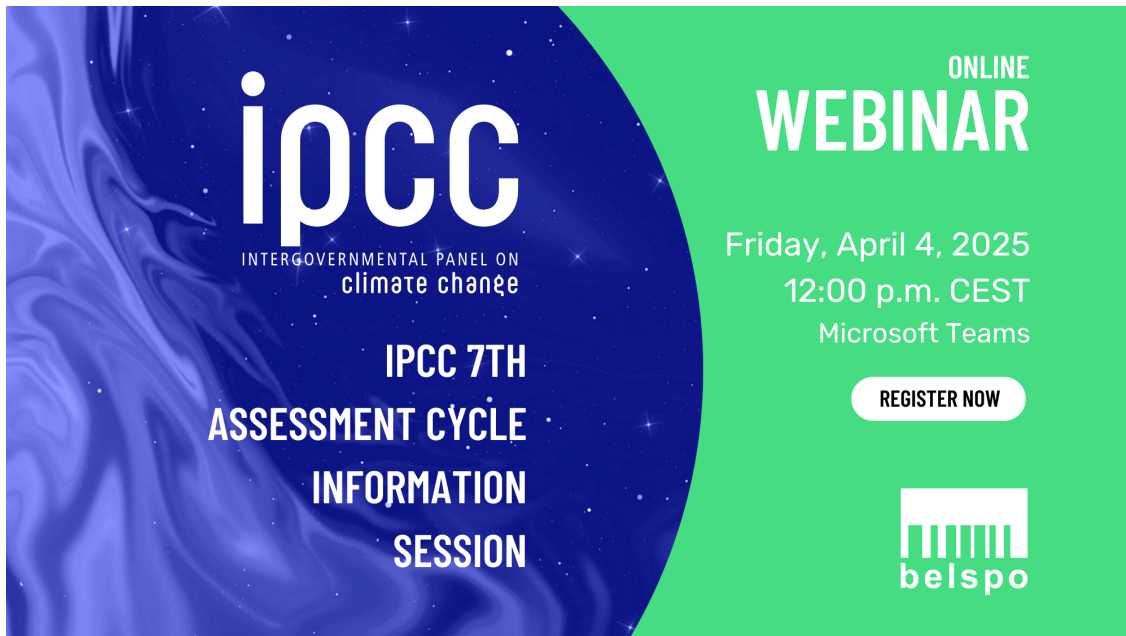
Learn How to Contribute to the IPCC 7th Assessment Cycle

The Belgian Climate Centre and Belspo invite Belgian scientists to a virtual session on Friday, **4 April 2025**, at 12:00 CEST to learn about the upcoming **IPCC 7th Assessment Cycle call for nominations**. **This session will provide guidance on how to apply as an author, editor, or expert for the IPCC's Working Group reports**. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to global climate science!

✉ Register for the session: ipccfocalpoint@belspo.be

ℹ More details: read our [news](#)

📅 Application deadline: 11 April 2025 (COB).



BCC Events

Climate Cookies & Coffee

The Belgian Climate Centre is launching Climate Cookies & Coffee, a series of **short scientific seminars** for researchers to share their work, connect with peers, and foster collaboration across disciplines.

These hybrid events, held [at the Centre](#) and streamed online, are **open to all scientists (early-career and senior) working in one of the Centre's [four research domains](#)**: physical climate, land and water, technology and society.

Each session lasts 1,5 to 2 hours, featuring a 45-minute talk or multiple shorter presentations, followed by a Q&A and discussion over coffee, tea, and cookies. The seminars are held on the **last Tuesday of each month, from 14:00 to 16:00, starting April 29, 2025**. The Centre takes care of logistics, allowing speakers to focus on their research.

Interested to present your climate research? Please complete the form using the link below, and the Centre's organising committee will reach out to you to arrange your seminar!

[Apply to Present Your Research](#)

Science 4 Climate Action workshop series: “Heatwaves in cities: impacts on health and the building sector, and adaptation strategies”

The Belgian Climate Centre is organising a workshop on **“Heatwaves in Cities: Impacts on Health and the Building Sector, and Adaptation Strategies”** on **Monday, 12 May 2025, from 9:00 to 16:00** at its headquarters in Brussels (**Avenue Circulaire 3, 1180 Uccle**). This event will focus on the increasing challenges posed by climate change-induced heatwaves in Belgium, particularly their effects on public health, indoor comfort, and urban resilience. Discussions will assess current building practices and urban planning approaches while also exploring systemic adaptation strategies.

The workshop will bring together Belgian scientists and key public and private stakeholders, fostering a collaborative platform for knowledge exchange. The program, developed in collaboration with a board of scientific experts from **ULiège, UCLouvain, UHasselt, and UGent**, will include scientific presentations, panel discussions, and Q&A sessions.

The workshop is aimed primarily at an audience of specialists, both academic and non-academic. If your expertise seems relevant to this topic and you are interested in participating in the workshop, do not hesitate to contact our Scientific Community Manager Roberta Calce.

[Join the Workshop](#)



Belgian Scientists In The Media

- 04/02/2025 - "Il y aura malheureusement un effet visible" : le pessimisme d'un climatologue de la VUB après les premières annonces de Trump à la Maison Blanche ([link](#))
- 12/02/2025 - Limburgs labo sleutelt aan superzonnepanelen die tot de helft meer stroom opwekken ([link](#))
- 19/02/2025 - Gletsjers smelten steeds sneller en dat heeft ook een invloed op onze kustlijn ([link](#))
- 26/03/2025 - Onderzoekers ontwikkelen maatstaf voor verantwoordelijkheid beperken opwarming aarde ([link](#))
- 26/03/2025 - A l'UCLouvain, les plantes se font prendre en photo pour répondre aux enjeux du changement climatique ([link](#))
- 28/03/2025 - Qui est responsable du dépassement de la limite de 1,5°C fixée pour le climat ? Des scientifiques belges ont la réponse ([link](#))



Upcoming Events

International Events

56th International Liège Colloquium on Ocean Dynamics

Date: 26–30 May 2025

Location: University of Liège, Academic Hall, Liège, Belgium (Hybrid)

Details: This hybrid event will focus on Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR), exploring its potential, risks, and governance. Registration is open [here](#).

International Spring School on Transdisciplinary Methods: Addressing the Energy Puzzle

Date: 5–9 May 2025

Location: Rega Institute, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

Details: Hosted by KU Leuven, this training program equips researchers with cross-disciplinary skills to tackle energy transition challenges. Apply by 16 March [here](#).

European Events

Webinar: Systemic Risk Governance at the Time of the Triple Planetary Crisis

Date: 1 April 2025, 15:00–17:00 CET

Location: Online

Details: Hosted by the European Environment Agency, this webinar explores innovative solutions for managing climate, biodiversity, and pollution risks. Register [here](#).

ECCA2025 – 7th European Climate Change Adaptation Conference

Date: June 16 – 18, 2025

Location: Rimini, Italy

Details: This biennial platform returns in 2025 to discuss a broad range of issues related to climate change impacts and adaptation. Learn more [here](#).

Belgian Events

Follow-up on Belgium's Social Climate Plan

Date: 28 April 2025, Morning

Location: Conscience Building, Boulevard du Roi Albert II 15, 1210 Brussels, Belgium

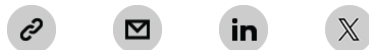
Details: This informative session will provide updates on the Belgian Social Climate Plan, including key developments and future actions. For more information, please contact the Communication Service of the Climate Change Department ([FR](#) / [NL](#)).

Antwerp Summer School: Energy Transitioning

Date: 30 June–10 July 2025

Location: Stadscampus, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

Details: This programme combines lectures, site visits, and group work to prepare participants for challenges in sustainable energy transitions. Register [here](#).



Who is the Belgian Climate Centre?

The Belgian Climate Centre was established to conduct high-level scientific research on climate and its related economic and ecological challenges.

It also acts as a contact point for organisations, policymakers, and citizens, providing a wide range of climate-related services. The mission of the Belgian Climate Centre is to maximise the impact of science on climate mitigation and adaptation in Belgium, supporting an efficient and socially just transition.

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