

MAXIMISING THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE ON CLIMATE ACTION IN BELGIUM



Editorial

Our Record-Breaking Summer: A Time for Action, Not Retreat

As autumn approaches, it's impossible to ignore the echoes of the season we've just left behind. The summer of 2025 wasn't just hot; it was a global siren call. Across the Northern Hemisphere, the climate crisis unfolded in a devastating panorama of interconnected extremes. Southern Europe was scorched by relentless heatwaves, fuelling catastrophic wildfires from Greece to Portugal. Turkey recorded temperatures over 50°C for the first time in its history. Meanwhile, Canada battled one of its worst wildfire seasons on record, sending plumes of smoke across the Atlantic to our own skies, as the southwestern United States remained locked in a historic megadrought. In many European cities, the early summer heatwave was found to be 2–4°C hotter as a direct result of climate change, contributing to thousands of heat-related deaths. This story was told on every continent: here in Belgium, [June was a month for the history books](#). The final average temperature in Uccle was 19.3°C, a stark contrast to the normal 16.7°C, making it the second-hottest June since records began in 1833. Overall, [this summer in Belgium](#) was characterized by being very dry and warm, with the average temperature reaching 19.3°C in Uccle, making it the fourth warmest summer since 1833. The country also experienced two official heatwaves and an exceptional amount of sunshine.

One of the risks of these recurring records is a phenomenon known as the 'boiling frog syndrome'. We become acclimatised to the crisis, as our perception of what is normal slowly shifts. This is perfectly illustrated by the 30-year climate [normals](#) published by the Royal Meteorological Institute. With each new thirty-year baseline, the benchmark for a normal temperature inexorably rises. The slightly warmer water goes unnoticed, until it's too late. The "normal" we remember from our childhood is no longer the 'normal' of today, and today's extremes are a terrifying preview of tomorrow's new normal.

And yet, in the face of this undeniable, accelerating reality, what are we observing at the policy level? Both in the European Union and beyond, the climate emergency is increasingly being treated as just another item on the news agenda, with attention and budgets diverted elsewhere. We hear calls for a "pause" on environmental legislation, a trend reflected in the corporate world. It is staggering to witness the "strategic realignments" of some major industrial players, such as BP, celebrating a gigantic new gas and oil field off the coast of

Brazil. This trend is not just corporate; it's geopolitical. In a move that defies all logic, Russia, the world's fourth-largest emitter, recently signed a decree that effectively allows for an increase in its greenhouse gas emissions.

This widening chasm between the scientific observation of the climate crisis and the faltering response at every level is a textbook case of cognitive dissonance.

Against this backdrop of dissonance, the role of clear, evidence-based science becomes more critical than ever. The work of researchers cannot be confined to documenting this crisis; it must also help bridge the gap between knowledge and action. This is precisely why we are focusing our efforts on fostering meaningful dialogue.

It is with this commitment to action that we are also strengthening our leadership for the challenges ahead, and we are currently [recruiting a new Head](#) to advance the Centre's missions.

We will continue to champion science-led solutions with the second edition of our biennial ['Science for Climate Action' conference](#). This major event dedicated to achieving carbon neutrality in Belgium will take place in Brussels on 17 and 18 March 2026.

Science cannot be paused.



Sébastien Coulaud

Communications

Latest from the BCC



The BCC is hiring its new Head

The Belgian Climate Centre is hiring a **Head of Department** to lead its team and mission at the heart of Belgium's climate transition.

We're looking for a seasoned leader with:

- Strong management and strategic skills
- A background in climate-related research

This is a unique opportunity to maximise the impact of climate science in Belgium, bridge science and policy, and lead a growing, multidisciplinary and motivated team.

Quick process: CV submission only at this stage.

Full details & how to apply:

- [French version](#)
- [Dutch version](#)

Deadline for applications is **22 September 2025**.

Please share widely—or apply if it sounds like you!

Apply



Call for Abstracts: Belgian Science for Climate Action Conference 2026

We're pleased to announce that the second [Belgian Science for Climate Action conference](#), focusing on 'Achieving climate neutrality and just transition in Belgium', will take place in Brussels on **17th and 18th March 2026**.

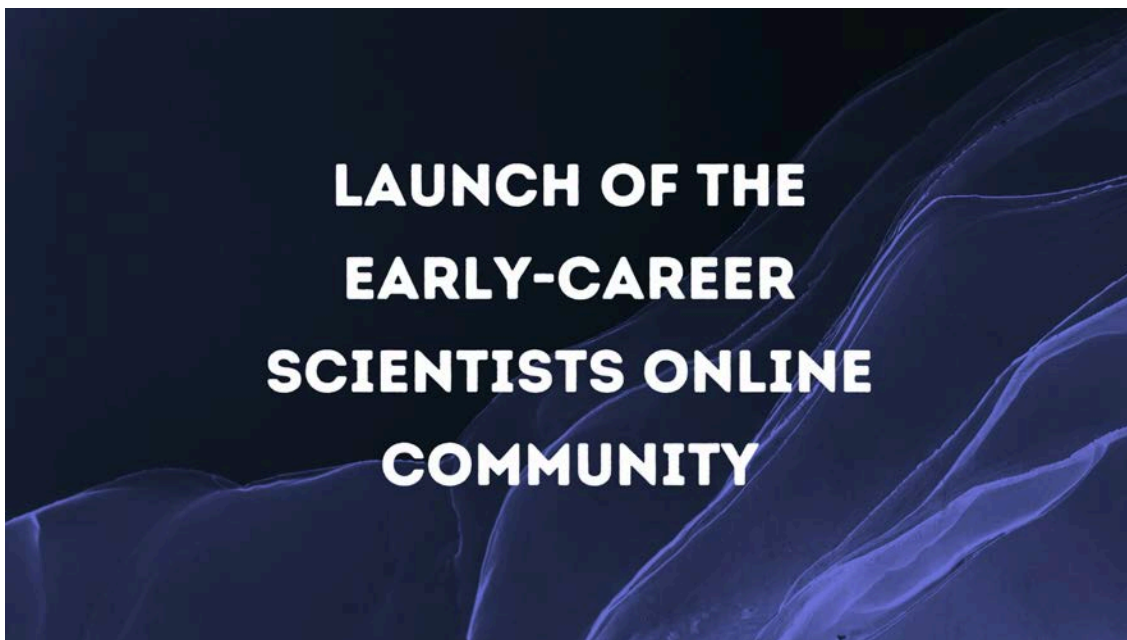
The call for abstracts is now officially open for both oral and poster presentations!

We warmly welcome submissions related to our core themes: climate science and trends;

pathways to net-zero and climate neutrality; and policy, society, and economy. As we aim to ensure a balanced and comprehensive representation of the available research at the conference, please note that spaces for both oral and poster presentations are limited, and each first author may submit only one abstract. All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by a scientific committee, with selection based on relevance to the conference themes, content quality, and the number of available presentation slots per session.

The abstract submission deadline is **23:59 CET on 15th October 2025**, and a special prize will be awarded for the best poster. All information on the conference and abstract submission can be found on our [website](#) or by following our LinkedIn page.

[Submit your abstract or poster](#)



Launch of the Early-Career Scientists Online Community

To strengthen the climate-related research capacity in Belgium, the Belgian Climate Centre launched this summer a survey to reach out to early career researchers.

More than 130 PhD students and Postdocs shared their needs and suggestions to help us build a dynamic community of early-career climate-related researchers, enabling interaction and exchange with peers, and ensuring that their research findings are useful and valuable to society. Thanks to their useful feedback and time to fill in the survey, the Belgian Climate Centre better knows how to facilitate their work and implement efficient initiatives. We are therefore happy to announce the launch of an online community on LinkedIn where early career scientists can interact, find relevant information about research and funding, networking, and strengthen collaboration across universities. The community will be launched in the second half of September. Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) to not miss it!



Climate Cookies & Coffee

The Belgian Climate Centre is pleased to continue its initiative, the [Climate Cookies & Coffee](#), a cycle of **monthly hybrid scientific seminars** where researchers share their recent work and connect with the scientific community to discuss insights. Open to all scientists in the Centre's four research domains (physical climate, land and water, technology, and society), these sessions take place on the **last Tuesday of each month**, from 14:00 to 15:30.

Each seminar features a 45-minute presentation, followed by Q&A and informal discussion over coffee, tea, and cookies.

Upcoming seminars:

Date	Speaker	Title	Registration
30/09	Joppe Massant (UGent)	The missing piece in the climate puzzle - Using AI and satellites to gain real-time 3D cloud profiles	Click here
28/10	Mouton Bénédicte (ULB)	Eco-emotions in children and youth: A participative study in Brussels and Wallonia	Click here
25/11	Bart Vermang (UHasselt)	Solar energy at the heart of the energy transition	Click here
16/12	Jozefien Schoofs (KU Leuven)	Future Extreme Rainfall in Belgium: Drivers of Intensification	Click here

Are you interested in presenting some recent research yourself?
All slots of 2026 are open!

Apply to Present Your Research

The organising committee will contact you to arrange your seminar. **We strongly encourage female researchers to submit their presentation proposals.**

Highlights & Announcements



Funding for Climate Data Initiatives

The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) has opened a [call for proposals](#) with a total budget of €4.74 million to fund national climate action projects. The deadline to apply is **30 September 2025**. The initiative aims to support the use of C3S data and products, enhance data accessibility, and foster transnational collaboration to address climate challenges. Belgian consortia are well-placed to apply.

Seven Experts from Belgian Institutions Contribute to New IPCC Report Cycle

Seven scientists from the Belgian scientific community have been selected as authors for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Seventh Assessment Report. This significant international recognition highlights the quality of Belgian climate research. These experts will contribute to the 7th assessment report and a special report on 'Cities and Climate', providing scientific input for future climate policies. More info: [FR](#) | [NL](#)

Belgian Scientists in the Media



- **Glacier retreat: Belgian study warns of financial and ecological impacts** (FR | 03/06/2025 | [link](#))
- **Increasing frequency and simultaneity of extreme climate events expected in Belgium** (FR | 05/06/2025 | paywall | [link](#))
- **Multiple climate extremes at once: 'This is becoming the new normal'** (NL | 06/06/2025 [link](#))
- **Belgium: Recent floods highlight ongoing risk and climate change impact in the Vesdre valley** (FR | paywall | 12/06/2025 | [link](#))
- **Belgian explorers reveal the climate secrets of the 'Dark Zone' on glaciers** (FR | paywall | 25/06/2025 | [link](#))
- **Climate change made heatwave in European cities even more scorching** (NL | 09/07/2025 | [link](#))
- **Nine in Ten Belgians Want More Climate Action, But Underestimate Each Other's Support** (NL | 10/07/2025 | [link](#))
- **Belgium Faces Likely Drier and Warmer Summer, Experts Warn** (NL | free with email sign-up | 11/06/2025 | [link](#))

Climate in the Airwaves



Explore fascinating climate discussions from Belgian experts!

- **Personal Impact:** ESA engineer Inge Jonckheere (EOS Wetenschap) on how individual actions fight climate change (NL | [link](#))
- **Glaciers Beyond 2100:** VUB glaciologists Magali Ponds & Harry Zekollari (DS Vandaag) reveal the urgent future of glaciers (NL | [link](#))
- **Extreme Weather:** Climatologist Xavier Fettweis (ULiège, Le Soir) links climate change to rising extreme events (FR | [link](#))

- **Youth Emotions:** ULB's Bénédicte Mouton (RTBF) explores young people's diverse environmental emotions (and presenting at our 28 Oct seminar!) (FR | [link](#))
 - **Ice Cores & Policy:** Glaciologist Marie Cavitte (RTBF) on ancient ice, future climate, and science communication (FR | [link](#))
 - **Climate Solutions:** VUB's 'Scientists with a Cause' features Wim Thiery, Sebastian Oberthür, and Audrey Baiwir discussing global solutions (EN | [link](#))
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Upcoming Events



Belgian Events



Interdisciplinary Seminar – Sobriety

 1–2 October 2025 |  Brussels, Belgium |  On-site

This seminar, hosted by UCLouvain, will focus on the concept of 'sobriety' as a key element of the socio-ecological transition. It will feature cross-disciplinary dialogues between experts in energy engineering, sociology, and environmental sciences to discuss how sobriety can reshape daily life and work structures. The event aims to co-create interdisciplinary research questions on the topic.

 [Learn more](#)


Climate March 2025

 Sunday 5 October 2025 |  Brussels, Belgium

On 5 October, a large-scale citizens' mobilisation will take place in Brussels as part of the Climate March 2025. The event underscores the growing societal demand for more ambitious climate action and for aligning public policies with long-term sustainability goals. Such collective demonstrations are a reminder of the essential role civic engagement plays in shaping the transition towards a fairer and more resilient future.

 [Learn more](#)

ICOS Belgium Science Conference 2025

 12 November 2025 |  Brussels, Belgium |  On-site

This conference brings together researchers, data users, and policymakers to explore the latest research conducted at the Belgian ICOS sites. The programme will focus on three key areas: site-level measurements and findings; the use of ICOS data in large-scale modelling and remote sensing; and new collaborations with industry and policy actors to translate science into action.

 [Learn more](#)

Horizon Europe Proposal Workshop (4th Edition)

📅 26 November 2025 | 📍 Brussels, Belgium | 🏢 On-site

This hands-on workshop is for researchers preparing proposals for Horizon Europe's Pillar 2, which includes calls on climate, energy, and mobility. Participants will analyse a real, previously submitted proposal in small groups, guided by experienced evaluators and National Contact Points (NCPs). The session offers a unique opportunity to understand the evaluation process and improve future submissions.

🔗 [Learn more](#)



European Events

WiseNight 2025

📅 26–27 September 2025 | 📍 Brussels, Belgium | 🏢 On-site

As part of the European Researchers' Night, this free science festival connects the public with scientists. The programme explores themes of land, water, oceans, and space research, making it relevant for understanding the scientific work behind environmental and climate issues in an accessible format. Events include workshops, film screenings, and discussions.

🔗 [Learn more](#)

Climate Action That Works for You - An Agenda for Competitiveness, Prosperity and Resilience

📅 30 September 2025 | 📍 Brussels, Belgium | 🌐 Hybrid

This European Commission conference will address how climate action can be aligned with an agenda for competitiveness and prosperity. The discussions are relevant for understanding the EU's policy direction on linking climate goals with economic strategy, industrial competitiveness, and societal resilience.

🔗 [Learn more](#)

European Congress on Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

📅 6–7 November 2025 | 📍 Vienna, Austria | 🏢 On-site

This congress brings together climate scientists, environmental experts, policymakers, and industry professionals to address urgent challenges in climate change and sustainability. The event focuses on climate resilience through research and innovation, covering topics such as carbon reduction, resilient infrastructure, and the role of technology, making it ideal for those seeking collaborative and innovative solutions.

🔗 [Learn more](#)



International Events

Climate Week NYC

 21–28 September 2025 |  New York, USA |  Hybrid

Held in partnership with the United Nations General Assembly, this is a major international summit for climate action. It brings together leaders from business, government, and civil society to showcase global climate action, making it a key event for those interested in the intersection of policy, innovation, and implementation.

 [Learn more](#)

Adaptation Futures 2025 (AF2025)

 13–16 October 2025 |  Christchurch, New Zealand |  On-site

As the flagship event of the World Adaptation Science Programme, this conference brings together practitioners, policymakers, and researchers. It is a crucial event for anyone involved in the science and practice of climate change adaptation, offering opportunities for networking, collaboration, and learning about the latest adaptation strategies.

 [Learn more](#)



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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