

StuCo Environmental Citizenship News

Week of December 7

Need some good news?

We hope you all had a restful and joyful Thanksgiving break and a chance to take in each day at a slower, more conscious pace.

Our news of the week: the Army Corps of Engineers has denied the company behind the massive and destructive Bristol Bay copper, gold and molybdenum mining project (aka Pebble Mine) a critical permit under the Clean Water Act, further reducing the chances of the project to be approved and thus protecting the delicate, pristine ecosystem of Bristol Bay and its high-value salmon fisheries. While the company still has the option to appeal the denial, the incoming Biden Administration has already stated that it will not approve the project, further reducing the project's much diminished chance to become reality.

Upcoming Dates & Events ...

- 12/10 Watch the "Grammys of the environmental justice movement". Learn more and sign-up information at <https://www.fractracker.org/sentinels>
- 12/14 Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) Silicon Valley Chapter meeting, new member orientation 8-8:20pm, <https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/8104415791>, password: 123
- 12/16 Acterra is hosting a panel discussion on regenerative agriculture, featuring three youth from the organization *Heirs To Our Oceans* (H2OO). To register, visit <https://bit.ly/dec16-H2OO>

Good to know ...

Climate change, global warming, renewable energy and other terms have become heavily politicized in the U.S., which makes it harder to have constructive conversations about the future of energy and increasing support for climate actions. New [research](#) by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication revealed that many people have differential reactions to "natural gas" compared with "methane" (natural gas consists of approximately 87 percent methane). The word "natural" tends to induce a more positive attitude toward natural gas, a boost that is helped further by natural gas producers' extensive marketing campaigns of natural gas as a "cleaner fuel" and a "bridge fuel" to a low-carbon energy economy. In contrast, the Yale researchers found that people held more negative emotions toward methane and associated it most often with cows, gas, greenhouse, global warming and climate change. So, as is so often the case, the key to affecting change is in the messaging.

If you're curious about environmental and climate action in the early days of the Biden Administration, check out this short [blog](#).

Things you can do ...

It's never a bad idea to reach out to your elected officials and share your opinion. It is, however, more likely to yield a response if your letter or call are part of an organized event. Many mission-driven grassroots organizations use mass callings and letter writing as a tool to affect policy changes, so look to organizations working on issues you care about and find out if and when they plan such events, which are even more important during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic's limitations on in-person visits and protests. And although Giving-Tuesday was on December 1, it is never too late to support your cause with a financial contribution.

Photo of the Week

In light of the Great American Outdoors Act that Congress passed in July, which provides a much-needed financial boost to the protection and maintenance of public lands and parks, this week's photo is dedicated to America's beautiful treasures—our National Parks.

