



NEWS ROUNDUP

11 MARCH 2025 [08:00 am]

- PHL faces fewer storms this year; temps won't be as hot — weather bureau
- This climate simulator shows how effective your sustainability ideas and efforts are
- Kalinga partners with int'l dev't agency for climate, disaster resiliency project
- Marcos bets discuss climate change, disaster mitigation in Robredo stronghold Camarines Sur
- Scientists say Trump cuts threaten climate research, public safety

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Marikina joins Car-Free Sunday bandwagon
- Pangasinan invests in community resilience
- CCC cites Pangasinan for climate resilience strategies
- Pangasinan lauded for climate resilience strategies
- Pangasinan gov't lauded for climate change action plan compliance
- CCC highlights National Adaptation Plan for resilience at 5th Philippine Environment Summit
- CCC rallies youth to help look for maritime climate solutions
- CCC, pinuri ang dumaraming lungsod na nagsasagawa ng Car-Free Sundays
- Body commends Pangasinan for climate change campaign
- CCC Urges LGUs To Fully Utilize NAP, PSF To Boost Climate Resilience

BUSINESS WORLD

[PHL faces fewer storms this year; temps won't be as hot — weather bureau](#)

By: John Victor D. Ordoñez

The Philippines is likely to face 16 to 19 tropical storms this year — fewer than the usual 19 to 20 — and temperatures that will not be as hot as last year, according to the state weather bureau.

GMA NEWS

[This climate simulator shows how effective your sustainability ideas and efforts are](#)

By: Lou Albano

Tree-planting here, coastal clean up there. How exactly do these sustainability measures help in the fight against climate change?

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[Kalinga partners with int'l dev't agency for climate, disaster resiliency project](#)

By: Iryll Sicnao

The Kalinga provincial government has inked a memorandum of agreement with international development agency Alinea Philippines for the implementation of the Governance for Climate and Disaster Resilience (Gov-DCR) project.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Marcos bets discuss climate change, disaster mitigation in Robredo stronghold Camarines Sur](#)

By: Jean Mangaluz

The senatorial picks of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. aimed to woo the stronghold of his main political opponent in the 2022 elections, former Vice President Leni Robredo, in her bailiwick of Camarines Sur.

[Scientists say Trump cuts threaten climate research, public safety](#)

By: Issam Ahmed

Climate scientist Tom Di Liberto had dreamed of working at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) since college. After more than a decade as a contractor, he finally secured a full-time position nearly two years ago.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Marikina joins Car-Free Sunday bandwagon](#)

Metro Manila is seeing a growing trend of local governments designating streets as car-free zones on Sundays, a move that promotes sustainable transport, public health and community engagement.

[Pangasinan invests in community resilience](#)

Three Ms sum up Pangasinan's climate adaptation initiatives: mangroves, mitigation and mobilization.

MANILA BULLETIN

[CCC cites Pangasinan for climate resilience strategies](#)

By: Liezle Basa Iñigo

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) cited the province of Pangasinan for its comprehensive climate resilience strategies and integrated approach to environmental sustainability, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction.

MANILA STANDARD

[Pangasinan lauded for climate resilience strategies](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has cited the Pangasinan provincial government for its comprehensive climate resilience strategies and integrated approach to environmental sustainability, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Pangasinan gov't lauded for climate change action plan compliance](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has commended the Pangasinan provincial government for its 100 percent compliance with the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP).

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC highlights National Adaptation Plan for resilience at 5th Philippine Environment Summit](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) as a key strategy for building the country's climate resilience at the 5th Philippine Environment Summit (PES) held in Iloilo City.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC rallies youth to help look for maritime climate solutions](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has urged the youth to use platforms such as the Benilde Model United Nations (BenildeMUN) to propose transformative solutions that shape the future of global maritime sustainability, reinforcing the need for proactive leadership, cross-sectoral partnerships, and science-based climate policies.

RADYO PUBLIKO

[CCC, pinuri ang dumaraming lungsod na nagsasagawa ng Car-Free Sundays](#)

By: Ej Lazaro

Pinuri ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) ang patuloy na pagdami ng mga lungsod sa Pilipinas na nagsasagawa ng Car-Free Sundays, isang hakbang na nakatutulong sa pagbabawas ng polusyon, pagpapabuti ng kalidad ng hangin, at pagsulong ng sustainable urban mobility.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Body commends Pangasinan for climate change campaign](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has acknowledged Pangasinan for its efforts to minimize the impact of climate change in the province.

PAGEONE

[CCC Urges LGUs To Fully Utilize NAP, PSF To Boost Climate Resilience](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has urged local planning officers to fully utilize the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the People's Survival Fund (PSF) to strengthen climate resilience.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

[PHL faces fewer storms this year; temps won't be as hot — weather bureau](#)

By: John Victor D. Ordoñez

The Philippines is likely to face 16 to 19 tropical storms this year — fewer than the usual 19 to 20 — and temperatures that will not be as hot as last year, according to the state weather bureau.

“We are expecting to have a below average number of tropical storms this year,” Ana Liza S. Solis, spokesperson for the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), told a palace briefing in Filipino on Monday.

“If we base this on historical data over the past 65 years, we are seeing a decrease in the trend of tropical storms since usually, we get 19 to 20 on average.”

The Philippines was the most disaster-prone country for the 16th straight time last year, according to the latest World Risk Index.

Meanwhile, the PAGASA noted that while the Southeast Asian nation is still expected to experience warmer temperatures this year, these are unlikely to reach the scorching 52°C recorded last year.

“The heat last year was more intense due to a strong El Niño, with many record-breaking temperatures and high heat indexes,” Ms. Solis said.

The Presidential Communications Office earlier said it is working with the Department of Health and PAGASA to craft contingency plans for extreme heat.

PAGASA is also working on its modernization program and is seeking to acquire state-of-the-art infrastructure and technologies to upgrade its weather forecasting capabilities, Ms. Solis said.

A heatwave hit the capital and other regions in April and May last year, as well as the bigger Southeast Asian region, leading to almost daily suspensions of face-to-face classes.

Heatwaves, which can last for several days, can strain health, emergency, energy and transportation services and eventually lead to food and power shortages, according to the World Health Organization website.

PAGASA considers a heat index of 42°C to 51°C in the “danger” category that increases the risk of cramps, fatigue and heat strokes. Temperatures of 33°C to 41°C are under PAGASA’s “extreme caution” category.

On Sunday, it said the hottest temperature on Monday would be 41°C in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro and Cuyo, Palawan. The weather bureau expected Metro Manila to experience a 36°C temperature.

“Our predicted maximum daytime temperature may rise toward the end of April or the first week of May,” Ms. Solis said, noting that Metro Manila might experience higher temperatures of 39.6°C to 39.8°C during those months.

GMA NEWS

[This climate simulator shows how effective your sustainability ideas and efforts are](#)

By: Lou Albano

Tree-planting here, coastal clean up there. How exactly do these sustainability measures help in the fight against climate change?

Enter En-Roads, a climate simulator legally owned and developed by Climate Interactive, with MIT Sloan as co-developers. Based on the best available science, it allows users to explore the impact of various policies and sustainability measures on our climate all with the Paris Agreement's 1.5C goal in mind. It's been used by decision makers in governments, businesses, NGOs, and even the academe, including former US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Upon opening the interactive simulator, you'll see that given the current policies and pledges, the world is on track to a 3.3C warming — an alarming reminder that we have a long way to go to achieve the 1.5C goal set by the Paris Agreement.

Beneath it are various fields — energy supply, transport, buildings and industry, growth, and carbon dioxide removal — that you can toggle to see which climate action will help move the needle.

For instance, taxing various fossil fuel-based energy supply like coal, oil, natural gas and bioenergy will bring down the warming temperature from 3.3C to 3.1C. Additionally subsidizing renewables will bring it down to 3C and so it goes.

Interesting and illuminating, it will remind you that tackling the climate crisis will require the whole of world approach. Perhaps more urgently, En-Roads can show how we might actually be putting too much focus on the wrong things.

In the Philippines, there are only five En-Roads ambassadors, individuals trained to give and facilitate workshops and simulations. Among them is Raf Dionisio, who does “private runs for groups who want to learn together.”

Recently partnering with Komunidad, and 3Zero House, Raf facilitated an En-Roads simulation workshop to 30 participants from various fields, including GMA News Online, giving them a feel for how a COP negotiation feels like and highlighting the importance of team work in solving the crisis.

Below are a few things we learned.

1. We cannot reforest our way out of the climate crisis

We all know that planting trees and taking care of our forests are good. These are essential. Forests can help hold water in, helping prevent floods and landslides, they sequester carbon, and they keep temperatures manageable — a most important thing given the present warming of the planet. In fact, forests can also be income generators.

During the simulation, participants initially focused on reducing deforestation and increasing nature-based solutions like afforestation (planting trees in land areas where there was no forest previously). But despite maxing these out, we failed to bring down the temperature substantially. In fact, the scenario remained at the 3.3C trajectory.

Raf, who leads reforestation initiatives across the country, even going viral last year for helping an IP community reforest their ancestral land in Zambales, told GMA News Online he feels the need to re-strategize.

"After taking the En-Roads class in June 2024, it became clear that MAD (his company) and myself had to expand to solve more issues (around climate and the environment)," he said.

Immediately, participants were reminded of what experts have time and again said: We cannot reforest our way out of the crisis. Reforestation and stopping deforestation are essential, but they not enough to solve the climate crisis.

2. It's not just the urban heat island effect

Cities feel the brunt of global warming thanks to the urban heat island effect from all the cement and the dearth of trees.

But cement doesn't just reflect the intensity of climate crisis. At the simulation, we learned it contributes to it. Cement is super carbon intensive, producing 0.5 to 0.9 kilogram of carbon dioxide for every one kilogram of cement. In fact, according to Science Direct, the yearly production of 3.6B tonnes of cement results "in approximately 3.24B tonnes of CO2 emissions every year."

Among the participants of the simulation workshop is Stephan Marrec, general manager of French construction company Reinforced Earth Philippines, who said the "very bad carbon emission footprint" of cement mainly comes from the fabrication process, where the calcification of limestones needs extremely high temperatures of 1500C.

"Cement factories are very demanding in terms of energy supply," Stephane says, and in the Philippines, these factories are powered by fossil fuels.

Exploring En-Roads, one can see that improving energy efficiency of buildings and industry (by reducing energy use of factories, for one) can bring down the temperature increase by 0.1%.

One way to make cement less carbon intensive is to include waste products into its processes and mixture. Yes, using recycled products in construction is one way to do that, but Stephane brings up fly ash, a waste product from burning coal.

Fly ash takes the form of fine powder "consisting of the noncombustible matter." Using it as a replacement for cement, doesn't just divert waste from ending up in landfills and oceans (and harming marine life and contaminating groundwater in the process), it makes cement production less carbon intensive, too.

"When we substitute part of the cement content with fly-ash, it results in equivalent [carbon] saving. For instance, if you add 30% fly ash, you reduce your emissions by 30%," Stephane explains, adding fly ash usage "can be pushed up to 50%."

3. Cleaning up our energy supply is the fastest way to 1.5C

As we explored the simulator, we found out that clean energy can quickly and effectively help bring down temperature increase. Highly taxing coal, oil, and natural gas, and subsidizing renewables immediately brought down the temperatures from 3.3C to 3.1C, while increasing the energy efficiency of both transport and buildings and industry brought it down further to 3C.

Highly subsidizing both buildings and transport meanwhile helped breach the 3C mark to hit 2.9C.

Speaking of transport...

4. The PUV modernization program will have you thinking about just transition

Before it all became about livelihood, let's not forget that the PUV modernization program was actually a government response to the climate crisis.

At the simulation workshop, Danielle V. Guillen, PhD, an associate professor at the Asian Institute of Tourism, University of the Philippines Diliman, tells GMA News Online she was in Paris when the Paris Agreement of 2015 was signed.

At that time, she was working at GIZ Philippines as their Senior Advisor on Transport and Climate Change and "one sector identified in the Philippines is reducing GHG emissions in road-based transport as part of our climate action: Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)."

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), "NAMAs refer to any action that reduces emissions in developing countries," and according to the initial study of GIZ, ours "is a combination of shift and improve approaches to reduce emissions from the transport sector and tackles different arenas of the public transport market."

The study called Jeepney+ NAMA said, "Transportation is noted as the largest source of air pollution and energy-related GHG emissions in the Philippines at 34%," with the jeepney sector contributing significantly to the GHG emissions at 7% of all transport-related GHG emissions in 2012.

Much like what the participants learned about the role of transportation in keeping temperature rise to 1.5C, the initial NAMA study said "Transport is one of the key sectors identified in order to achieve this reduction goal (NDC's reduction of 70% GHG by 2030)."

Discussions about modernization started in 2014, with the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP) really starting until 2017. By then, issues about jeepney drivers not being able to afford expensive units took the headlines.

The PUV modernization wasn't really meant to phase our traditional jeepneys out, Danielle explained. "We couldn't phase out the jeepneys because we also don't have the manufacturing capacity [to replace them]," she said.

Responding to the climate crisis shouldn't come at the expense of certain groups and sectors — like jeepney drivers. This is what just transition is about, which the International Labour Organization (ILO) defines: "Greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind."

5. The transition to electric vehicles (EVs) isn't as straightforward a solution as it sounds

As transportation amounts to 34% of air pollution and energy-related GHG emissions in the Philippines, switching to electric vehicles and foregoing fossil-fuel dependent cars sounds like an easy solution, right?

Yes — if our main energy supply isn't dependent on fossil fuels.

"You may reduce the direct emissions from your car, but because EVs are dependent on electric supply, in the Philippines, it means you need to burn coal to run your EV, which is not at all efficient in terms of overall emission," Marrec observes.

While the Philippines (along with Vietnam) leads in renewable energy expansion in Southeast Asia, our energy mix as of 2022 remains dependent on fossil fuel at roughly 67%. Renewables were only at 32.7%.

At COP29, DENR's Noralene M. Uy, Ph.D, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, International Affairs and Climate Change told GMA News Online that "the government needed to pace the country's transition to renewables due to 'certain peculiarities' of our energy sector."

"Hindi kasi pwedeng mag full blast agad ang renewables. Kailangan siya i-pacing kasi ang energy sector natin, ay private sector driven. Unlike other countries that can commit to net zero because they are centralized, we are dependent on the private sector," she said, adding "we have to navigate this challenge."

[We are looking for alternatives in the interim because we cannot go full blast on renewables. We need to pace it because our energy sector is driven by private sector. Unlike other countries that can commit to net zero because they are centralized, we are dependent on the private sector.]

The Department of Energy is looking to bring up the share of renewable energy to 35% by 2040 and 50% by 2050.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[Kalinga partners with int'l dev't agency for climate, disaster resiliency project](#)

By: Iryll Sicnao

The Kalinga provincial government has inked a memorandum of agreement with international development agency Alinea Philippines for the implementation of the Governance for Climate and Disaster Resilience (Gov-DCR) project.

Funded by the Canadian government through the Global Affairs Canada, the project is a six-year initiative to enhance Kalinga's resiliency to natural disasters and climate change by building the capacities of local government units (LGUs) and communities including women-led and community-based groups to effectively prepare, mitigate, respond to, and recover from climate-induced hazards and natural disasters.

"This is a significant milestone in our commitment to strengthening our province's resilience against climate change and disaster risk," Gov. James S. Edduba said.

"As we all know, our province is not immune to natural calamities. Over the years, we have experienced typhoons, landslides, floods, and droughts. These realities remind us that we cannot afford to be complacent," he added.

Kalinga is the only province in Luzon and one of the six in the country selected for the project, alongside Aklan, Samar, Bohol, Davao de Oro, and Bukidnon.

Edgardo Catalan, Country Project Manager of Alinea Philippines Inc., said the project will support Kalinga to enhance its climate and disaster risk assessment or CDRA and integrate it to its development plans.

"Madaming plano ang LGU, magaling tayo sa pagplano pero ang approach ng project is to really transition or shift from planning to financing and implementation," Catalan said.

Likewise, Catalan said that the project will help local governments tap funding mechanisms to implement climate change adaptation projects such as the People's Survival Fund.

It will be working with women-led and community-based organizations to amplify their voices, ensuring they have the skills, resources, and opportunities to participate in the decision-making process.

The project will also provide technical and financial assistance to these organizations and LGUs to implement CDR initiatives within the selected ecosystem.

Local chief executives in the province and civil society organizations, Kalinga State University, and other stakeholders showed their support for the project, signing a pledge of commitment to a climate and disaster-resilient Kalinga.

Also, manifesting their support are the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, and the Department of Science and Technology.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Marcos bets discuss climate change, disaster mitigation in Robredo stronghold Camarines Sur](#)

By: Jean Mangaluz

The senatorial picks of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. aimed to woo the stronghold of his main political opponent in the 2022 elections, former Vice President Leni Robredo, in her bailiwick of Camarines Sur.

Camarines Sur delivered a landslide victory for Robredo in the 2022 national elections. It was one of only two regions where Marcos lost, the other being Western Visayas.

Speaking to reporters in Pili, Camarines Sur, Marcos' candidates were asked about their plans for climate change, the environment and agriculture—a pressing issue, especially after Bicol was devastated by tropical cyclone Kristine in 2024.

Incumbent Makati Mayor Abby Binay said she would focus on securing proper funding for the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and supporting disaster mitigation projects like Project NOAH.

“I think the bottom line really is resilience. Climate change is not going to revert itself anytime soon, it is here, and the only way we can combat climate change is to be resilient. So the only way you can be resilient is to have the proper data through forecasting,” Binay said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Sen. Francis Tolentino, who was born in Bicol, pointed out that there was massive deforestation in Mount Isarog. He also said there was a need to revisit the Bicol River Basin Development Program (BRBDP) to alleviate the flooding in the area. The BRBDP is a scrapped geography-based development initiative for Bicol to help mitigate its flooding.

“We need a big budgetary outlay. This can be done and again this is needed specially with an area, big area such as Camarines Sur,” Tolentino said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Rep. Camille Villar (Las Piñas) said that while the Philippines already has many laws that integrate climate change, proper implementation was lacking.

“There is a lot of legislation on this that we need to make sure is properly implemented and there are a lot of trends in innovations around the world right now that [maybe] we can apply to our local agricultural industry,” Villar said.

Meanwhile, Rep. Erwin Tulfo (ACT-CIS) said the government needed to properly fund projects such as post-harvesting facilities and provide support to farmers. Like Tolentino, Tulfo also said he would support the BRBDP.

Former interior secretary Benjamin Abalos likewise supported the revival of the BRBDP.

Meanwhile, former senator Ping Lacson emphasized that as legislators, their focus will be on their oversight function and to make sure that government agencies are using the budget properly for flood mitigation projects.

[Scientists say Trump cuts threaten climate research, public safety](#)

By: Issam Ahmed

Climate scientist Tom Di Liberto had dreamed of working at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) since college. After more than a decade as a contractor, he finally secured a full-time position nearly two years ago.

Last week, he was among hundreds abruptly fired in a sweeping government purge which, critics warn, will delay hurricane forecasts, cripple climate research and disrupt vital fisheries.

Still more workers have accepted deferred resignation "buyouts" offered by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, and even deeper cuts are expected imminently.

"This is the dream job -- everything I want to do with my life," Di Liberto told AFP.

The 40-year-old father of two, who worked on the El Nino–La Nina cycle, was just days short of his two-year anniversary -- a milestone that would have protected him from the first round of probationary workers cuts.

"We knew it was coming," he said. "But it's never good to get such a dry, cold, callous email saying you were fired because your skills weren't needed."

A NOAA engineer, requesting anonymity for fear of losing her job, said the cuts were already taking a toll. Half of her satellite forecasting team was laid off because they were probationary, meaning malfunctioning satellites won't be restored as quickly.

"People won't be evacuated on time from natural disasters," she said. "They could lose property -- or their lives."

Project 2025

Around 700 NOAA employees -- out of a 12,000-strong workforce -- have been fired, though the agency has not confirmed a final number. According to The New York Times, the total, including resignations, could soon reach 20 percent of staff.

The Trump administration appears to be following Project 2025, a conservative policy blueprint that calls NOAA one of the "main drivers of the climate change alarm industry" and proposes breaking it up.

It also seeks to privatize the National Weather Service (NWS), forcing Americans to rely on commercial services.

"Significant elements of Project 2025 have already been implemented, despite Donald Trump disavowing any knowledge of it," Democratic congressman Jamie Raskin of Maryland told AFP, vowing continued protests and legal action.

"This is being carried out in a completely lawless and irresponsible manner."

Some of those fired held leadership roles, including Sarah Cooley, 47, who was director of NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program. A longtime academic and nonprofit leader, she said climate science stagnated under Trump's previous term, though states and nonprofits worked to fill the gap.

"But at the end of the day, loss of the work at the federal level can have a very extensive effect," she told AFP.

While states and philanthropic organizations can fund research, they don't fly planes into hurricanes or maintain oceanographic expeditions -- at least not at NOAA's level, she added.

Flagship climate agency

NOAA scientists play a crucial role in marine conservation and fisheries management, collecting data on fish stocks and monitoring ecosystem changes to set catch limits and other policies.

"If they aren't there to do their important jobs, these fisheries may not go forward, they may not open for the year," Gib Brogan, a fisheries expert at nonprofit Oceana, told AFP.

He warned that the economic fallout for coastal communities could be severe.

But it is NOAA's role as a cornerstone of global climate monitoring that has made it a prime target.

"NOAA currently plays a major role as the clearinghouse for global climate data," Zeke Hausfather, a climate scientist at The Breakthrough Institute told AFP.

Its datasets inform major climate groups, he said, warning that severe cuts would amount to "willfully blinding ourselves to avoid the uncomfortable truth about the rapid changes the world is experiencing."

As uncertainty looms, researchers worldwide are scrambling to preserve NOAA's data.

"I am aware of several research groups that have preemptively downloaded the current version of their NOAA datasets of interest to mitigate some of the risks," Leonard Borchert, a climate statistician at the University of Hamburg, told AFP.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

Marikina joins Car-Free Sunday bandwagon

Metro Manila is seeing a growing trend of local governments designating streets as car-free zones on Sundays, a move that promotes sustainable transport, public health and community engagement.

Marikina City has joined the Car-Free Sunday movement by closing part of Gil Fernando Avenue every Sunday from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. The initiative strengthens its commitment to people-friendly, green urban spaces.

With 52 kilometers of interconnected bike lanes, the Marikina City government is shaping a city where cycling and walking would be a way of life.

“We are promoting walking and biking to school and work. This is one way of giving residents a safe space where they can bond with their families and friends,” Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro said.

In Quezon City, the local government’s “Car-Free, Carefree Tomas Morato Sundays” closes a stretch of Tomas Morato Avenue to motor vehicles every Sunday morning, allowing residents to walk, bike and enjoy the open space.

Similarly, in Manila, Roxas Boulevard has been designated car-free under Ordinance 9047, providing dedicated lanes for cyclists and joggers along a 2.3-kilometer stretch from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. every Sunday.

In Makati City, the local government’s initiative on Ayala Avenue has transformed one of the busiest business districts into a pedestrian-friendly zone on Sundays, while Mandaluyong City’s Greenfield District and Taguig City’s Fifth Avenue in Bonifacio Global City offer weekend car-free spaces for recreation and fitness activities.

Pasig City is also implementing its People’s Streets program, which turns multiple streets into pedestrian-friendly spaces on Sundays. Other areas, such as UP Diliman in Quezon City and Filinvest City in Muntinlupa City, have long embraced the car-free movement, encouraging healthier and more sustainable lifestyles.

The movement has also expanded outside Metro Manila. In Davao City, Car-Free Sundays started in December 2024 along the Coastal Road, running from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. This initiative promotes an active lifestyle and enhances public well-being by offering residents a safe space for jogging, walking and cycling.

With a growing list of local government units (LGUs) adopting car-free programs — including Cebu City, Iloilo City and Baguio City — this movement reflects a nationwide shift toward sustainable urban planning and healthier public spaces.

“The Philippines has the potential to become a cleaner, more resilient and people-first region by prioritizing sustainable mobility,” said Climate Change Commission vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

Pangasinan invests in community resilience

Three Ms sum up Pangasinan's climate adaptation initiatives: mangroves, mitigation and mobilization.

Through a series of engagements with provincial government officials and local communities, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) recognized the province's commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM).

A delegation from the CCC visited the Bued Mangrove Propagation and Information Center in Alaminos and saw its diverse species such as *Rhizophora*, *Avicennia* and *Sonneratia*.

Local eco-guides shared insights on the ecological importance of mangroves in carbon sequestration and coastal protection.

CCC delegates observed that Alaminos City's reforestation initiative follows a ridge-to-reef conservation approach, which integrates forestry management, watershed protection and coastal rehabilitation to strengthen ecological sustainability, disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) of Pangasinan presented to CCC delegates its key initiatives, including Project PARAAN, a risk assessment survey that evaluates community vulnerability to natural hazards, and the Green Canopy Project, which aims to plant one million trees in its third year of implementation.

Plans such as the establishment of the Eztanza Native Tree Nursery and Project Kasilyas, which further support ecological conservation and climate resilience, were also discussed.

The agency commended Pangasinan's compliance with the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP), which enables all 48 of its local government units to design climate adaptation and mitigation projects tailored to their specific needs. The People's Survival Fund was introduced as a vital financial resource to support these initiatives.

"Pangasinan's commitment to disaster risk preparedness is commendable, as reflected in its 100 percent LCCAP submission. When we talk about hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity, we must see them not just as challenges but as part of a strategic game plan — an investment in community resilience. This is exactly what we witness here in Pangasinan," said CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

The CCC also visited the PDRRMO's 24/7 Operations Center and met with its emergency response team.

The PDRRMO underscored the province's high vulnerability to fluvial and pluvial flooding, highlighting the importance of robust early warning systems.

They also noted their use of climate and risk data from agencies, including the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Office of Civil Defense and Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

MANILA BULLETIN

[CCC cites Pangasinan for climate resilience strategies](#)

By: Liezle Basa Iñigo

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) cited the province of Pangasinan for its comprehensive climate resilience strategies and integrated approach to environmental sustainability, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction.

CCC Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said Pangasinan's 100 percent compliance with the Local Climate Change Action Plan enables all 48 of its local government units to implement initiatives tailored to address their specific needs.

The agency under the Office of the President is the lead policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate government climate change programs.

Borje stressed that Pangasinan's commitment to disaster risk preparedness is commendable as reflected in its 100 percent LCCAP submission.

"When we talk about hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity, we must see them not just as challenges but as part of a strategic game plan – an investment in community resilience. This is exactly what we witness here in Pangasinan," Borje said.

Among these efforts were Project Paraan (pioneering safety, assessing vulnerabilities, risk management, addressing hazards, achieving resilience, and navigating challenges) to increase preparedness specifically for a tsunami, and the Green Canopy Project, which has already planted 400,000 native and fruit-bearing trees as well as mangroves since it was launched in 2023.

Furthermore, Pangasinan is also advancing ecological conservation through the planned Eztanza native tree nursery and Project Kasilyas, further strengthening its climate resilience framework, Borje said.

Gov. Ramon Guico III thanked the CCC for the recognition.

Guico noted that Pangasinan's climate adaptation and mitigation efforts will not only benefit the province but will also have positive impact for the rest of Luzon given the interconnectedness of the ecosystem.

"We thank the Climate Change Commission for recognizing the consistent and collaborative work of all the LGUs of Pangasinan towards climate change adaptation, environmental protection, and socio-economic sustainability," Guico said.

MANILA STANDARD

[Pangasinan lauded for climate resilience strategies](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has cited the Pangasinan provincial government for its comprehensive climate resilience strategies and integrated approach to environmental sustainability, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction.

CCC vice chairman and executive director Robert Borje said Pangasinan's 100 percent compliance with the Local Climate Change Action Plan enables all 48 of its local government units to implement initiatives tailored to address their specific needs.

"Pangasinan's commitment to disaster risk preparedness is commendable, as reflected in its 100 percent LCCAP submission. When we talk about hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity, we must see them not just as challenges but as part of a strategic game plan—an investment in community resilience. This is exactly what we witness here in Pangasinan," Borje said.

Leading these efforts are Project PARAAN, (pioneering safety, assessing vulnerabilities, risk management, addressing hazards, achieving resilience, and navigating challenges) to increase preparedness specifically for a tsunami, as well as the Green Canopy Project, which has already planted 400,000 native and fruit-bearing trees as well as mangroves since its launch in 2023.

Pangasinan is also advancing ecological conservation through the planned Eztanza Native Tree Nursery and Project Kasilyas, further strengthening its climate resilience framework, Borje said.

Gov. Ramon Guico III thanked the CCC for the recognition, noting that Pangasinan's climate adaptation and mitigation efforts will not only benefit the province but also have positive impact for the rest of Luzon given the interconnectedness of the ecosystem.

"We thank the Climate Change Commission for recognizing the consistent and collaborative work of all the LGUs of Pangasinan towards climate change adaptation, environmental protection, and socio-economic sustainability," Guico said.

"We owe it to every Pangasinense whose commitment to lasting resiliency as well as disaster risk reduction and preparedness is anchored on a deep sense of duty, dedication and discipline to ensure the safety and sustainability of our beloved province," he added.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office also showcased its 24/7 operations center with its robust early warning systems that aim to address vulnerabilities to fluvial and pluvial flooding with data-driven decision-making.

The center integrates risk information from the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, the Office of Civil Defense, and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau to enhance disaster response.

The CCC also cited the Bued Mangrove Propagation and Information Center in Alaminos, which is home to diverse mangrove species such as Rhizophora, Avicennia, and Sonneratia.

Local eco-guides detailed the critical role of mangroves in carbon sequestration and coastal protection.

Meanwhile, Alaminos City's ridge-to-reef conservation strategy, which links forestry management, watershed protection, and coastal rehabilitation, was recognized as a model for environmental sustainability.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Pangasinan gov't lauded for climate change action plan compliance](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has commended the Pangasinan provincial government for its 100 percent compliance with the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP).

The CCC has also lauded the provincial government for its comprehensive climate resilience strategies and integrated approach to environmental sustainability, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction.

CCC Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert Borje cited Pangasinan, saying that its compliance with the LCCAP enables 48 of its LGUs to implement climate-related initiatives fit for their respective needs.

“Pangasinan’s commitment to disaster risk preparedness is commendable, as reflected in its 100 percent LCCAP submission. When we talk about hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity, we must see them not just as challenges but as part of a strategic game plan—an investment in community resilience. This is exactly what we witness here in Pangasinan,” Borje said in a statement on Sunday.

“Pangasinan is also advancing ecological conservation through the planned Eztanza Native Tree Nursery and Project Kasilyas, further strengthening its climate resilience framework,” he added.

Borje said these efforts are led by Project PARAAN, which means pioneering safety, assessing vulnerabilities, risk management, addressing hazards, achieving resilience, and navigating challenges.

The project aims to increase preparedness for disasters such as tsunamis and strengthen other initiatives like the Green Canopy Project, which has already planted 400,000 native and fruit-bearing trees, as well as mangroves since its launch in 2023.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office also has a center, which operates 24 hours. The center has early warning systems that aim “to address vulnerabilities to fluvial and pluvial flooding with data-driven decision-making.”

“The center integrates risk information from the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, the Office of Civil Defense, and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau to enhance disaster response,” the CCC said.

CCC is a policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate government climate change programs. It operates under the Office of the President.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC highlights National Adaptation Plan for resilience at 5th Philippine Environment Summit](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) as a key strategy for building the country's climate resilience at the 5th Philippine Environment Summit (PES) held in Iloilo City.

Discussions centered on transformative actions to reduce carbon footprints, with the CCC highlighting the NAP as a framework for strategic, informed, and targeted measures to minimize climate risks and ensure sustainability of the country's economic and social systems.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of the CCC, emphasized the Philippines' susceptibility to climate change. "The Philippines faces intensifying climate threats—rising temperatures, increasing sea levels, shifting rainfall patterns, and stronger tropical cyclones," he said.

"This underscores the importance of NAP as it outlines actions to reduce risks, enhance adaptive capacities, and integrate climate adaptation into national and local development planning," Borje added.

Iloilo City is one of the 18 provinces identified in the NAP as highly exposed to climate change impacts, particularly strong winds, rising sea levels, and extreme sea levels.

Borje also stressed the need for climate change mitigation, citing the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) as the country's commitment to reducing emissions and supporting global climate efforts. The NDCIP provides strategies for transitioning to cleaner energy, promoting renewable sources, and increasing energy efficiency.

While frameworks and roadmaps like the NAP are in place, Borje emphasized that their success relies on collective action. "The success of the NAP and NDCIP depends on the active participation of all stakeholders," he said.

He encouraged simple yet impactful actions to reduce carbon emissions, such as participating in tree-growing activities, refusing to use disposable plastics, conserving energy, and supporting solar, wind and other renewable sources.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary Asis G. Perez of the Department of Agriculture also called for concrete action, noting that climate change poses severe threats to the agricultural

sector. “The Philippines is not only a contributor but also experiences major impacts, such as strong typhoons that disrupt harvest seasons,” Perez said.

The three-day summit, held in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Green Convergence, brought together representatives from government, business sector, civil society, indigenous groups, non-government organizations, and students. Held under the theme “Ako ang Bukas: Quantum Leap to Climate Neutrality,” the event showcased initiatives that contribute to ecological restoration and sustainability.

Key leaders at the event included Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. and Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas.

The CCC also visited the Leganes Integrated Katunggan Ecopark, a 9.1-hectare mangrove forest rehabilitated after the devastation caused by Typhoon Frank in 2009. The ecopark serves as a vital carbon sink, contributing to climate change mitigation efforts.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC rallies youth to help look for maritime climate solutions](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has urged the youth to use platforms such as the Benilde Model United Nations (BenildeMUN) to propose transformative solutions that shape the future of global maritime sustainability, reinforcing the need for proactive leadership, cross-sectoral partnerships, and science-based climate policies.

In his speech at the 26th BenildeMUN Conference in Manila on Feb. 28, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, highlighted the Philippines' vulnerability to climate change, particularly its impact on coastal communities and maritime industries resulting from rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and marine biodiversity loss.

"The ocean is a lifeblood that sustains communities, economies, and ecosystems worldwide. For an archipelago nation like the Philippines, our connection to the sea is deeply intertwined with our identity, economy, and survival," Borje said as quoted in a news release on Friday.

"We must harness innovation not only in technology but also in policy, governance, and international cooperation to build a resilient and sustainable maritime sector," he added.

As the Philippines' largest and pioneering collegiate Model United Nations, the event gathered senior high school and college students nationwide for high-level policy discussions on global maritime challenges.

Borje outlined the Philippine government's key initiatives, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which provides a comprehensive roadmap for integrating climate adaptation into national and local development planning.

He also mentioned the Nationally Determined Contribution, which targets a 75 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, with a significant focus on maritime sustainability.

He said the Philippine Ocean Economy Satellite Accounts report showed that over 55 percent of the country's municipalities and 81 percent of its provinces have coastal areas.

Borje emphasized the need to balance economic growth in the maritime sector with ecological responsibility.

“The ocean economy of the Philippines grew by 21.1 percent in 2022, generating PHP857.74 billion in gross value added. While this demonstrates economic potential, we must ensure that this growth does not come at the expense of our marine ecosystems,” he added.

As part of the government’s broader climate agenda under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., Borje called for stronger grassroots partnerships with coastal communities.

He emphasized the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with scientific innovations in marine conservation efforts and urged students and young leaders to take an active role in advocating for sustainable practices.

The CCC, through the NAP, highlights the interconnectedness of maritime sustainability, innovation, and climate resilience, and encourages dialogue among future global leaders committed to protecting the world’s oceans for generations to come.

“Will we continue to exploit our seas until they are barren and lifeless, or will we harness the power of innovation to protect and restore the life-giving waters that sustain us all?” Borje said as he concluded his speech, leaving a resounding challenge to the student delegates.

The conference also featured a panel discussion on maritime sustainability and security in the Philippines through grassroots-initiated partnerships. Experts shared their insights on global maritime sustainability and its intersection with national security and strategic planning.

The panelists included Capt. Teddy Quinzon, PN (Philippine Airlines); Maria Gabriela Alano (Waypoints Project); Paul Bradley Ong, Chairperson of the International Maritime Organization; Dr. Patricia M. Licup, Training Program Head of the International Container Terminal Services, Inc. Foundation; Josue Raphael Cortez, Faculty Adviser for the 25th BenildeMUN; and Catherine Samaniego, Chairperson of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde's School of Diplomacy and Governance.

Held at the Design and Arts Campus Theatre of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, this year’s conference, themed “Converging Tides: Enhancing Global Maritime Sustainability through Innovation,” gathered student leaders, faculty, and distinguished experts to discuss pressing maritime challenges and innovative solutions to safeguard ocean ecosystems and coastal communities.

RADYO PUBLIKO

[CCC, pinuri ang dumaraming lungsod na nagsasagawa ng Car-Free Sundays](#)

By: Ej Lazaro

Pinuri ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) ang patuloy na pagdami ng mga lungsod sa Pilipinas na nagsasagawa ng Car-Free Sundays, isang hakbang na nakatutulong sa pagbabawas ng polusyon, pagpapabuti ng kalidad ng hangin, at pagsulong ng sustainable urban mobility.

Ayon sa CCC, ang mga inisyatibang ito ay nagpapakita ng seryosong pagkilos ng mga lokal na pamahalaan tungo sa mas malinis at mas makataong lungsod.

Dagdag pa ni CCC Vice Chairperson at Executive Director Robert Borje, mahalaga ang mga hakbang tulad ng pagbibigay-prayoridad sa mga tao kaysa sa sasakyan para sa malinis na hangin, paghikayat sa mas aktibo, at mas malusog na pamumuhay.

Kabilang sa mga lungsod na aktibong nagsasagawa ng Car-Free Sundays ang Marikina, Quezon City, Maynila, Makati, Pasig, at Taguig, gayundin ang iba pang lungsod sa labas ng Metro Manila tulad ng Davao, Cebu, Iloilo, at Baguio—na layong hikayatin ang mas maraming Pilipino na gumamit ng alternatibong transportasyon tulad ng pagbibisikleta at paglalakad.

Patuloy naman ang panghihikayat ng CCC sa iba pang lungsod sa pagpapatupad ng Car-Free Sundays upang mapalakas ang adbokasiya para sa climate resilience at low-carbon development. Sa suporta ng publiko at mga lokal na pamahalaan, inaasahan ng climate body na maging pamantayan na sa buong bansa ang Car-Free Sundays.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Body commends Pangasinan for climate change campaign](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has acknowledged Pangasinan for its efforts to minimize the impact of climate change in the province.

Robert E.A. Borje, CCC executive director, said all 48 local government units in Pangasinan submitted a Local Climate Change Action Plan or LCCAP, which should enable the LGUs to implement initiatives tailored to address their specific needs.

Borje commended the province for its comprehensive climate resilience strategies and integrated approach to environmental sustainability, disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

“Pangasinan’s commitment to disaster risk preparedness is commendable, as reflected in its 100 percent LCCAP submission. When we talk about hazards, exposure, vulnerability and capacity, we must see them not just as challenges but as part of a strategic game plan, an investment in community resilience.

PAGEONE

[CCC Urges LGUs To Fully Utilize NAP, PSF To Boost Climate Resilience](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has urged local planning officers to fully utilize the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the People's Survival Fund (PSF) to strengthen climate resilience.

During the 35th Annual National Convention of the League of Local Planning and Development Coordinators of the Philippines held Feb. 25 to 28 here, CCC Deputy Executive Director, Assistant Secretary Romell Antonio Cuenca, said the NAP and PSF are key tools to enhance local climate resilience.

The NAP aims, he said, to steadily reduce climate-related loss and damage and build the country's adaptive capacity towards transformative resilience and sustainable economic development by 2050.

On the other hand, the PSF is a dedicated finance mechanism that supports various community-based adaptation projects to strengthen the resilience of localities and ecosystems.

"The NAP provides a long-term strategy for climate adaptation, while the PSF provides financial support for local projects. As one of the most climate-at-risk countries, the Philippines must maximize these frameworks to enhance preparedness and adaptive capacity," Cuenca told the around 800 local planning and development coordinators and other LGU representatives.

With the theme "Beyond Building Back Better: Utilizing Lessons of Resilience in Development Planning," the event focused on disaster preparedness, particularly drawing insights from Tacloban's experience recovering from Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013.

He emphasized the vital role of local planning and development coordinators in ensuring these programs are effectively implemented.

"The success of NAP implementation and PSF access depends on the collective efforts of local governments. Proper compliance with PSF requirements is necessary to ensure the effective utilization of funds for climate adaptation initiatives," Cuenca said.

For his part, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, underscored the importance of these programs for local planners.

“With proper integration, utilizing the PSF and NAP in local plans will strengthen resilience and support sustainable recovery,” Borje said, noting that the NAP was developed under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

In the 5th Philippine Environment Summit (PES) held on Feb. 15 to 20 in Iloilo City, Borje also highlighted the importance of NAP as a key strategy for building the country’s climate resilience.

“The Philippines faces intensifying climate threats—rising temperatures, increasing sea levels, shifting rainfall patterns, and stronger tropical cyclones,” Boje said.

“This underscores the importance of NAP as it outlines actions to reduce risks, enhance adaptive capacities, and integrate climate adaptation into national and local development planning,” he added.

Iloilo City is one of the 18 provinces identified in the NAP as highly exposed to climate change impacts, particularly strong winds, rising sea levels, and extreme sea levels.

=END=