



NEWS ROUNDUP

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THE GUARDIAN

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DAILY TRIBUNE

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PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

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[How growing up with climate change is shaping the next generation of innovators](#)

By: Rhick Lars Albay

For 19-year-old Nathania Frida, climate change is not an abstract warning or a future risk. It is a shoreline that she's seen first-hand disappear.

"Growing up in Jakarta, I saw the impacts of climate change not as distant concepts, but as part of everyday life," said Frida, a student at the National University of Singapore (NUS). "A beach I used to walk along with my dad [as a child] is now submerged below sea level, and the roads near my home back then were often damaged by saltwater erosion during the rainy season."

Those memories – of land slipping away and infrastructure quietly corroding – shaped her decision to study environmental engineering and seek out breakthroughs that are practical, lived and shared.

"When it came time to choose my degree, I knew I wanted to pursue sustainability so I could better understand these issues and contribute to real, long-term solutions," she said.

Frida is not alone. Across the region, young people are growing up on the frontlines of climate change.

In Singapore's east coast, Ng Kao Jing remembers a childhood framed by mangroves, beaches and coastal ecosystems in Pasir Ris – and the steady pressure bearing down on them.

"Over time, this exposure also made me more aware of the pressures these spaces face, such as waste pollution and urbanisation," said the NUS student and research assistant. "That awareness sparked a desire to better understand how these green (and blue) spaces function, why they matter, and how sustainability initiatives can play a role in protecting and restoring them for the long term."

Singapore's National Youth Council (NYC) sentiment surveys have consistently shown that young Singaporeans prioritise environment and sustainability within their top five key concerns needing greater focus. However, turning that enthusiasm into meaningful action can be challenging, as some may not have access to the right guidance, resources, or opportunities to develop their ideas further.

The ComfortDelGro–EB Impact Sustainability Education Grant was established to help bridge this gap. With \$50,000 in funding, the programme supports passionate tertiary students who are eager to make a difference through practical solutions. By providing mentorship, learning opportunities, and structured support, the grant helps young people transform their observations of everyday challenges into innovative projects that contribute to a more sustainable future.

From lived experience to leadership

Launched in 2024, the grant is now in its second year, supporting a total of 20 grantees across two cohorts. Beyond financial support, it offers mentorship and professional opportunities designed to help young people integrate sustainability into diverse career paths – from engineering and transport to education, community organising and storytelling.

“It exposed me to a wide range of marine conservation topics, including mangrove research, community-based tourism, shark fisheries, women’s empowerment, coral restoration, megafauna surveys and more,” said Ng, one of the programme’s grantees in 2024.

The grant allowed Ng to pursue his Global Experience (GEx) field course in Bali and Lombok Island in Indonesia, where he saw how marine degradation is impossible to ignore.

“Effective and lasting marine conservation cannot be a purely top-down process. Local communities are not just stakeholders, but rather they are key actors with deep ecological knowledge and lived experience,” he added.

That lesson now shapes his work with plastic credits, urban and beach clean-ups, and the social enterprise Jalan Journey as advisor – creating immersive learning journeys centred around marginalised communities and environmental issues in Singapore. In his spare time, he volunteers as an intertidal tour guide of Singapore’s shorelines at low tide.

Making sustainability tangible

For 2025 grantee Koh Ying Xi, now pursuing a double degree in anthropology social sciences and environmental engineering, the challenge has been translating complex environmental systems into something people can touch and understand.

“During my internship with Werms.inc [a start-up insect farm that turns food waste into insect protein for pet feed and fertiliser], I translated hard-to-digest environmental concepts into engaging, hands-on workshops,” said Koh, adding that his student engineering projects during a recent exchange semester at Purdue University were grounded in real-world constraints.

“Together, these experiences strengthened my belief that tangible, experiential learning is most effective when it comes to learning about the environment and how to better care for and make use of it.”

He sees education as a catalyst for action.

“Education is a powerful catalyst for change when it is participatory and empowering. When people feel a sense of ownership over what they are learning, sustainability shifts from being an obligation to a conscious choice,” he said, underscoring why participatory design matters most in communities already bearing the brunt of environmental change.

For 2025 grantee Frida, impact happens quietly – at home. Her move towards a zero-waste, circular lifestyle rippled through her family.

“One especially meaningful moment was when my parents noticed that I was choosing to use items we already had at home instead of buying new ones,” she said. “That experience made sustainability feel very real and shared.”

She has also seen how youth leadership can deliver concrete results. Through a student-led project, her team Project Oceanus raised funds to install solar-powered lighting and water systems in a village in Laos.

“Witnessing the direct impact of our work in Na Xath village reinforced the importance of aligning leadership, environmental responsibility and social impact,” she said.

Investing in the next generation

By backing students like these, ComfortDelGro and EB Impact are betting on a simple idea: that solutions in sustainability are strongest when shaped by those who live closest to the problem.

As a leading global transport operator with over half its fleet made up of cleaner energy vehicles, ComfortDelGro aims to uplift the transport industry by supporting the education of the next generation in sustainability and sustainable mobility. EB Impact, a Singapore-registered charity focused on educating and bridging communities for sustainability, anchors the programme in public-interest outcomes – linking learning directly to environmental and social change.

For the grantees, the path forward is not singular. “I would encourage other young people to resist the idea that sustainability has only one ‘correct’ pathway,” Koh said. “Some of the most impactful sustainability work happens quietly – through relationship-building, translation, and care.”

As seas rise and coastlines erode, these young leaders are proof that climate education, when paired with trust and resources, can turn lived loss into lasting action.

About EB Impact

EB Impact is a Singapore-registered charity that educates and bridges communities for sustainability. Guided by our vision of empowering individuals to create a positive impact for the planet and people, our mission is to make sustainability accessible and relatable by equipping people with the knowledge and skills to take meaningful action in their daily lives. Through education, community engagement, and partnerships, we aim to build a more compassionate, connected, and sustainable society in Singapore.

About ComfortDelGro Corporation

ComfortDelGro is a leading multi-modal transport operator offering a comprehensive suite of transportation solutions. Our extensive network spans public transport including buses and rail, point-to-point transport with taxis and private hire cars as well as business-to-business mobility solutions. Every day, millions rely on our services across 13 countries including; Singapore, Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China, Ireland, Sweden, France, Malaysia, Spain, Portugal, Greece, and the Netherlands.

As a global operator, we play an important role in steering the transition towards a low-carbon economy. With over 60 per cent of our owned fleet consisting of cleaner energy vehicles, we support governments and cities in enabling inclusive and sustainable transport systems. For our efforts, ComfortDelGro has been included in the Dow Jones Best-in-Class Indices since 2019, the only Singaporean transport company in the index.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Green groups insist on shift to renewables](#)

By: Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

Environmental advocates on Friday warned that relying on imported coal to fuel power plants is not a sustainable response to the country's energy supply challenges, even as global petroleum prices continue to rise due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Jay Lim, program director of the public interest law group Tanggol Kalikasan, said the government should prioritize long-term investments in renewable energy, particularly geothermal power, instead of depending on imported coal.

"Rather than reactive importation, the country needs aggressive investment in geothermal infrastructure and grid interconnection so that our natural resources become the backbone of our power supply—not volatile coal prices shaped by geopolitics, where we are often at a disadvantage," Lim said in a statement sent to the Inquirer.

On Thursday, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said the government would resume coal importation to ensure sufficient fuel supply for power plants amid risks to global oil supply stemming from the Middle East crisis.

"We are trying to move away from coal, but because of this crisis we will reopen coal importation to prevent fuel shortages and ensure adequate power supply across the country," he told reporters.

'Pragmatic'

Lim acknowledged that importing coal may be a "pragmatic response" in the short term but said it highlights the country's slow progress in developing geothermal and other renewable energy sources.

Situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines has vast geothermal potential that could reduce its vulnerability to external geopolitical shocks, he noted.

"The government should treat geothermal energy not merely as an alternative, but as a foundation of national security," Lim said.

He also warned of a "lock-in effect," where continued investments in coal infrastructure could divert resources away from renewable energy development.

"In simple terms, short-term fixes could undermine long-term solutions," he added.

Fr. Warren Puno, lead convenor of Quezon for Environment (Queen), echoed the concern, saying the country appears to be moving against the global trend of phasing out coal.

“Continued reliance on coal imports is not an ideal path. Beyond pollution and its impacts on health and climate, it deepens our dependence on other countries,” Puno said in a separate statement.

He added: “The long-term solution lies in developing clean, locally sourced renewable energy that is just for both the environment and future generations.”

Puno reiterated the Church’s position that fossil fuels must eventually be phased out due to their harmful effects—from extraction to combustion.

Quezon province currently hosts three coal-fired power plants in Mauban and Pagbilao, with a proposed 1,200-megawatt facility in Atimonan that would become the fourth.

Transition

According to Lim, addressing the oil crisis requires more than conservation measures, calling for a “just and green transition framework” that reduces emissions while protecting vulnerable sectors.

He urged the government to expand the country’s net-metering system under the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, which allows households and businesses generating their own electricity, such as through solar panels, to sell excess power back to the grid.

Lim said net metering empowers consumers to become “prosumers,” helping lower electricity costs while reducing dependence on coal-fired power.

Joey Papa, president of the Bangon Kalikasan Movement, in another statement, said using coal to address the shortage “would further add to our problem because it is a major pollutant like crude oil.”

“Burning coal will release very harmful pollutants: carbon dioxide, which is a major driver of global warming and climate change; sulfur dioxide, which contributes to acid rain; nitrogen oxide, which causes smog and respiratory issues,” he said.

Papa said the government and private sector should instead pursue long-term alternatives through ecological and renewable energy sources, which are abundant in the Philippines as an archipelago.

“Solar energy could address our daytime needs. Wind, hydro, and geothermal power could address our nighttime needs,” he suggested.

He said natural gas could serve as a short-term source while renewable capacity is being developed.

“The question lies in how determined is our government in pursuing these without fear or favor from the US-controlled oil refineries,” he said.

Papa added that unless the Philippines stops depending on superpowers controlling oil supply—linked to current tensions in oil-producing regions—the energy crisis will persist.

“Let us go for ecological, renewable alternative sources of energy with strong determination,” he said.

THE GUARDIAN

[Heatwave scorching US west 'virtually impossible' without climate crisis, say scientists](#)

The record-breaking heatwave scorching the US west this week would have been “virtually impossible” if not for the climate crisis, a team of scientists has determined.

Millions of Americans from the Pacific coast to the Rockies baked under unseasonably warm and even dangerous temperatures this week, with temperatures up to 30F (17C) above average for the time of year.

The climate crisis, caused primarily by the burning of fossil fuels, has made this kind of heatwave four times more likely to occur over the last decade, according to a new rapid analysis released Friday.

“These temperatures are completely off the scale for March,” said analysis co-author Ben Clarke, who is an extreme weather and climate change researcher at Imperial College London, in a statement.

Heatwave scorching US west 'virtually impossible' without climate crisis, say scientists
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Even as recently as 2016, the current heatwave would have also been milder, with temperatures about 1.4F (0.8C) cooler, says the analysis by World Weather Attribution, an international consortium of climate researchers.

“These findings leave no room for doubt. Climate change is pushing weather into extremes that would have been unthinkable in a preindustrial world,” said Friederike Otto, a climate science professor at Imperial College London, who also worked on the study.

To carry out their rapid analysis, the scientists examined forecasts for a five-day period, from 18-22 March. To quantify the impact of global warming on the week’s extreme temperatures, the researchers analyzed weather and forecast data, and also used climate model simulations to compare how heat events have changed in today’s climate.

Fueled by an area of high pressure in the atmosphere, the heat dome has shattered temperature records in 140 cities stretching from California to Missouri, according to the Weather Channel, while leaving California, Nevada and Arizona under extreme heat warnings on Thursday.

More heat is in store for the coming days. The mercury is expected to continue ticking upward in the south-west, and the heatwave is expected to creep toward the plains and the south later this week. By the end of the week, 100 cities could set all-time temperature records for the month of March, with temperatures climbing as high as 30F (17C) above average for the time of year, the new analysis says.

Heat is the deadliest form of extreme weather in the US. Weather officials this week raised concerns about an increase in heat-related illnesses, especially among vulnerable populations, and advised people to remain hydrated and stay inside when they can.

The heat has also taken a toll on local economies, with multiple California and Tahoe-area ski resorts being forced to close or shrink operations amid rapid snowmelt and high temperatures this week.

“In the US west, the seasons that people and nature were used to for centuries are disappearing, putting many, including outdoor workers and those without air conditioning, in danger,” said Otto. “The threat isn’t distant – it is here, it is worsening and our policy must catch up with reality.”

Consequences of climate change

According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Philippines could lose as much as one-fifth of its economic output within the next five decades if climate change effects continue unchecked, undermining long term growth and fiscal stability.

A high-emission scenario could shrink gross domestic product (GDP) by about 5 percent as early as 2040, with losses accelerating to 20 percent by 2070.

“As a tropical island nation, the Philippines is projected to remain severely impacted by climate change, with more intense and more frequent typhoons, accelerated sea level rise, and more extreme rainfall events – all posing grave risk to businesses, communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems,” the OECD said in its first Economic Survey of the Philippines.

Further, extreme weather events can cut local economic activity by up to 2.2 percent on impact, with about 1.7 percentage points of that contraction persisting even five years later, despite post-disaster adaptation, relief, and reconstruction efforts.

The OECD said this underscores the need to integrate climate change and its consequences into economic activity, employment, inflation, fiscal space, and public indebtedness.

The Paris-based organization also flagged the lack of projections of the future fiscal change of climate change in the country’s Medium-Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF) and Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA).

The country is already ranked first among 193 countries in the World Risk Index due to high exposure to hazards, compounded by an average of 20 typhoons annually, frequent earthquakes, volcanic activity, flooding, and sea level rise.

Beyond science, societal vulnerability among the poor is heightened by fragile infrastructure and limited adaptive systems.

It also noted that despite the mounting risks, most households remain uninsured, leaving millions vulnerable to climate-related losses.

A country as disaster-prone as the Philippines, even without taking the effects of climate change in mind, should already know by now that it still needs to do more to protect its people from losses. Warning systems need improvement, Infrastructure and adaptive systems needs to be made more robust, and protections such as insurance encouraged in areas known to be vulnerable. If these investments can prevent losses and facilitate recovery, we wouldn’t waste so much time and resources getting back on our feet every time disasters strike.*

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC calls for unified climate governance across sectors](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Tuesday called for stronger integration of climate governance across government planning, stressing the need for closer interagency coordination and policy alignment.

Speaking at the Interagency Summit for Philippine Sectoral Development Planning at the Philippine International Convention Center, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the importance of aligning policies across sectors.

“Our policies must align across sectors such as agriculture, water resources, energy systems, land use, infrastructure, and environmental management. National strategies must translate effectively into regional planning frameworks and ultimately into local implementation,” Borje said.

He underscored that climate risks are interconnected and require a comprehensive response.

“The risks we face today are systemic. And if risks are systemic, our governance response must also become systemic,” he added.

The summit highlighted key policy frameworks, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP), which guide the country’s climate and development strategies.

The NAP aims to reduce climate-related losses and strengthen the country’s adaptive capacity through long-term strategies toward resilience and sustainable growth by 2050.

Meanwhile, the NDCIP supports the country’s target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030, providing a framework for coordinated implementation across sectors.

The event also forms part of ongoing efforts to develop a Draft Action Agenda focused on strengthening interagency collaboration, policy coherence, and integrated planning among national agencies and local government units.

Organized by the University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Forestry and Natural Resources, the summit gathered representatives from government, local units, civil society, development partners, academe, and the media.

The CCC reaffirmed its commitment to advancing a coordinated, science-based, and climate-resilient development planning framework for the country.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

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CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E. A. Borje emphasized the importance of strengthening policy coherence while ensuring that climate change considerations are integrated into development strategies across sectors.

“Our policies must align across sectors such as agriculture, water resources, energy systems, land use, infrastructure, and environmental management. National strategies must translate effectively into regional planning frameworks and ultimately into local implementation,” he said.

Borje also underscored the importance of national climate policy frameworks in guiding integrated and science-based development planning.

“The risks we face today are systemic. And if risks are systemic, our governance response must also become systemic,” he added.

The discussion highlighted key policy frameworks, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP), which serve as guiding instruments for the country’s climate and development pathways.

The NAP, developed under the leadership of Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., aims to steadily reduce climate-related loss and damage while enhancing the country’s adaptive capacity. The plan outlines long-term strategies to achieve transformative resilience and sustainable economic development by 2050.

Meanwhile, the NDCIP supports the country’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030, guiding coordinated implementation across sectors and institutions.

The summit also formed part of the ongoing effort from the Draft Action Agenda aimed at strengthening interagency collaboration, policy alignment, and integrated planning across national government agencies and local government units.

The event was organized by the University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Forestry and Natural Resources, bringing together representatives from national government agencies, local governments, civil society organizations, development partners, the academe, and the media to advance more coherent and coordinated development planning in the Philippines.

The CCC reaffirmed its commitment to support interagency collaboration to ensure that the Draft Action Agenda evolves into a robust framework for integrated, agile, science-based, and climate-resilient development planning for the country.

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