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Science Policy News

News from the intersection of entomology and public policy

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ESA in DC

ESA Seeks Volunteers, Input to Update Position Statements in 2023

In 2023, the ESA Science Policy Committee will coordinate the update of the following five Society position statements:

- [Entomological Collections](#)
- [Pollinator Health](#)
- [Importance of Gene Drive Research](#)
- [Tick-Borne Diseases](#)
- [Global Climate Change](#)



ESA member engagement and participation is critical to ensure these position statements reflect current knowledge and clearly convey these topics to legislators and the public. If you are interested in helping with revisions or have comments on potential updates, please submit your comments through the "[ESA Member Feedback on Society Position Statements](#)" form.

ESA Provides Input on Priorities at National Institute for Food and Agriculture

On November 2, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) hosted a listening session to solicit input from its stakeholder community. Hosted by NIFA staff and program managers, the agency wanted to hear about the top priorities from the scientific community as well as the greatest opportunities and challenges for the future. ESA appreciated the opportunity to provide verbal as well as [written input](#) to highlight some of the entomological community's opportunities for greater investment.

ESA Hosts Symposium on International Policy and Collaboration at Joint Annual Meeting

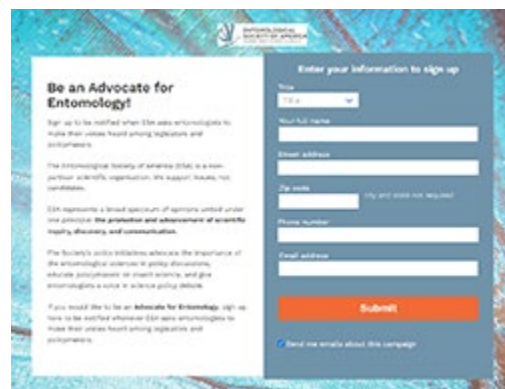
At the 2022 Joint Annual Meeting of the Entomological Societies of America, Canada, and British Columbia in Vancouver in November, the ESA Science Policy Committee (SPC) hosted a joint symposium with its counterpart at ESC. Over the course of three hours, the program, titled "[Harnessing International Policymaking Strategies to Address Grand Challenges: Inspiring Cooperation](#)," looked at transnational science policy and diplomacy through such topics as vector-borne disease, sustainable approaches to agriculture, and equitable approaches to international collections.

The ESA SPC thanks everyone that participated as speakers, including Luke Tilley, Ph.D., from the Royal Entomological Society, who provided the opening remarks, as well as Canadian colleagues who served as panelists. The SPC also thanks the audience who engaged in robust dialogue during the question-and-answer session after each panel.

Advocate for Entomology!

Sign Up for ESA Action Alerts

Be an advocate for entomology! In 2022, ESA is issuing new issue-specific advocacy alerts, enabling ESA members to easily connect with legislators and offer timely subject-matter expertise. [Sign up now to receive ESA science-policy action alerts.](#)



The image shows a sign-up form titled "Be an Advocate for Entomology!". The form is set against a background of a globe. On the left side, there is introductory text: "Sign up to be notified when ESA asks entomologists to make their voices heard among legislators and policymakers.", "The Entomological Society of America (ESA) is a non-profit scientific organization. We support, fund, and coordinate.", "ESA represents a broad spectrum of opinions united under one purpose: the protection and advancement of scientific inquiry, education, and communication.", "The Society's action initiatives address the importance of the entomological sciences in policy discussions, advocate policymakers on insect science, and give entomologists a voice in science policy debates.", "If you would like to be an Advocate for Entomology, sign up here to be notified whenever ESA asks entomologists to make their voices heard among legislators and policymakers." On the right side, there is a form titled "Enter your information to sign up" with fields for "Title", "First/last name", "Street address", "City, state, and zip", "Phone number", and "Email address". There is a "Submit" button and a checkbox labeled "Send me emails about this campaign".

Or, act now to contact your legislators through one of our three current Action Alerts:

- [Help Pass the PREVENT Pandemics Act](#)
- [Tell Congress About the Threat of Invasive Species](#)
- [Encourage Congress to Help Save Coffee and Promote IPM](#)

Congressional Updates

Midterm Elections Bring Changes for Congressional Committees, Climate and Environment Legislation

Following the midterm elections in November, Democrats retained control of the Senate while Republicans won a narrow majority in the House. This will usher in a divided government for the 118th Congress. As a result, it is unlikely that the next two years will see passage of highly partisan legislation or successful attempts to roll back major legislative packages passed during the 117th Congress, including the *Inflation Reduction Act* and its substantial climate-related provisions.

The 118th Congress also faces some of the most significant leadership changes in over 20 years, with at least 15 new chairs or ranking members impacting 14 different House and Senate Committees. Under a Republican majority, the House is likely to prioritize oversight of both federal agencies and implementation of recent landmark legislation and will face difficulty advancing climate-focused legislation.

For more, see [Lewis-Burke Associates' detailed analysis of implications of the midterm elections](#).

Federal Agency and Administration Updates

COP27 Climate Conference Establishes Fund to Address Climate Impacts in Developing Countries

President Biden, the U.S. climate negotiations team led by Special Presidential Envoy on Climate Change John Kerry, and several Cabinet officials represented the U.S. at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Negotiations in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from November 6-19, referred to as COP27. At this meeting, U.S. officials highlighted success linked to Congressional support for ambitious progress to address climate change such as the *Inflation Reduction Act* and the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, both of which passed after last year's climate conference (COP26). In addition, the U.S.

joined many international partners to [announce](#) new programs and updates to existing programs, including a few with direct linkages to international research.

Ultimately, the [negotiated outcome](#) focused on addressing existing climate change impacts, rather than advancing more ambitious climate change mitigation. At COP27, UNFCCC parties agreed to establish a fund to address the loss and damage that developing countries are already facing because of climate change. Although the U.S. and other developed countries have pushed back against this agenda in the past, supporting the fund represents an international approach to the Biden administration's environmental justice agenda and provides an even stronger demand signal for research in innovative insurance mechanisms to help reduce risks to vulnerable communities. The final agreement also expanded attention under the UNFCCC to promote agriculture and food security, with the approval of a new four-year work program that will support agricultural data sharing, as well as collaboration and exchange to address climate smart agriculture and nature-based solutions.

OSTP Holds Community Forum Regarding Public Access Policy Guidance

Officials from the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) discussed their recent policy [memorandum](#) to federal agencies concerning their public access policies in a [community forum](#) hosted on November 7. The policy memo, an update to [previous guidance](#) issued in 2013, requires all publicly funded research, including both publications and the underlying data on which they are based, to be made publicly available by 2025.

During the forum, OSTP Deputy Director for Science and Society Alondra Nelson emphasized that agencies have been given discretion to determine if the scope of their implementation will extend beyond peer-reviewed journal articles to also include peer-reviewed book chapters, monographs, or conference proceedings. In addition, agencies will also have discretion to develop innovative ways to track and share data and publications throughout the research cycle, which could include augmenting or building on capabilities of existing data repositories.

Speakers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institutes of Health, and Institute of Museum and Library Services shared their progress to date on responding to the 2022 Public Access Memo. Each agency will take a different approach, though all emphasized that they anticipate opportunities to engage with the community to inform their response. The National Science Foundation held a public forum on November 30 and has developed a [Public Access Initiative webpage](#) to detail its efforts, including its participation in interagency coordination and opportunities for future engagement.

Funding and Engagement Opportunities

Comments Sought for National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases

In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention circulated the [National Public Health Framework for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Humans](#). Using the five goals and 19 strategic priorities developed using the framework, on November 21 the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a [request for information](#) soliciting comments and suggestions from stakeholders for the development of a new National Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases. The proposed strategy details the federal government's priorities for addressing both current and potential future vector-borne disease threats. [Submit comments and suggestions electronically](#) by **December 21**.

U.S. Global Change Research Program Seeks Input on Draft Fifth National Climate Assessment

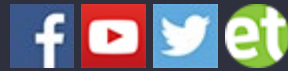
The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) is [seeking public comment](#) on the draft [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#) (NCA5) report. USGCRP is mandated to issue updated National Climate Assessments every four years to assess the effects of global climate change, recent findings, and projected trends. The [draft NCA5](#) includes sections focused on physical sciences, national topics, regional issues, and potential responses, as well as emerging and cross-cutting topics. [Submit comments](#) by **February 2, 2023**.

Learn More About ESA Science Policy

ESA Science Policy Program Links

- [ESA Science Advocacy Priorities](#)
- [Position Statements](#)
- [Fact Sheets](#)
- [Science Policy Fellows Program](#)
- [Partnerships and Coalitions](#)
- [Advocacy Tools: Get Involved!](#)
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