



ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
SHARING INSECT SCIENCE GLOBALLY

Science Policy News

News from the intersection of entomology and public policy

September 2022

In This Issue

ESA in DC

- [ESA Leads Successful Entomology Advocacy Week 2022](#)
- [VBDN Hears From Senate Staff Regarding New One Health Bill](#)
- [ESA Grand Challenges to Co-Host Workshop on Invasive Wood and Plant Pests](#)

Congressional Updates

- [Biden Signs Inflation Reduction Act](#)

Federal Agency and Administration Updates

- [White House Issues Guidance on Public Access to Federally Funded Research](#)

- [Biden Administration Releases Draft Environmental Justice Scorecard, Seeks Community Feedback](#)
- [White House Announces Date for Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#)
- [OSTP Releases Emerging Contaminants Research Plan](#)

ESA in DC

ESA Leads Successful Entomology Advocacy Week 2022

On August 15, ESA launched [Entomology Advocacy Week 2022](#), kicking off with a [webinar](#) on the importance of engaging entomologists with policymakers, led by ESA Vice President Marianne Alleyne, Ph.D., and Sonny Ramaswamy, Ph.D., former director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and current president of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.



They spoke about why they are personally passionate about engaging in advocacy and how entomologists can get involved. Despite concerns among scientists about being seen as partisan, ample [evidence](#) indicates the public wants scientists to inform decision-making at the national level.

On August 17, the second [webinar](#) of the week focused on insect biodiversity loss and was led by ESA President Jessica Ware, Ph.D., and 2016 President May Berenbaum, Ph.D. During the webinar, Ware announced a new ESA Presidential Task Force on Insect Biodiversity Loss. Interested attendees were invited to [submit](#) their names as potential volunteers as the task force gets up and running.

In addition to the webinars, entomologists were encouraged to engage with legislators through ESA's new Action Alerts:

- Ask Senators to support the [PREVENT Pandemics Act](#)
- Tell Congress about the [threat of invasive species](#)
- Encourage Congress to help [save coffee and promote IPM](#)

- [Sign up](#) for ESA Action Alerts

By the end of the week, several dozen ESA members signed up for the grassroots platform, and more than 200 letters on these three issues were sent to the Hill through the campaign. These opportunities remain open for those who haven't participated yet but want to get involved!

VBDN Hears From Senate Staff Regarding New One Health Bill

Earlier this summer, ESA met with staff from the office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and learned of a new bill she is planning to introduce this fall focused on One Health security. The bill is intended to create a framework to more effectively protect the health of people, plants, animals, and ecosystems and detect emerging threats. ESA leads the Vector-Borne Disease Network (VBDN), a coalition of more than three dozen organizations focused on advocating for research, resources, and infrastructure to support prevention and management of vectors of disease. The concept of One Health has strong dimensions related to vector-borne diseases and biodiversity, so ESA felt this was an excellent opportunity for the VBDN to provide perspective and input, which represents a very broad constituency, especially as it pertains to One Health.

On August 26, staff from the office Senator Gillibrand met with the VBDN for its quarterly summer meeting to provide an overview of what is in the bill and to solicit feedback and input on a discussion draft of the bill that has been circulated. The Senator's staff was appreciative of the recommendations from the community.

As of this writing, the bill has not been introduced. The Senator's staff are currently looking for a Republican counterpart so they can introduce a bipartisan bill, which may be contributing to the delay of the introduction, along with other Senate activity before the November elections. However, the staff have realistic expectations that this is merely a "marker" bill for this Congress and, following the start of the 118th Congress in January, will reintroduce the bill.

ESA Grand Challenges to Co-Host Workshop on Invasive Wood and Plant Pests

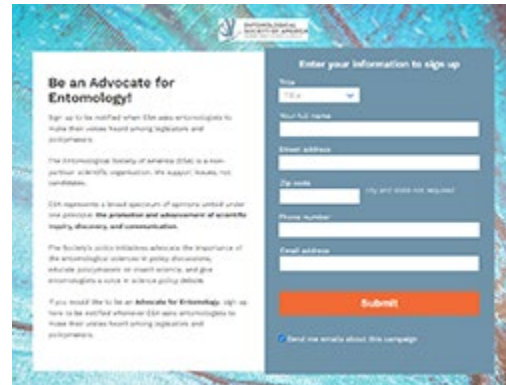
On Tuesday, September 20, the ESA Grand Challenges Agenda for Entomology (GCAFE) and The Nature Conservancy's Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases are hosting a [pre-conference workshop](#) in advance of the Society of American Forester (SAF) National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. This workshop, titled "Protecting Trees and

Forests from Invasive Pests through Collaborative Solutions," will bring together representatives from federal agencies, trade associations, the research community, and other stakeholders to explore collaborative strategies. [Registration](#) is limited but available through the SAF National Convention website.

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.](#)

A screenshot of a web form titled "Be an Advocate for Entomology!". The form is set against a background of a blue and white pattern. On the left side, there is introductory text about the Entomological Society of America (ESA) and its mission. On the right side, there is a registration form with fields for "First name", "Last name", "Email address", "Phone number", and "City and state (not required)". There is also a "Submit" button and a checkbox for "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

Biden Signs Inflation Reduction Act

On August 16, President Biden signed the [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#), Democrats' major energy, climate, health care, and tax package. The law will raise approximately \$790 billion generated through new tax revenue and savings and spend \$485 billion on energy, climate, health care, and tax policies.



Of this spending, \$370 billion will be used to support the deployment of clean energy technologies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help combat climate change. Most of this would be achieved through tax credits and other incentives. Most notable for ESA priorities will be \$20 billion for climate-smart agricultural conservation programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture that aim to reduce emissions, improve soil health, and increase carbon sequestration, including \$250 million to support agricultural research, education, extension, and scholarship programs at 1890, 1994, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic-serving institutions. [See Lewis-Burke Associates' full analysis of the *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*.](#)

Federal Agency and Administration Updates

White House Issues Guidance on Public Access to Federally Funded Research

On August 25, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued a [Memorandum on Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research](#). The new guidance builds upon a [2013 memorandum](#) issued by the Obama Administration, which directed all federal departments and agencies with more than \$100 million in annual research and development expenditures to develop a plan to support increased public access of federally funded research, focused on scholarly publication and digital data resulting from such research.

In the updated guidance, OSTP asserts public feedback indicates a major limitation of the 2013 policy is the optional 12-month embargo on making data and publications publicly available. The new guidance directs federal agencies to make publications and research stemming from federally funding publicly accessible, without an embargo or cost. Agencies must fully implement these updated policies by December 31, 2025.

OSTP directs agencies to work with the White House to update their public access plan within the coming months, removing all embargos on scholarly publications resulting from federally funded research, ensuring machine readability of articles posted in publication repositories, and updating data policies to ensure data associated with scholarly publications resulting from federally funded research is made immediately publicly available upon publication. In addition, agencies must consult with impacted stakeholders as they develop their plans, and they must make publishing and data sharing costs allowable in research grants. Agencies must publish their updated plans by the end of 2024.

Biden Administration Releases Draft Environmental Justice Scorecard, Seeks Community Feedback

The Biden administration, through the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), is continuing its efforts to address environmental injustices with the release of the first-of-its-kind [Environmental Justice Scorecard](#). This tool, developed based on stakeholder recommendations gathered by the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, will be used to evaluate progress being made by federal agencies on implementing the goals of the Justice40 initiative and ensuring that benefits of federal investments are targeted toward underserved communities where they are most needed.

The CEQ is currently seeking feedback on the draft Environmental Justice Scorecard to ensure that its vision, framework, and outcomes reflect the voices and needs of environmental justice communities. While CEQ plans for the Scorecard to evolve over time, it will initially focus on assessing federal programs across three categories: reducing disproportionately borne harms, delivering investment benefits, and undertaking institutional reforms needed to center justice in decision making. Feedback on the Scorecard can be [submitted online](#) through **October 3**.

White House Announces Date for Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

The White House [announced](#) that its [Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#) will take place on Wednesday, September 28. This conference is the second of its kind after the first Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health in 1969 led to the creation of cornerstone domestic food programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The White House additionally revealed that at the conference it will announce a National Strategy that "identifies steps the government will take and catalyzes the public and private sectors to address the intersections between food, hunger, nutrition, and health." The event will be centered around five pillars to help identify such actions, one of which is "enhance nutrition and food security research." The events will be livestreamed on the conference website.

Additionally, the Task Force on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health [issued a report containing policy recommendations](#) to support the goals of the conference and inform conference priorities, spanning federal nutrition programs, public health and nutrition education, health care, research and science, business and innovation, and federal coordination. Included in the research and science section of the report were recommendations to create a new national nutrition science strategy to improve coordination and investment in federal nutrition research focused on prevention and treatment of diet-related conditions; increase leadership,

coordination, and investment in nutrition research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and utilize research and data sharing to improve nutrition policies and programs across federal agencies.

OSTP Releases Emerging Contaminants Research Plan

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) [published a report on the National Emerging Contaminants Research Initiative](#) (NECRI) that outlines a coordinated federal approach to address research gaps in evaluating emerging contaminants in drinking water and affiliated adverse health effects. The report describes five key research goals, one of which includes a recommendation for federal agencies to support the development of a network of research centers focused on contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) comprised of university, industry, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and government partners at federal, state, local, and Tribal levels.

These centers would be intended to advance research capabilities, minimize duplication and other challenges, and increase communication between partners and would share data through a data repository. The network should also encourage community engagement and consider environmental justice and climate change in its efforts.

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!](#)
- [Tell Us What You Think](#)
- [Sign Up for Advocacy Alerts](#)

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

Entomological Society of America (ESA), 3 Park Place, Suite 307, Annapolis, MD 21401-3722 USA
(1)-301-731-4535 www.entsoc.org
[Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)