

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Monthly Digest

This month brings a sharp focus on planetary boundaries, circular economy policies, and green education. From the latest negotiations on global plastic pollution, to the alarming early arrival of Earth Overshoot Day, to the EU's plans for a Circular Economy Act. August is shaping up to be a critical month for sustainability worldwide.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Juan Pablo Castillo

This month, we shine the spotlight on **Juan Pablo Castillo**, in our conversation, he reflects on the importance of taking initiative in environmental action:

*"I see myself as a person who is conscious in the aspect of environmental awareness, and because of that, **I want to do what is in my hand to change the world into a cleaner place...**When I go for walks, usually once every two days, I bring a bag with me to pick litter on the way home. I do not try to leave the places clean but pick up some trash once every time I go for a walk. **I believe that constant little actions can snowball into a big change in the future.**"*

[Read full interview here](#)

Second Part of the Fifth Session (INC-5.2)

The second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment(INC-5.2), took place from 5 to 15 August 2025 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

“It’s now high time for Member States to get the deal over the line.” These were the words of United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Inger Andersen as the negotiations, which many hoped would lead to the adoption of a new treaty to end plastic pollution, commenced in Geneva. But once again delegates were unable to reach consensus and could not adopt a new treaty.

Sources: [UNEP](#), [IISD](#)

Earth Overshoot Day Arrives Earlier than Ever

On **July 24, 2025**, humanity used up all the ecological resources the planet can regenerate this year, marking the **earliest Earth Overshoot Day in history**. This stark milestone underscores the widening gap between consumption and planetary limits. This year the Earth Overshoot day came one week earlier than last year and alarmingly almost one whole month earlier than the one five years ago, which was on August 22, 2020.



Source: [Canva](#)

Source: [Geneva Environment Network](#)

Green Education Initiatives

The EU continues to promote **green education** as a cornerstone of the ecological transition. Green education initiatives focus on equipping learners with the skills, values, and mindsets needed for a sustainable future.

- Climate literacy is being embedded into school curricula.
- Vocational and higher education are integrating ecological transition skills.
- Teachers and communities are seen as key multipliers for change.

Why it matters: Education is not only about knowledge, but about **empowering generations to lead the green transition**.

Source: [European Commission](#)

Circular Economy Act: consultation and call for evidence

On **August 1st, 2025**, the European Commission launched a public consultation for the upcoming **Circular Economy Act**. It marks a significant step in the impact assessment process, which will enable the Commission to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders and the broader public, thereby better understanding the bottlenecks and opportunities for the wider deployment of a circular economy.

The Circular Economy Act aims to accelerate the transition to a more circular economy, **increasing the EU's economic security, resilience, competitiveness and decarbonisation**.

Due for adoption in 2026, it aims to establish a Single Market for secondary raw materials, increase the supply of high-quality recycled materials and stimulate demand for these materials in the EU.

The feedback period is open until **6 November 2025**.

Source: [European Commission](#)



Source: Canva

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