



# NEWSLETTER WEEK 6

**Hey guys,**

It seems that while we weren't watching, **week 6** crept upon us. For sure, with everything that's going on, it is no wonder that we are all so distracted. However, this is exactly why today we wanted to remind you to, every once in a while, just stop and look around. For as absurd as it seems, **spring did decide to return to us**; and you don't need much to live it. Just leave your window open and listen to the birds; stop on your way to class and let the spring breeze wash over you; take a walk in the night, look up, and see that, although you might have doubted it, above the clouds there *is* a sky, and it is full of stars.



## This Week

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Need a break from studying? Want to see something unspeakably beautiful? Then join us this Monday at 20:30 for the second Green Office film club of the semester! We'll be watching [Baraka](#), described by its director as a 'guided meditation on humanity'. Shot in 25 countries and 6 continents, the goal of the film is to 'reach past language, nationality, religion and politics and speak to the inner viewer'. You can watch the trailer [here](#).

The Eleanor Green Office film club presents

# BARAKA

## A WORLD BEYOND WORDS



**Monday, 7th of March  
starts at 20:30  
in Eleanor**

Movie screening + free snacks

"If man sends another  
Voyager to the distant  
stars and it can carry only  
one film on board, that  
film might be Baraka."

Last week, we began working on a [small herbs garden in Eleanor](#) - now it's time for the finishing touches! Join us on Wednesday at 4pm in the Green Office for an adventurous collaboration of spray paint, kitchen knives, and a glue gun.

We did a bit of research, and found that most of you are busy on Wednesdays, so from now on our eco-errands will take place on Saturdays! Join the [eco-errands](#) group chat to know more.

And finally, a reminder: last week, a new episode of UCRadio was released. Tune in to listen to our [Green Talk](#) interview with Professor Kocher on the sustainability of [nuclear power](#).

## We need you

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Our mission is to make UCR more sustainable, and this semester we are focusing on [academics](#). We wanted to know if you would like to see questions of nature conservation, climate action, and global warming addressed in your courses. We created a [questionnaire](#) where you can give us your feedback and your suggestions; once we have the results, we will contact our professors and share with them what we heard from you. You can fill out the questionnaire [here](#) - it should take 5 to 10 minutes. Thank you!

Would you like to become a [Green Office volunteer](#)? Join the [group chat](#) and be the first one to know about our events!

## Climate News

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Usually this is the part where you can read a summary of three pieces of news. However, this week we will do something different. Last Monday, a new [IPCC report](#) was released, offering a harsher than ever warning about the effects of climate change. The importance of the report cannot be overstated and in this newsletter it will be our main focus. Especially so, because, when trying to select climate-related news earlier this morning, we had to actively *search* for articles about it - something that would seem ridiculous if it wasn't so very terrifying.

First and foremost, [what is this report?](#)

The text published this Monday is actually the second installment of the sixth IPCC report. IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reports are 'comprehensive reviews of global knowledge of the climate', with the first one released back in 1988. The current report took [7 years](#) to write by [270 researchers](#), drawing on [34,000 scientific studies](#). Its first installment, on the physical science of climate change, was published last August. The current one looks at the impacts of climate change and deals with the question of adaptation; the next one will be published in April and will focus on ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions; and a final summary will be released next October

in preparation for the **climate summit in Egypt**. Most importantly, while there has been five IPCC reports before, this is likely to be the last one before the effects of climate change become irreversible.

So, **what does the report say?**

The report points to an **accelerating crisis**, with effects even more severe than predicted. Currently,

- **3.5 billion people are highly vulnerable** to the effects of climate change,
- half a million people are in risk of **flooding** every year,
- one in three people are exposed to **extreme heat**
- and half of the world's population suffers from **water shortages** at least one point in the year.

Even if heating is kept under 1.6°C (which seems unlikely at the current rate), about **8% of farmlands** will be lost by 2100 - at the same time, the world's population is predicted to reach 9 billion by then. Furthermore, global warming brings on a cascade of effects, where wildfires, dying trees and the melting of the permafrost - all caused by climate change - lead to additional carbon emissions, perpetuating the crisis.



What about **efforts to tackle the crisis?**

The report points to a **rapidly closing window of opportunity**, but also warns that some effects of climate change are **already irreversible**. The researchers argue that climate change is inseparable from the **biodiversity crisis and global inequality**, and therefore its tackling requires the addressing of 'inequities such

as those based on gender, ethnicity, disability, age, location and income'. This latter point ties into a growing demand for [climate funds](#) - that is, financial support from richer countries to the most affected populations that usually live in the poorest regions and have contributed the least to the current crisis. Concrete steps outlined by the report include the [conservation](#) of 30-50% of Earth's land, freshwater and oceans, the restoration of wetlands, and the greening of cities. The importance of [adaptation](#) - heavily underfunded to date - is emphasised, however its limits are recognised; especially so, since the acceleration of the crisis will at one point overwhelm our ability to adapt. As an author of the report put it: '[The choice is not between if we transform or not anymore](#). The choice is, do we choose transformations we like? Or do we get transformed by the world in which we live because of what we've done to it?'

Read more about the report [here](#), [here](#), or [here](#).

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And that's it for today. See you next week,

Your Eleanor Green Office

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