



Brighter Green

Equity. Sustainability. Rights.™

We've been so busy this year that we haven't had time to get our newsletter out for months—so consider this newsletter our way of getting you up to speed. Brighter Green is getting ready for the upcoming UN climate talks in Cancún. We will be attending the COP16 as an "observer organization" (UN speak for NGO attendees), and will be participating in the Klimaforum, the civil society or NGO counterpart to the governmental conference. Read on to learn about what we're planning for Cancún and other projects we have underway.

We'd Welcome Your Support



Please consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#) to support Brighter Green's ongoing work. We need you.

Brighter Green Grows: New Associate, Interns

Brighter Green welcomes new Associate [Simone de Lima](#), a biologist and Professor of Psychology at the Universidade de Brasilia in Brazil.

We'd also like to welcome two new interns, [Piyali Syam](#), a junior philosophy major at Fordham University, and [Claudel Leveille](#), who recently received his B.A. in psychology from Princeton University. They are helping us complete and share our policy papers on climate change and industrial animal agriculture, as well as researching a planned project on community-based solar energy in Kenya and the public health impacts of the global spread of the Western diet.

Archana Dittakavi, a third-

Policy Papers: Hot off the Press



A major project of our [Food Policy & Equity Program](#), three policy papers on climate change and the globalization of industrial animal agriculture in Brazil, China, and Ethiopia, with accompanying multimedia and research briefs, [are now available](#). The papers, the first of their kind, explore the impacts of the intensification of meat and dairy

production—and consumption—on global warming. But they also delve into a host of related national and international challenges, including food security, public health, resource use, environmental degradation, livelihoods, and animal welfare. The papers also analyze crucial issues of sustainability and equity.

[Climate, Food Security, & Growth: Ethiopia's Complex Relationship with Livestock](#) details the ecological and food security consequences of the intensification of Africa's largest livestock herd.

[Cattle, Soyanization, & Climate Change: Brazil's Agricultural Revolution](#) explores the widespread environmental destruction underway as Brazil converts the Amazon rainforest and Cerrado wood- and grass-lands into grazing grounds for cattle and vast soybean fields for farmed animal feed, and becomes a top exporter of meat and soy.

A revised and updated version of [Skillful Means: The Challenges of China's Encounter with Factory Farming](#), initially published in 2008, explores the climate, ecological, public health, and animal welfare consequences of China's unprecedented development—and the surge in meat consumption over the past three decades.

Two-page policy briefs based on each of the papers are also available [here](#).

year student at Brooklyn Law School, is researching "nature's rights" for a forthcoming Brighter Green project, as well as India and factory-farm issues.

Thanks to 2009-10 academic year intern [Whitney Hoot](#), who graduated from Barnard College of Columbia University in May. Whitney did great work with Brighter Green in June, and continues to blog for us from Pohnpei, Micronesia, where she's teaching algebra for a year. Whitney is also expanding her research for Brighter Green on the theory and practice of nature's rights.

And thanks, too, to Jesse Carollo, an undergrad at Columbia who contributed a lot to Brighter Green over the summer and is now back at school, working towards his B.A.

Article in the Huffington Post

Mia MacDonald's [blog](#), published in the Huffington Post this spring, generated a considerable amount of online attention. The piece, which focused on Goldman Sachs' investments in the Chinese factory-farming industry, caught the attention of [The PETA Files](#), [Discovery's Planet Green](#), and [Current TV](#).

Check back with us later in the year for the fourth paper in this series, Veg or Non-Veg? India at the Crossroads. For a preview, read a [policy brief](#) based on our India research.

Conferences

Brighter Green at COP 16 (and Elsewhere)



The [2010 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) will take place in Cancún from November 29-December 10, 2010. Mia MacDonald, Justine Simon, and Sangu Iyer will represent Brighter Green; our delegation also includes colleagues Dawn Moncrief from [A Well-Fed World](#), Seble Nebiyeloul-Kifle from the [International Fund for Africa](#), and Dr. Hope Ferdowsian from the [Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine](#). Our work in Cancún will center on sharing details of our work on the climate impacts of industrial animal agriculture, including information from Brighter Green's "just off the press" policy papers (see below). Stay tuned for our blogs from the conference.

Last year, Executive Director Mia MacDonald attended the UN climate change conference (COP 15) in [Copenhagen](#). She spoke at a side event at the government conference that Brighter Green co-sponsored along with Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai and the [Green Belt Movement](#), screened an early version of "[What's for Dinner?](#)", our new half hour documentary on China at the Klimaforum, and blogged frequently. For the entirety of Brighter Green's coverage of the Copenhagen climate conference, please click [here](#).

Also of note, intern Whitney Hoot traveled to Cochabamba, Bolivia in April to attend the [World People's Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights](#) for Brighter Green. The conference, which served as an alternative, as well as follow up, to COP 15, sought to bring new perspectives to discussions of sustainability, including environmental rights. Whitney spoke about Brighter Green's research on India, the growth of factory farming, and climate change at a panel with Indian NGOs. To access coverage of the proceedings, including Whitney's blogs and links to some of the documents that came out of the conference, please click [here](#).

Presenting *What's for Dinner?*

We're currently submitting to film festivals in the U.S., Europe, and other regions our documentary, [What's for Dinner?](#), directed by Jian Yi, which explores the effects of China's increasing appetite for meat and dairy products on a range of people in rural and urban parts of the country. We are also exploring commercial broadcast potential. We'll keep you posted on where and when you might be able to see the 33-minute film shot in Mandarin and Jiangxi dialect, with English subtitles.

On the Road

Mia MacDonald attended and spoke at the [African Animal Welfare Action Conference](#) in Nairobi this past September, where she screened our Ethiopia video, [Ethiopia's Booming Livestock Sector](#), and Senior Fellow Martin Rowe attended and spoke at the [Boston Vegetarian Food Festival](#) in October. Their presentations are available on our [website](#).

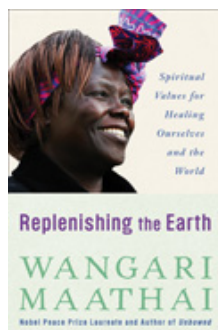
Our Multimedia

Be sure to check out our latest videos, which can be accessed through Brighter Green's [YouTube channel](#). We have videos that document the spread of industrial animal agriculture in India, Brazil, China, and Ethiopia. Brighter Green partner Dr. Anteneh Roba, of the [International Fund for Africa](#), screened our Ethiopia video at the [San Francisco Vegetarian Society's](#) World Veg Festival Weekend in October and reports that it was well received.

Also, great news: our video on the intensification of the poultry and egg industries in India is a YouTube hit. Narrated by Associate [Sangamithra Iyer](#) and based on her field research, the video has nearly 10,000 views. Watch it [here](#).

Girls' Education and Leadership Program

Our Kenyan and Tanzanian partners recently concluded an evaluation meeting in Ngong, Kenya. The [project](#) is going well, and the ten girls continue to work hard in their studies. After facing language barriers that hampered their grades, the students from Tanzania this year left their Kenyan schools and registered at a new high school in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's capital (English is the medium of instruction in Kenya, Swahili in Tanzania). A rights-training workshop for the girls, and indigenous community leaders and mentors will be held when schools break for the year-end holiday in early December. Stay tuned for video interviews with the girls, conducted by project coordinator Daniel Salau of partner organization [SIMOO](#). For an update on the girls' progress to date, watch this [short video](#) featuring Daniel, filmed in Nairobi in September.



Replenishing the Earth

Nobel peace laureate Wangari Maathai and Brighter Green colleague has written a new book: [Replenishing the Earth: Spiritual Values for Healing Ourselves and the World](#). Her previous book, [The Challenge for Africa](#), is now out in paperback. For more information about both books, click [here](#).

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