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Our best way to geoengineer the climate may well trash Earth

A key plan to reduce global warming is to grow crops for fuel then capture and bury the carbon released when it's burned. This



EARTH | COMMENT 24 January 2018

By **Olive Heffernan**



How can we protect our pale blue dot?

NASA

The astronomer Carl Sagan famously described Earth as a pale blue dot [when viewed from far away](#). Tiny and insignificant it may look, but this blue dot has provided us with a remarkably stable environment for almost 12,000 years.

As we have multiplied, we have pushed Earth close to – and possibly beyond – its ability to support human society. On several fronts, we have exceeded what scientists regard as “limits” for some of Earth’s most vital life support systems, such as the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles and biodiversity.

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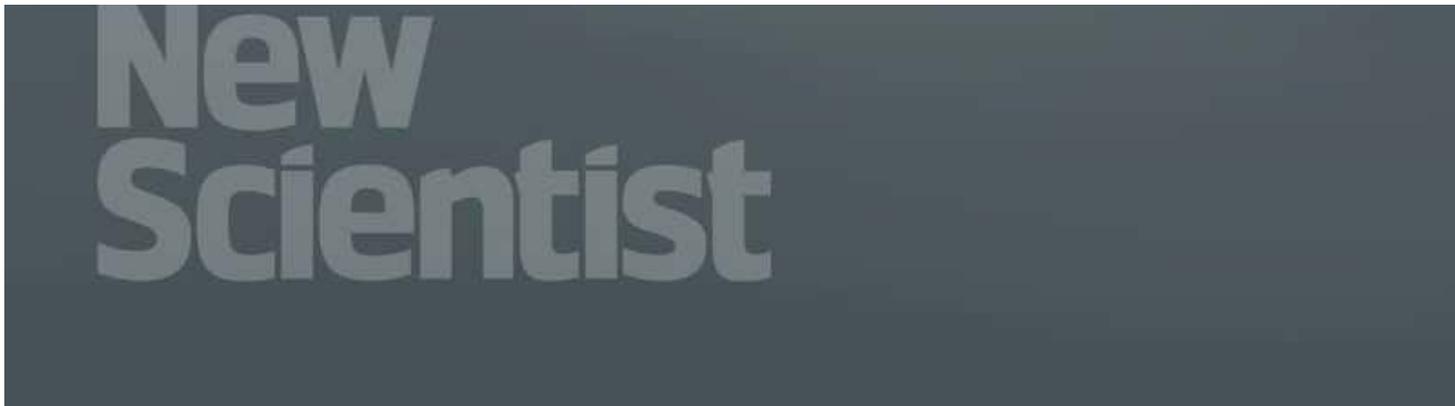
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