

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE 59%

Rock dusting on farms could cool the climate, so let's try it

Crushed basalt applied to agricultural land could soak up billions of tons of carbon dioxide and boost crops. Let's put it to the test, says **Olive Heffernan**

EARTH | COMMENT 21 February 2018

By **Olive Heffernan**



Quietly capturing carbon

Arctic Images/Getty

On the menu of geoengineering options, one has always stood out as a saner choice: enhanced weathering. No need to deploy giant mirrors in space to deflect sunlight or to risk food riots by converting crops to fuel. Just scatter crushed rock far and wide.

It sounds simple: rock mops up carbon dioxide – it's a slow but significant part of the carbon cycle – so if we speed up natural weathering we could get enough of this greenhouse gas out of the atmosphere to dampen climate change.

Ordinarily, common silicate minerals react slowly with CO₂ ...

Continue reading

Subscribe for unlimited digital access

Subscribe now for unlimited access

APP + WEB

PRINT + APP + WEB



- Unlimited web access
- New Scientist app
- Videos of over 200 science talks plus weekly crosswords available exclusively to subscribers
- Exclusive access to subscriber-only events including our 1st of July Climate Change event
- A year of unparalleled environmental coverage, exclusively with New Scientist and UNEP

€4.37
PER WEEK

Save 48%

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE 48%

Existing subscribers, please [log in](#) with your email address to link your account access.

Paid annually by Credit Card
Inclusive of applicable taxes (VAT)

TRENDING

LATEST

VIDEO

FREE

Covid-19 news: Germany, France and Italy suspend AstraZeneca vaccine

1

A Japanese spacecraft bombed an asteroid and it barely flinched

2

Ancient 'computer' may have used bejewelled rings to model the cosmos

3

Colorado's legal cannabis farms emit more carbon than its coal mines

4

Fingerprint ridges carry nerve endings that make us hypersensitive

5

MORE FROM NEW SCIENTIST

HEALTH

New
Scientist

Covid-19 news: Germany, France and Italy suspend AstraZeneca vaccine

EARTH

New
Scientist



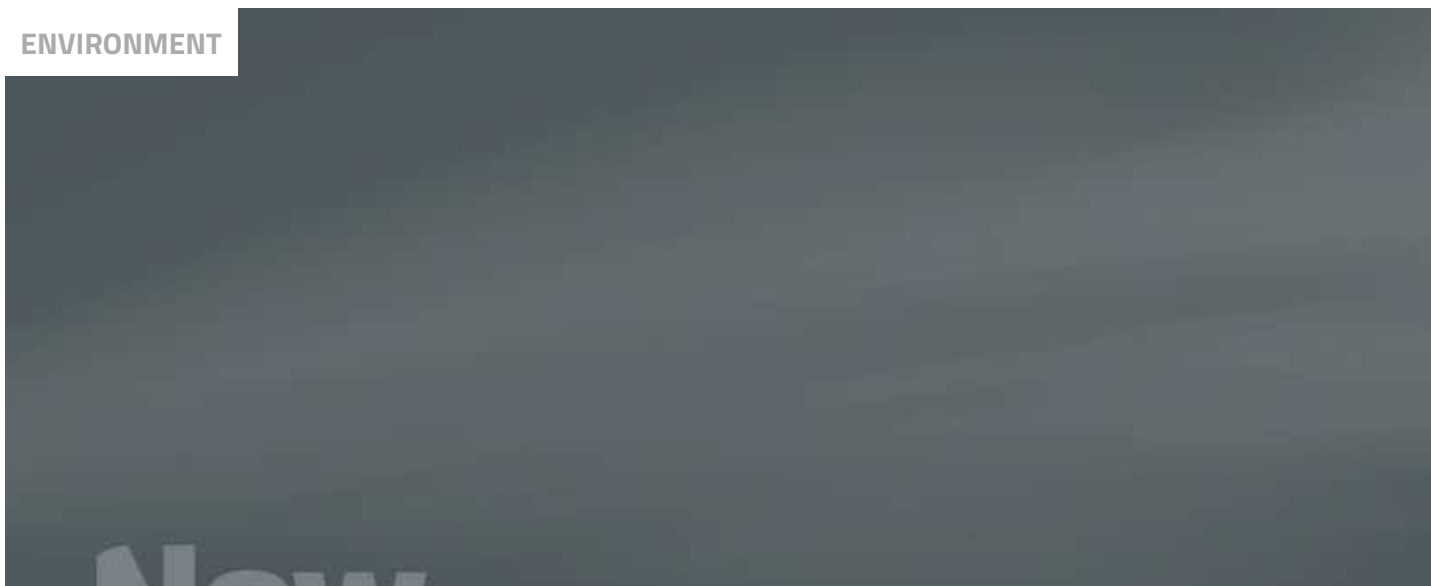
Signs that Earth was once almost entirely molten found in ancient rock

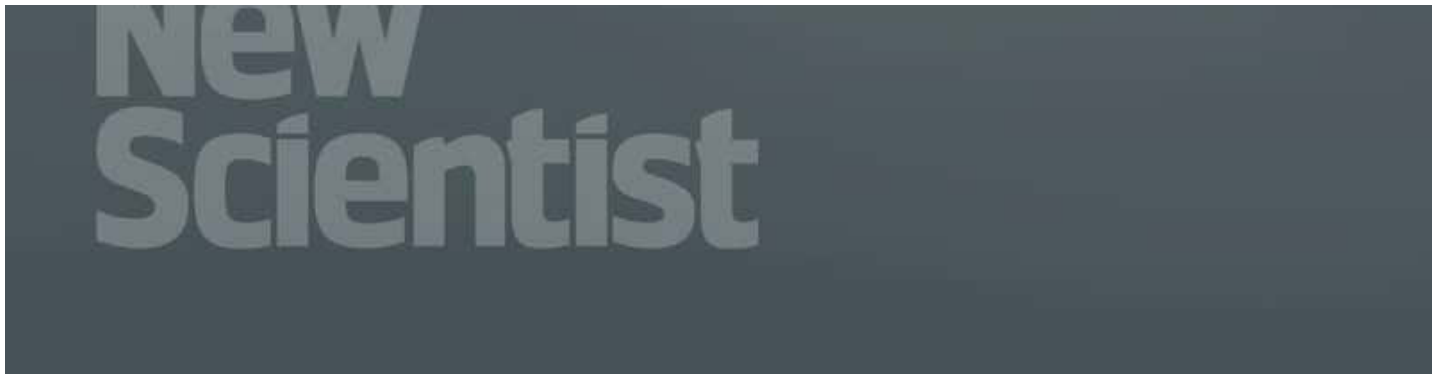
TECHNOLOGY



Fire safety app simulates wildfires and shows a route to avoid them

ENVIRONMENT





Wooden floors rotted by fungi generate electricity when walked on

PROMOTED STORIES

Doctor Reveals: It's Like a Pressure Wash for Your Insides

gut-solution

Arthritis or Joint Pain? Doctor Says Do This First Thing Each Morning

Jupiter Laboratories

Top 10 Mac Antivirus - Do Mac Users Really Need Protection?

My Antivirus Review

The Most Dangerous Species Found In The World

HorizonTimes

Recommended by



[Contact us](#) | [Coronavirus: customer update](#) | [Help](#) | [About us](#) | [Privacy & cookies](#) |
[Cookie preferences](#) | [Terms & conditions](#)

[Advertise](#) | [Write for us](#) | [Events](#) | [Science jobs](#) | [Syndication](#) | [RSS feeds](#)
[Gift subscriptions](#) | [Student subscriptions](#) | [Educational subscriptions](#) |
[Corporate subscriptions](#)

GET THE APP



FOLLOW US

© Copyright New Scientist Ltd.

Back to top 