



# FUTURE CREATORS

VOLUME 003  
SPRING 2026

University of   
**CINCINNATI**  
NEXT INNOVATION  
SCHOLARS PROGRAM



University of  
**CINCINNATI**

**NEXT INNOVATION  
 SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

The team of students contributing to the research and development of this report are all part of the **NEXT Innovation Scholars** at the University of Cincinnati, a signature transdisciplinary educational program centered on leveraging design thinking and strategic foresight as drivers of innovation, and developing leaders who create the future rather than react to it. Their diverse backgrounds and areas of study ranging from design, engineering, business, and the humanities contributed significantly to the richness of our research and exploration of future drivers.

Our team engages with a variety of industry and community partners each year from our homebase in the University's **1819 Innovation Hub**. Feel free to reach out at [NIS@uc.edu](mailto:NIS@uc.edu) to explore collaboration opportunities or for more information.

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Horizon Shift, Volume 003 of the **NEXT Innovation Scholars** annual futures report - a pocket of the future, embedded in the present! If you've never engaged with our program or our futures research, this introduction will offer a bit of context for what you'll see in the following pages and a bit of backstory on our program and approach. And even if you are familiar with our program and work, there's still some updates and backstory to share... so please read on!

Volume 003 of our report reflects an exciting inflection point for our futures research practice: It's the product of a new season in our program where we've transitioned from trying a lot of things for the first time to using what we've learned to build systems that scale it. While our research practice will no doubt continuously evolve, certain aspects that were an obvious work in progress - like our frameworks for evaluating drivers and the role of student leaders as research assistants - have come into focus in ways that are unlocking new potential. Studying the future and developing engaging forecasts will always be messy and ambiguous, but our practice feels increasingly rooted in methods and approaches that we've uniquely shaped. We're excited to share that work with anyone who reads this report or comes to our now annual NEXT-Gen Futures Forum at **UC's 1819 Innovation Hub**, where we invite attendees to experience multiple possible futures through an immersive experience.

Some things haven't changed though: The NEXT Innovation Scholars program at the University of Cincinnati still holds a unique distinction as one of the only undergraduate programs in the US conducting extensive futures research using strategic foresight methodology to generate next-gen thought leadership. This report specifically is still one of, if not the only, annual futures research reports that's been co-authored and co-created by undergraduate students offering next-gen insights on the future we will all live in. And as in past years, the research that fueled this report included 9 months of scanning for "signals of change" across news stories, scholarly publications, and other media - 312 sources to be exact.

So, we invite you to explore this report with curiosity and the reminder that the cultures, systems, and norms of 2035 or 2050 probably won't be the same as the ones we live in today. We hope these provocations challenge you to consider how you'll navigate what comes next.

Cheers,



**Aaron Bradley**

Director and Associate Professor  
University of Cincinnati

This year's research team analyzed...

## 312 Research Articles & Media

to identify...

### 4 Macro Trends

#### **The Energy Arms Race**

A growing need for energy and the pursuit of alternative energy sources demands not only developing new technology but also adapting existing systems to new innovations.

#### **Evolving Relationships with Food**

The boundaries and definitions of what food can be and its role in our lives are being challenged as lifestyles evolve and resources are strained.

#### **The Paradox of Choice**

Integrated access to an online universe is shifting society's relationship with information and the definition of universal truths - simultaneously redefining norms and expectations.

#### **Forces of Nature**

Society is witnessing increasingly frequent and unpredictable extreme weather events, forcing a re-examination of decisions and priorities around where and how to live.

that shaped...

### 13 Drivers of Future Change

in order to create...

### 41 Artifacts from the future

These artifacts include speculative scenarios, products, and services that could be coming. Interactive displays and immersive experiences at the NEXT-Gen Futures Forum brought the research to life in Spring '25 and will be featured in Volume 003 of our Future Creators report in Fall '25.

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# THE ENERGY ARMS RACE

# 01

*Growing global demand for energy consumption and advancements in the pursuit of alternative energy sources are converging to necessitate not only the development of new technology, but also the adaptation of existing systems, policies, and approaches to collaboration in order to fully leverage the potential of innovation in the energy sector.*





FUSE ENERGY COMPANY  
1000 Lumina Nexus Blvd. Chicago, IL 60610



### NOTICE OF BANKRUPTCY CASE FILING

An energy bankruptcy case concerning the debtor(s) listed below was filed under Chapter 7, Subsection 3 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, entered on 4/17/2040 at 2:00 PM and filed on 4/17/2040

**Debtor:**  
**Dakota M. Reynolds**  
3157 Windhaven Terrace  
Des Moines, IA 50321-7629  
SSN / ITN: XXX-XXX-4294

**Filed by the debtor's attorney:**  
**Benjamin T. Halloway**  
Halloway & Pierce Energy Law Group  
1890 Gridway Plaza, Suite 200  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
(515)-555-2764

**Bankruptcy trustee:**  
**Laura J. Kensington (Trustee)**  
Fuse Energy Asset Recovery  
1327 Summit Ridge Road, Suite 400  
Des Moines, IA 50325  
(515)-555-8392

#### Subject: Notice of Energy Bankruptcy and Breach of Mortgage Agreement

Dear Ms. Reynolds,

This letter serves as formal notification regarding the filing of your energy bankruptcy case under the United States Bankruptcy Code Chapter 7, Subsection 3 pertaining to your failure to meet your obligations under the energy mortgage agreement with Fuse Energy Company (herein referred to as "the Company"). The mortgage agreement, executed on January 15, 2036, and referenced as Mortgage Contract #4637-2036, pertains to your energy consumption financing and payment structure.

Our records show that you have consistently failed to make the required monthly payments for energy asset allocation, specifically as outlined in Section 4.2 (*Payment Obligations*), Section 6.5 (*Late Fees and Penalties*), and Section 8.1 (*Default Conditions*) of your energy mortgage contract. The payments due on the following dates were not made and remain outstanding:

- April 1, 2039 – \$2,328.10
- June 1, 2039 – \$2,214.60
- November 1, 2039 – \$2,208.35
- December 1, 2039 – \$2,231.70

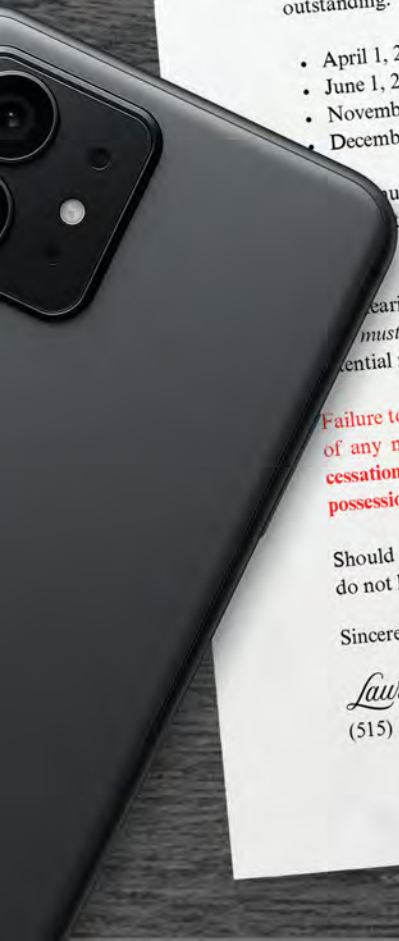
Despite multiple reminders from the Company, your account remains in default with penalties in aggregate of \$8,982.75 as of [redacted] date. As the appointed trustee for your case, I am required to oversee the legal process pertaining to this bankruptcy court hearing regarding your case will be scheduled on the following date: **May 2, 2040, at 9:30 AM**

Hearings will be held at the Des Moines Federal Bankruptcy Court, located at 2100 Court Plaza, Des Moines, IA 50301. You **must** attend these hearings or send appropriate legal representation in order to address the claims and discuss any potential restructuring or liquidation of the energy mortgage debt.

**Failure to attend these hearings or resolve the defaulted payments could result in further legal actions, including the liquidation of any non-exempt assets to satisfy the outstanding debt owed to the company, including but not limited to: immediate cessation of energy allocation to the address on file, immediate cessation of all governmental utilities to the address on file, court possession of the residence, and immediate eviction.**

Should you have any questions regarding this matter or wish to discuss potential options for restructuring or settlement, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,  
*Laura Kensington*  
(515) 555-8392



## 1.1 PULLING THE PLUG ON EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Increased demand and greater calls for renewable energy sourcing have forced the pursuit of new and novel production with many promising gains on the horizon. But creating energy is only one piece of the puzzle: can existing power infrastructure evolve to accommodate these new forms of potential energy production?

*What if rising energy cost made energy mortgages just as common as home loans?*

## 1.2 WE OR ME

Rapidly increasing demand for energy and the potential monetary gain for those who meet it are fueling a race for energy innovation. But scaling innovation in a slow-moving sector that traditionally relies on mass adoption and governmental regulation may not favor the traditional disruptive innovation playbook. Will energy innovators unite and conform in hopes of accelerating discovery and development through collaboration, or compete for dominance in a new era?

## 1.3 POWER OUTPACES POLICY

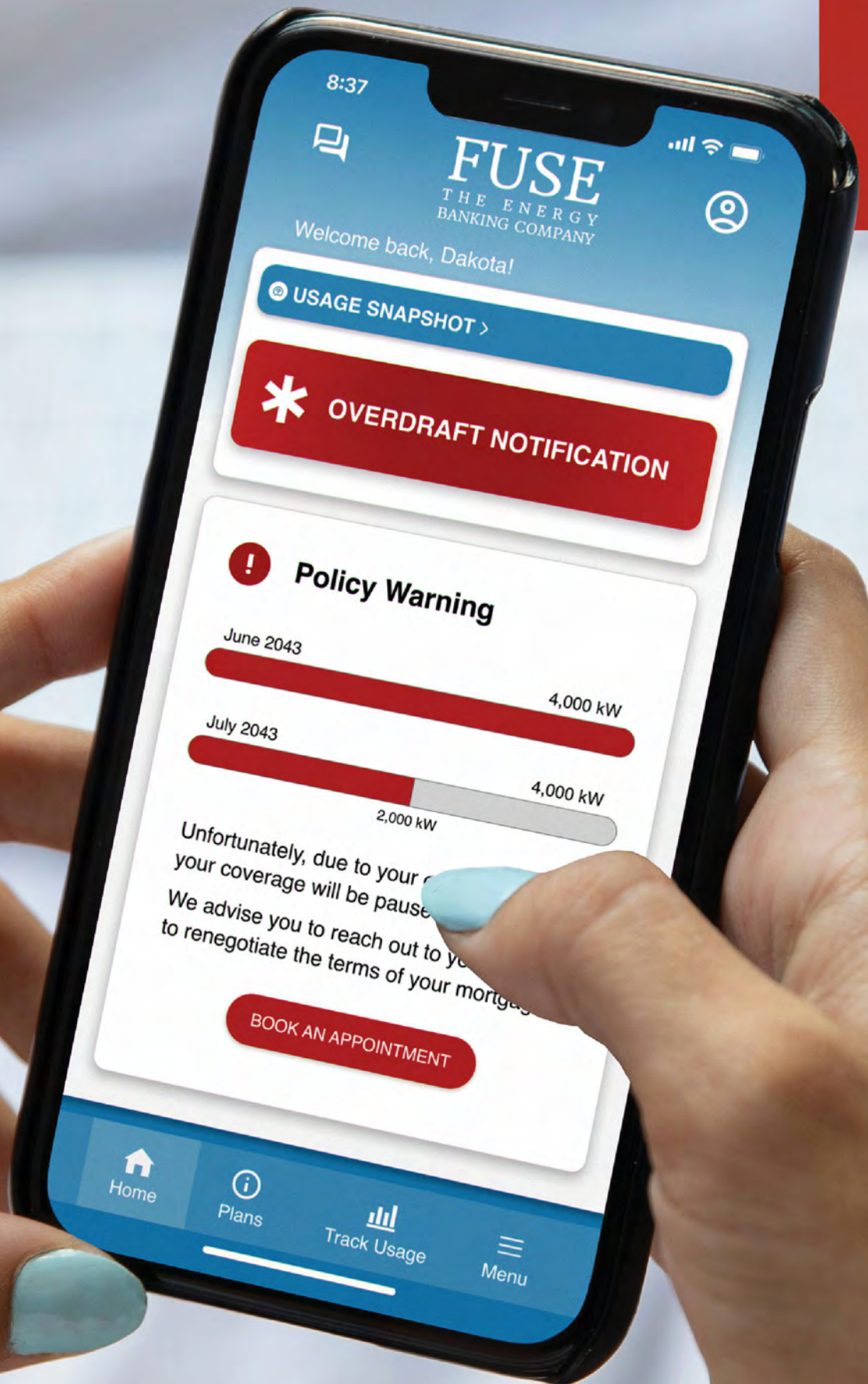
The pace of energy innovation and the demand for widespread adaptation are potentially at odds with the time needed to consider broader implications of major shifts and the potential for unforeseen outcomes.

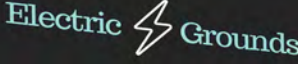
*What if energy pirates were constantly stealing utilities from your home?*

## 1.4 GDP (GROSS DOMESTIC POWER)

In a world where energy is the new oil, countries across the globe wrestle with the potential for seismic shifts in the balance of power, influence, and economic dominance. A global future dependent on energy consumption makes the discovery and delivery of energy a new frontier of national capability.

*“The annual enrollment period for energy plans was coming up soon in Noah’s neighborhood – time to make an expensive decision that nobody looked forward to. Last year he went with the renewables-only plan. It was cheaper and better for the environment, but it did mean regulated supply and no “fossil fallback” option for high demand periods. Giving up control of the lights and thermostat wasn’t so bad, but he hated having to pre-schedule his oven and washing machine times. He told himself it was a fair trade: less impact on the grid and a chance to save some money in exchange for a little less convenience. But at the same time, he was getting tired of waiting until one o’clock in the morning to do his laundry and cook meals...”*





**DRINKS MENU**

ALL DRINKS INCLUDE WATTAGE ACCESS AT STANDARD CHARGING STATIONS

ESPRESSO & COFFEE		PURE POWER	
	\$   CALORIES   ENERGY		
Espresso	\$8.00   5 cal   30 Wh	0 - 25 Wh	
Americano	\$8.50   10 cal   35 Wh	25-100 Wh	\$0.20/Wh
Flat White	\$8.50   150 cal   35 Wh	100 Wh - 1 kWh	\$0.18/Wh
Cappuccino	\$8.75   5 cal   37 Wh	1+ kWh	\$0.16/Wh
Caramel Macchiato	\$9.00   100 cal   40 Wh		\$0.13/Wh
Café Latte	\$9.00   135 cal   25 Wh		
Hazelnut Latte	\$9.50   155 cal   25 Wh		
Café Mocha	\$9.00   200 cal   25 Wh		
Brewed Coffee	\$7.50   0 cal   25 Wh		
Cold Brew	\$9.00   5 cal   40 Wh		

TEAS		AFTERNOON SPECIAL	
	\$   CALORIES   ENERGY	2 - 5 PM	
Brewed Tea	\$7.50   0 cal   25 Wh	ANY DRINK + 150 WH	\$ 11.00
Chai Latte	\$8.50   110 cal   35 Wh		
London Fog	\$8.50   140 cal   35 Wh		
Matcha	\$8.75   50 cal   37 Wh		

PERK & POWER		DAILY GRIND	
Brewed Coffee/Tea + 200 Wh	\$12.75	Jump Start	\$70/month
Latte/Cold Brew + 500 kWh	\$15.50	8 drinks (any size, any style), 5 kWh	
Any Drink + 1 kWh	\$25.00	Full Charge	\$90/month
		16 drinks, 15 kWh, and priority access to standard charging stations	
		Supercharge	\$120/month
		Unlimited coffee, 30 kWh, priority access to rapid charging stations, and 20% off additional purchases	

**OUR ENERGY**

At Electric Grounds, every purchase powers both you and your devices. With every purchase, you get access to clean, renewable energy sourced from sustainable grids. Whether you're sipping or charging, you stay energized—sustainably and seamlessly.

**OUR COFFEE**

Our coffee is rich, smooth, and perfectly balanced—a warm, energizing cup for any moment. We use only the finest Fair Trade Arabica beans, ensuring every brew is ethical and high-quality. Crafted for your taste, whether bold or bright, every sip at Electric Grounds is a spark.

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Network: EC 7C | Pass: brewPower01

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“David decided to accept the job offer, even if the salary was a little lower than his old job. When you factored in the premium Amazon Energy plan, the total compensation package was hard to beat. The power supply on self-funded plans was getting less and less reliable; this 80% space solar and 20% geothermal option would be a major upgrade. It wasn’t just about salary and health insurance anymore.”

*“The rent came with floor space, a roof, and tier-two power—but anything beyond that was on her. Quinn skipped the fridge and the microwave, buying ice and reheating soup on a camping stove that didn’t register on the grid. Her neighbor offered her an extra power token once, but she turned it down—too many favors made the whole plan messy. She told the leasing agent she liked ‘living light,’ and in this city, that counted as a feature, not a compromise.”*

*What if your phone or computer displayed the cost to power in real time?*

## **1.5 ENERGY WITHOUT BORDERS**

The search for new and novel energy sources is expanding to transcend existing boundaries, both geo-political and physical. The new frontiers aren’t limited to land - they include the ocean, air, and even outer space.



# Signals of Change

## Localized Energy Grids Gain Momentum

*Data Center Dynamics, September 2024*

Microgrids are emerging to power critical facilities, offering more resilient, renewable alternatives to centralized energy systems.

## Big Tech, Not Big Energy

*Global Venturing, November 2024*

Non-energy corporations are now major backers of energy startups, fueling innovation for global-scale energy needs.

## Wind Power Reshapes Geopolitics

*Global Venturing, November 2024*

Wind energy is influencing international power dynamics as countries compete to lead the renewable transition.

## EVs Still Pollute

*Global Venturing, November 2024*

EVs eliminate exhaust but contribute to pollution through tire and road wear due to their heavier weight. (Wall Street Journal, March 2024)

## Utilities Expand to Power AI & EVs

*Global Venturing, November 2024*

U.S. utilities plan to increase grid infrastructure spending by over 20% in three years to meet the demands of data centers and electric vehicles. (Reuters, November 2024)





# EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP WITH FOOD

## 02

*Our relationship with food is changing; the traditional boundaries of what can be considered food and its role in our lives are challenged to adapt as lifestyles and priorities evolve, and resources become increasingly strained.*



# Savor the Juicy Future - No Cows, Just Pure Steak.

SteakTrue grows perfectly marbled, tender cuts of steak that taste just like the real thing.



FULL  
FOODS

*What if the new farm-to-table  
is lab-to-plate?*

## 3.1 CARBS AND CARBON EMISSIONS

Our relationship with food is changing; the traditional boundaries of what can be considered food and its role in our lives are challenged to adapt as lifestyles and priorities evolve, and resources become increasingly strained.

## 3.2 NEW-TRITION

Strains on supply chains, ethical considerations, and the sheer capacity for food production are rapidly expanding what humans consider edible and palatable. From precision engineered nutritional supplements and lab-grown meats to the rediscovery of centuries-old microorganisms, the definitions and characteristics of food and its pathway to consumption enter a new era.

**FULL FOODS**

**Lab-Grown Advantage: More Taste, Less Waste.**

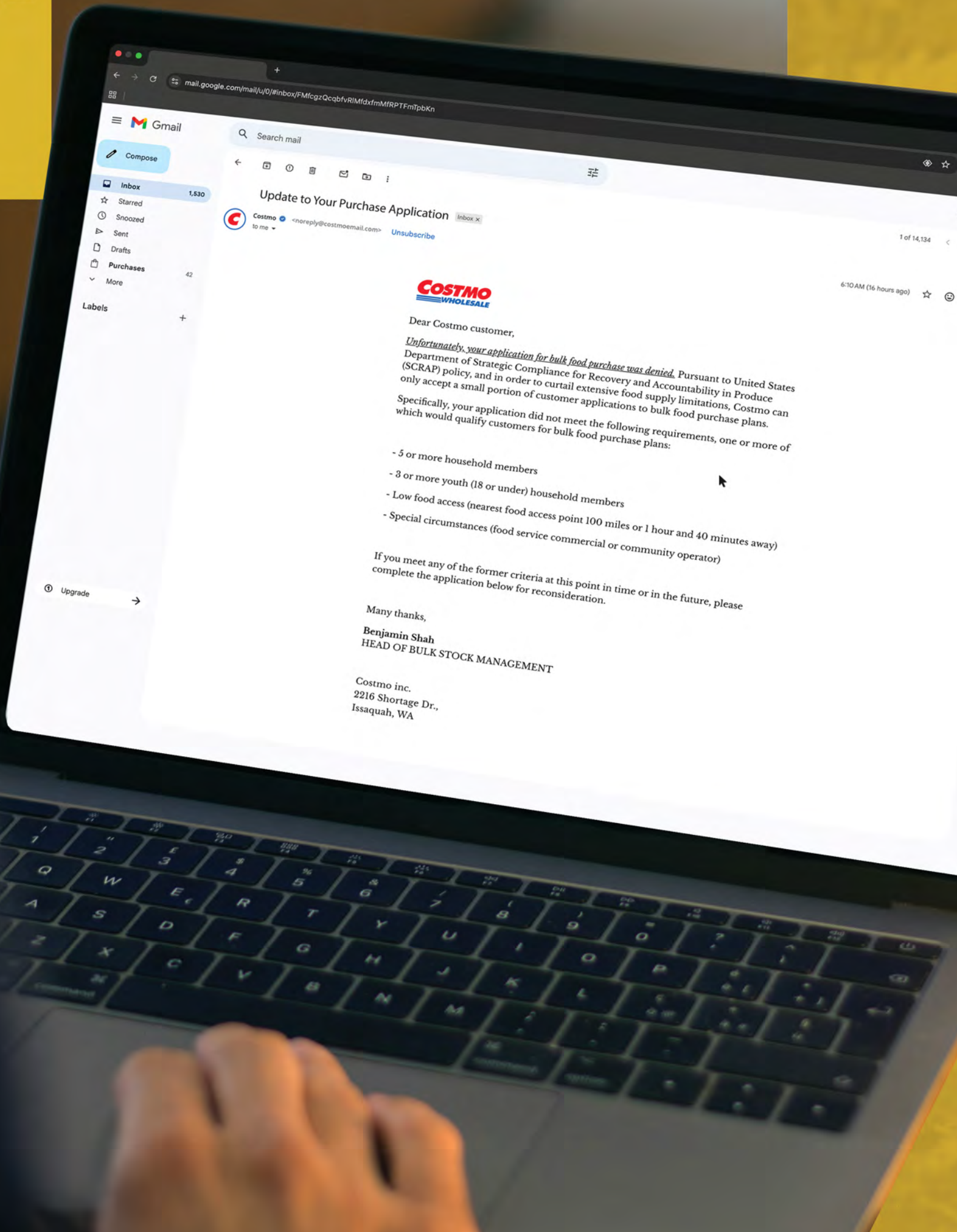
**Designed for Perfection – No Hassle, Just Guac!**  
AvocadoLab's creamy, nutrient-packed avocados are grown in a lab to always be perfectly ripe.

**Sweet Without Sting.**  
HivePure: 100% pure, honey-flavored sweetness cultivated without the need for bees, offering a more sustainable way to enjoy nature's nectar.

**Savor the Juicy Future – No Cows, Just Pure Steak.**  
SteakTrue grows perfectly marbled, tender cuts of steak that taste just like the real thing.

**Lab-Grown, Earth-Loved – The Future of Fresh is here.**  
Find the finest range of lab-designed foods and nutrition products in store and online.

**FULL FOODS**



mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQcqbFvRIMfdxfmMRPTFmIpbKn

Gmail

Compose

- Inbox 1,530
- Starred
- Snoozed
- Sent
- Drafts
- Purchases 42
- More
- Labels +

Search mail

### Update to Your Purchase Application

Costmo  <noreply@costmoemail.com> to me [Unsubscribe](#)



Dear Costmo customer,

*Unfortunately, your application for bulk food purchase was denied.* Pursuant to United States Department of Strategic Compliance for Recovery and Accountability in Produce (SCRAP) policy, and in order to curtail extensive food supply limitations, Costmo can only accept a small portion of customer applications to bulk food purchase plans. Specifically, your application did not meet the following requirements, one or more of which would qualify customers for bulk food purchase plans:


- 5 or more household members
- 3 or more youth (18 or under) household members
- Low food access (nearest food access point 100 miles or 1 hour and 40 minutes away)
- Special circumstances (food service commercial or community operator)

If you meet any of the former criteria at this point in time or in the future, please complete the application below for reconsideration.

Many thanks,  
**Benjamin Shah**  
HEAD OF BULK STOCK MANAGEMENT

Costmo inc.  
2216 Shortage Dr.,  
Issaquah, WA

Upgrade →



*“Kendra used to dread her weekly grocery trip – checking labels to see what’s approved for SNAP benefits, trying to balance budget and nutrition, and waiting in line for almost an hour while everyone fumbled with the self-checkout lines. That was the old system, but thankfully nutrition for her and the family now came in pre-portioned, lab-engineered meal packs optimized for maximum nutritional density. No more waiting in the self-checkout line either, since they’re delivered weekly right to her door. It’s been a year since the new synthetic-first food standards rolled out and their bodies were almost fully adapted now. So much so that earth-grown food almost felt un-natural. Sometimes Kendra missed the fun parts of cooking, but the convenience of ready-made nutrition and less stress from budgeting and shopping eased the sting.”*

*What if the Thanksgiving turkey didn’t come from a grocery store but an illegal purchase off the dark web?*

*“Mara’s alarm went off and the morning routine started – shower, fit check, and out the door for a quick stop at the ration hub. Just a scan of her phone at the kiosk and a meal pack slid out like clockwork. The “food” was predictably sterile, a far cry from the flavors her grandmother used to make with spices from those little glass jars. But it kept her fueled, and at the end of the day, a synthetic ration pack was better than nothing. With natural food sources all but gone, eating was more about function than feeling.”*

# Lab-Grown, Soul-Filled

*A Georgia Gathering with Tomorrow's Touch*

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## *A Southern Host's Guide to a Modern Harvest*

There's a certain poetry to the way Southerners set a table—an unspoken understanding that this simple act is really an invitation to linger. We lay the tablecloth like we lay down roots, anchoring the meal in tradition and memory. Whether you're hosting supper on a screened-in porch or tucking folding chairs close around a mismatched kitchen table, what matters most is the sense of intention. In a world spinning faster by the minute—where meat can be grown in labs and tomatoes taste more like water than summer—the table is where we slow down. It's where we say, yes, I made this for you—and whether that means a full roast or just deviled eggs served on the good china, it all counts. The point isn't perfection. It's presence.

And presence means more than napkin rings and polished silver. It's in the shared rhythm of passing dishes, in the way conversation softens over second helpings. Dress your table with purpose. Let the food speak to your values—maybe it's a peach cobbler from scratch, or maybe it's a bold little tray of bite-sized meatballs made with the lab-grown protein Meemah swore she'd never try but ended up taking seconds of. We're in a new age of gathering, after all—where tradition and innovation pull up chairs right beside one another. So bring out the cloth napkins, light that beeswax candle you've been saving, and set a table that tells the story of who you are and what you care about. Because in the end, the meal isn't just about sustenance—it's about comfort, connection, and the quiet joy of sharing something meaningful. And maybe, just maybe, a whisper of what the future tastes like.

*Hearth & Grove: Spring 2051 issue*





## A Timeless Guide to Modern Gatherings

Notes from the Kitchen

There's no one right way to host—not anymore. The rules have loosened, and in their place, we've found something better: presence over polish, comfort over convention. Whether you're serving roast from a warming tray or greens grown two feet from the table, what matters most hasn't changed. These are a few reminders I come back to whenever it's my turn to gather folks close.

### What I've Learned About Hosting

You don't need a perfect house. Or a twelve-person table. Some of the best meals I've ever served were eaten perched on stools or tucked into corners, the dish still steaming in its autopan. What matters is that people feel wanted. Not just welcome—wanted.

### What I Always Forget Until the Last Minute

Water glasses. Always the water glasses. I usually remember the ice just as someone's already halfway through their drink.

### The One Thing People Actually Remember

Not the food. I mean, maybe for a minute—but mostly, they remember how they felt sitting across from you. Did you make space for them to linger? Did you laugh with your whole face? Did you pass the bread twice without asking?

### Why I Still Light Candles, Even When It's Just Pasta and Greens

Because it softens the room. Because it reminds me to slow down. Because even if the greens were quick-grown in a countertop pod, the meal still matters. Because a little light—especially the warm kind—always feels like care.

**Remember:** A good gathering doesn't have to be perfect. It just has to feel like it was made with someone in mind.



## Hand-Glazed Myo-Turkey Roast

Serves 6 | Prep Time: 20 min | Cook Time: 90 min | Rest Time: 15 min

There's nothing quite like a roast at the center of the table. This one's grown, not hunted, but you'd never know it from the way the juices run when it's carved. Gently brined in a salt-honey solution and finished with a sweet herb glaze, this myo-cultured cut mimics all the tenderness of a heritage bird—minus the feathers.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cultured turkey "whole cut" (approx. 4 lbs, grown-to-order from your local food lab)
- ¼ cup lab-honey (or synthetically spun agave nectar)
- 2 tablespoons remineralized sea salt
- 1 tablespoon cracked pink peppercorns
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 4 cloves garlic, gene-peeled and mashed
- 2 tablespoons rosemary extract oil
- 1 tablespoon aged vinegar (or apple cell reduction)
- Optional: ½ teaspoon nutritional yeast for extra umami
- Fresh sprigs of bio-grown rosemary and thyme, for garnish

#### Instructions:

1. Rinse the cultured turkey cut under cool water and pat dry with a clean cloth. Massage with salt, garlic, paprika, and pink peppercorns. Let rest for 15 minutes at room temperature to allow the myo-fibers to loosen and absorb the seasoning.
2. In a small bowl, whisk together the lab-honey, rosemary oil, vinegar, and optional yeast. Warm gently in a saucepan over low heat until just bubbly, then remove from heat and set aside.
3. Preheat your smart-oven to 375°F (conventional mode, not protein-preserve setting). Place the turkey on a biodegradable roast sheet or a classic enamel tray. Roast uncovered for 45 minutes.
4. Baste with half the glaze. Return to the oven for another 30–45 minutes, brushing with the remaining glaze every 15 minutes, until the skin is golden and lightly crisped at the edges.
5. Let rest on the counter for 10–15 minutes. Garnish with rosemary and thyme. Slice with a warm blade and serve alongside your favorite post-carbon sides.

### Corinne's Favorite Pairings

This roast pairs beautifully with sides that balance its richness—think something bright, something earthy, and something just a little nostalgic. Try it with a scoop of fermented corn pudding or slow-simmered greens (whether lab-grown or garden-snipped). For starch, a dish of yeast-risen grits or printed sourbread adds body without overwhelming the plate.

If you're pouring drinks, a lightly spiced root tea or reconstituted stonefruit cordial rounds out the meal with warmth. And for dessert? You can't go wrong with a chilled slice of cultured peach cobbler—or even just a square of dark-fed chocolate, passed hand to hand once the table quiets.

# Signals of Change



## **Meatless Diets Reflect Health Awareness**

*National Library of Medicine, March 2024*

Greater awareness of red meat’s health and environmental impact is driving shifts in dietary choices.

## **Function Over Flavor in Future Foods**

*Future Postharvest and Food, Ali Rashidinejad, 2024*

Consumers increasingly favor food that supports body function, with taste becoming secondary to health benefits.

## **Algae Gains Ground as a Nutrient Source**

*National Library of Medicine, 2024*

Algae-based foods are rising in popularity due to their health benefits, not flavor appeal.

## **Social Media Shapes Culinary Tourism**

*Research and Markets, March 2024*

Rising media influence is driving demand for authentic, sustainable, and health-conscious food experiences while traveling.



US Department of S.C.R.A.P.

**FOOD WASTE INFRACTION**

SCRAP-6548HX-087175790

ISSUE DATE	TIME
04/27/2023	15:47

**INFRACTION**

- Improper disposal of uneaten food during public events (e.g., cookouts, festivals)
- Excessive food waste from commercial establishments (e.g., restaurants, catering)
- Negligent disposal of household food waste (e.g., discarded leftovers, spoiled food)
- Over-purchasing resulting in significant waste (e.g., bulk purchases discarded)
- Improper storage leading to premature spoilage (e.g., expired perishables)
- Food disposal violations within eco-protected zones (e.g., parks, nature reserves)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**VIOLATION: \$90.00**

After 14 days: \$110.00  
After 21 days: \$205.00

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO PAY OR CONTEST THIS CITATION

# Paradox of Choice

## 03

*In a world characterized by nearly unlimited, on-demand access to an online universe that's fully integrated with everyday life, society's relationship with information and the definition of universal truths are shifting – simultaneously redefining norms and expectations.*



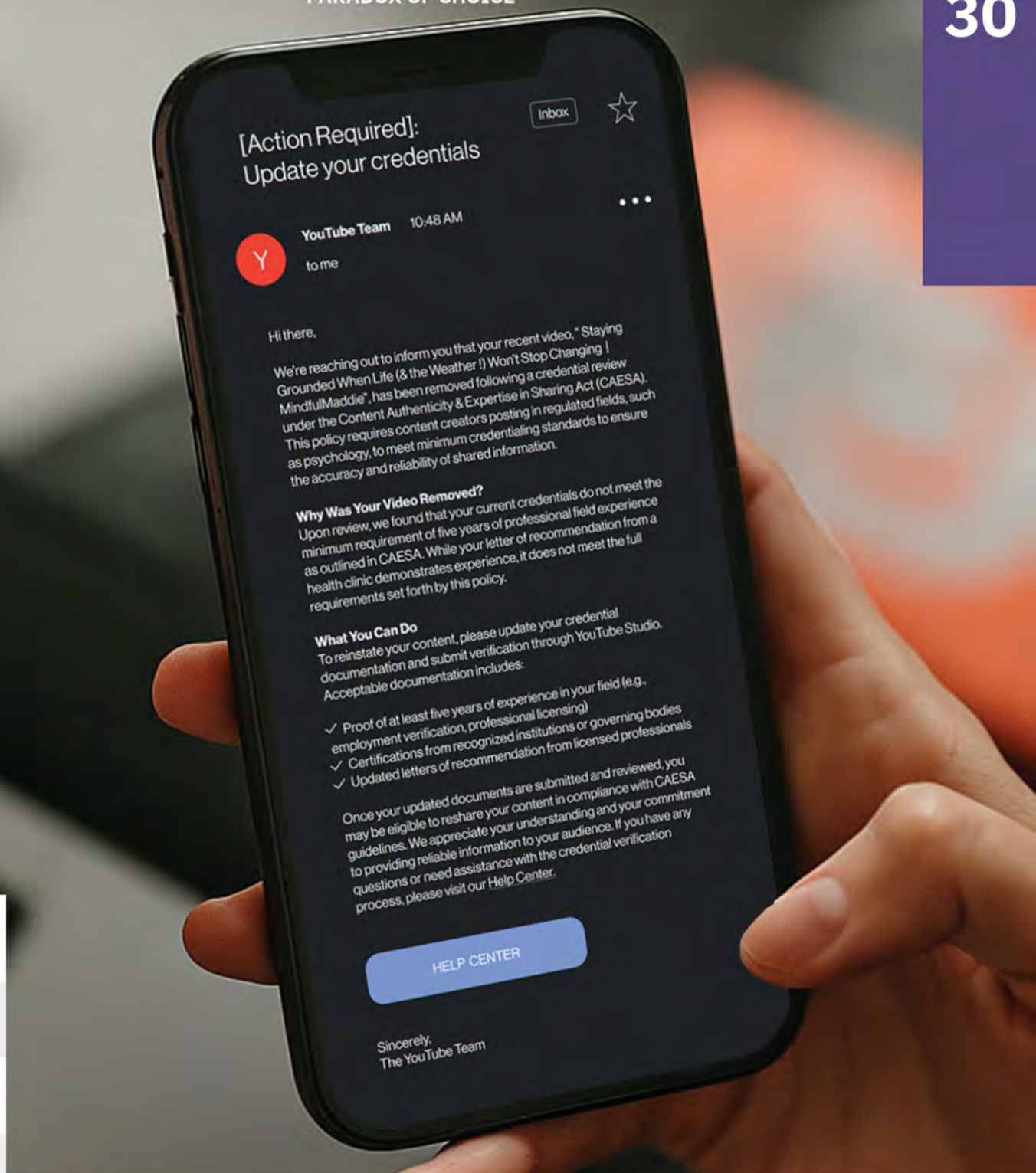
## 4.1 ACCESS ≠ EXPERTISE

Moving fast and breaking things is increasingly prevalent when all the world's knowledge is accessible from the average person's pocket - but access to information is not the same as acquired expertise. Transforming knowledge and technological capability into positive outcomes for society is still complex, and avoiding unintended consequences depends on our ability to interpret, apply, and navigate all aspects of the possible and proposed.

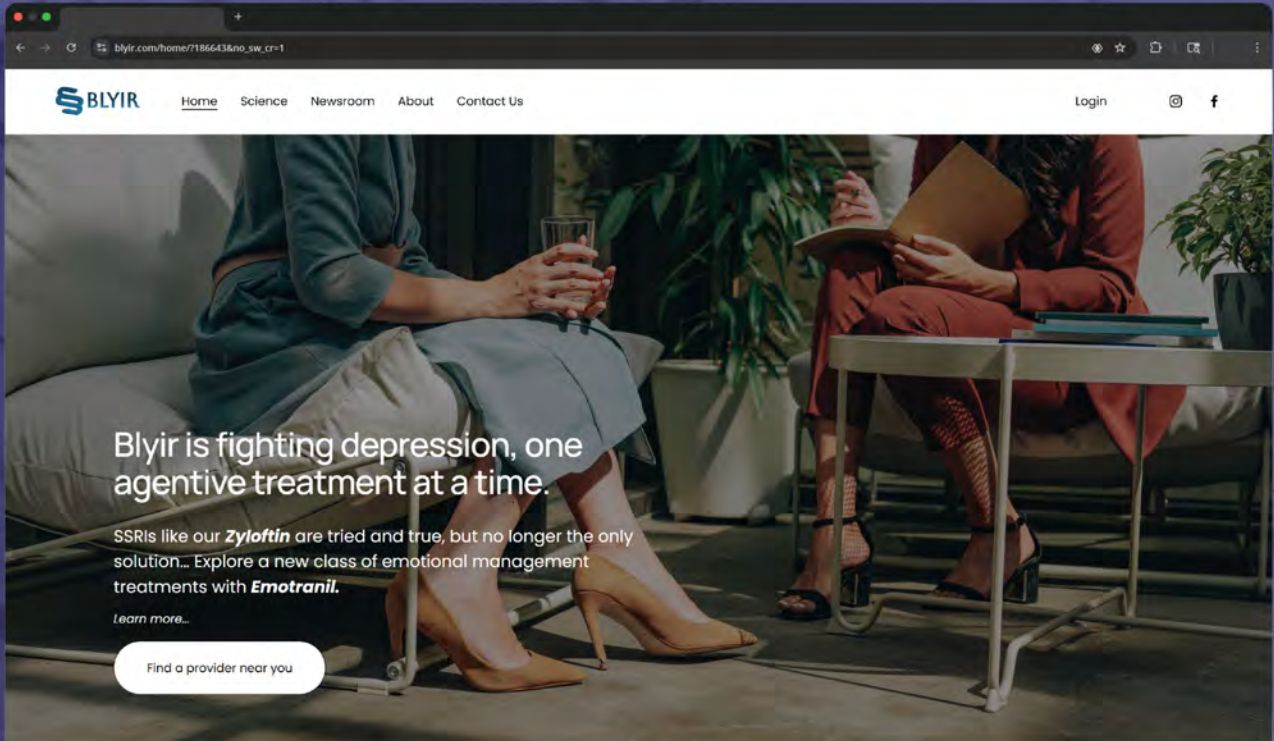
*What if tutorials were illegal unless government certified?*

## 4.2 THE SEARCH FOR CYBER SOLACE

Overwhelmed by an onslaught of news, statistics, and fluid interpretations of "facts", individuals increasingly seek solace in their personal choices and perspectives rather than wrestling with the challenge of inconvenient truths. Navigating a complicated landscape of trust, truth, "real" and "fake" feels less daunting when dictated by the individual rather than the majority.



*“Maya Ali stood before the jury, poised to make history. This wasn’t just another case about “truth” on the internet—this was the first major trial against a global platform for reality distortion. “You’ve heard how my client suffered,” she began, “bombarded with conflicting ‘expert’ advice—from DIY vaccines to extreme weather conspiracies. She endured mental trauma, physical harm, and total confusion over what to trust. This isn’t just misinformation—it’s negligence. And someone must be held accountable.”*



### Our approach

Emotranil is a new class of agentive treatments that is designed to restore emotional regulation by facilitating simulated, supportive interactions with key individuals in your life, passed or present, using language learning models.

By offering personalized, clinically-driven dialogues, Emotranil helps confront unresolved emotional conflicts and alleviate psychological distress, providing relief when direct communication with the source of emotional tension is not feasible.

*Prescribed and monitored by a licensed healthcare provider, Emotranil is an innovative solution for managing complex emotional experiences.*

Learn more



*Demos Available after the prescription is received.*



### Emotranil, Legacy XR

The loss of a loved one can be one of the most difficult emotional experiences of your life. **Emotranil, Legacy XR** is a prescription treatment designed to support your emotional transition during this challenging time.

Through our patented LML (Lifelike Memory Link) technology, Legacy XR allows you to continue to engage in meaningful conversations with your loved one, offering comfort and easing the impact of their absence. This innovative life exit transition program provides a pathway for emotional healing while maintaining a connection to those you have lost.

**Side effects may include:** temporary feelings of detachment, emotional dissociation, vivid dreams, or delusion. Please consult with your healthcare provider for a full list of potential side effects and to determine if Emotranil, Legacy XR is right for you.

*“Fifty-five acres?!” Devin couldn’t believe he’d inherited land in North Dakota. With no formal training, just AI tools and vision, he set out to build a sustainable, utopian community. Investors loved his pitch—crypto flooded in. But then came collapsing homes, permit violations, and lawsuits. Turns out, designing with vibes and ChatGPT blueprints doesn’t build stable foundations—literally or metaphorically”*

## *What if your doctor prescribed agentic AI therapy to treat anxiety or depression?*



“I used to leave every call with my sister in tears. Now, I leave with clarity. I’ve never been more at peace.”

Jordan R.



“My mother and I haven’t spoken in over six years. With Emotranil, I finally got the apology I’d been waiting for.”

Sasha L.



“After my divorce, I needed a version of my ex who listened. Emotranil gave me closure without reopening the wound.”

Lindsey B.

# Signals of Change

## Internet Searches Inflate Perceived Knowledge

*Psychology Today, 2024*

People mistake searched facts for their own knowledge, often overestimating what they truly understand.



## Social Media Becomes the Default News Source

*PEW, 2024*

Nearly one-third of people now get their news from highly individualized social media platforms.

## Digital Echo Chambers Replace Real-World Bonds

*NIH, 2021*

Consuming content you identify with creates online-only communities of shared beliefs. People now choose openness over traditional human connection.

## Algorithms Mirror the Self

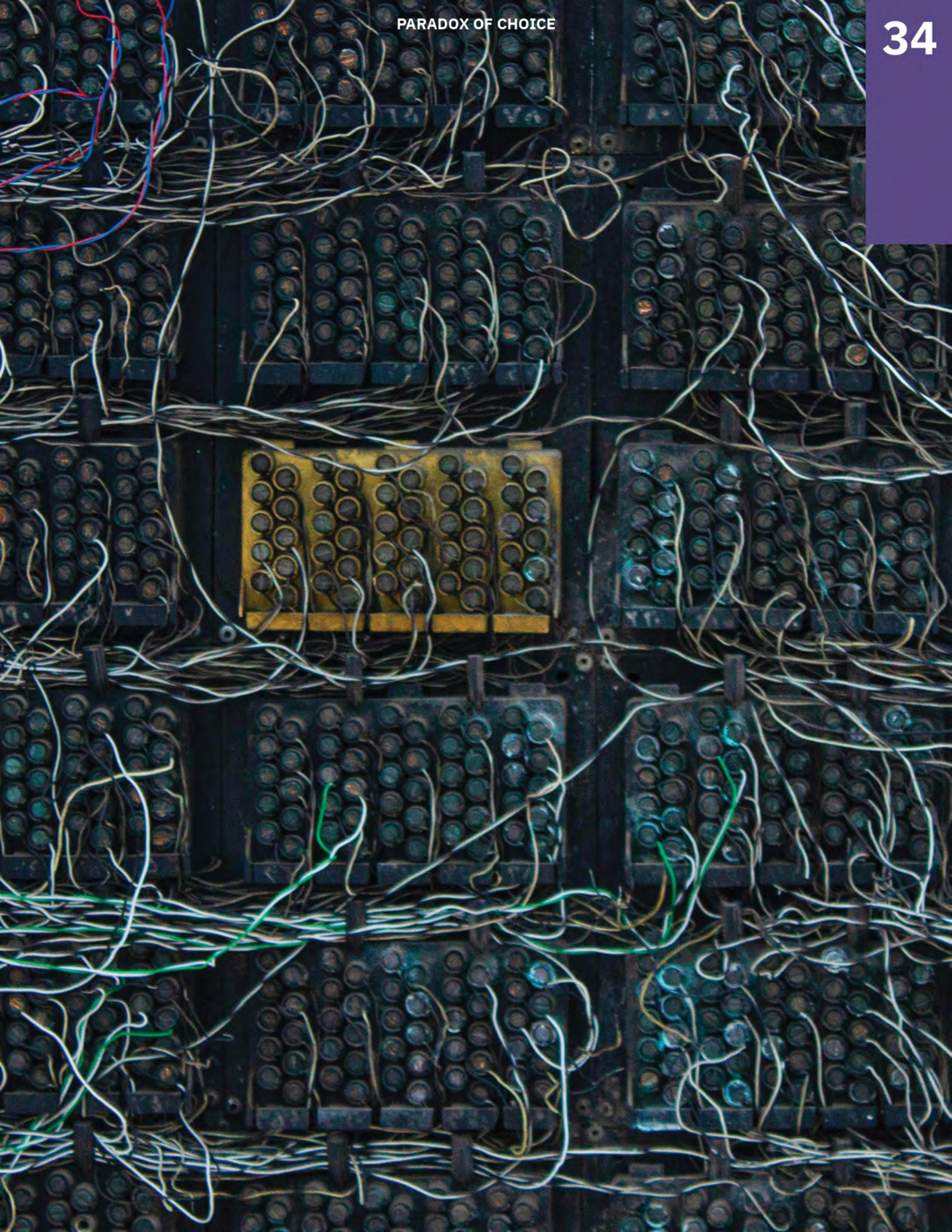
*The Conversation, 2024*

Teens see social media algorithms not as tools, but as accurate reflections of who they are.

## Search Replaces Memory

*Psychology Today, 2024*

Seamless internet access leads people to search rather than think or remember, reshaping how knowledge is stored and recalled.



# FORCES OF NATURE

## 04

*Society is witnessing increasingly frequent and unpredictable extreme weather events, forcing a re-examination of decisions and priorities around where and how to live.*





**Avery Sinclair** • 1st

B.A. in Human Resources | Senior Recruiter at UPX

2w •



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UPX Careers

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## Strategic Meteorologist

Route Optimization Team Posted March 2, 2041

**Job Description:**

The Strategic Meteorologist will serve as the in-house expert on climate and weather-related risks, providing real time and predictive analysis to mitigate supply chain disruptions. This role will require working closely with our Global Logistics, Operations, Risk Management and Route Optimization teams to develop proactive strategies that enhance delivery reliability and minimize climate-related operational risks. This individual will leverage advanced meteorological models, climate forecasting to support strategic decision-making in route planning, facility operations, and emergency response coordination.

---

**Required Skills:**

- Effectively observe and analyze meteorological data from various sources to identify current and forecasted weather conditions impacting our comprehensive logistics operations.
- Develop accurate short- and long-term weather forecasts and provide critical weather information to relevant departments.
- Conduct post-weather event analyses to assess the impact of weather on operations and provide strategic insight on future mitigation of weather-related risks.
- Proficient in meteorological forecasting tools and GIS mapping software.
- Bachelor's degree in Meteorology, Atmospheric Science, or a related field.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills, with ability to translate complex weather data into actionable business strategies.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, high-pressure environment and make data-driven decisions under time constraints.
- Support the development of UPS's internal weather data platform, synthesizing driver telemetry and forecasts into insights that can be licensed to external partners.

---

**Preferred Skills:**

- Minimum 3-years experience in Operational Meteorology
- Master's degree in Meteorology, Atmospheric Science, or a related field.
- Experience working with private sector meteorology services, logistics firms or government agencies (e.g., NOAA, FEMA, WMO)
- Certifications in weather-forecasting, emergency management or business continuity planning.
- Familiarity with sustainability initiatives and climate adaptation strategies for corporate operations.

---

**Additional Notes:**

- Work schedule: This position requires flexibility to work various shifts, including nights and weekends, to continuously provide support and monitor conditions.
- During major climate events (classified Tier 1–Tier 3), meteorologists may be asked to remain on-site for continuous forecasting support.

[www.jobs-upx.com](http://www.jobs-upx.com) [humanresources@upxusa.com](mailto:humanresources@upxusa.com)

**Location:**

Louisville, KY (Worldport Hub)

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**Labels:**

- Job Function: Meteorology, Logistics
- Industry: Transportation, Logistics, Supply Chain, Climate Technology
- Employment Type: Full-Time
- Experience Level: Mid Level

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**Salary Range:**

Mid Level Position, \$158,900 – \$248,200 per year, commensurate with experience and qualifications.

---

**Benefits:**

- Comprehensive Healthcare:** Medical, dental, and vision insurance plans.
- Retirement Plans:** Includes traditional 401(k) plans as well as access to the UPS Horizon Haven Program.
- Paid Time Off:** Generous vacation, holidays, sick leave, and seasonal relocation time.
- Relocation Assistance:** Guaranteed relocation assistance for those currently located in high-risk weather zones.
- Employee Crypto Options (ECOs):** Exclusive access to employee-only UPS crypto pricing for a finite period of time.
- Employee Assistance Programs:** Support for mental health, wellness, and work-life balance.
- Tuition Reimbursement:** Financial support for further education and skill development.
- Employee Discounts:** Discounts on UPS shipping services and partnerships with various retailers.

---

**Why Join UPS?**

- Be a pioneer in integrating meteorology into one of the world's most advanced active logistics networks.
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams to shape the future of climate-adaptive logistics.
- Work in a dynamic environment that values innovation, sustainability, and data-driven decision making.
- Make a tangible impact by enhancing UPS' resilience to climate risk and ensuring the delivery of essential goods in over 100 countries.

Jonathan Raj and 189 others

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**Peter Roberts** • 2nd

B.S. Computer Science | Project Manager

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*“Otto Adorono has always been a go-getter with an entrepreneurial mindset, and his climate relocation consultancy is booming as of late. Families and organizations alike hire Otto to create contingency plans based on the potential of future climate disruptions that could make their current locations unlivable. He and his team track things like rising sea levels and the frequency of wildfires, infrastructure resilience levels, and economic trends to recommend new places to live or operate if or when the time comes to make a move. His clients keep recommending him to their friends, partially because of his unique touches like personalized relocation roadmaps that can still be accessed when the power grid is down and networks are offline, and the bonus of recommendations for climate refugee-friendly schools. As Otto always says — “The best time to move was yesterday. The second best is today.” ”*

*What if living in a  
climate neutral zone  
is a sign of wealth and  
status?*

## 3.1 MAN VS. NATURE: THE FINAL SHOWDOWN

The assumption that humans can tame or control the natural world grows increasingly vulnerable as we bear witness to the impacts of unprecedented weather events. Humans are forced to consider the reality that we are no longer in the drivers' seat of our future; Mother Nature is.

*What if cities at sea were the safest escape from hazards of climate change?*

## 3.2 A CLIMATE OF NECESSITY

In an era is emerging where decisions about where and how to live must strike a balance between preference and practicality. Uncertain weather patterns challenge society to prioritize safety, security, and durability over aesthetics and personal preferences.

*“Amelia dreads every hurricane season, and unfortunately, they keep getting longer and more frequent. The nearest coastline is 400 miles away, but that’s just not far enough away to escape the danger anymore. This year she decided to just go ahead and keep her go-bag ready all year instead of unpacking and re-packing with the seasons. It’s not just the hassle of packing – it’s also the fact that her sister can barely afford the high-risk hurricane insurance rider they now has to carry. The advancements in predictive weather systems make it easier to get out of harms way than it used to be, but they don’t help with the financial (and emotional) costs of knowing every storm could be the one that takes their home.”*

**Friday, March 2036**

What a whirlwind of a week. I'm exhausted from the orientations, but I'm feeling excited about the new people I've met and my role on board. There are 40 of us in this Month's cohort, many of whom have alarming stories. Owen left his home in California after a devastating wildfire, and Jenny's family farm was torn apart after an unexpected hurricane hit the Midwest.

I've got more responsibility in my position here than I did back home and plenty of space to grow in my career. The ship is beautiful—every little detail has been efficiently designed. I thought I might feel claustrophobic, but as I have started to explore, it feels like I'm in a city. I can't get enough of the views from the office. Seeing the expansive horizon is breathtaking, especially at sunset. I wish I had a better view from my room, but I've noticed those are reserved for first-class.

I've been feeling pretty sea-sick. I stopped at the medical center today to get a neuromodulation wristband, and I was awestruck when I passed by the NICU. I wonder if they are officially Citizens of the United States or Arkadia. I still have my U.S passport but a long-term Arkadian visa. What designation will the next generation have?

Motion sickness isn't my only ailment. It's been difficult to be away from what I know. I'm homesick for my parents and my cat, Ginger. But at least I can look forward to touching down at our next port. It will be comforting to get my feet on land again.



**Monday, November 2036**

*This Thursday is Thanksgiving. I can't believe I've been on Arkadia for 8 months. What is most surprising is how smoothly I transitioned into this new life. It hasn't been without its challenges, of course, but it hasn't been as drastic as I assumed. I still get my groceries at the store and meet my friends at the cafe. I don't even feel the boat moving anymore.*

*Caroline and I are expecting our parents for a visit this week for the holiday. They applied for an Arkadian visa months ago and are meeting us in the Port of Miami, granted all goes well with the weather. We've been pushing for them to join us here, but they've been resistant. I hope when they see it for themselves they will be convinced. They've got a great senior care plan for when that time comes. It would be nice for them to be closer to the kids, anyway.*

*Thanksgiving will look different this year. We're still going to cook because Caroline and Ben have a bigger suite with a little kitchenette. Most people on board are planning to go to the buffet - they've got the best chefs in for the occasion. We reserved a small gathering room to keep it personal, and Mom's planning to bring some of the dishware that was passed down from her family. I'll miss seeing the changing colors of the trees and Dad's annual scarecrow in the yard, but new traditions are inevitable as the world goes on.*

**ARKADIA**

Maritime Identification

Passenger **JANE DOE**

Port of Origin **ORLANDO U.S.A.**

DOB **09.14.25**

Work Authorization **RADIO TRANSMISSIONS AND EMERGENCY SIGNALLING**

Cabin **DECK 8, SECTOR C, CLUSTER BC-112**

Status **ESSENTIAL TECHNICAL PERSONNEL**

Clearance Level **CIV-COM 2B-2**

Issued by the Transoceanic Autonomous Vessel Registry | Horizon Class  
004-1929-MN

# *What if every middle school student studied “The Great Climate Migration” of 2045*

## **3.3 UNDERWRITING THE UNPREDICTABLE**

A rise in extreme weather events is exposing the fragility of systems we rely on to manage costs and risks. This reality challenges how and where people can live, not only based on their ability to secure a home, but also the capacity to insure it.

## **3.4 DEGREES OF DISPLACEMENT**

As extreme weather threatens the survivability of established population centers, an emergent demographic of so-called “climate refugees” are driving population shifts, often to unexpected places. The potential for mass migration and relocation in the future, along with the potential that such a migration could be hastily set in motion, sets the stage for additional impacts to infrastructure, resources, and cultural norms.

## 2.3 A world of changing climates



In this section, you'll learn about the causes and consequences of the **Great Migration of 2045**.

### Setting the stage

The sky darkened as towering storm clouds gathered over what was once a bustling coastal city. Streets flooded within hours, homes were torn apart, and emergency services were overwhelmed. Further inland, soaring temperatures and prolonged droughts made agriculture nearly impossible, leading to food shortages and economic collapse. For many, there was no choice left: they had to leave behind their ancestral homes and seek safety in more stable climates.

This was the experience of millions during the Great Migration, a global shift that reshaped the human population. As extreme weather events became increasingly unpredictable and destructive, entire regions became uninhabitable. People fled from the tropical zones to more temperate latitudes, often encountering new cultural, political, and economic challenges in their new homes. This massive movement of people changed the way nations governed, how resources were distributed, and how communities adapted to an uncertain future.



▲ **Figure 1** Passengers wait to board a flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina, a new global population center.

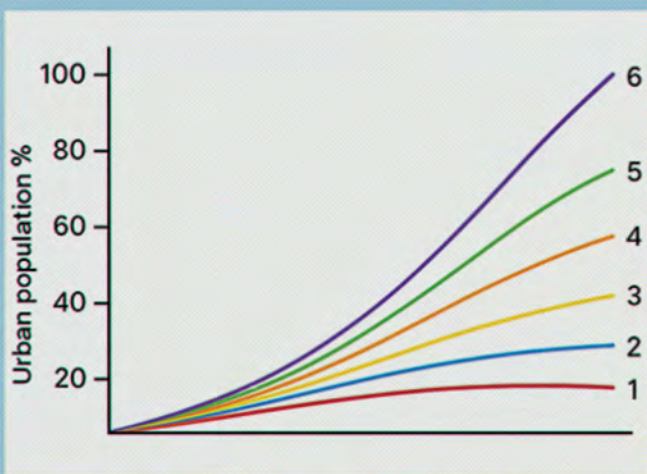
**Migration** is the movement of people from one place to another, often driven by environmental, economic, social or political factors.

**Key**

- North America
- Oceania
- Europe
- Latin America, Caribbean
- Asia
- Africa

### How does population density vary between different climate zones?

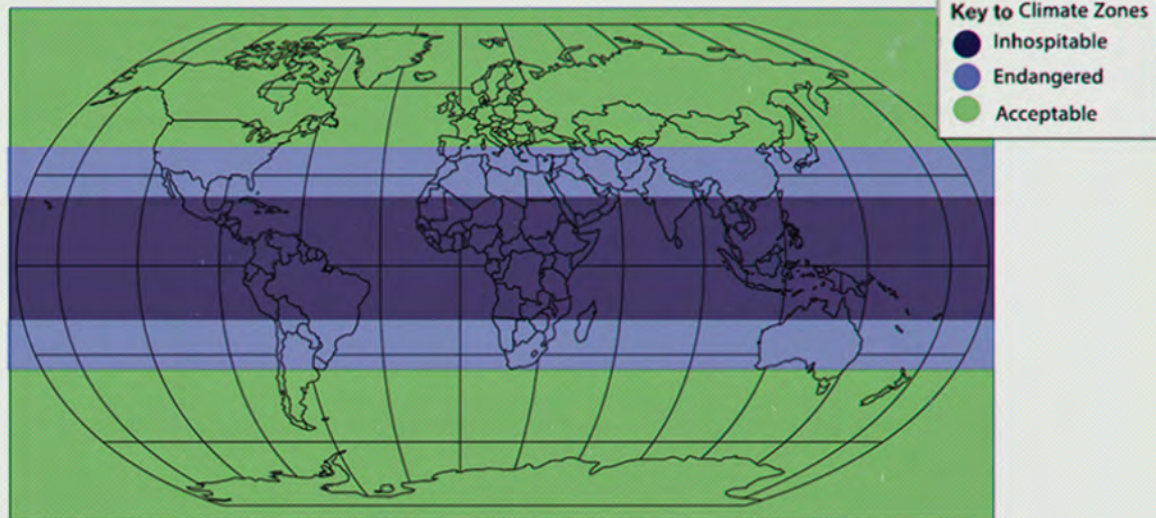
The graph shows how population density shifted dramatically between climate zones before and after the Great Migration. Before the migration, tropical regions such as South America, Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa had some of the highest population densities on Earth. However, as climate conditions worsened, these areas saw a sharp decline in inhabitants. Meanwhile, previously less populated temperate zones, such as parts of Canada, Northern Europe, and Siberia, saw a rapid influx of people. This shift required extensive infrastructure development and new policies to support the growing populations in formerly sparsely populated regions.



▲ **Figure 2** The increasing urban population in different world regions.

### The changing balance

The Great Migration of 2045 was one of the most significant human movements in recorded history, beginning in the late 21st century. Rising global temperatures led to more frequent and severe natural disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires, and droughts.



Many regions, especially those in the tropics, became inhospitable, making it impossible for people to sustain their livelihoods. Governments, struggling to respond, eventually enacted mass relocation efforts, while millions fled independently in search of safety and stability. This period saw the largest redistribution of the global population since the Ice Age.

▲ **Figure 3**  
Hospitable zones as designated  
by the World Weather Organization

### Societal and Political Implications

The societal, political, and economic effects of the Great Migration were profound. Nations in temperate regions faced an influx of climate refugees, leading to shifts in labor markets, urban development, and resource allocation. Some countries welcomed migrants, recognizing their potential contributions, while others enacted strict border policies, leading to international tensions. Economically, industries had to adapt to new workforce demographics, and housing markets saw unprecedented demand. Culturally, societies transformed as diverse groups merged, bringing both innovation and conflict.

#### Your Turn: Questions

- 1 What were the main environmental factors that led to the Great Migration?
  - 2 How did governments respond to the rapid movement of people, and what challenges did they face?
- 37 250 > In what ways did the Great Migration impact the economies of the regions that received large numbers of migrants?

#### Exam Preparation

Identify two sovereign nations that were created as a direct result of the Habitable Zones Act of 2045.

#### What do you think?

Do you think governments were prepared for the mass movement of people during the Great Migration?

# Signals of Change



## Net Zero Town Withstands Hurricane

*NYT, October 2024*

Babcock Ranch, a Florida town designed for climate resilience, maintained power and suffered minimal damage during Hurricane Milton.

## Zillow Adds Climate Risk to Listings

*Zillow Group, September 2024*

Zillow now includes flood, fire, and heat risk scores in home listings, helping buyers assess environmental threats.

## Climate Events Trigger Mental Health Crisis

*Springer Nature, April 2024*

Floods, heatwaves, and hurricanes are intensifying anxiety and stress, fueling a rise in climate-related mental health research.

## Extreme Weather Displacement on the Rise

*Ferris & Bower, March 2023*

Governments remain unprepared as climate-driven displacement accelerates, with relocation efforts outpacing policy planning.

## Climate Change to Kill 250,000 More per Year

*Springer Nature, April 2024*

By 2050, climate change is projected to cause an additional 250,000 deaths annually from extreme weather and related crises.





# FUTURE DRIVERS

## CARBS & CARBON EMISSIONS

Once a simple necessity for survival, our relationship with food is evolving as our footprint of economic prosperity expands. Food is no longer simply a source of calories, but now a multifaceted pursuit of pleasure, health, and purpose. What we eat now has a larger dialogue including identity, values, and responsibility for the future of our planet.



SIGNALS OF CHANGE

Western Dairy Beliefs Evolving  
Combining Old Science to Future Health  
Single Protein Based as a New Protein  
Social Media Shapes Culinary Trends

## NEW-TRENDS

Strains on supply and the sheer volume of rapidly expanding and palatable nutritious products are reducing the definition of the pathway.

## WHAT IF...

*the new farm to table is lab to plate?*

“Back in 2011, the University of Cincinnati was the first to launch a program that combined food and science. The idea was simple: to create a space where students could explore the intersection of food and science. The program was a success, and it has since become a model for other universities. The program has helped to create a new generation of food scientists and has helped to advance the field of food science. The program has also helped to create a new generation of food scientists and has helped to advance the field of food science.”

## WHAT IF...

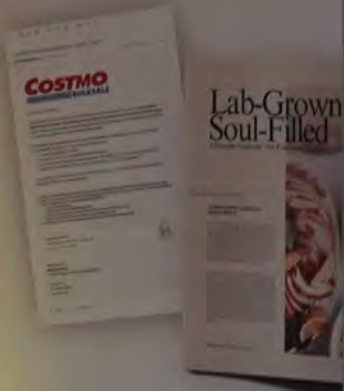
*having a turkey is no longer a store, but now a store on the black market?*

## EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP WITH FOOD

In a world where the relationship with food is changing, what food do we eat in our lives? What are the challenges and factors in...



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