

08.10.2017

Hi

Just to let you know that on **November 21st** I will be giving a **short round-up of 2017 - where we are in terms of climate change, and in terms of action**. But the second part of the evening will be an 'experience exchange'. What has been **your experience in changing electricity supplier, changing your transport usage, cutting your fuel & meat consumption, divesting and positively investing, joining the circular economy....?** If you have thoughts to share, we would love to hear them. The event will be hosted by the **Bedminster Energy Group at the Snug, Tobacco Factory, 7.30pm, Tuesday 21st November**. If you can't attend, please email me any thoughts.

Here is some other information from the last few weeks that you may find useful.

1. **Grass-fed beef does not off-set own emissions...**
2. The extraordinary impact of **going vegan for a week..**
3. Food waste event, 12th October
4. The falling cost of renewables
5. The **carbon intensity of electricity around Europe & a new app to help you**
6. Excellent 'Fully Charged' explains **impact of renewables on grid**
7. **Bristol's greenhouse gas targets**
8. **Zero Carbon Britain transport event**
9. Pesticide Safe Bristol Alliance
10. New **index on human-caused earthquakes** - not good news for mining, oil and gas extraction, fracking, large reservoirs or carbon capture and storage..
11. **Costing the Earth** - big, positive, green developments in Cornwall & questions about the functioning of our Environment Agency
12. New talks - Clifton, Frome and Long Ashton

1. If you have come to one of my 'land use' talks you will know that I have put both sides of **the 'vegetarian' argument** - our livestock production is an enormous source of carbon, methane and nitrous oxide production, but managing grasslands offers potential for rapid carbon sequestration into soil (where we need it). An [Oxford University study](#) now concludes that **carbon sequestration does not offset the greenhouse gas emitted - we should all cut our meat and dairy consumption**. However, it seems logical that if you're not entirely vegan, it's worth making sure your meat and dairy products come from pasture-fed and organic sources.

2. See [here](#) for the impact of going vegan for a week. And vegans live longer, apparently...

3. Fareshare South West are hosting a [Food Waste Feast](#) on the **12th October** at Woodlands Church, BS8 2AA. You get to eat good, waste food, along with some MPs and other speakers, and discuss the implications of our **wasting a third of our food** that then produces methane...

4. At the end of September we had the extraordinary news that [off-shore wind contracts have been given at £57.50/ MWh](#) - **the hope had been that we'd get down to £100 by 2020...**! The plummeting cost of renewables is still the big story in energy and emerging markets are moving ahead fast. North Africa and the Middle East plan another 14GW by end of 2018, the same in Central and South America and 28 GW in [India](#). **China has met its 2020 solar targets 3 years early** and will meet its wind targets by 2019. Reports indicate that energy experts expect a further 66% drop in the cost of solar by 2040, 47% drop in wind prices, and the growth in [solar now far eclipses the growth in new coal](#). In the UK, we have at least another [4GW of solar](#) already in the pipeline, as well as many other projects. [Wales](#) is doing particularly well in its target of 70% renewables by 2030. All very cheering stuff - but still coal is 40% of the world's electricity production....

5. We, in the Global North, are aiming to produce electricity with only 50g CO2 equivalent per megawatt hour - or less. [Here's an interactive map](#) to show how European countries are doing... [Estonia](#) is unbelievable - they are almost entirely reliant on burning shale oil.... The site also tells you the day-ahead price for electricity in the UK - interesting to see how it fluctuates as producers compete to supply.

The World Wildlife Fund and Environment Defense Fund in Europe have teamed up with the National Grid to produce a [new app to tell you when is the best time \(lowest carbon intensity\) to use / charge up your gadgets](#).

6. Here's an excellent, very watchable ['Fully Charged'](#) explanation of how the grid is managed and the impact of renewables. The more complicated challenge is for the Distribution Network Operators (Western Power in our area), particularly now that National Grid has confirmed **electric vehicles have reached price-parity with conventional** (ie it now makes economic, as well as environmental, sense to buy an EV).. An upsurge in [battery investments](#), [big](#) and [small](#), plus demand-side measures and interconnectors (with our European neighbours) are changing the way we manage things at national and local level. Altogether, the National Infrastructure Committee believes we will be **saving over £8 billion a year by 2030**, as a country, by making these changes.

7. Many people are not aware that **Bristol has its own greenhouse reduction targets, and another set for the Council itself**. Although we have, apparently, reached the 2020 40%

target, future goals will depend on what happens with transport and heating. At the moment, the Council is **focused on reducing our air quality pollutants - so petrol or cleaner diesel appear as good alternatives... However, these will not help us meet our urgent greenhouse gas targets.** We need a better commitment to truly clean transport, and better interconnected buses and trains to get more of us out of our cars.

**Table 2: City Of Bristol Proposed Reduction Targets**

	2020	2025	2035	2050
<b>Citywide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b>	40%	<b>50%</b>	<b>60%</b>	80%
<b>Citywide Energy consumption</b>	30%	<b>35%</b>	<b>45%</b>	55%
<b>Citywide Renewable Energy</b>	To be developed through consultation			

(New targets shown in **Bold**)

**Table 3: Bristol City Councils Proposed Reduction Targets**

	2020	2025	2035	2050
<b>BCC CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b>	50%		<b>60%</b>	
	(was 40%)			
<b>BCC Energy use</b>	40%		<b>50%</b>	
	(was 30%)			

(New targets shown in **Bold**)

8. Zero Carbon Britain will be hosting a ['What shall we do about transport' event at Hay on Wye on the 14th October.](#) Bookings through Eventbrite.

9. One suggestion for the Council is to cut its pesticide use. There is a [Pesticide Free Bristol Alliance](#) that is urging the council to cut all its chemical use, for health reasons as well as environmental.

10. In Radio 4's Inside Science, broadcast 5th October, there was information on a new [index of human-induced earthquakes](#). It now appears that more than expected are the result of mining, oil and gas extraction (particularly water and gas injection as artificial lift,) reservoirs with big water retention, sky-scrapers, tunnels, nuclear tests and carbon capture and storage. This has big implications for our fracking industry and for the [planned coal mine next to Sellafield](#).

11. Radio 4's Costing the Earth also did a cheering programme on [renewable and battery developments in Cornwall](#). Well worth a listen.

12. Please see [my website for details of talks in Clifton and Frome](#). I will also be doing a one-off 'The Way Forward on Climate Change' on November 29th in Long Ashton, 7.30pm, Jubilee Pavilion, Community Centre, Keedwell Hill.

[As ever, if you would like to come off the mailing list, please let me know.](#)

All good wishes.

Nikki

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