

15th of November

1. Some **great targets hit with renewable energy generation**
2. Floating wind - a turning point
3. GE & Siemens - failing orders for gas turbines
4. **Greenpeace legal case in Norway** - everyone is watching...
5. **Christina Figueres says we have three years...**
6. Many countries have peaked their emissions
7. Closures of 'teenage' coal plants
8. **HSBC makes some green moves**; Council fossil fuel investment up 15%
9. Small Modular Reactors going up our government's agenda
10. Closure of major uranium mine in Canada
11. **The decommissioning of our Magnox reactors - listen to a good File on 4**

1. Scotland has been powering ahead to meet its ambitious [renewable energy](#) targets, 100% of power by 2020. In [October, it exceeded this goal](#) on 15 out of 30 days, from wind power alone. On occasions, Scotland was generating 189% of its own needs...

Across Europe, almost 25% of Europe's electricity demand was met by wind on one day in October. Denmark reached 109% and Germany 61%. The UK has the 7th biggest annual contribution from wind to its grid - low (given the potential), it is assumed, because of the government's block on on-shore wind, our cheapest renewable generation.

2. The world's first floating wind farm began feeding Scotland's grid last month and it is reported that this [success is now breeding others around Europe](#). It's a turning point not just because it enables generation in much deeper waters, and because the project includes battery storage, but also because the lead investor is Statoil, Norway's state-owned oil company. The potential for new off-shore wind in Europe - and elsewhere - is enormous.
3. Interestingly, both Siemens and GE are reporting very lean times, with little interest in new gas turbines. Both report that **batteries are now serious competition for gas 'peaker' plants**, the solution envisaged by our government to meet power demand when there are insufficient renewables. Interestingly - and unsurprisingly - Siemens' results top those of GE, having made bigger moves towards renewable production.
4. [Greenpeace's legal case against the Norwegian government](#) is, according to an FT report, so novel that its likely success is hard to judge. Just ten days before signing the Paris agreement, Norway released 93 blocks in Arctic waters, auctioning the rights for oil exploration and production. The case rests on the government's obligation to safeguard its people; the blocks are also close to important fishing areas. Please [support Greenpeace](#) if you can.

5. Now the heart-stoppingly bad news... Christiana Figueres, head of the climate change talks, is warning [we have only three years](#) to avoid some of the worst impacts of climate change. What we do **now** is **critical**. Action at all levels - from government to individual - is vital. Fossil fuels need to be left in the ground.
6. The Carbon Brief has published an article indicating that greenhouse gas emissions have [peaked in 49 countries](#) already. Of course, it is the size of those countries and their output that matters, but a sign of the efforts made by many governments and populations. No country is doing enough, however, and a second article indicates [global fossil-fuel CO2 is likely to rise](#) this year, having plateaued for the last three.
7. But economics really are moving things and coal is the obvious target. [One report](#) suggests that many of Europe's 280 plants are likely to close early and crucially, many of these are mere 'teenagers', nowhere near the end of their lives. A further report today indicates that [Germany can well afford to close](#) down its extremely dirty lignite power plants (lowest grade of coal) and it will not risk any black-outs - though it may have to cut its exports of dirty electricity.... Germany can afford to do this, and stop acting in such a hypocritical manner....
8. HSBC has just announced that it will stop financing new coal in developed countries - but will continue to do so in the Global South (which is where most of it is being built...). The bank states it will source 100% of its own electricity from renewables by 2030 and will invest \$100bn in clean technology by 2025. So, mixed news.

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wever, it is also reported that [UK local authority investment in fossil fuels](#) is up 15% to just over £16bn. This is despite active divestment campaigns. Avon pension fund is one of the offenders and I gather that Bristol University is moving very slowly to fulfill its pledges.
9. Our government's enthusiasm for small modular reactors (SMRs) is increasing, apparently, although opinion polls indicate that the [public will not accept](#) nuclear reactors around our cities. An FT article last week reported that Rolls Royce are looking for **£1.6bn for more research and development, £2.1bn to build the first plant, and £1.8bn for each plant after that**. This definitely puts SMRs into the 'expensive distraction' pile... This is no solution to climate change.
10. Better news on the nuclear front. Demand for uranium has been falling ever since the Fukushima disaster in 2011, as governments have cancelled plants and the economics of the industry have been increasingly undercut by renewables and gas. One of the world's largest and lowest-cost mines (in Canada) has just suspended its operations for at least 10 months.
11. File on 4 have just broadcast an [excellent programme](#) on the problems surrounding our decommissioning of Magnox nuclear plants. Our government has just stripped another company of its contract, and we still have the far more expensive AGRs (advanced gas cooled reactors) to go... The case for a third roll-out, when we are

mired in the problems - waste and expense - of the first two, is questionable on all fronts, not least its morality.

As ever, if you want to come off the mailing list just let me know.

I hope to see you on the 30th. All good wishes.

Nikki