

21.10.2017

- 1- 6. All things nuclear
7. **Our first floating wind farm - with batteries - joins the grid**
8. The Bottom Line on batteries
9. **Biggest French bank commits to divestment** - and news on 350.Org campaign
10. Australia's government follows Trump
11. Screening of **Seed: The Untold Story**
12. Avon Organic Group and a Community Orchard event in Horfield

1. As I write this, we wait for more details of why **bomb disposal experts were called to Sellafield** last night. But we do know that the National Audit Office has just accused the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of **bungling a £6.2bn contract and that we, as taxpayers, will be shouldering another £2.2bn in costs for cleaning up our old (all closed) Magnox plants.** The costs are soaring, and we haven't even begun on our Advanced Gas Cooled Reactors that must be shut down over the next 13 years. We know these will be far more expensive than the Magnox fleet.

In order to

make a build-out of new nuclear anywhere near viable, these clean-up costs and the very long-term management of waste are not factored in to the electricity generation - they are TAXPAYER costs. This completely distorts the price of new nuclear - already ridiculously high. Last estimate I saw was around **£160bn for the waste we already have**, but frankly nobody knows...

2. It seems that there are plans to dump 300,000 tonnes of nuclear waste from the existing Hinkley plants into Welsh in-shore waters. Please sign **the petition** and pass to others. Many thanks.
3. In Cumbria, **Radiation Free Lakeland** are protesting the expansion of a coal mine very close to Sellafield. Given recent reports about **higher than expected earthquake activity** from mining, please support their **legal challenge** if you can, even if just a fiver.
4. Hinkley C is a replica of the two other nuclear plants being built in Europe that are both financial and practical disasters. **Olkiluoto in Finland was supposed to start up in 2009** but has just had another set back of dates till **early 2019** and is the subject of multi-billion law suits between the French and Finns.

The building of Flamanville in France, supposed to be on-line in 2012, is being allowed continue despite **known defective steel and forged documents.** I am reliably informed that the French regulators are still demanding that the defective steel is **removed by 2024.** The only reason, it seems, to have this temporary go-ahead is so that Hinkley C can continue... Economic madness (and so

much worse...).

5. The hope is still that a new CEO, Simone Rossi, coming into EDF **may simply cancel Hinkley Point C**. As even pro-nuclear Nick Butler at the FT is advocating, all parties need to sign a **no-fault, no-compensation deal and walk away**.
6. Japanese regulators have given the go-ahead for the **re-opening of seven reactors** at the world's largest nuclear site, closed down since the Fukushima disaster in 2011. However, this will be subject to public approval. At the moment, the main opposition party is standing on a platform of **no nuclear by 2030**. The election is tomorrow (22nd Oct). Encouragingly, [a new Japanese design of wave power](#) could replace the output of ten nuclear plants.
7. Some good news! This week we saw '**Batwind**' **connect to the Scottish grid** - the UK's first floating wind farm, and it comes with batteries! Floating wind has the potential to dramatically increase our renewable output, as it can be located in far deeper waters. [Here's a good video](#) explaining how it works.
8. For a good round-up of where we are with [batteries](#), here's a recent broadcast of Radio 4's The Bottom Line on the subject.
9. Fantastic news on the divestment front. [BNP Parisbas](#), France's largest bank, has announced that it will divest completely from shale and tar sands, and also from all Arctic oil and gas exploration. It plans to invest **15 billion Euros in renewables by 2020**. **Where are the British banks on this?** [350.Org are putting out a new action plan on divestment for the November climate change summit in Bonn](#).
10. **Australia's government seems determined to follow in Trump's footsteps, even though the public and Australian corporations are moving firmly towards renewables**. The government has just announced that it intends to abandon its clean energy target in favour of one with coal!.... Australia remains the world's biggest coal exporter. However, [roof-top solar](#) and [home batteries](#) are surging. Australia's Paris targets are ridiculously low for a country blessed with so many renewable resources. The plan is that by 2030, **still 53%** of electricity will come from coal....
11. On November 18th, Long Ashton Community Cinema will be screening '[Seed: The Untold Story](#)'. Who owns the patents to our seeds? Please share.
12. Avon Organic Group will be holding a talk this [Thursday at The Station](#), Silver St in Bristol, 7.30pm. Garden Organic's Chief Exec will be speaking. And tomorrow, Sunday 22nd, Horfield's Community Orchard will be having an open day (see below).

All good wishes

Nikki

Celebrate Apple Day

Horfield Organic Community Orchard

Sunday 22 October, 2 - 4pm

Tasting table - local and unusual apples

Juice pressing*

Make merry with Pigsty Morris

Refreshments, local produce, and trees for sale

Fruit growing questions & answers

New! Home Orchard Plot & *Orchard Learning 2018*

To find the Orchard (nearest postcode BS7 8JP)

Walk down the lane beside 22 Kings Drive (between Bishop Road and Kellaway Avenue)

Turn left and the entrance is the first gate on the right

OR Take the lane beside 134 Longmead Avenue until you come to the last gate on the left

Dogs on leads

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