

25 08 2017

1. Last talk at **Henleaze** and **new series in Clifton and Frome**
2. **China's big moves** on coal and solar - in the right direction
3. Is Shell going green?
4. Greenhouse gases from **UK transport going up**
5. **Autonomous vehicle trials**
6. Can we charge a vehicle and boil a kettle at the same time? **Carbon Brief** answers.
7. 100 UK organisations commit to **5% EVs by 2020**
8. London plans to become world's first **National Park City**
9. **Organic Bristol events**
10. A Guardian over-view of **peat**
11. The **rise of mega-farms** in Somerset & Glos. **Power Grazing youtube.**
12. Friends of the Earth Bristol summer social - **Tuesday 29th August**
13. **CAT course - Zero Carbon Britain**
14. **Energy Coop donating £2000 to SolarAid. Link to update on progress in Africa**

1. I will be giving the last talk - **The Way Forward - at the Eastfield Inn, Henleaze next Thursday (31st)** at 7.30pm and I will be starting a **new series of talks at the Clifton Library**, Princess Victoria Street, **7.30pm, in September**. Booking links will be on my website in a few days, or you will be able to find them on Eventbrite.

#### Clifton Library

What is Climate Change? - Tuesday 26th September

A Beginner's Guide to the Oil and Gas Industry - Tuesday 10th October

Global Energy Trends - Tuesday 17th October

UK Energy, Emissions and Targets - Tuesday 24th October

Is Nuclear the Answer? - Tuesday 31st October

Land Use and Climate Change - **Thursday** 9th October

The Way Forward - Tuesday 14th October.

I will also be giving the talks in **Frome** at the **Town Hall**, Christchurch Street West, BA11 1AB, 7.30pm.

#### Frome Town Hall

What is Climate Change? - Thursday 28th September

A Beginner's Guide to the Oil and Gas Industry - Thursday 19th October

Global Energy Trends - Thursday 23rd November

UK Energy, Emissions and Targets - Thursday 14th December

Is Nuclear the Answer - 15th February 2018

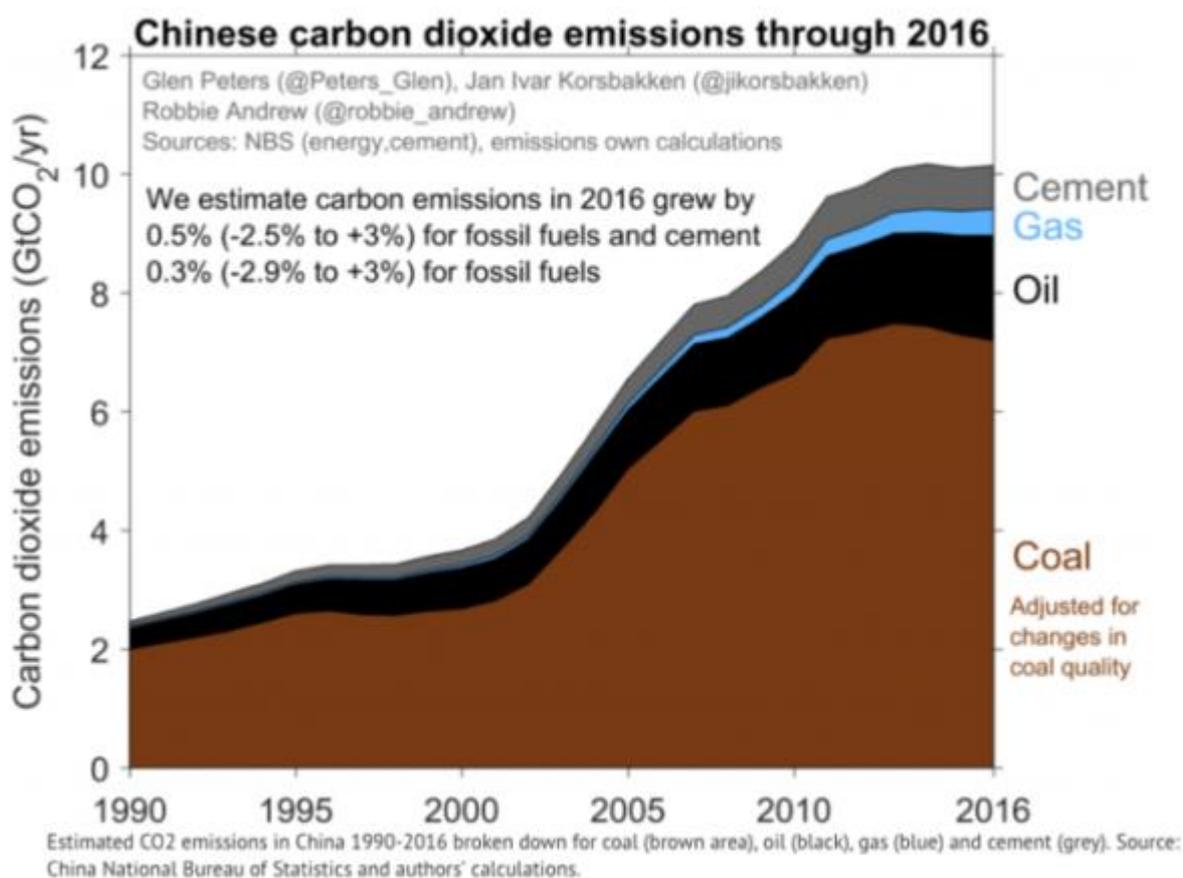
Land Use and Climate Change - 22nd March

The Way Forward - 19th April

2. **Here's some big and welcome news.** China is putting a [brake on plans for 150 GW](#) of coal fired power production that was due to come on line by 2020, and is cutting a further 20 GW of existing plant and upgrading another 1000 GW. (To put the GW in perspective, the UK's usage varies between 18 GW in summer and 53 GW in winter - so these are big amounts!)

China's emissions from its energy and cement sectors is believed to have stayed flat the last few years, while

[emissions from coal are definitely on the decline.](#) In addition, China is reported to have [added 24 GW of new solar](#) in just the last two months. Coal production, globally, was down 6.3% last year. The coal industry has been trying to position itself as the 'reliable' fuel, but appears to be failing. The global consensus now is most definitely away from coal.



3. **Is Shell going green?** We need Big Oil to put its capital and expertise into green technology but so far, steps have been tentative. Shell has established a 'New Energies Division' which plans to be spending **\$1bn per year on clean tech by 2020** (a small part of its overall development budget). The CEO, Ben van Beurden certainly acknowledges the imminent fall in demand for oil: *'We have to have projects that are resilient in a world where demand has peaked and will be declining. When will this happen? We do not know. But will it*

*happen? We are certain.'* **Most companies and analysts, including Shell, expect 'peak demand' in the 2020s.**

Last month **Shell made an interesting move to become an electricity supplier.** The FT reported this as a big challenge to other oil majors to diversify, but other informed commentators pointed out that this is more likely Shell's effort to manage the electricity market and sustain its role as a gas supplier. Hard to know, but as consumers, the greatest pressure we can apply is to **move to 100% renewable utilities and cut our own consumption of oil (petrol / diesel / plastics) and gas;** and divest our savings and positively invest in renewables.

4. Alarmingly, the UK **reversed its good progress on transport emissions in 2016.** We are responding to lower petrol & diesel prices (and slashed Vehicle Excise Duty for heavy consuming cars), and we are driving **more miles and bigger vehicles.** A 5% reduction in transport greenhouse gases turned into a **2% increase in 2016.**

**Total CO2 emissions from all vehicles in use fell by 4.6% between 2000 and 2015, as new vehicle efficiencies offset a 7% increase in vehicle use (for cars figures were 9% and 5% respectively). However, emissions have risen in the past two years, reflecting higher mileages.**

In autumn we are expecting the **government's 'Clean Growth Plan'** which will tell us how we will meet our legally binding 4th and 5th carbon budgets. Action on transport and heating is essential - these are the two areas where we are failing at the moment. Let's hope there is much **more support for low carbon and local transport initiatives.**

5. You will have heard on the news that the UK is about to start some small trials of driverless trucks on motorways, wirelessly linked to one that does have a driver... There is much speculation as to how fast **autonomous vehicles** will develop, but interesting to note that one Polish city has set itself up as a complete **test site.**

6. There have been more misleading headlines regarding the impact of electric vehicles on our electricity supply, saying we won't be able to boil a kettle if charging a vehicle.... **Carbon Brief have put out a useful rebuttal .**

7. Interesting to see also that more than **100 UK organisations** have committed to at least 5% electric vehicles by 2020. This includes some city councils, universities as well as companies. I am not aware of Bristol City Council having joined yet, but it seems a sensible move towards our clean air and city greenhouse gas emission targets (40% reduction by 2020).

8. Cheering to see also that **London's mayor** is positioning the capital to become the world's first **National Park City,** with a £9m fund for more trees and green infrastructure. All London taxis will be electric by January and some hydrogen buses are now on the road. (The hydrogen is clean, produced by electrolysing water.)

9. Bristol has many green initiatives and this coming weekend (2nd/3rd Sept) Bristol Uni is hosting a [Bee and Pollinators](#) event at the Botanic Gardens. The organisers are the Avon Organic Group - [www.groworganicbristol.org](http://www.groworganicbristol.org) - and they have many talks and events booked over the next few months. They'd be happy to hear from you.

10. The need to **sequester atmospheric carbon** into soil and woodland 'sinks' is a vital part of our 'staying below 2 degrees' strategy. Peat is one of our most important stores, with the sphagnum moss naturally taking carbon and building, in the right wet conditions, 1mm per year. [The Guardian](#) recently published an excellent article looking at where we are with **peat conservation around the world**. In the UK, we urgently need to **stop using peat in horticulture** and do more to restore our wetlands, approximately 8% of UK land area.

11. The Bristol Cable recently reported on the [rise of mega-farms](#) in Somerset and Glos. This is a **climate change issue as well as animal rights and human health issues**. These farms are mainly for poultry and pig production at the moment, but indoor cattle farms appear more likely. These farms use more cereal feed, little/no pasture, manure waste is concentrated, leaching nitrous oxide into waterways, and more antibiotics are used. The World Health Organisation warned this month that we face a **'slow moving tsunami' in terms of antibiotic resistance, with 70% currently going to animals**.

For those with strong stomachs and an interest in animal welfare, it is worth looking at [Land of Hope and Glory](#). I could only watch ten minutes... **Most important, for climate change, health, and animal welfare reasons, check that meat and dairy you buy comes from pasture-fed animals. Best of all, go organic and eat far less animal produce.** Some UK farmers are moving towards 'power grazing' for better animal health and carbon sequestration. One cheering example is Tim May - here's a [fun youtube](#) to watch.

12. If you are interested in finding out more about what's happening in Bristol, Friends of the Earth are having an [open 'summer social' next Tuesday](#), upstairs at the Duke of York in St Werburgh's, 7pm. All are welcome.

13. The **Centre for Alternative Technology** in Machynlleth offers some really interesting courses. Between the [5th and 7th September they are running 'Making it Happen'](#), an exploration of why the UK isn't moving faster towards decarbonisation, and thoughts on how to change this.

14. I am now raised almost **£3,500** for SolarAid, a charity that has both development and environmental aims. The plan is to **rid Africa of dirty and expensive kerosene by 2020, by getting solar lights to off-grid communities.** ([Ethex](#) and [Trine](#) offer investment opportunities, aimed at achieving the same goal.)

The **Bristol Energy Cooperative** has said that they will be donating **£2000** from their **Community Benefit Fund to SolarAid**, and a representative of the charity will be at their

AGM on the 12th October. In the meantime, if you are interested to find out more about SolarAid's progress, there is a link below to a new book from its founder, Jeremy Leggett.

Many thanks and all good wishes. **As ever, if you want to come off the mailing list, please just let me know.**

Nikki

Claim your free e-book :)

[View this email in your browser](#)



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## Hello Nikki

We hope you're having a good summer.

**We have a free gift for you** - our founder and Chairman, Jeremy Leggett has started a new, serialised e-book, entitled "[THE TEST - Solar light for all: a defining challenge for humanity](#)", in which he asks: "*If we cannot quickly replace oil-for-lighting with solar lighting, what chance do we have with all the many other global problems we face?*"

[Download your free copy now](#), which includes the first two chapters and details of Jeremy's trip to Africa. It's had [some great reviews](#)! We'll email you again when chapter three is out.



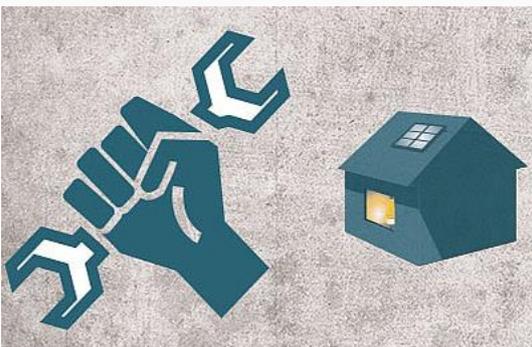


SunnyMoney have been working with Legado to deliver solar lights to remote communities in Mozambique... [Find out more.](#)



### **SunnyMoney vehicles CAN YOU HELP?**

Sadly, two SunnyMoney agents had motorcycle accidents this month, so we're looking to update our very old vehicles to keep staff safe. We need to find six new vehicles that will not break the bank - please email [info@solar-aid.org](mailto:info@solar-aid.org) if you can help in any way.



SolarAid have been shortlisted for the Off-Grid experts Award which honours special achievements

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