

Hi

Here are a few things you might want to be aware of:

1. **New series of free energy and climate change talks**, White Bear
2. **The Economics of Happiness**, 30th May, The Snug, Tobacco Factory
3. **Divestment Week** - actions & a great video on Barclays' funding of fracking
4. **Bristol events in Divestment Week**
5. **Leif Warner talk at Watershed - oil and the resource curse** - 31st May
6. **Farming Today link to vegan debate**
7. **Costing the Earth link - time to insulate!**
8. **Arctic 30 film, 5th May, St Werburgh's**

1. **The Bristol Energy Cooperative has kindly offered to sponsor a new series of seven talks at the White Bear, St Michael's Hill, BS2 8BS. These will be on Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm, starting 17th May.** Please book through Eventbrite and share. Many thanks.

i) What is Climate Change?

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-talk-what-is-climate-change-17th-may-white-bear-bs2-tickets-34316687135>

FREE Talk: What is Climate Change? / 17th May / White Bear, BS2

[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

Is climate change an issue for future generations - or for us? What does 'two degrees warming' mean? What did the Paris Agreement achieve? Nikki Jones, researcher/writer on global energy will be giving an overview of the scientific consensus on climate change in The Room Upstairs, White Bear, St Michael's Hill, BS2 8BS. She will explain greenhouse gases, possible tipping points and the risks posed by our warming world. This talk is aimed at those who need clarification of what is being discussed by politicians and media. There will be opportunities for questions throughout. This talk will be the first in a series of seven talks focusing on climate change and energy use. The other talks in this series are: What is Climate Change? - 17th May Global Energy Trends - 24th May A Beginner's Guide to the Oil and Gas Industry - 31st May UK Energy, Emissions and Targets - 7th June Is Nuclear the Answer? - 14th June Land Use and Climate Change - 21st June The way forward - 28th June All talks are sponsored by the Bri

ii) A Beginner's Guide to the Oil and Gas Industry

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-talk-the-oil-and-gas-industry-a-beginners-guide-24th-may-white-bear-bs2-tickets-34317171584>

FREE Talk: The Oil and Gas Industry: A Beginner's Guide /24th May / White Bear, BS2

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[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

How much oil do we consume and where does it come from? What are the roles of Saudi Arabia and OPEC? What happened to peak oil? Nikki Jones, researcher/writer on global energy, will be giving a beginner's guide to the oil and gas industry in The Room Above, The White Bear, St Michael's Hill, Bristol, BS2 8BS. She will explain how oil, the life-blood of the world economy, is traded around the world, the role of the super-majors (including BP and Shell), and the impact of shale and tar sands production. There will opportunities for questions throughout. This talk will be the second in a series of seven talks focusing on climate change and energy use. The other talks in this series are: 1. What is Climate Change? - 17th May 3. Global Energy Trends - 31st May - 4. UK Energy Trends, Emissions and Targets - 7th June 5. Is Nuclear The Answer? - 14th June - 6. Land Use and Climate Change - 21st June - 7. The Way Forward - 28th June- All talks are sponsored by the Bristol Energy Cooperative. The talk will begin at

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iii) Global Energy Trends

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-talk-global-energy-trends-31st-may-white-bear-bs2-tickets-34317369175>

iv) UK Energy, Emissions and Targets

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-talk-uk-energy-emissions-and-targets-7th-june-white-bear-bs2-tickets-34317623937>

v) Is Nuclear the Answer?

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-talk-is-nuclear-the-answer-14th-june-white-bear-st-michaels-hill-bs2-tickets-34317671078>

vi) Land Use and Climate Change

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-talk-land-use-and-climate-change-21-june-white-bear-st-michaels-hill-tickets-34317697156>

vii. The Way Forward

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-talk-the-way-forward-28th-june-white-bear-st-michaels-hill-bs2-tickets-34317742291>

**2. On May 30th the Bedminster Energy Group will be screening 'The Economics of Happiness' and I will give a short talk on globalisation, neoliberalism and what a decarbonised economy might look like.**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-might-a-decarbonised-economy-look-like-the-snug-at-tobacco-factory-tickets-33183314186>

**3. Divestment Week** begins this weekend. It's extraordinary how quickly this movement has

grown - the **value of divested funds doubled last year** and is set to carry on growing as big asset managers become increasingly worried about their long-term investments. Here are some Financial Times headlines from April alone:

**Growing number of pension funds divest from fossil fuels**  
**Climate change becomes unavoidable for investors**  
**Danish pension fund PKA dumps Canadian oil**

If you haven't done so already, **write to your pension provider and ask them where your top ten investments are - even if you are in an 'ethical' fund.** Tell them that you are **worried about investing in assets that can never be exploited.** Even if you are in a company pension scheme and feel you are unable to move, **it is worth asking the question.** Despite everything, pension providers still say they are not feeling a huge amount of consumer pressure. This movement is not just about depriving the industry of funds, it's about removing it's social licence to operate and undermining the confidence of investors who are not engaged with climate change.

If you need help to consider positive alternatives, or more information on the movement, there are many organisations that will help. I moved my pension last year and it was surprisingly easy. Try **Move Your Money, ShareAction, YourEthicalMoney.org, GoFossilFree.org, 350.org, Friends of the Earth and Carbon Tracker.**

Some positive alternatives - although this is not financial advice - are **Ethex, Abundance, Triodos, Trine, and of course, the Bristol Energy Cooperative and other community renewables that advertise directly to the public.** **Deki** is an interesting Bristol charity delivering microfinance (not energy related) to Africa so you can invest small amounts person-to-person.

When it comes to **moving your bank**, the **7-day switch guarantee** was established in 2013, making things much quicker. Just make a list of your direct debits, standing orders, regular income and contact the bank of your choice. In a recent newsletter, Ethex recommended the following as 'positive' banks - **the Cooperative, Smile, Nationwide, Bank of Cyprus UK, Al Rayan Bank (Sharia) and Metro Bank.** Since then, **Triodos** has come out with a current account - <https://www.triodos.co.uk/en/personal/current-account-registration/?osc=osc-pb-left-current-260417>

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## Current Account | Triodos Bank

[www.triodos.co.uk](http://www.triodos.co.uk)

Triodos Current Account Register to apply for an account . Everyday banking has changed. The Triodos Current Account comes with something the others do not - values ...

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To understand why you might want to change your bank, if you are with one of the big High Street names, here's a short video that illustrates **Barclays' funding of UK fracking**.

<https://vimeo.com/212606893/670568f959>



Fracking Mad - Has the UK been stained by invested interest?

vimeo.com

This is "Fracking Mad - Has the UK been stained by invested interest?" by Recording Earth on Vimeo, the home for high quality videos and the people who...

In the same newsletter, Ethex suggested the following as positive places for your savings: **Charity Bank, Ecology Building Soc, Coventry Building Soc, Newcastle Building Soc, Principality, Leeds Building Soc, West Bromwich Building Soc, local credit unions, WHEB Sustainability, Columbia Threadneedle UK Social Bond, Impax Environmental Markets Fund, Triodos Sustainable Pioneer Fund, & Foresight Solar**. This is not financial advice - everyone needs to do their own research....

4. If you want to get involved in **divestment events in the coming week**, here are some suggestions:

Starting this Friday, the [Global Divestment Mobilisation](#) is a global wave of events lasting ten days, across 39 countries on six continents, to challenge and disrupt the power of the fossil fuel industry that continues to drive these dangerous changes to our planet's climate.!

**Here's what's planned near you already and how you can join in:**

Event: #ToxicBankers day of mischief

Friday, May 5, 8:00 AM

Barclays

Bristol,

[http://act.350.org/event/gdd2017\\_attend/13745/signup/?t=6&akid=21711.2114205.8Nlgc](http://act.350.org/event/gdd2017_attend/13745/signup/?t=6&akid=21711.2114205.8Nlgc)

Event: Fossil Free Health Bristol: fossil fuel divestment film and discussion

Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 PM

Will Memorial Building, University of Bristol

Bristol,

[http://act.350.org/event/gdd2017\\_attend/13768/signup/?t=6&akid=21711.2114205.8Nlgc](http://act.350.org/event/gdd2017_attend/13768/signup/?t=6&akid=21711.2114205.8Nlgc)

5. For anyone considering **the impact of a world using less oil**, **this talk at the Watershed on 31st May** be of interest:

<http://www.watershed.co.uk/whatson/8022/leif-wenar/>

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## Leif Wenar | Watershed

[www.watershed.co.uk](http://www.watershed.co.uk)

Leif Wenar explores natural resources - the biggest source of unchecked power in the world.

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6. For anyone wondering **whether to go vegetarian or vegan**, **Farming Today** had a week of **programmes** looking at the issues. Here's a link to the final debate:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08n1y9n>

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## BBC Radio 4 - Farming Today, Farming Today This Week ...

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

There are thought to be more than three times as many vegans in the UK as there were ten years ago. In this programme, Charlotte Smith hosts a panel discussion about ...

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7. Now that winter is over, it's time to start thinking about **insulation measures before you turn the heating on again**. **Costing the Earth** did an excellent programme looking at how cost effective simple measures can be.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08n2v3f>

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## Insulation for the Nation, Costing the Earth - BBC Radio 4

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

Tom Heaps asks if insulation and power-saving gadgets can cut carbon emissions

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from homes.

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7. You remember **the Arctic 30** - the Greenpeace activists who were imprisoned in Russia when taking action to stop exploration in the Arctic? There is a **film about their ordeal tomorrow, 5th May, with all benefits to Amnesty International.**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1847554165484585/>

Apologies for the length of this email! As ever, if you would prefer to come off the mailing list, just let me know.

All good wishes.

Nikki

[www.exploringoilandgas.co.uk](http://www.exploringoilandgas.co.uk)