

The 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2017

4. Some low carbon transport options
- 5 & 6. New records in UK energy consumption and new low winter peak
7. Lockleaze batteries
8. Good news on global growth in renewables
9. Peat free plants

4. **Transport is the one area where, in the UK, our emissions are going up** - and because of this (and little progress on our heating) the UK is set to miss its legally binding emission targets in the 2020s. Here are a few initiatives/thoughts....

a) Redland Energy Group are hosting this:

 Next meeting: Electric Bikes, Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Have you thought about cycling, but were put off by the hills in Bristol? Or perhaps you would like to be able to cycle to work or visit friends, but feel it is too far to go on a push-bike? An electric bike may be the answer.

Chris, the manager of the Electric Transport Shop, 35A Lower Redland Road, BS6 6TB has kindly agreed to keep his shop open for us after closing at 5pm. He will give a short talk about the bikes at 6pm, but will be free from 5 pm onwards to chat to anyone who wants to come in earlier to look around the showroom. There will be opportunities for questions and to try out a bike outside in the street. If you are worried about the purchase price, there is 0% finance available - or it may be possible to have an existing bike converted.

Please sign up at [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/electric-bikes-for-all-tickets-33365024687?aff=utm\\_source%3Ddeb\\_email%26utm\\_medium%3Demail%26utm\\_campaign%3Dnew\\_event\\_email&utm\\_term=eventurl\\_text](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/electric-bikes-for-all-tickets-33365024687?aff=utm_source%3Ddeb_email%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text) (preferably) or email [info.bcrenergy@gmail.com](mailto:info.bcrenergy@gmail.com)

b) The **Salt Cafe and Atmosphere are continuing with their promotion** now that the better weather is here. Go and try out an electric bike at the bottom of Jacob's Wells Road (Atmosphere Bikes) and get a token for a free coffee at the Salt Cafe opposite. No obligation to buy - just go and try out a bike.

c) If you are looking for **alternatives to flying**, this is a really useful website that helps you plot journeys across Europe.

<http://www.seat61.com/>



## The Man in Seat Sixty-One - the train travel guide...

[www.seat61.com](http://www.seat61.com)

Train & ferry information for Europe & worldwide... Train travel is a more rewarding, low-stress alternative to flying, which brings us closer to the countries we ...

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d) And last, I must tell you about my experience of using **Co-Wheels** in Bristol. I hardly use my car and am looking to give it up when the tax and MOT come up for renewal next month. So I have joined Co-Wheels (£5/month) and **last Sunday hired a Nissan Leaf from the Engine Shed for £21 (5 hours, no fuel costs)**. I hadn't driven an electric car before and it's a long time since I've used an automatic, so my friend Katherine (from Bedminster Energy Group) came with me. I was incredibly nervous but of course, once started, it's very easy - it's the simplicity and lack of effort that feel so strange... The booking itself and communication with Co-Wheels was very easy. **I'd highly recommend it for anyone in the same position.**

5. We have recently hit a **new record in the UK**. Because of high generation from solar, we have managed on some recent sunny afternoons to **generate more in daylight hours than our usual night-time minimum of around 26GW**. This may just seem like a statistical quirk but it has real implications for our big power plant generators - basically, **renewables are making inroads into our 'baseload'**, even with coal almost entirely off the system.

[http://www.solarpowerportal.co.uk/news/solar\\_sends\\_gb\\_transmission\\_system\\_demand\\_to\\_historic\\_lows](http://www.solarpowerportal.co.uk/news/solar_sends_gb_transmission_system_demand_to_historic_lows)



## Solar sends GB transmission system demand to historic lows

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

Transmission system demand on Saturday afternoon dipped below overnight demand for the first time in the UK's history, with increased solar generation the root cause.

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6. In fact, I spent a few mind-numbing hours going through the Gridwatch data to see what our **winter peak consumption** was. The good news is that **the marked downward trend continues**. As far as I can see, **we only consumed more than 52GW for a very short period of time - less than half an hour in the early evening of the 26th January!** We went above 51GW on only 4 occasions, again for very short periods. This compares with the previous winter's peak of 52, 735 MW, which itself was more than 2% down on the previous year. Just a few years ago, our winter peak was over 60GW.

Again, although this may seem a bit abstract, it really helps **destroy the argument for new big baseload plants**. Most of the time their capacity is not required and if they are inflexible generators, such as nuclear (which takes days to start and stop) then they end up 'dumping heat' - ie allowing the reaction to continue but allowing the heat out into the environment without generating electricity. **According to one authoritative comment on a Financial Times report, nuclear is paid £10,000 for every MWh that it is forced to 'turn down'.**

7. Of course, what we need are more batteries. A Bristol based company has put in for planning permission for a **15MW battery storage plant in Lockleaze** which would have the added benefit of blocking Plutus's plans for a diesel generating plant. **The deadline for comments was yesterday but please watch out for more news** and support if you can.

<http://planningonline.bristol.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=OM7629DNILF00>

8. And globally, here's an excellent Carbon Brief article giving really **cheering information on the growth in renewables in 2016**. Although investment (money wise) is down, the low cost of renewables means that much more have been deployed.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/renewables-growth-breaks-records-again-despite-fall-investment>

9. I noticed at the Riverside Garden Centre that they are now selling plants specifically labelled as **British grown and peat-free**. I expect they are doing this in other garden centres - if not, ask them why.... Please do look out for these plants when buying.

Many thanks and have a good Easter.

Nikki

*For information on forthcoming talks on energy and climate change, please go to Eventbrite Bristol - <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/united-kingdom--bristol/government>*

*For latest articles, please see [www.exploringoilandgas.co.uk](http://www.exploringoilandgas.co.uk).*

