

Tue 19/12/2017

Hi

Following my last email, with **suggestions for personal action in 2018**, many of you have been in contact, telling me what you are doing and giving more suggestions. Many thanks. Please find some of them below. **It is really heartening to hear of so many people changing their electricity suppliers, banks, investments and consumption habits.**

If you are still undecided about what to do, please watch the [video of this young girl addressing COP23 in Berlin](#). It is the most passionate, angry, clear demand I have heard - really talking truth to power - **inspirational, but devastating. Please watch.**

And below please find lots of cheering news too. There is **much big positive investment happening, and a real change of awareness at corporate level**. I hope this gives you some positive hope and motivation for 2018.

1. More suggestions for personal action
2. **Shell** - more surprises...
3. **Scotland - powering ahead**
4. Australia - great big new moves
5. And good news from the US...
6. **How quickly could electric cars disrupt everything?**
7. Big investors are switching to green tech
8. **Do One Thing - invest with Triodos**
9. George Monbiot - we can't carry on eating like this...
10. **Conserving forests - as valuable as taking all cars of the road**
11. Carlsberg go carbon neutral!
12. Sending plastic to China comes to an end...
13. **Hinkley - will it ever be built?**
14. **Bristol Civic Society - tour of waste-to-energy & walking festival**

1. Here are a few more 'green' ideas you have sent me: Join a [vegan 'meet up'](#) and eat at a different restaurant every month; excellent reports on [Bristol Energy Company as a 100% renewable electricity](#) provider; clothes swapping events are becoming more popular; [Good Journey](#) launches in January, a website to help you plan car-less journeys; [Sims Hill](#) is a Bristol-based organic box scheme where you can also volunteer in return for free veg; become a [supporter of the Land Workers' Alliance](#) which campaigns to re-shape UK agricultural policy; savings and eco-mortgages are available through the [Ecological Building Society](#); get [your milk delivered](#) and avoid plastic bottles.
2. **Shell is definitely showing signs of getting a little greener...** Apart from investing more in off-shore wind and in [clean hydrogen and EV charging](#), they have now

announced they will [cut their carbon footprint by 50% by 2050, with an interim target of 20% by 2035 and a doubling of their clean tech investment](#). It's still not enough but a sign of the pressures they are under. Really heartening news...

3. I was asked recently if any industrialised country is really powering ahead with decarbonisation - Scotland, and possibly Denmark, came to mind as the best candidates. Scotland's aim is [100% renewable electricity by 2020](#) and 11% of its heating from renewable sources by the same date. This is way ahead of England - it looks like we may reach 30 - 32% of renewables in our electricity production this year. Here's more good news on plans for more [Scottish hydro](#) and on [Scottish off-shore wind](#).

Although this is not financial advice, [Abundance](#) currently has **two Scottish projects open for investment** at the moment - one is pumped storage, and the other is displacement of gas-chemical production.

4. **Australia is another country that is full of surprises.** It remains the world's biggest coal exporter and the national government continues to promote fossil fuels and cut the country's green targets. But all that wasted wind and sun from the NW coast will no longer be wasted - there are now [plans to export it to Indonesia, another coal consuming country](#). Whether the government likes it or not, [coal fired power is closing down](#) and being replaced by renewables. And even the National Bank says it [won't finance any new coal](#). In Queensland, the world's first hybrid [solar-off-shore wind-battery](#) park is being built.
5. We've all worried about **what Trump would do to renewables in the US**. There's still plenty to worry about, but [here's a surprising, cheering map](#) showing how much renewable power individual states are generating - Iowa comes in top at 40%, Vermont at 39%, North Dakota at 37% and Kansas at 32%. [US renewable generation is up almost 15%](#) this year.
6. **Transport** is the other sector of the economy that all countries still need to address. How quickly could electric vehicles disrupt our current fossil fuel economy? According to [Tony Seba](#), extremely fast. This is worth watching - **really positive, and convincing**.

What we really need is **more public transport**, of course. Please see the link to the **Campaign for Better Transport** at the bottom of this email. The Combined Authority around [Manchester](#) has just announced that they plan to take back franchising control so that buses and trains can be re-connected into a coherent transport network. Will the West of England Combined Authority consider doing the same?

7. There is more and more evidence that the **really big investors now consider ESG (Environment, Social & Governance) investments as essential in their portfolios**. This [report shows that 52% of funds](#) have now embraced 'ethical' positive investment - largely pushed by millennials, 85% of whom are demanding it... [Climate Action 100+](#) is a coalition of big investors, managing more than **\$23 trillion**,

pushing our top 100 companies to do their part in delivering the Paris goals.

Companies such as Shell, ExxonMobil and Coal India are all under great pressure.

8. If you are looking to **'Do One Thing' for 2018**, please consider moving your bank current account to [Triodos](#) or investing in their savings bonds. Bank switching is easy these days and comes with a 7-day guarantee.
9. As big money moves into clean technology, we - as individual consumers and citizens - can possibly make the **biggest impacts through efficiencies and through our diets**. Land use is still 25% of all greenhouse gas emissions. [George Monbiot has recently published an excellent article](#), summarising where we are. Here's one [high-tech solution](#) that does at least produce local, pesticide free food.... We already have this in Bristol - [Grow Bristol](#).
10. **Re-forestation is the most simple carbon capture and storage scheme we have**. Not only do the trees take carbon from the air to build their biomass, but woodland soils are protected from agriculture, and usually contain four times as much as the wood itself.... [Here's a powerful argument](#) for re-forestation and some good news on what [other countries in Europe](#) are doing. In the UK, we have only **13% forest cover (compared to European average of 30+%)**. **Under the Clean Growth Plan, we are pledged to bring that up to 16%**.
11. Since we are all a bit food/drink obsessed at Xmas, here's a bit of good news. [Carlsberg](#) are going carbon neutral....That's quite a step further than 100% renewable.
12. A UK success has been **our reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from waste - but it seems that we've been sending a lot of that to China...** They have said they will no longer accept our low grade, contaminated stuff from January. This has come as [a bit of a surprise to Michael Gove](#), apparently and will mean more land-fill in our country.
13. Will **Hinkley** ever go into operation? [Ed Davey, former energy secretary](#), still has doubts - and warns against the government's **current moves for taxpayers to help fund the construction of new nuclear at Moorside and Wylfa**. Although South Korea plans to phase out all its own nuclear, their nuclear company Kepco has become the 'preferred bidder' for Moorside - but approval of their design is likely to take around four years.
14. **Two local events** that may interest you. [Bristol Civic Society](#) are planning a visit to the Waste-to-Energy plant in Avonmouth in March - **you need to be a member to sign up for this free tour**. They are also looking for volunteers to help out with 2018's Walking Festival in May.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year. 2017 has been an extraordinary year in terms of devastating climate news, but also a real acceleration in investment and awareness. We need to do so much more in 2018.

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

Many thanks, and warmest wishes

Nikki

From: Campaign for Better Transport
<communications=bettertransport.org.uk@mail114.suw13.rsgsv.net> on behalf of Campaign for Better Transport <communications@bettertransport.org.uk>
Sent: 27 November 2017 17:51
To: nikkijones5@hotmail.com
Subject: Electric trains petition - we're looking forward to keeping in touch with you!

Let's make transport better, greener and fairer for all.

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We love trains - but let's make

them greener!

Hello Nikki

I'm Jess from [Campaign for Better Transport](#). I'm writing to you because you signed our petition (run jointly with [10:10](#)) calling for [electric trains, not diesel trains](#). Thanks for that!

When you signed you ticked a box to say that you'd like to receive our monthly e-bulletin, so I have signed you up. In case you're wondering, we're a national charity fighting for better, greener, fairer transport for all. We campaign for lower rail fares and against bus cuts. Rather than more roads and more traffic, we want to see the alternatives vastly improved.

I'm looking forward to keeping in touch with you once a month, but if you've changed your mind about our e-bulletin it's easy to unsubscribe.

[Unsubscribe from our e-bulletin](#)

Come and help us hand in our petition!

It's crucial that the Government doesn't scrap rail electrification in the North of England, the Midlands and South Wales, because electric trains are better for the climate, better for our health and better for passengers.

If you can get to London on Wednesday morning, we'll be handing in our petition for rail electrification to the Department for Transport at 10am. We would **love** you to join us!

[Here are all the details of the petition hand-in.](#) We've set it up as a Facebook event but you don't need a Facebook account to see it, or to come along.

Please join us there, bring your friends and let's all call together for electric trains, not diesel trains! I hope to see you there!

Jess

Photo taken at Windermere Station by Elizabeth Ashburn. The plan to electrify the line between Windermere and Oxenholme has been scrapped.

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We are a small charity making a big difference. But we can't do it without your help. [Please make a donation today](#) and help us to fight for better, greener, fairer transport for all.

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