

The Brew (May 2020)

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GreenTEA News

GreenTEA's letter to government: - Our chairman Tony Bovey wrote to the Prime Minister in April, reminding him that the government have declared a Climate Emergency! He points out that the UK has met its carbon targets for 2008-2017 BUT that the rate of reduction of carbon emissions is declining, and on this basis, the UK will not meet its commitment to net zero in 2050 (Paris Accord). He demands that the govt. should start delivering its promises for the Climate Emergency with coordinated detailed policies and that they must stop dismantling existing environmental policies that mitigate Climate Change! tony.bovey48@gmail.com

New grants for our energy work - We are thrilled that we have received grants for two projects from the Low Carbon Hub. One is a small grant for 'Making the most of your Solar Thermal'. Do let us know if you or someone you know has solar thermal and would like to join the project. The second is a large grant for 'Community Empowerment to Deliver an Exemplary Energy Future for Eynsham.' This will involve setting up an 'Inspiration Panel' of experts to hold developers to account, embed an exemplary energy system in new development and to bring benefits to the whole area through developing the Energy Plan. Hopefully this will link with the solar farm. This is the first part of a two year 'Safe and Fair Neighbourhood' project under [Project LEO](#) which we hope will transform the way we use energy. We are very lucky that Nicky Chambers is working on this project with us." (Sarah Couch, Convener, Energy Group)

'Oxfordshire Transport - Looking out to 2050' – Tony, our Chair made an excellent

response to this, congratulating OCC on the breadth and content of the [travel policy](#). This supports the initiatives for healthy travel that mitigate the adverse effects of travel, car travel especially, on Global Warming, Environment and Amenity. Details available [from Tony](#).

Solar PV Farm – Planning permission was granted in March for a 32 MegaWatt Solar Farm on land to the west of 12 Acre Farm, Eynsham. This will provide not only a significant contribution to local renewable energy but also a **possible opportunity for investment** at very favourable rates if the Low Carbon Hub buy a part of the farm. GreenTEA alerted the Low Carbon Hub to the plans and if they buy part of the farm, it will be funded by the current share offer. See offer document page 9: <https://www.ethex.org.uk/LCH2020> With community ownership, we would be able to bring many other benefits to our area- very exciting! (SC&RK)

Local News

Bike Safe progress - plans for the B4044 path have reached a difficult choice for the turnoff from Botley Road to Eynsham Road. Complex discussions between Bikesafe and OCC are ongoing.

Oxford University divests from fossil fuels - Oxford University has made a landmark decision to divest from fossil fuels. Along with its decision to pull all direct investments in fossil fuel companies, the motion requires endowment managers to request evidence of plans to achieve net-zero carbon dioxide emissions from companies across Oxford's entire portfolio of investments. (CAGs 'The Key' 212)

Windrush Bike Project providing bikes for key workers - Community Action Group Windrush Bike Project in Witney has launched a scheme to provide bikes, lights and locks for key workers, including people who work in care homes, the NHS, supermarkets and other essential services. They're particularly in need of ladies' bikes - if you have one you could donate, email admin@windrushbikeproject.uk.

Eynsham Lockdown Diary: "We are setting up a new community project for Eynsham, creating a diary of life in Eynsham during the coronavirus pandemic, and we are inviting all Eynsham residents to share their experiences." The diary is in the form of a website blog, which can be viewed at www.eynshamlockdown.org ... Our chance to publicise climate

ideas ...

National News

Poll: tackle climate change with same urgency as coronavirus - [48% of public agree](#) government should respond "with the same urgency to climate change as it has with Covid-19".

Stop culture of waste to help climate – Attenborough - Sir David warns that failing to reduce emissions would push world through a “one-way door”, with [irreversible consequences](#).

'A good time to tax fossil fuels': Experts - [Prolonged low oil price to prompt fundamental change](#) to energy investment that could speed net zero, experts suggest. [capable of tackling climate change](#).

Crisis points way to healing 'patient' earth, Prince says - The Prince of Wales has said that the coronavirus crisis shows the human race is [capable of tackling climate change](#).

Ofgem backs Shetland subsea power cable plans - New power cable would [take clean energy](#) from Shetland to the Scottish mainland

C of E to press sacking of Exxon chiefs over climate apathy - Church joins other shareholders in pressing for [dismissal of directors](#) at meeting today.

Actors join campaign to stop new Sizewell nuclear station - They are among [60 prominent locals](#) attempting to block plans for a new nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast.

Government reveals plans to accelerate low carbon heating - Wide ranging package of proposals aimed at accelerating much-needed [decarbonisation of UK's heating systems](#).

Coal mines to be transformed into renewable energy system - [£7m project set to transform dormant coal mines](#) in North East England is expected to radically reduce CO₂ emissions.

Government challenged over 'inadequate' tree planting plans - Current targets will leave England [short of reaching its climate change goals](#), Friends of the Earth says.

Cleaner air is boosting solar power generation - [Solar power generation is booming](#) in clearer skies free of large amounts of air pollution.

Green energy firms to deliver multi-billion-pound wind farms - Britain's biggest green energy companies are [on track to deliver the project](#) to help power a cleaner economic recovery.

Legal threat to Leeds Bradford Airport expansion - Campaigners say [plans will contradict council policy](#) by increasing CO₂ emissions and noise pollution.

International News

Global CO₂ levels at record high despite COVID lockdown - CO₂ emissions are not only increasing but also accelerating, [according to climate scientists](#).

Paris climate goals would yield \$600 trillion economic boon - Keeping global warming to 1.5°C would cut cost of climate impacts and deliver cheaper low-carbon energy, [study concludes](#).

UK 'blocking inclusion' of climate goals in trade agreements - British negotiators object to including clause on respecting Paris Agreement in UK-EU trade talks.WHAT?!

Green energy could drive Covid-19 recovery with \$100tn boost - Speeding up investment could deliver [huge gains to global GDP by 2050](#) while tackling climate emergency, says report.

US shale industry lurches from boom to bankruptcy - 'We've never seen demand destruction occur this much and this fast' says analyst as [debt-ridden companies close doors](#). HURRAH !!!

Planes vs trains: High-speed rail coronavirus dividend - Analysis: public's new found

appreciation for cleaner air and climate issues will [boost rail travel in next decade](#).

How whiter clouds could rescue the Great Barrier Reef - [Whitening clouds to reflect sunlight](#), creating sea fog and breeding heat-resistant coral are among ideas to be trialled.

Europe pushing ahead with Green Deal to zero-out emissions - The looming recession won't derail the region's ambition to become the [world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050](#), say EU officials.

Court victory forces Dutch ministers to climate advances - Government to slash coal use, plant trees and insulate houses after minnow [citizens' group wins seven-year court battle](#).

From the ECIU... Climate change re-emerges from the Covid smog - [COP26 may be postponed](#), but international talks go on, with UK minister making strong pledges.

Central Europe braces for 'worst drought in 500 years' - Parts of the region are facing their [most serious water shortages since 1540](#).

Paper "New Scientists' Warning" about microorganisms and climate change:
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41579-019-0222-5>

[GreenTEA Events](#)

No gatherings, but emails and Zoom events keeping us going!

Rumours of a 'Gateways Giveaway' coming up! Partly organised by EAWW. Keep an eye on noticeboards

[Other Events](#)

Online resources:

1. Learn more about solutions to the climate and biodiversity emergency; and fun wildlife
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activities for kids: <https://www.cat.org.uk/cat-at-home/>

2. Extinction Rebellion UK is offering 'Alone Together'. Regeneration
- <https://rebellion.earth/alone-together/>
