

Welcome to Aardvark's environmental news briefing

- **Asda joins wave of supermarkets pledging to cut plastic waste:** Series of measures includes reducing plastic in its own-brand packaging by 10% – but does not go as far as cutting it out altogether (theguardian.com 05/02/2018)
 - **Degrees of change: Edinburgh and SOAS universities ditch fossil fuels:** Divestment movement continues to grow as more UK academic institutions fulfil pledges to end fossil fuel investments within three years. (businessgreen.com 07/02/2018)
 - **London has already reached air pollution limits for 2018:** Legal air pollution limits for the whole year have been reached within a month in London, figures show. Brixton Road, Lambeth, has seen levels of pollutant nitrogen dioxide exceed average hourly limits 18 times so far this year, the maximum allowed under European Union air quality rules. (newscientist.com 30/01/2018)
 - **Elon Musk's record-breaking 'virtual power plant' will see 50,000 homes given free solar panels and Tesla batteries:** South Australian government says project will generate half as much energy as a typical coal-fired plant. (independent.co.uk 06/02/2018)
 - **Hedgehog numbers plummet by half in UK countryside since 2000:** Long term decline is blamed on loss of hedgerows and insect prey but urban hedgehogs may offer a glimmer of hope, says a new report. (theguardian.com 07/02/2018)
 - **Transport becomes nation's biggest polluter as UK emissions drop 5%:** New figures have revealed that the UK's emissions fell by 5% in 2016, but campaigners have called for stronger action in the transport sector where emissions continued to steadily rise. (edie.net 07/02/2018)
 - **Renewables could generate 50% of Europe's power in 2030, says new study:** Wind power enjoyed a record year in 2017, as more offshore capacity was installed than ever before. Renewable energy in general also continued to grow and the EU generated more electricity from clean sources than coal for the very first time. (euractiv.com 06/02/2018)
- and finally...**
- **Is 'plogging' the most 2018 fitness trend yet?:** They brought us hygge, lagom and fika, but now a new Scandinavian trend is coming, and it couldn't be more 2018. Hailing from Sweden, 'plogging' is a fitness craze that sees participants pick up plastic litter while jogging - adding a virtuous, environmentally driven element to the sport. (telegraph.co.uk 01/02/2018)

Latest news from the Aardvark team

Aardvark has been instructed to prepare and submit Environmental Permit applications for a portfolio of CHP plants across the UK. This is at a time when an amendment to the Environmental Permitting Regulations will bring the requirements of the Medium Combustion Plant Directive into law in England and Wales in December this year. The directive will apply emission controls on new combustion equipment between 1 – 50MW. These measures aim to reduce emissions and concentrations of key pollutants harmful to human health and the environment. For all the Aardvark news go to www.aardvarkem.co.uk.

