

Welcome to Aardvark's environmental news briefing

- **British carbon tax leads to 93% drop in coal-fired electricity:** The tax introduced in 2013 has caused a huge drop in the use of coal, with many companies opting for less emission-heavy forms such as gas. (phys.org 27/01/2020)
- **Ivory Coast is using plastic waste to build schools:** A community has partnered with UNICEF to transform landfill waste into bricks for schools. Since 2018, 26 classrooms have been built all costing almost half the price of conventional building materials using just a hammer. (bbc.co.uk 23/01/2020)
- **Sainsbury's pledges £1bn to achieve net zero emissions by 2040:** The supermarket chain's primary focus will lie in reducing carbon emissions, food waste, plastic packaging and water usage, while encouraging recycling, biodiversity and healthy, sustainable eating. (independent.co.uk 28/01/2020)
- **Scientists turn rubbish into valuable graphene:** A laboratory at Rice University is using high-energy pulses of electricity to turn any source of carbon into turbostratic graphene which can be used to strengthen concrete and other composite materials. (sciencedaily.com 27/01/2020)
- **Isle of Man commit to 75% renewable electricity by 2035:** The government's "action plan" includes a commitment to the construction of on and offshore wind turbines. They are also aiming to plant an 85,000-tree woodland and place a ban on all peat cutting. (bbc.co.uk 09/01/2020)
- **Ryanair slapped down over 'misleading' green claims:** UK advertising censured a Ryanair as campaign that claimed the Irish carrier is Europe's 'lowest emissions airline', arguing that it was 'misleading'. Ryanair was the only airline to appear in a ranking of European polluters in December 2019. (theguardian.com 31/01/2020)
- **Ofgem sets out nine-point plan to prioritise climate crisis:** Britain's energy regulator aims to support investment in low-carbon technology while protecting households from price rises. Ofgem have said they will change how they govern the industry to help meet the government's climate targets. (politico.eu 05/02/2020)

and finally.....

- **Sacked climate change chief claims Boris 'doesn't understand' global warming:** Recently fired climate change minister claims that Boris's environmental promises could not be trusted. In an interview she compares the UK's climate change strategy as being 'at Oxford United levels when we need to be Liverpool'. (thesun.co.uk 19/01/2020)

Latest news from the Aardvark team

Aardvark has secured planning consent to extend the asset life of a solar farm to 2055 aligning it with the UK's ambition to be zero carbon by 2050 – the consent, granted on a Chairman's delegated approval basis, shows how far the UK attitude to climate change has come and is a significant shift in planning terms from the casting vote that was needed to grant consent for the solar farm originally back in 2014.

For all the Aardvark news go to www.aardvarkem.co.uk.

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