

Welcome to Aardvark's environmental news briefing

- **New climate change rule may end 'throwaway culture':** New rules and regulations are being applied to everyday items to ensure that products are designed and manufactured so they last – and so that they're repairable when they go wrong. (bbc.co.uk 11/03/2020)
- **Carbon emissions fall as electricity producers move away from coal:** Global emissions are down by 2% amid a mild winter and reduced use of coal-fired plants. A new report revealed the steepest cut in carbon emissions since 1990. (theguardian.com 09/03/2020)
- **Fossil fuels emitting more methane than previously thought:** New research has suggested that using fossil fuels could release 25-40% more methane gas than previously thought. Most gas plants burn off methane with flaring but some of the gas can escape via leaky pipes and venting. (sciencenews.org 19/02/2020)
- **Coronavirus causes air pollution to plummet over northern Italy:** With the country on lockdown, factories closing, and a travel ban in place, the air pollution over northern Italy has sharply fallen. From satellite imagery one can see there is a drop in NO2 emissions which are released by power plants, cars and factories. (independent.co.uk 15/03/2020)
- **Water splitting holds promise for renewable energy:** A team at Washington State University has developed a less expensive water electrolysis system that can offer a more viable way to store energy from solar and wind power in hydrogen fuel. (sciencedaily.com 09/03/2020)
- **Planning applications for UK clean energy hits a high:** The number of new renewable energy projects applying for planning permission has reached a four-year high in the UK. The jump has been attributed to the growing appetite amongst energy firms and falling technology costs. (theguardian.com 16/03/2020)
- **Social distancing having a positive effect on the environment:** Isolation and other recent shifts in behaviour during the COVID-19 outbreak appears to be having a positive effect on the environment, whilst also altering our greenhouse gas emissions. (nytimes.com 13/03/2020)

and finally.....

- **Trump invests in large quantities of crude oil to help the industry:** Trump has announced that the U.S. would purchase large quantities of crude oil to help the industry. Investing nearly \$2.5 billion, Democrats have called this action 'a wasteful misuse of government resources that would exacerbate the climate crisis.' (thehill.com 13/03/2020)

Latest news from the Aardvark team

It is business as usual at Aardvark – as with all businesses we are following with deep concern the development of the Coronavirus outbreak and the associated risks it presents to our staff, clients and communities. We are monitoring closely the guidance being provided by HM Government and the NHS and are committed to doing all that is needed to react to keep everyone safe. Currently our offices will remain open, but should it become the case that staff are required to work from home then we are fully equipped to allow them to do so.

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

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of Aardvark technical services and team contacts.

