

Welcome to Aardvark's environmental news briefing

- **World's wind power up by fifth after record year:** Offshore and onshore projects in US and China fuel one of the strongest years on record. The Global Wind Energy Council found wind power capacity grew by 60.4 gigawatts, or 19%, compared to 2018 data. (theguardian.com 25/03/2020)
- **Could energy come from giant Seaweed Farms:** A U.S. agency is currently looking into the possibility of using seaweed as a source of renewable bioenergy. With 5% of US energy already coming from biomass such as corn and wood, seaweed could become a newer and better source. (scientificamerican.com 16/03/2020)
- **Greenhouse gas emissions fall for 7th year in a row:** New information from the Government has shown that greenhouse gas emissions have fallen due to the country using more renewable energy. With more than a third of British electricity being generated by renewables in 2019, the industry is rapidly growing. (theguardian.com 26/03/2020)
- **Coronavirus pandemic is leading to huge drops in air pollution:** 'Largest scale experiment ever' from satellite images reveal a dramatic fall in global nitrogen dioxide levels. With industrial activity shutting down across the globe, the past 6 weeks have shown levels of NO₂ are markedly lower over Asia and Europe than last year. (theguardian.com 23/03/2020)
- **Californian based business develops solar celled windows:** Ubiquitous Energy has developed transparent solar cells to create ClearView Power windows, a solar glass that can turn sunlight into energy without needing the blue/grey opaque panels. (edition.cnn.com 30/03/2020)
- **Barclays set net zero carbon emissions target for 2050:** After increasing investor pressure the bank pledges to align all financing activities with the goals of the Paris climate agreement. This proposal is being put to investor vote at the AGM on the 7th of May. (theguardian.com 30/03/2020)
- **Environment Protection Agency relaxed protections in US during COVID-19 pandemic:** Due to potential worker shortages and the effects of restricted travel and social distancing, the EPA has announced a "sweeping suspension" of environmental regulations. This has come under fire as some say that this gives companies free rein to pollute. (the-scientist.com 27/03/2020)

and finally.....

- **5G the cause of Coronavirus:** Recent conspiracy theories have been spreading that the new 5G towers are suppressing people's immune systems and therefore enhancing the spread of the virus. This is causing growing concern as several 5G masts have been set on fire. (bbc.co.uk 05/04/2020)

Latest news from the Aardvark team

Aardvark EM Ltd submit environmental permit application for a new Energy Recovery Facility in the South West of England. The scheme is designed to accept up to 130,000 tonnes per annum and will generate up to 7.75MW of electricity to be supplied to the National Grid.

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

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