

Welcome to Aardvark's environmental news briefing

- **Denmark to build the first “energy island”:** A giant “energy island”, the size of 18 football pitches, which will provide enough energy to power three million homes, has been given the go ahead in Denmark. It is the biggest construction project in the country's history, but they are hoping it will help them achieve their goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. ([bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) 09/02/2021)
- **50,000 gold stars issued to recyclers in Christchurch, New Zealand:** To incentivise local residents, the recycling council of Christchurch, New Zealand have started dishing out gold stars to those with correctly sorted and cleaned recycling. Those that do not, receive a warning letter and could have their bin confiscated. Since the initiative began, recycling rates have significantly improved, with 80% of recycling now processed by sorters. ([treehugger.com](http://treehugger.com) 09/02/2021)
- **Bad news for hay fever sufferers:** Researchers in North America have found the hay fever season is 10 days longer and has 21% more pollen in the air than it did 30 years ago. Warm weather signals to plants it is time to start pollinating, so warmer temperatures and longer summers mean the period of pollination is increasing. ([newscientist.com](http://newscientist.com) 10/02/2021)
- **Solar geoengineering: Could reflecting away the sun's rays help to tackle global heating?:** As the climate crisis escalates, some have called for more research into technologies that could reflect away the sun's rays in order to limit temperature rise. ([independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) 11/02/2021)
- **\$100 million for the best carbon removal technology:** Elon Musk has announced he is funding a \$100million prize pot to find the most effective carbon removal technology. The carbon can be removed from the oceans or atmosphere, and must be safely stored for at least 100 years. The current options available are very expensive, have hard to verify results and require too much energy or land. ([grist.org](http://grist.org) 10/02/2021)
- **Could the rolling hills of the British countryside be the key to renewable energy?:** UK company RheEnergise have invented a new way of storing and releasing hydropower from small hills. The low cost, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly system could be used at 9,500 sites in the UK, 80,000 across Europe and 160,000 across Africa. ([independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) 09/02/2021)

*and finally.....*

- **Could man made floating igloos help save the emperor penguin?:** Iranian architect, Sajjad Navidi, has developed a Penguin Protection System that will help protect endangered penguins and slow the melting of polar ice in Antarctica. The upper section of the igloo will provide a man-made habitat for breeding, whilst the lower section will have crater-like holes that mimic a sea sponge and is connected to a pendulum. The pendulum will move in the waves and will produce electricity that will cool the surrounding ice. ([theweek.co.uk](http://theweek.co.uk) 09/02/21)

Latest news from the Aardvark team

Aardvark has made a strong start to 2021 having secured planning consents for 113MW of standalone solar PV developments across three sites in South Gloucestershire, North Norfolk and Hampshire. Once built, the combined generation output will be equivalent to the annual electrical needs of approximately 31,600 family homes. The anticipated CO<sub>2</sub> displacement is around 47,550 tonnes per annum, which represents an emission saving equivalent to 15,250 less cars on the road every year.

