

officials have stated, often and plainly, that they want to use “clean” coal to meet this demand. “Clean” coal isn’t new – it’s the same coal with added pollution controls, and it still carries major environmental and health harms. Carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) sounds promising, but it’s rare, expensive, and can consume up to 25% of a coal plant’s own energy. Only two coal plants worldwide use CCS, largely because the economics make it difficult to scale. Propping up aging coal plants raises costs for operators and consumers, especially as coal’s share of U.S. power continues to decline. “Clean” coal doesn’t address upstream pollution, such as spontaneous coal combustion, which releases large amounts of greenhouse gases and toxins. Renewables like solar and wind are now cheaper, faster to build,

and better suited to meet growing electricity demand than coal.

<https://drawdown.org/insights/clean-coal-isnt-all-its-cracked-up-to-be>

### Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

The National Trust has legally released into the wild a family and pair of Eurasian beavers at two sites as part of a wider release across the Holnicote Estate on Exmoor in Somerset, to contribute to one of the most ambitious and innovative river and wetland restoration efforts undertaken by the conservation charity...The wild release is the second by the charity granted under licence from Natural England since a major policy shift on species reintroductions in England came into force early last year, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/services/media/wild-beavers-released-in-somerset>

## Prayer guide for the care of creation



# March 2026

“But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.” Job 12 v7-10

“It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living.” David Attenborough

Picture on front cover: daffs k-mitch-hodge--bmC0bWpqHk-unsplash

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**Green Christian**

Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March** **Second Sunday in Lent**

All-embracing God, In our wayward complacency, we are not without signs, in sky sun and moon, in the roaring of the sea; For, God, you send wildness and warnings, to show us your Way. Through the voice of the Earth you make conspicuous the grounds for repentance. And so, all the more in the kinship of Christ's Body grant courage and joy to resist the intimidation of greed, rather to uphold the value and dignity of fellow creatures: sharers in your Rainbow Covenant for the peace and beauty of Creation at work and play with you woven together by the Wild Wind, the Spirit One God for every place and time. Taken from Green Collects from Eco Congregation Scotland  
<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Lent-green-collects-.pdf>

### **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

In just 25 years, dozens of places will be too warm to host the Winter Olympics, writes Laura Paddison. Jessie Diggins is an endurance athlete. The Olympic cross-country skier describes the intensity of suffering her sport can inflict as a "pain cave." It doesn't frighten her; she's used to digging deep, she can control the pain. What does terrify her, however, is how rapidly her sport is changing because of something completely out of her control: climate change. She sees the effects everywhere. *"I've raced World Cups where it was pouring rain and there was barely a strip of snow to ski on, entire seasons were*

*reshaped overnight,"* Diggins said. It's become impossible to hold a winter sporting event without fake snow, she wrote in a blog. The Milan Cortina Winter Games in the Italian Alps, which ... mark[ed] Diggins' final Games, [were] no different. Snowmaking machines were busy pumping out snow for weeks.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2026/02/10/climate/climate-change-snow-warming-winter-olympics-disaster>

### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

Eight businesses owning 18 hospitality brands have broken 'en masse' their promise to implement major improvements to chicken welfare, in a "victory for factory farming", writes Brendan Montague. The brands include popular outlets like Nando's, KFC, Wagamama and Burger King, all of which are withdrawing from the Better Chicken Commitment, a policy designed by scientists to relieve the worst forms of suffering experienced by chickens raised for meat. A crucial component of the policy is changing the breed of chicken from overbred, rapid-growing birds dubbed 'Frankenchickens' by campaigners, to more robust slower-growing birds, shown to dramatically improve the animals' wellbeing. These companies are instead setting up a new initiative called the Sustainable Chicken Forum (SCF), which does not require a change of breed and will rather focus on "balancing welfare improvements with environmental impact and consistent supply". Claire Williams, campaigns manager at The Humane League UK, said: *"Let's be crystal clear about why the*

would mirror restrictions that Beijing has long imposed on foreign investment into China – is necessary to "rebalance" relations between the EU and the world's second-largest economy. *"The reality is, we are behind the curve,"* said Sap, whose Brussels-headquartered firm refines 17 minerals, including cobalt, nickel, and antimony, that the EU has designated as strategically critical. China accounts for roughly 70% of global critical mineral processing, giving Beijing an effective chokehold over elements used in the production of numerous high-tech civilian and military technologies, including fighter planes, radars, and computer chips.  
<https://www.euractiv.com/news/interview-china-must-surrender-know-how-to-access-eu-market-says-critical-mineral-ceo/>

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

The PFAS Plan sets out how the UK Government intends to deal with the growing problem of harmful per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as 'forever chemicals', as they last for so long in the environment. It's split into three sections;

- Understanding PFAS sources
- Tackling PFAS pathways and
- Reducing ongoing exposure to PFAS

Each section has several actions associated with it, with 49 different actions in total, including everything from a new statutory limit for PFAS in drinking water, further monitoring of PFAS in water, sediment, fish and invertebrates, and reducing contamination through sewage sludge, all of which [the Marine

Conservation Society] have called for in [their] work on the water sector reform... [The MCS] fully support Minister Hardy's analysis that *"acting now is essential to prevent irreversible harm and to ensure that our regulatory framework keep pace with scientific evidence"*. This is why [they] want a universal PFAS restriction - being precautionary with all forever chemicals is the only way to ensure true protection for the sea, wider environment and humans.  
<https://www.mcsuk.org/news/pfas-plan/>

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March** **Palm Sunday**

Dear God, in whose great name comes Christ the friend of noisy children; welcomed by branches, cheered by the stones sneered by power, shirking in silence the protest of faith 'gainst sin that harms the Earth! With branches in our hands may we join the commotion undeterred by disapproval or denial of what needs change for Earth's new healing As we cheer and follow Christ who comes for us in the Name of the Lord who is alive and reigns with you, One God for every place and time. Taken from Green Collects from Eco Congregation Scotland  
<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Lent-green-collects-.pdf>

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

It's no secret that the Trump Administration wants coal to make a comeback, writes Jason Lam. As America's appetite for electricity grows, Trump and his appointed

scientists shows how much there still is to discover about the natural world.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2025/december/natural-history-museum-describes-262-new-species-2025.html>

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

In Lagos, a maize seller recently doubled her prices within a single year. In Morocco, pipelines stretch across barren plains, carrying desalinated water to farms that once relied on rainfall. Across much of the continent [of Africa], the pattern is unmistakable: in the regions most exposed to climate shocks, the future of food security is becoming increasingly uncertain, writes Asamoah Oppong Zadok. While the severity varies from one country to another, climateflation is tightening its grip most sharply in rain-dependent and water-stressed zones, from the Sahel and the Horn of Africa to Southern Africa's drought stricken corridors. Erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts and heat waves are no longer isolated events; they are reshaping the price of food and testing the resilience of millions... While climateflation grabs headlines, water scarcity may prove the bigger long-term threat. Agriculture consumes about 80 percent of Africa's freshwater, even as aquifers are being drained faster than they can refill, rivers dry before reaching the sea, and rainfall patterns grow increasingly erratic. Water scarcity, not a lack of arable land, is the true constraint on Africa's agricultural potential.

<https://climate-diplomacy.org/magazine/environment/climat>

[eflation-and-water-scarcity-why-africa-faces-worlds-sharpest-food](#)

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

In the A'i Cofán community of Sinangoe [in the Ecuadorian Amazon ], the Indigenous Guard's youth learning initiative, known as Chipiri Kuirasunde'khu — Little Defenders of the Forest — was established, writes Ana Cristina Alvarado. The guard is made up of 47 children between the ages of three and fifteen and seeks to revitalize their mother tongue and cultural practices through direct contact with their territory. The initiative also aims to nurture future leaders who will protect the 64,000 hectares of Amazon rainforest from threats such as illegal mining and unconsulted concessions. It is part of a community-led education model — an approach grounded in a constitutional right that has yet to be officially recognized — and was conceived by a 12-year-old girl who now coordinates the initiative.

<https://amazonfrontlines.org/chronicles/little-guardians-of-the-forest-an-indigenous-childrens-guard-in-ecuador-travels-across-the-amazon-to-learn-how-to-defend-it/>

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Chinese companies should relinquish control of cutting-edge technologies and form joint ventures with EU firms to access the bloc's single market, according to the head of a leading European critical minerals processor. Euractiv journalist Nikolaus J. Kurmayer continues: Bart Sap, CEO of Umicore, told Euractiv that introducing conditions on Chinese firms' ability to sell to the EU's 450 million consumers — which

*Sustainable Chicken Forum has been set up. Major food companies, with a combined worth of many billions of pounds, have decided that their profit margins cannot be threatened."*

<https://theecologist.org/2026/feb/19/food-brands-break-franckchickens-promise>

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Tonight is a Green Christian workshop *From 1950s box to Passivhaus: our retrofit journey*, with Alex Bienfait and Stephanie Boucher. Stephanie and Alex bought a 1950s brick-built detached house with oil-fired central heating. They have extended and transformed it into a comfortable home that keeps an even temperature throughout, with no conventional central heating system. They did this by radically improving the insulation and airtightness of the house to the stringent Passivhaus standards. As a result, they are the first Passivhaus retrofit to be registered in Kent. They have added other environmental technologies, such as solar panels and a rainwater harvester to flush the toilets. Free, online, please register for the zoom link.

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/from-1950s-box-to-passivhaus-our-retrofit-journey-green-christian-workshop/>

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Flung plastic beads, coins, and other trinkets can seem like treasures in the heat of a Mardi Gras moment, but if you've ever seen the streets of New Orleans the morning after, you'd recognize only trash, writes Andy Corbley. That's why a coalition of government agencies and nonprofits is

creating "seed beads," biodegradable party favors, and culturally-smart alternatives like bags of Jambalaya spices, as a way of cutting back on this mountain of party waste. It's not just about removing this unnecessary burden of 1,123 tons per year from the landfill; it's a climate necessity, as the countless plastic objects have been found time and time again to clog the stormwater system. It's been 22 years since Hurricane Katrina caused one of America's largest and most destructive weather-related disasters, and anything that impedes the city's drainage capacity is considered far more than an inconvenience. <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/plastic-mardi-gras-beads-swapped-out-for-seed-beads-and-spice-packets/>

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Türkiye has refused to return a western lowland gorilla named Zeytin, who was smuggled out of Africa a year ago; Turkish authorities seized him as an infant from the cargo hold of an airplane headed to Bangkok, writes Spoorthy Ramen. The decision marks an about-turn in Türkiye's plans to return him to Africa, where he'd be in a Nigerian sanctuary with other gorillas, after a DNA test ruled out Nigeria as his country of origin. Turkish authorities announced he will remain in the country permanently. Gorillas are social animals that live in family groups, and with no other gorillas in the country, conservationists worry Zeytin will be doomed to a life of isolation in a zoo. Conservationists urge Turkish officials to reconsider their decision and send the baby gorilla to a sanctuary in

Africa as soon as possible so he has a better chance of possible release into the wild.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2026/02/baby-gorilla-seized-from-traffickers-languishes-in-turkish-zoo/>

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

A Russian court is continuing to hold an international advocate for Indigenous peoples on terrorism charges despite international calls to release her immediately, writes Anita Hofschneider. Daria Egereva, who is Indigenous Selkup from Russia, is co-chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, which represents Indigenous peoples' perspectives at United Nations gatherings. She was arrested by Russian authorities on Dec. 17, just weeks after returning from the COP30 climate conference in Belém, where she advocated for greater participation of Indigenous women in climate negotiations. [In mid February], the Basmany court, a district court in Moscow, held a hearing where it decided to continue holding Egereva until at least March 15.

<https://grist.org/indigenous/two-months-after-being-arrested-this-indigenous-climate-leader-remains-imprisoned-in-russia/>

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Third Sunday in Lent**

Sustaining God, who in Christ did not embrace life made new without entering into the trials and pain of Creation shattered by sin, and entered not into glory before he

was crucified: in your compassion grant that through the crosses we take up - to walk with trees abused and living things destroyed for greed we may yet be blessed to walk the way of life and peace; As partners with all your creatures for the peace and beauty of Creation at work and play with you; woven together by the Wild Wind, the Spirit One God for every place and time.

Taken from Green Collects from Eco Congregation Scotland

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Lent-green-collects.pdf>

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

North Yorkshire Council planning officers today recommended approval of plans by Europa Oil & Gas to carry out a form of low-volume fracking known as a proppant squeeze near the village of Burniston. This recommendation comes ahead of next week's committee hearing in which the final decision will be made. Friends of the Earth's Yorkshire & Humber Regional Campaigner, Simon Bowens, said: "*This recommendation is deeply concerning. Proppant squeeze is a form of fracking, and local residents have made it crystal clear that they do not want it in their community. Next week, the planning committee has the opportunity to listen to the community and reject the application. At the very least, they should refuse to approve it now and delay a decision until the government's position on proppant squeeze is clear. The government has said it will ban fracking for good – this must include proppant squeeze.*

year, while meat and dairy combined received more than 10 times more CAP subsidies than fruit and vegetable production.

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2026/02/23/eu-slammed-as-study-reveals-climate-harming-beef-and-lamb-get-580-times-more-subsidies-tha>

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

#### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Compassionate God, who in the death and life made new of your child Jesus transforms and heals the Earth; grant that by faith in Christ tortured on the Tree, we may with justice overcome the powers of terror, waste and tyranny through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and cares by the community of the wild Wind Holy Spirit One God for every place and time

Taken from Green Collects from Eco Congregation Scotland

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Lent-green-collects.pdf>

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Iraqi national authorities [a month ago] officially handed over a constructed wetland project addressing pollution and drought in Thi Qar, Iraq's heat-stressed southern region. The project benefits 30,000 local residents through effective wastewater treatment and provides a sustainable nature-based solution for climate adaptation, pollution

management, biodiversity preservation and environmental protection. Southern Iraq faces growing environmental stress driven by population growth, climate change contributing to prolonged drought, desertification, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss. Inadequate wastewater treatment exacerbates these pressures, with untreated sewage being discharged directly into rivers and marshlands, threatening public health, livelihoods, and fragile ecosystems.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/newly-constructed-wetland-thi-qar-benefits-30000-people-supports>

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

[Last] year Natural History Museum curators, researchers and scientific associates ... described an impressive 262 new species, writes Josh Davis. These range from parasitic crustaceans that infect fish to dinosaurs that wandered across the flood plains of the Isle of Wight millions of years ago. Over the last 12 months ... scientists have been busy collecting, studying and cataloguing the extraordinary diversity of life on Earth. From the depths of the Pacific Ocean to the lush rainforests of Tanzania, they've given official names to an astonishing 262 new species. Among [last] year's cohort are new toads and fish, forams and bryozoans, butterflies and bees, and a smattering of ancient sharks. In the face of the unfolding planetary emergency the race is on to describe new animals and plants before it's too late. The work of [the]

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/22022026/new-zealand-indigenous-whale-rights-declaration/>

#### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

For the first time in over 180 years, a giant tortoise population is once again walking the landscapes of Floreana Island—launching the largest restoration effort ever undertaken on the Galápagos islands. 158 juvenile giant tortoises of Floreana lineage were released this week into their ancestral habitat, marking a historic milestone for the archipelago. Driven to extinction in the mid-1800s, the Floreana giant tortoise (*Chelonoidis niger niger*) had been absent from the island for generations. Its return signals the beginning of a new phase of rewilding under the Floreana Ecological Restoration Project.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/158-giant-endangered-tortoises-released-on-galapagos-island-for-first-time-in-180-years/>

#### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

If you want to eat chocolate and do better for the planet, dark chocolate is by far your best bet, writes Emma Bryce. That's one key takeaway from a study that compared different types of chocolate for their environmental effects. It found that the major environmental burden of this sweet treat lies within the ingredients used to make it—the main culprits being palm oil, and milk. Focusing on the emerging chocolate market in Turkey, the researchers compared four types—dark, milk, white, and compound chocolate (where some cocoa butter is substituted by fats like palm oil.)

For each type, they carried out a life cycle analysis, capturing everything from the field impacts where ingredients were grown, through to packaging and retail. They calculated impact across 18 categories, including global warming potential, land, water, and energy use. Out of this comparison, dark chocolate emerged as the clear sustainability victor, with a smaller footprint than all other chocolate types across several impact categories.

<https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2026/02/which-type-of-chocolate-has-the-lowest-climate-impact/>

#### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

The EU is being urged to introduce a Plant-Based Action Plan to promote sustainable diets and help farmers transition away from meat and dairy, writes Liam Gilliver. Climate-damaging foods such as red meat are being heavily propped up by EU subsidies, in what has been described as a “scandalous” use of taxpayer money. A new report by charity Foodrise found that the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) directed more subsidies to the production of high-emitting animal-sourced foods than plant foods in 2020. In fact, animal-sourced foods received around 77 per cent of total CAP subsidies, accounting for €39 billion out of the total €51 billion spent that year. Beef and lamb, which are consistently identified as the biggest culprits of climate damage, were given around 580 times more in subsidies compared to legumes such as lentils and beans in 2020. Dairy received an estimated 554 times more CAP subsidies than nuts and seeds in the same

*Failure to do so would leave the door open to further low-volume fracking schemes like the one at Burniston.”*

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/north-yorkshire-fracking-recommendation-deeply-concerning>

#### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

The average price of electricity traded on day-ahead markets last year was around £83 per megawatt-hour (MWh), but could have been as high as £121 per MWh, were it not for British windfarms limiting the role of gas power plants in setting prices, according to new analysis by the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU). Author Jess Ralston continues: The saving of around £38 per MWh amounts to a price cut of 31% (almost a third). Put another way, prices could have been about 46% higher without wind power. These results build on savings of 25% in 2024, and are part of a longer-term trend of rising savings as Britain's growing fleet of wind farms push gas power plants off the system.

<https://eciu.net/media/press-releases/wind-farms-cut-power-prices-by-almost-a-third-in-2025>

#### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

The European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change has called for climate adaptation to be baked into EU policy while maintaining sustained mitigation efforts to reduce emissions, writes Matt Mace. A new report from the Advisory Board outlines key recommendations for the EU to respond to worsening climate-related impacts while

ensuring that adaptation does not replace mitigation efforts that promote deep emissions reductions. The Board claims that failing to act on adaptation risks weakening competitiveness, straining public budgets, and increasing security risks. Global average temperatures have risen to around 1.4C above pre-industrial levels, and extreme weather events caused \$320bn in economic losses in 2024 – a 25% increase from 2020. Europe is warming about twice as fast as the global average, with rising temperatures driving more frequent and severe climate hazards – including heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, flooding, sea-level rise, and coastal erosion.

<https://www.edie.net/eu-urged-to-strengthen-approaches-to-climate-adaptation/>

#### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

The US-Latin America climate pact gained momentum during California's participation at COP30, where Governor Gavin Newsom led a state delegation focused on turning climate commitments into action, writes Bente Baekers. The agreements reflect California's long-standing approach of working directly with regions facing shared environmental risks, regardless of shifts in national politics... Colombia's partnership with California centers on forest conservation and methane reduction, two priorities closely linked to protecting the Amazon ecosystem... Chile joined the climate pact through a separate agreement focused on methane management... Brazil's role in the US-Latin America climate pact includes two distinct collaborations.

One agreement with Brazil's federal government focuses on innovation and the responsible use of artificial intelligence in public management, recognizing the growing role of digital tools in climate governance. A second agreement with the state of Pará addresses wildfire prevention and response, drawing on California's experience managing increasingly extreme fire seasons.

<https://happyeconews.com/us-latin-america-climate-pact-expands/>

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Since Donald Trump returned to the White House last year, his administration in the US has laid off thousands of scientists and frozen research grants worth billions of dollars, writes Daisy Dunne. The cutbacks have had far-reaching consequences for all areas of scientific research, extending all the way to Earth's fragile polar regions, researchers say... [P]olar researchers explain how Trump's attacks on science have affected efforts to study climate change at Earth's poles, including by disrupting fieldwork, preventing data collection and even forcing researchers to leave the US. One climate scientist tells Carbon Brief that the administration's decision to terminate the only US icebreaker used in Antarctica forced her to cancel her fieldwork at the last minute – with her scientific cargo still held up in Chile.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/qa-how-trump-is-threatening-climate-science-in-earths-polar-regions/>

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March

The Trump administration announced on Friday it will roll back clean air regulations limiting mercury and hazardous toxins from power plants, saying it will boost baseload energy, while public health groups warn it will harm America's most vulnerable, writes Valerie Volcovici. President Donald Trump's Environmental Protection Agency has said that easing the pollution standards would alleviate costs for utilities that run older coal plants at a time when demand for power is soaring amid the expansion of data centers used for artificial intelligence. Environmental groups have said that weakening standards for mercury, a neurotoxin that can impair babies' brain development, and other air toxics will lead to higher health-related costs.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/trump-epa-weaken-rule-limiting-harmful-mercury-air-toxics-coal-plants-2026-02-20/>

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

#### Fourth Sunday in Lent

Merciful God, break open and unlock for your people the path to freedom from this hopeless treadmill of sin; that encouraged by the vision of a world abundant with diverse life we reach for the glorious liberty of the children of God, who plant and tend in partnership with all flesh. Grant this, Father of high Creation for Jesus Christ's sake, our Friend and Saviour, who lives and tends with you, in the unity of the Breath of Life, the Holy Spirit One God for every place and time.

Taken from Green Collects from Eco Congregation Scotland

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Lent-green-collects-.pdf>

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Beneath the dusty plains of outback Queensland [in Australia], under towns that depend on a single reliable water source, lies a rock formation so old it predates the dinosaurs, writes Rupendra Brahmabhatt. For decades, it sat largely ignored, invisible at the surface and buried under other basins. Now, scientists believe this hidden geology, the Adavale Basin, could help solve one of Australia's most urgent clean energy dilemmas, i.e., where to store renewable power at a truly massive scale... Australia is producing more electricity from solar and wind than ever before, but there is a catch. Sunshine and wind are unpredictable. When supply is high, excess electricity can go to waste. When supply drops, the grid needs backup. Lithium-ion batteries help, but they are expensive and limited in size. Storing energy for hours is possible. Storing it for days — or at the scale of millions of homes — is far more complicated. Scientists think the answer may lie not in bigger surface batteries, but two to three kilometres underground.

<https://interestingengineering.com/energy/salt-deposit-australia-energy-storage>

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

It was action over extinction as shark conservationists ended 2025 ringing in success at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) CoP20 as over 70

species of sharks and rays received new protection from international trade, writes Lauren de Vos. All international commercial trade was banned for Critically Endangered whale sharks, oceanic whitetip sharks and manta and devil rays. With listings that tackle the fin and meat trade, deep-sea sharks and the highly threatened 'rhino rays', it is clear that, after 50 years of CITES, sharks and rays are finally firmly on its conservation agenda.

<https://saveourseas.com/resounding-support-for-sharks-and-rays-at-cites-cop20/>

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

In one of his final acts before his death in 2024, Māori King Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero helped galvanize Pacific Indigenous leaders to sign a landmark declaration recognizing whales' rights. Writes Katie Surma. Now that effort could shape national law: New Zealand legislators this month introduced a bill grounded in the declaration, affirming whales' rights to migrate, maintain natural behaviors and culture, and live in a healthy environment with damaged habitats restored. The bill, introduced by a member of Parliament from the Green Party, Teanau Tuiono, would recognize whales as legal persons, a status already held by corporations and other nonhuman entities. The legislation would require the government to consider whales' rights when regulating activities that affect them and their habitats, including shipping, fishing, deep-sea mining and coastal development.