

Sources:

- Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming. Ed. Paul Hawken, with a foreword by the Prince of Wales.
- The Environment (CIWEM)
- Resurgence and Ecologist
- Business Green

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



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“The Lord answered Job out of the storm and said: 'Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? . . . Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line along it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone – while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? (Job 38.1-7)

“The world made specially for the uses of man? Certainly not. No dogma taught by the present civilisation forms so inoperable an obstacle to a right understanding of the relations which human culture sustains to wildness. Yet it is taught from century to century as something ever new and precious, and in the resulting darkness the enormous conceit is allowed to go unchallenged.” (John Muir)



GreenChristian

Tuesday 1st May

Two recent studies have examined various ways of reducing carbon emissions from human activities. Project Drawdown relies on researchers around the world to identify more than 80 options for addressing climate change, ranked in order of effectiveness. The sixth in its ranking is to educate girls, recognising this as one of the most potent levers for avoiding emissions by curbing population growth. "Educated girls realise higher wages and upward mobility, contributing to economic growth. Their rates of maternal mortality drop, as do the mortality rates of their babies. They are less likely to marry as children or against their will. They have lower incidence of HIV/AIDS and malaria. Their agricultural plots are more productive and their families better nourished."

Wednesday 2nd May

The seventh option in Project Drawdown's assessment is Family Planning. "Securing women's right to voluntary high-quality family planning would have powerful impacts on the health, welfare and life expectancy of both women and their children. It

also can affect greenhouse gas emissions. 225 million women in lower-income countries say they want the ability to choose whether and when to become pregnant but lack the necessary access to contraception. The need persists in some high-income countries including the USA, where 45% of pregnancies are unintended. Currently the world faces a \$5.3 billion funding shortfall for providing access to reproductive healthcare that women say they want to have."

Thursday 3rd May

A study from Lind University which draws on 39 peer-reviewed articles, carbon calculators and government sources has identified the four actions which would have the greatest impact on an individual's greenhouse gas emissions. They are:

1. Eating a plant-based diet. This saves about 0.8 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions per individual per year
2. Avoiding air travel. Each round trip transatlantic flight avoided saves 1.5 tonnes per individual per year.

Reef right in the area where Total and BP have a licence to drill. Back in the University of Cambridge, 350 academics have called on the university to "immediately freeze any new investments in fossil fuel companies and to divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds." This has drawn from BP's chief executive this comment: "We donate and do a lot of research at Cambridge, so I hope they come to their senses."

Wednesday 30th May

Asda, Lidl, Tesco and Waitrose are among more than 40 of the UK's biggest food and drink firms backing a new pledge to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastics by 2025 and to ensure that all remaining plastic packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable by that date. They also promised to ensure that at least 70% of plastic packaging is effectively recycled or composted and that all plastic packaging includes an average of 30% recycled content. Adding weight to this so-called Plastic Pact, a cohort of plastic reprocessors and packaging suppliers are also committed to the initiative, which will be crucial in

helping big name firms to live up to their promises. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation is working to ensure that the Plastic Pact will be replicated in other countries around the world. An Action Plan is due from the Government this autumn.

Thursday 31st May

A report from the National Infrastructure Commission warns that England faces a 25% chance that our water taps will run dry within the next 30 years unless the water industry launches a major drive to create a national water system. South East England's low rainfall pushed Southern Water earlier this year to seek a drought permit to enable it to take extra water from the Medway to refill its Bewl Water reservoir. The report calls on the Government to set up a national water system which can transfer water from the abundant reservoirs in the North to the drier, more densely-populated areas in the South which are most at risk from severe drought. It also warned companies that they must stem water leaks, which cost the system 20% of its water supply each day.

Conservation Director at A Rocha will lead the journey, which should leave people better informed, better equipped and, most importantly, ready to take action. To book tickets, go to:

<http://hilfieldfriary.org.uk/event/where-eagles-dare-saturday-26th-may>

Sunday 27th May

Father, you know that listening is hard for us. We are so action-oriented, so product-driven, that doing is easier for us than being. Help us to be still and to listen. We want to learn how to sink into the light of your presence until we can be comfortable in that light. Help us, dear Father, to try now.

(Richard Foster)

Monday 28th May

The supermarket chain Iceland has removed palm oil from 50% of its products across its 900 stores and has pledged to remove it entirely from its ingredients by the end of this year, believing that to be the only way to prevent further destruction of rainforests in Indonesia and Malaysia. Greenpeace welcomes this move but sounds a warning note: "If all consumer goods

companies stopped using palm oil, demand would switch to other vegetable oils, perhaps soy, rapeseed or sunflower. When grown in vast quantities, all these alternative oils have serious environmental drawbacks, including rainforest destruction. The reason palm oil's popularity rocketed was that it is a very land-efficient crop. You get a lot of oil per hectare, it requires relatively few pesticides and it's highly versatile. It's used in everything from lipstick to soap, toothpaste to chocolate."

One conclusion is clear: it's not only consumer demand that is destroying our forests. It's also the ever-increasing number of consumers.

Tuesday 29th May

Major oil companies such as BP and Total seem convinced that demand for oil will continue to rise. They are exploring for oil near the Amazon Reef off the coast of Brazil where they expect to find big deposits. They have convinced the Brazilian government that this block is likely to be miles away from the reef. However, scientists aboard the Greenpeace ship Esperanza have found a new section of the Amazon

3. Living car-free for a year saves 2.4 tonnes per individual.
4. Having fewer children. Having one fewer child would save 58.6 tonnes per year, bearing in mind the likely impact of the descendants of that child.

The study found that small incremental changes such as recycling made little difference. The lead author of the study said: "Personally I've found it really positive to make many of these changes. It's especially important for young people establishing lifelong patterns to be aware which choices have the biggest impact."

Friday 4th May

According to Tony Juniper in his new book "Rainforest: Dispatches from Earth's Most Vital Frontlines", forests – especially rainforests – do not merely grow in places of high rainfall. They themselves cause the rainfall and spread the life-giving rain throughout the atmosphere on a transcontinental scale. The vast Amazon rainforest causes moisture to be carried in 6km 'sky rivers' all the way from the Atlantic coast west to the Andes, south to Argentina, north to Central America and the

Great Plains of the USA and even across the Atlantic to distant Europe. "Rainforests are essential, living components of the planetary weather and climate system that we depend on for rain, and hence for the water we drink and the food we eat every day. Destroy them, and we starve."

Saturday 5th May

Ranging more widely, Tony Juniper adds: "There is a mindset that destruction of Nature is something we have to pay for 'progress' – but how is it progress if it's actually destroying the food system itself? The loss of bees and other insects, large-scale soil erosion, unpredictable rainfall, depletion of groundwater are already making it increasingly hard to grow food. The food system is undermining its own future, which depends absolutely on all these free goods of Nature. ... The good news is that major corporations are beginning to understand that there is no profit in a dead planet, especially for those involved in food and water. Big companies like Nestle are adopting major sustainability plans because they understand the dangers ahead and want to make their voices heard."

Sunday 6th May

Entrusted with an earthly home Our minds did not create or build We live as visitors and guests Until our years have been fulfilled.

Through centuries, without concern For all the grandeur and the grace, We've taken beauty from the earth And left it poor – a barren place. O God, we've been ungrateful guests Upon this earth, which you designed. Within our time, help us restore Our blighted world for all mankind. (Jean Carriott)

Monday 7th May

The Government has announced a target for ending the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles by 2040, but a new report by Vivid Economics shows that bringing forward the target to 2030 could make the UK a more attractive destination for investment in electric vehicles, adding an extra 14,000 jobs to the car industry, taking 7 million dirty diesel and petrol vehicles off our roads and reducing air pollution by around 30% by 2030. WWF comments: "We can't wait until 2040 – through another 22 years of air pollution and greenhouse gases – to end the sale of dirty diesel and petrol

vehicles. Other countries are showing greater ambition. Stopping the sale of these polluters by 2030 will not only clear up our air and cut emissions but will also bolster the UK economy and give us our best chance to restore nature."

Tuesday 8th May

Sainsbury's has become the first UK supermarket to integrate electric cargo bikes into its delivery service. Its Streatham Common store will make up to 100 deliveries a day by e-bikes. Its director of online services said: "This trial will help us explore whether there might be a more flexible way to deliver our groceries to those who live in busy cities." The supermarket chain also uses refrigerated delivery trucks cooled by a liquid nitrogen- powered engine, replacing the traditional diesel engine used to chill the vehicle.

Wednesday 9th May

Bristol Energy, which is owned by Bristol City Corporation, is offering residents 'green gas' generated from human sewage and sludge. The raw sewage is treated via anaerobic digestion and profits from the tariffs will be reinvested in the local

out effective enforcement to prevent water pollution and soil erosion would initially be £5.8 million a year, but this would decrease after five years with a reduction in soil degradation costs.

Wednesday 23rd May

The first of 11 of the world's most powerful wind turbines has been installed off the Aberdeen coast as part of the European Offshore Wind Development Centre. When all the turbines are up and running, their 93.2 MW capacity will produce more than 70% of Aberdeen's electricity demand, saving 134,128 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. Just one rotation of the blades can power the average UK home for a day.

Thursday 24th May

Danish firm Orsted (formerly Dong Energy) is building a 200 MW power storage facility in Liverpool to store electricity from the world's largest wind farm, which is nearing completion off the coast from Liverpool. Powerful batteries can make wind farms more efficient by storing energy when it is abundant and releasing it when needed. The facility is expected to provide the

National Grid with balancing services by the end of this year, meaning that it will help to power the grid from next winter.

Friday 25th May

Global investment in energy storage and smart grid solutions has soared this year according to consultants Mercom Capital Group. Corporate investment in battery storage hit \$229 million in the 1st quarter of this year compared to \$55 million in the same period last year. The increased investment in energy storage and smart grid technologies comes as battery costs continue to plummet and grid operators around the world seek to roll out a range of storage and demand management systems designed to integrate increasing levels of variable renewables on to the grid.

Saturday 26th May

Today from 10 to 4 an A Rocha and Hilfield Friary conference called "Where Eagles Dare" takes place at Hilfield Friary, Dorset, to consider how Christian hope, grounded in Scripture, can underpin ecology and the need for collective practical action on the planet. Andy Lester,

levels of animal testing and to enhance innovation in the European chemicals industry.

Saturday 19th May

Reducing plastic use while travelling can be a challenge. Carrying a reusable bottle for your water is a must. Carrying a cloth bag for any purchases – or for collecting plastic litter – is also a good idea for avoiding plastic. Visiting local markets and independent shops is one way to avoid plastic havens such as supermarkets. But beware! In Kenya, producing, selling or even using plastic bags can incur a heavy fine or imprisonment, while in Singapore, litterers are made to clean the streets in shirts that read “I am a litter lout.”

Sunday 20th May

God of truth and love, give us the wisdom to know what is right, the strength to do it and the courage to declare it, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Monday 21st May

A letter from a coalition of 21 heavyweight investors and energy giants has called on EU negotiator

Michel Barnier and UK Brexit Secretary David Davis to develop a comprehensive energy and climate chapter in the forthcoming 'divorce agreement' covering both trade and non-trade issues. “We recognise that climate change poses one of the greatest long-term threats to our economies and societies and we strongly urge both the UK and EU27 to commit to continuing to work together to meet the commitments set out in the Paris Agreement, in any future relationship.”

Tuesday 22nd May

A report from WWF finds that UK soils are being destroyed at ten times the rate they are being created, costing £1.2 billion annually in England and Wales. It maintains that the agricultural sector which generates £8 billion of UK GDP and employs almost half a million people is at risk due to poor farming and land management practices. Up to one-third of farmers may be non-compliant with water protection laws, partly due to lack of enforcement by the Environment Agency, which currently has only resources to visit fewer than 1% of our farms each year. The estimated costs of rolling

community. GENeco cleans the biogas and upgrades it until it consists of 98% methane or natural gas. It treats 75 million cubic metres of sewage waste a year – enough to power 8,300 homes, and equivalent to the amount of methane produced by the flatulence of all the cows in Wales.

Thursday 10th May

A proposed opencast coal mine at Highthorn in Northumberland was turned down by the Secretary of State on environmental grounds, but the developers have appealed to the High Court on the ground that the decision contravened the National Planning Policy Framework, which states that mining applications can be allowed if their benefits outweigh likely environmental impacts. The mining company claims that last year's UK consumption of coal (7 million tonnes) was five times greater than the UK could provide, and the shortfall had to be met by imports from Russia and the US. The long-term effects on the climate do not appear to have been considered.

Friday 11th May

Over the first 3 months of 2018, onshore wind farms in Scotland provided 5,353,997 MWh of electricity to the National Grid – an increase of 44% over the same period last year. Wind generated enough electricity to power an average of 5 million homes. These remarkable statistics come fresh on the heels of data showing that 68% of Scotland's electricity demand in 2017 was met from renewables. Renewables also overtook nuclear power as the second biggest source of power throughout the UK during the final quarter of 2017.

Saturday 12th May

Today from 10 to 4.30 Lincoln's third 'Faith and the Environment' conference takes place at St. Giles' Church, Lamb Gardens, Lincoln LN2 4EQ. “We'll be thinking about the significance of climate change in relation to sea level rise and its impacts on our coastal county, the wider society, and globally through increased flooding and erosion. We will consider how, as people of faith, we might respond as we seek to love the planet and its people.” Speakers include Prof. Edward Hanna,

Professor of Climate Science and Meteorology at Lincoln University, and Alison Baptiste, Director of Flood and Coastal Risk management at the Environment Agency.

Sunday 13th May

“The idea that we live in something called the environment is utterly preposterous. ‘Environment’ means that which surrounds us – a world separate from ourselves. But that world is also within us. We are made of it. We eat, drink and breathe it. It is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh.” (Wendell Berry)

Father, help us to understand that we and all your creation depend on you and one another. Teach us how to be good stewards of all that you have given us to care for, and help us to banish from our actions all greed, selfishness and short-term thinking.

Monday 14th May

Around 7 million coffee cups a day are thrown away in the UK, less than 1% of which can be recycled, while most end up in landfill. Increasingly people carry around a reusable coffee cup or flask, for which some

coffee outlets offer a discount. Plastic bottles are often seen polluting our beaches, while their lids can end up in the stomachs of seabirds. Plastic cutlery on the other hand can be washed and re-used. If we don't need plastic straws and stirrers, why do we use them? Is it worth using a plastic straw with your Strawberry Daiquiri when the straw could remain in landfill long after your hundredth birthday?

Tuesday 15th May

Teabags are sealed with plastic, so using loose leaf tea with a strainer is one alternative. Another is to go for biodegradable teabags such as those pioneered by PG Tips. For those of us who are addicted to chewing gum, which is made of plastic, plastic-free alternatives are available. The glitter used as an ornament is made of tiny plastic particles that are particularly lethal to marine life, where shellfish and plankton can ingest it. Again, there are many ranges of eco-friendly biodegradable glitter.

Wednesday 16th May

Recycling of plastic waste in the UK has actually diminished since 2013.

More than half of recyclable waste ends up in landfill or is destroyed: over 51 million tonnes a year. A coalition of 18 environmental groups has called on the Government to:

- Reduce single-use plastics as its top priority, with clear timelines and measures for achieving this.
- Upgrade the recycling infrastructure, so that all plastics and other recyclable waste can be in every household bin by 2023.
- Require all packaging to carry a simple ‘recyclable’ or ‘non-recyclable’ label.
- Lay out 5-year targets for 2025-2050 for the percentage of recyclable plastic, wood, glass, metal and cardboard to be recycled, working towards a zero-waste target by 2050.
- make producers financially responsible for the costs of their waste production, as 90% of the costs of waste disposal currently fall on the taxpayer.

Thursday 17th May

The city of Oslo now recycles 46.4% of its waste, up from 34.8% in 2010. The key to this success is its' citizens' commitment to sorting their

waste under the Optibag system, whereby waste is deposited in colour-coded bags. These are automatically sorted at the end point using sophisticated optical sorting technology. This has enabled food waste to be used in biogas production, and plastics to be used as part of a plastics recycling programme, so enabling the city to boost its collection of plastic packaging from 20.2% in 2012 to 29.7% now.

Friday 18th May

Chemicals in the UK are currently regulated by the EU under the REACH (Regulation, Evaluation, Authorisation & Restriction of Chemicals) framework. A coalition of UK environmental bodies called the Environment Policy Forum is pressing the Government to keep the UK within the REACH system post-Brexit rather than trying to create a parallel system in the UK. REACH was designed for high level of protection of human health and the environment from the use of chemicals, and to make those who market them responsible for managing the risks associated with their use. It also seeks to minimise