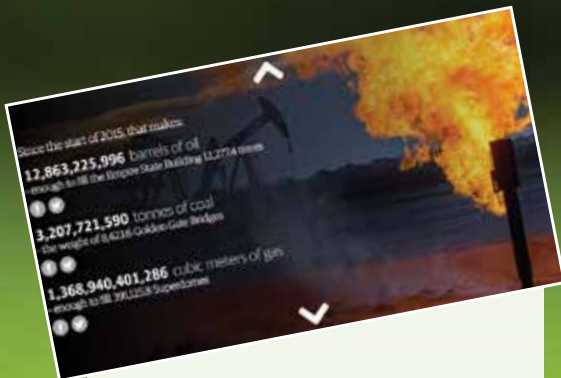


GREENscene



How much fossil fuel has been used in your lifetime?

How much fossil fuel has been extracted since you arrived at this page? Or since you were born? The numbers below highlight the staggering amount of oil, coal and gas we take out of the ground – and how quickly change is needed.

This onscreen rolling infographic will give some unwelcome answers.

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2015/apr/10/how-much-fossil-fuel-are-we-using-right-now>



The return of Britain's otters offers a glimpse of rewilding's great rewards

- extract from George Monbiot's blog....

Watching a pair of wild otters is a rare chance to enjoy the thrill of nature on our doorstep. Rewilding could see beavers, lynx and boar follow in the otter's footsteps to transform Britain for the enrichment of all.

Otters are an adaptable species that, given the chance, can quickly recolonise the habitats from which they have been excised. Their hesitant return sharpens the hopes of those of us who want a wilder Britain, who strive for the re-establishment of magnificent, enthralling wildlife that you don't have to travel halfway around the world to see.

Already otters are beginning to appear in a few towns and cities. As they become accustomed to their protected status, they're likely to become less shy and easier to watch, bringing nature's wonders closer to the lives of people who have become disconnected from the living planet. If our advocacy of the widespread return to Britain of animals such as beavers, boar and lynx succeeds (and one day, perhaps, of wolves, bison, pelicans, bluefin tuna and whales of several species), the opportunities for re-enchantment will begin to blossom in places that are currently little more than wildlife deserts.

Everyone should be able to experience such marvels, and to step outside the ordered, regulated, predictable world of our own making, that sometimes seems to crush the breath out of us.

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/georgemonbiot/2015/may/07/the-return-of-britains-otters-offers-a-glimpse-of-rewildings-great-rewards>



Invading Spanish bluebells 'to wipe out Welsh natives'

An army of advancing foreign flowers that smell like onions is threatening to wipe out the native bluebells of Wales.

The Spanish bluebells - described as "big thuggish things" - were introduced to Britain hundreds of years ago.

But their numbers have doubled in the last 15 years and they now outnumber the homegrown and more fragrant Welsh bluebells.

The arrival of the Spanish flowers can be traced back to 1683. But they have only really taken root this century and begun to genetically fuse with their British equivalent.

The charity Plantlife warned the under-attack British native flowers could be completely eradicated within 50 years.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/environment/11580341/Invading-Spanish-bluebells-to-wipe-out-Welsh-natives.html>



Food waste an enormous economic problem, say G20 ministers

Food wasted by consumers is an enormous economic problem and nations should ensure excess food is given to the hungry instead of being thrown away, agriculture ministers from the G20 said. The two-day meeting in Istanbul has focused on problems of food security and nutrition, including the impact of climate change. A reduction in the amount of food wasted would improve food security, the ministers said in their final communique.

"We note with great concern the significant extent of food loss and waste ... and their negative consequences for food security, nutrition, use of natural resources and the environment," the ministers said.

"We highlight this as a global problem of enormous economic, environmental and societal significance."

An estimated 1.3bn tonnes of food, or roughly 30 percent of global production, is lost or wasted annually, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said last year.

UN agencies said this would easily feed the world's 800 million hungry.

To fight the problem, countries need better estimates of the amount of food they waste, as well as the economic impact of food loss, the G20 ministers said.

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/08/food-waste-an-enormous-economic-problem-say-g20-ministers>



New study finds forests can play key role

in efforts to end global hunger

Forests and forestry are essential to achieve global food security as the limits of boosting agricultural production are becoming increasingly clear, a new study published today reveals.

The findings are included in the most comprehensive scientific analysis to date on the relationship among forests, food and nutrition launched in New York.

According to the report, close to one out of six persons directly depend on forests for their food and income.

Although forests are not a panacea for global hunger, the report emphasises that they play a vital role in complementing crops produced on farms.

Source: <http://www.clickgreen.org.uk/research/trends/125986-forest-can-play-a-key-role-in-efforts-to-end-global-hunger.html>



Children's knowledge of nature is dwindling, study finds

Britain's knowledge of nature is dwindling to worrying new levels

with younger generations now less clued up than ever, according to a new study.

Nearly double the number of parents aged over 51 (49 per cent) said nature was one of the most important things to teach children, compared to just one in three aged under 30.

And the naivety of younger adults revealed just six in ten (58 per cent) 25 to 30 year olds knew a vixen was a female fox - a fact nearly all parents over 51 (96 per cent) knew. In fact, one in six (17 per cent) of the younger generation of parents believed female foxes were called "sows" - the name for a female pig.

The research, by collectible toy company Sylvanian Families, revealed some startling insight into the nation's poor grasp of outdoor life.

Nine in ten over 51s (92 per cent) identified the fact male rabbits were called a "buck", which just over half (53 per cent) of 25 to 30 year olds knew.

Meanwhile, one in five (21 per cent) 25 to 30 year olds incorrectly believed male rabbits were called "jacks".

Interestingly, identifying facts about nature gets better with age.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/environment/11568058/Childrens-knowledge-of-nature-is-dwindling-study-finds.html>



SOS campaign to help keep Britain's beaches 'barefoot friendly'

A mammoth 22,500 metre square sand

SOS signal has been created on Morecambe

Bay as a rallying cry to get the nation to roll up their sleeves and help keep the UK's beaches 'barefoot friendly'. The 150m x 150m sand art, photographed via drone technology, is a call-to-arms encouraging the nation to join their community and take part in cleaning local beaches. Taking the team of five people a whopping 10 hours to complete, the sand drawing represents 1,625g of litter for each square metre - totalling 13,000 kilograms that has been collected over the past seven years.

The campaign will be kicking off on May 16 in Edinburgh, and then travelling coast-to-coast to 6 separate UK locations throughout the summer. Building on the incredible success of the 2014 events, which saw over 800 volunteers remove almost 1,500 kilograms of litter from UK beaches, community volunteers will be called on to come out and clean their local beaches to make 2015 another great year for the beach clean-ups.

Source: <http://www.clickgreen.org.uk/events/events/125930-sos-campaign-to-help-keep-britain%5Cs-beaches-barefoot-friendly.html>