



Green Ixworth Newsletter

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To decouple or not to decouple

'The trend is irreversible': has Romania shattered the link between economic growth and high emissions? | Romania | The Guardian

This known as decoupling see: .Consume more, conserve more: sorry, but we just can't do both | George Monbiot | The Guardian

When your editor was being taught "traditional economics" as against reality, many moons ago, consumption of fossil fuels was commonly used as a measure of a country's wealth and success, that then changed to GDP, a financial measure and is now beginning to change again to the proportion of sustainable energy compared to fossil fuel use. Serious discussions have taking place led by the United Nations to incorporate other societal wealth, population health, voluntary work contributions, all effects less easy to measure.

However we must take what positive signs there are as many European nations, including Britain have have managed to decouple growth from energy expended.

Energy

Sizewell and Pakenham Fen

Green Ixworth sought a meeting in late February between GI, the Ixworth and Pakenham Parish Councils and the two county Councillors involved and representatives from Sizewell C and East Suffolk Council who are the planning authority for all Sizewell work.

The the issues considered were:

The transport routes for the HGVs bringing material from Sizewell and the dangerous access to Thurston Road off the A143. We argued for a circular route from Sizewell providing left turns and roundabouts only arriving from the agreed Sizewell HGV rout via Beccles and returning via BSE and the A14/A12. The HGV levels will be much reduced and only significant for each of two weeks at the beginning and end of the project. bring and taking heavy plant from the site, material excavated will be distributed on nearby land.

The change in policy for reinstating the East/West footpath. This was previously to be a boarded raised path now proposed to be directly on the flat soggy new fen. We supported the PRoW Officers from SCC, who are continuing to seek the route be upgraded with stone.

The new Fen is to be maintained and protected for at least one and maybe more decades. It was a common view held that a liaison group be established to enable the condition and change to be discussed. There will be contractors to maintain

UK backs biggest English onshore windfarm in a decade among 190 green energy projects | Energy industry | The Guardian

The next step in seriously upping green energy.

Miliband pledges up to £1bn for community green energy schemes | Renewable energy | The Guardian

A letter explaining the scheme from Peter Prinsley MP, in response to a query from our web-keeper, is available on our website.

More information here: [Scaling Up Community Energy](#)

Heat pumps now available

Solar Together, the system run via Suffolk County Council to provide cheaper Solar, Battery and Heat Pump installations has changed its name to [SwitchTogether | Green Home Upgrades](#). This is to reflect its enlargement to include Heat Pumps. It will operate under this name from this Autumn for cheaper installations of Heat Pumps, Solar Panels, Batteries

Government's new Warm Homes Plan

Solar panels will be fitted as standard on all new homes, including aims to triple the number of homes with rooftop solar by 2030. For more details see: [The Warm Homes Plan explained: loans for green tech and free insulation – Which?](#)

The proposals when fully formulated in the autumn should give us new material on which to campaign.

Electric vehicle sales soaring globally

Last year, almost every new car sold in Norway, the nature-loving country flush with oil wealth, was fully electric. In prosperous Denmark, which was all-in on petrol and diesel cars until just before Covid, sales of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) reached a share of 68%. In California, the share of zero-emissions vehicles hit 20%. And at least every third new car now bought by the Dutch, Finns, Belgians and Swedes burns no fuel.

These figures, which would have felt fanciful just five years ago, show the rich world leading the shift away from cars that pump out toxic gas and planet-heating pollutants. But a more startling trend is that electric car sales are also racing ahead in many developing countries. While China is known for its embrace of electric vehicles (EVs), demand has also soared in emerging markets from South America to south-east Asia. BEV sales in Turkey have [caught up](#) with the EU's, data published this week shows.

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Others can do it. Just seven new petrol cars were sold in Norway in January 2026, data shows. In addition there were 29 hybrid and 98 diesel cars were registered, while more than 2,000 battery electric vehicles (BEVs) were sold. January is a slow month for car sales.

BEVs made up 95.9% of new-car sales in 2025 in Norway. Analysts say the oil-rich country's **electric vehicle boom** is the result of high carbon taxes, generous EV subsidies and the lack of a powerful lobby to oppose the transition.

Importantly electrification is now clearly taking hold in the used car market as well thus making the electric car a more accessible alternative for far more buyers than before.

More news on “electric buses”

Work has started at First Bus' Great Yarmouth depot to prepare the site for electric buses, by installing high-power charging infrastructure marking the next phase in the rollout of zero-emission public transport across **Norfolk**.

The works in Great Yarmouth form part of a £13.8 million investment, £8.9 million of which is being funded by First Bus, with the remainder funded through a grant from Norfolk County Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The Great Yarmouth and Norwich projects were supported by £14.7 million of Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) funding from the Department for Transport,

The Great Yarmouth investment will support the introduction of 10 electric buses, which will operate on Service 8, connecting James Paget University Hospital with Caister via Great Yarmouth town centre.

Similar works are expected to begin at First Bus's Vulcan Road depot in Norwich in the coming months to enable accommodation of 14 electric buses and the upgrade builds on the successful transformation of First Bus's Roundtree Way depot in Norwich, where 70 electric buses entered service in 2024 following a £37.2 million investment in vehicles and infrastructure.

What of Suffolk?

Suffolk is receiving £27 million from government over three years but its proposals published in its December press release make no reference to any electrification. The only area in Suffolk where electric buses will be operating is in and around Sizewell. The fleet will transport workers to, from and within the sites. Yet again SCC is looking for others to take responsibility.

Planning

A new town for the 21st century? Seven-village build to begin after 20-year journey | Housing | The Guardian

A sensible proposal for new housing, a model which could have welcomes implications for other areas. Not the least benefit is infrastructure being in place at the start of the process unlike the norm at present.

After two decades of legal wrangling and planning bottlenecks, the first bricks will finally be laid on a project being hailed by developers as the blueprint for the future of community building in Britain. Greg Reed, the chief executive of **Places for People** (PfP), **the social enterprise** leading the development, said the timeline of the project served as a reminder of the sluggishness of the UK planning system. “PfP's journey with Gilston started at the same time his 20-year-old son was born,”

Gilston in east **Hertfordshire** will be transformed into a network of seven interconnected villages, comprising 10,000 new homes nestled within a sprawling 660-hectare (1,630-acre) landscape of country parks and woodland. Not in Suffolk I am afraid but in Hertfordshire close to Harlow. “20 years in the planning not by a commercial developer but by a Social Enterprise.

Draft for consultation - Design and Placemaking Planning Practice Guidance

On behalf of Green Ixworth Roger, has submitted a 30 page response to the proposed new draft National Planning Policy Framework. A summary will be provided showing the main differences between to old NPPF and the new draft.

The New Decent Homes Standard: policy statement - GOV.UK for Rented Homes

Future Homes Standard 2025 For all new homes the Future Homes Standard is fully implemented by the end of 2026 with the intention all new homes using 75% - 80% less energy.

Future Homes Standard 2025 | Essential Updates for UK Developers is the best summary we could find. However the Government response to the consultation is awaiting publication in “early 2026”

It was intended to be implemented by end of 2026 however it is anyone's guess as to when it will happen. Most of the basic principles have been established providing for Heat Pumps, Solar panels and ventilation systems capable of extracting heat in all new properties. Exceptionally there may be some homes which are unable to support Solar Systems. The time scale was for the regulations to come into effect in December 2026 with a transition period running until December 2027, meaning that by 2028 all newly commenced homes will need to comply fully with the standard

To cover all of the current information on new regulations and Planning applications in the area, we shall soon be publishing, on the Green Ixworth website a special section containing access to all the current consultation and new regulations on present and future planning issues.

Pollution

Fossil fuel firms may have to pay for climate damage under proposed UN tax | Fossil fuels | The Guardian

Era of 'global water bankruptcy' is here, UN report says | Water | The Guardian

US chemical giant to stop producing herbicide called 'toxic cocktail' by critics | Herbicides | The Guardian

PFAS – Forever Chemicals in UK water supply Race to find source of carcinogenic Pfas in Cumbria and Lancashire waters | Pfas | The Guardian

Environmentalists decry 'crushingly disappointing' Pfas action plan for UK | Pfas | The Guardian

Wood burners may treble children's exposure to pollution in homes, study finds | Environment | The Guardian

West Suffolk residents to receive additional bins ahead of new Better Recycling Service

New green lidded bins (standard size) and two food waste caddies will be delivered over the next 8 weeks. More is explained in the above letter from West Suffolk Council. Similar arrangements are being made by all district councils.

Well done Suffolk Police

Men arrested after Jeep drives the wrong way down A14

Four men have been arrested following a suspected **hare coursing incident which** led to a vehicle being driven the wrong way on the A14 near Bury St Edmunds. If you come across Hare Coursing do inform the police immediately.

Climate Change

Independent Water Commission final report

This research brief summarises the recent responses to the report informing the debate held as result of the Parliamentary Petition and report

Debate on the Independent Water Commission final report - House of Commons Library

Climate Change Gardening

Before seeing what can be done, this recent article reports on the practical problems being experienced this winter.

UK rain: Are wetter winters and frequent flooding here to stay? - BBC News

To help us understand how the broader gardening community is reacting, CCG run occasional surveys, and the responses to one of this summer's questions have been summarised below:



The emphasis of the CCG practical actions to take were to *mulch and mulch again, harvest rainwater and grey-water* and *use shade* to retain moisture in the soil. And do not forget the creatures which live with us in our gardens. Not only should we ensure sufficient food for them but enable them to keep cool in hot weather. **Green Ixworth are examining the possibility of establishing a mulching centre.**

For more information and their bi-monthly Newsletter contact them at: Garden Climate Change

Apologies for a mistake in last months Newsletter. The article on digital energy use, from Scott Stonham. His address is <https://digitalcarbon.online>.

Stop Press

Persimmon have just submitted the third iteration of their plans for Crown Lane, Ixworth. We are ploughing through the vast number of documents as the consultation closes Thursday 12th March. The main change so far is the number of houses reduced from 215 to 185. The WSC Local Plan specifies 145.

From a first glance, Biodiversity is better addressed but the combination of Suffolk Highways and Persimmon's parsimony, means no financial contribution to the cost of the footbridge. We are not

going to let this go.

Access by going into the West Suffolk Council Planning site and using the application number DC/25/0666/HYB and then bring up the documents list some 500 now, however most of those earlier ones are now obsolete. Green Ixworth's comments are labelled under Green Ixworth or Roger Spiller. When completed our submission will be posted on our website.