
Re: u3a Second Nature September 2023/1

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To: John Baxter <u3asecondnature@gmail.com>

4 April 2024 at 08:12

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Mini-Bulletin 005

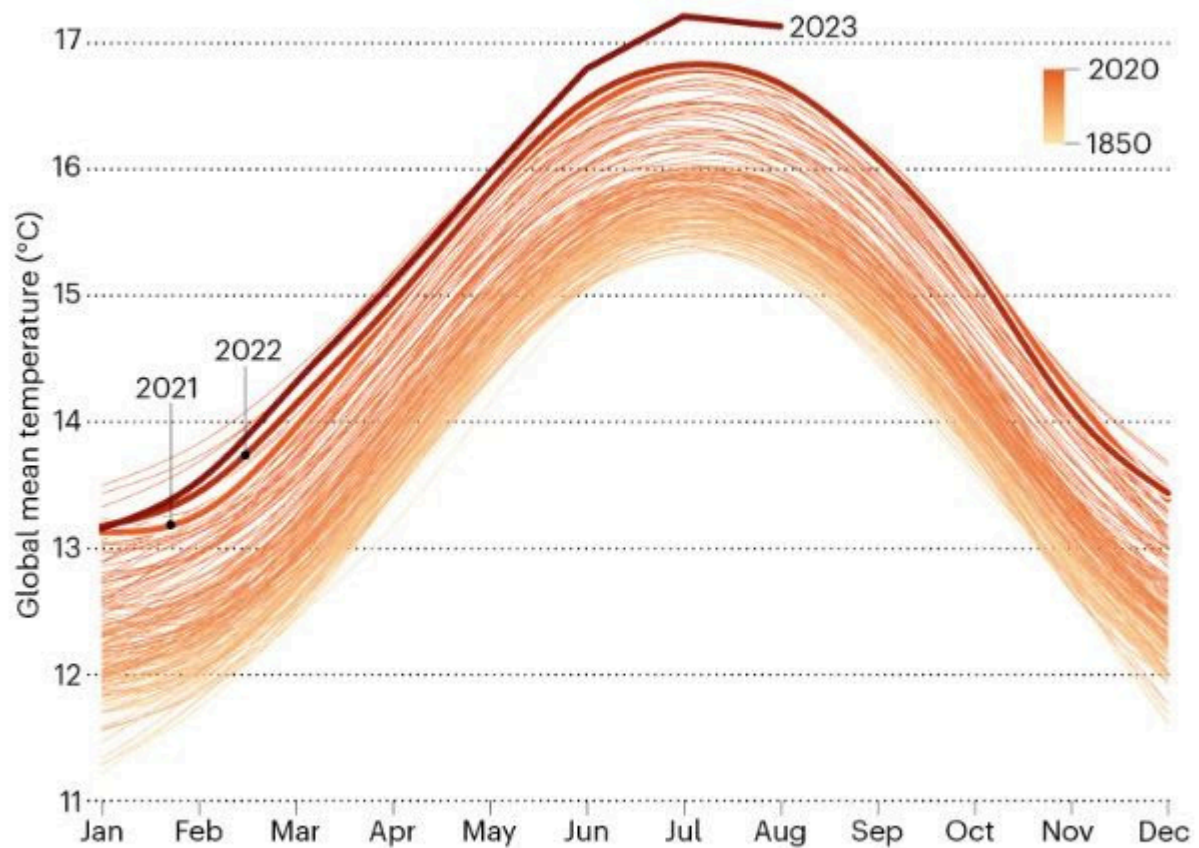
It's only been a week since Bulletin 004, but new climate records are being set. I thought this was worth a short email to the network; and I wanted to share a Nature article before it disappears behind Nature's paywall.

New records

This is Nature Briefing's *Infographic of the Week*. I found it startling and more than a bit scary.

HEAT RISING

The global average temperatures in the past three months have set new records every month, often by a large margin.



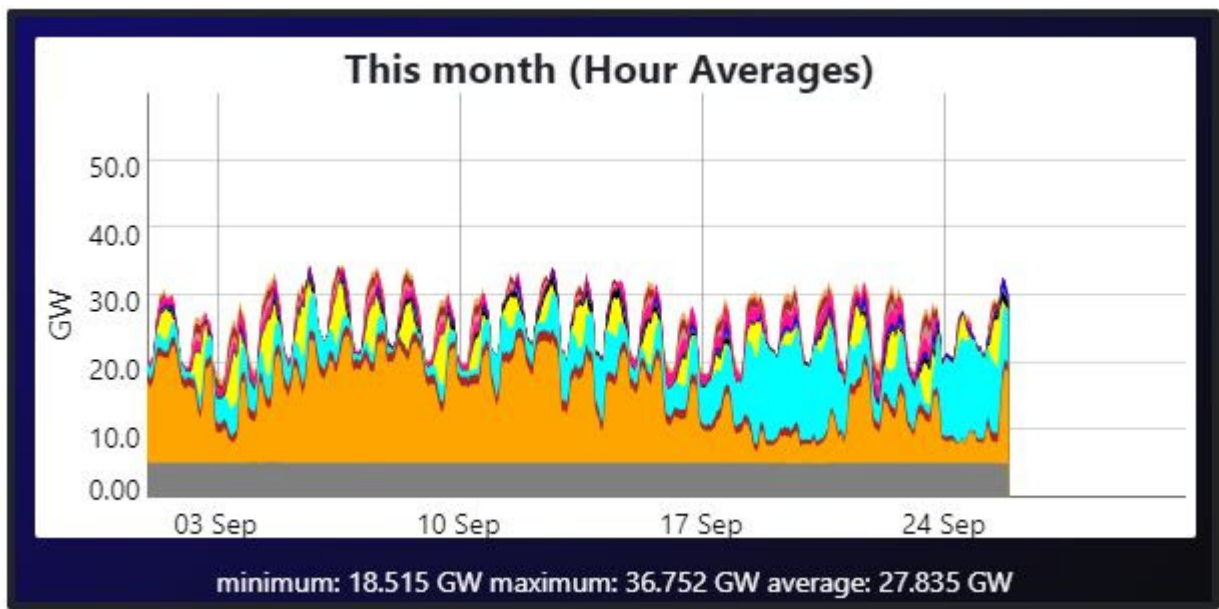
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Source: Berkeley Earth

There's more about this in [Nature](#). The source is Berkeley Earth, a non-profit climate-monitoring organization. In its August bulletin it puts the chance of 2023 being on average 1.5 °C warmer than pre-industrial levels at 55%. This compares to less than 1% predicted by the same team before the start of the year, and 20% estimated using July's figures. It will be interesting to see if these temperatures and forecasts are confirmed by NOAA.

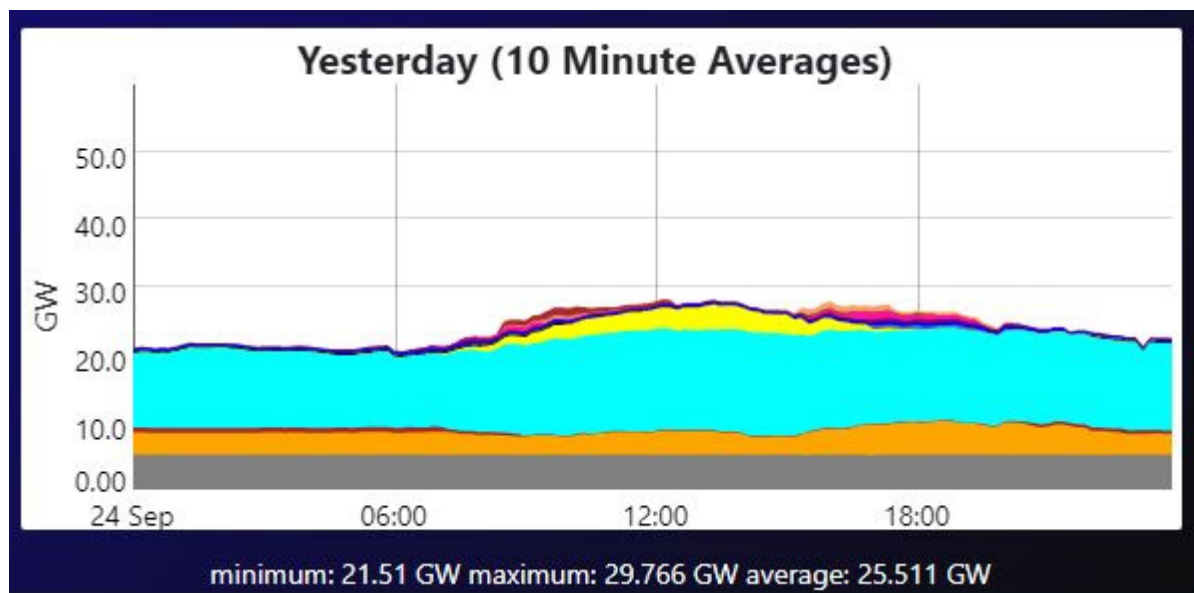
In better news the Electricity System Operator ESO announced a **new record for UK electricity** - carbon intensity fell to 27g/kWh on 18 September at 2pm, beating the previous record on 10 April this year of 33g/kWh. You might expect that electricity would always be greenest in the wee small hours, but it seems that this isn't the case.

The new record resulted from a (slightly) lower demand than usual and lots of wind. I was perhaps a bit negative about the intermittency of wind in the last bulletin, but here's what demand looks like when the weather is cooperative:



(Here blue is wind, grey is nuclear, yellow is solar, and gas is the caramel-coloured layer. Both renewables and nuclear contributed to low carbon intensity).

Yesterday was also a great day for wind energy. It peaked at 15.426 GW.



Those apolitical blues

They haven't gone away. I imagine putting this week's newspapers into a time capsule for my great-great-grandchildren to open in 2100. What are they going to think of us?

References and Acknowledgements

The charts showing UK electricity demand and supply are from [Gridwatch UK](#), essential data for anybody who wants to understand the UK electricity industry. The demand figure is from [Elexon](#). Numbers by fuel type output are from Elexon, except for

solar which is an estimate supplied by Sheffield University.

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(ends)



See also the [u3a Climate Change & Environment website](#).

A note on sources: I am a Guardianista (and indeed a Guardian Supporter) and I frequently forward links to content from that paper. This is for practical reasons, not political ones - unlike your favourite newspaper Guardian content is not behind a paywall (you may have to register, but you won't have to pay). I will from time to time link to content from The BBC, [The Conversation](#), [Ensia](#), Nature, and other sites that I feel are credible.

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