

U3A Trust
Countdown to COP 27
Climate Update on 26 Aug 2022

By

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Update from last Climate Update

Campaigners opposing Sizewell C have launched a legal challenge against the government's decision to give the nuclear power station the green light.

Campaign group Together Against Sizewell C (TASC) has written to energy secretary Kwasi Kwarteng to legally challenge his decision to approve the project against the advice of the planning examining authority. The pre-action protocol (PAP) letter, which signals the start of the judicial review process, makes the case that development consent was given to the project unlawfully.

In his decision letter, Kwarteng concluded that “the very substantial and urgent need for the proposal outweighs the harms, and that development consent should therefore be granted for the proposed development.”

How to deal with climate anxiety amid a heatwave

Ecoanxiety can rumble on in the background year-round, but when we're confronted with the reality of climate change in summer, from unbearable heat and wildfires to end-of-times style thunderstorms, it's hard to ignore it.

Imperial's [Dr Emma Lawrence](#), Mental Health Innovations Fellow, spoke to *Metro* podcast [Mentally Yours](#) about how to navigate the anxiety that comes with living in a climate crisis. "There's this huge range of ways in which climate change is affecting and interacting with our mental health and wellbeing", she said. "The more that we can work together, the more we can push towards a world that cares for people and planet, the better it's going to be for our mental health and the better for a safer climate."

Carbon captured and stored since 1996 is significant but overestimated

- News: Although a significant amount of carbon has been caught and stored so far, governments should curb overestimation with reporting frameworks, finds a [new report](#) by Imperial. The researchers compared estimations of stored carbon with official reports, and found that the reports lead to overestimates of actual carbon stored by 19-30 per cent. "Carbon capture and storage is rightly a cornerstone of climate change mitigation, but without a centralised reporting framework we approach climate change on the back foot," said lead author [Yuting \(Flowra\) Zhang](#), Research Postgraduate on the [Science and Solutions for Changing Planet DTP](#). "Policymakers should embrace a centralised reporting database that includes rates of carbon capture, transport, and storage, including quality assurance measures like independent auditing."

The study was featured in the [Imperial podcast](#), and covered by [The Engineer](#) and [Environmental Journal](#).

The most important decisions to enable the implementation of smart local energy systems

- Report: The UK does not have the appropriate policy, institutional and regulatory framework to realise the technical, economic, and public societal potential of smart local energy systems (SLES). A new report identifies the most important changes needed to implement SLES. The report, by the Grantham Institute's [Dr Jeff Hardy](#) and [Dr Madeleine Morris](#) and led by the EnergyREV consortium, summarises the findings from a series of workshops that aimed to understand what decisions are needed to implement SLES.

Climate change made UK heatwave more intense and at least 10 times more likely

New study finds human-caused climate change will increase the likelihood and severity of heatwaves in the UK faster than predicted.

On 18 and 19 July 2022, the UK experienced record-breaking heat with temperatures reaching over 40°C. The study, carried out by a global team of leading climate scientists from the [World Weather Attribution](#) group, found that the heatwave was made at least 10 times more likely due to human-induced climate change.

The results also suggest that a heatwave as intense as this one is still rare in today's climate, even after being made more likely impossible in a world before the Industrial Revolution," said [Dr Mariam Zachariah](#) climate change. "These temperatures would have been statistically, Research Associate at the Grantham Institute.

Climate change made UK heatwave more intense and at least 10 times more likely -cont

The study had widespread media coverage by outlets including [BBC News](#), [Sky News](#), [The Guardian](#), [Carbon Brief](#), [The Independent](#), [Evening Standard](#), [Daily Mirror](#), [Reuters](#), [MailOnline](#), [New Scientist](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#), [NBC News](#), [Rolling Stone](#), [CNN](#), [The Hindustan Times](#), [Euronews](#), [Axios](#), [AP News](#), [Daily Sabah](#), [The Herald](#) and [Down to Earth](#).

The link

https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/238772/climate-change-made-uk-heatwave-more/?mc_cid=70bd470ec8&mc_eid=af64766a50

explains who is most vulnerable

Ditching net zero is a colossal act of self-harm for our economy and global vision

“Amidst the politicking that inevitably surrounds any leadership race, a handful of Conservative MPs have demanded a review of our commitment to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

These calls betray a fundamental misunderstanding of the wider benefits of decarbonisation to UK interests and the global momentum towards net zero.

Writing for *City AM*, Grantham Institute Honorary Research Fellow [Richard Black](#) discusses why there is no case in economics, business or politics for the UK to abandon its leadership of the race to clean energy.

The US Inflation Reduction Act an historic moment in global efforts to halt global warming

- An historic event in the history of action on climate change, with the passing of the US Inflation Reduction Act that commits nearly \$370 billion to climate action: the biggest piece of climate legislation in US history.
- *The Washington Post* considers the United States' economic and climate deal announced last week by Senate Democrats, and how it could serve as an economic or political catalyst that gets other countries to up their climate ambitions.

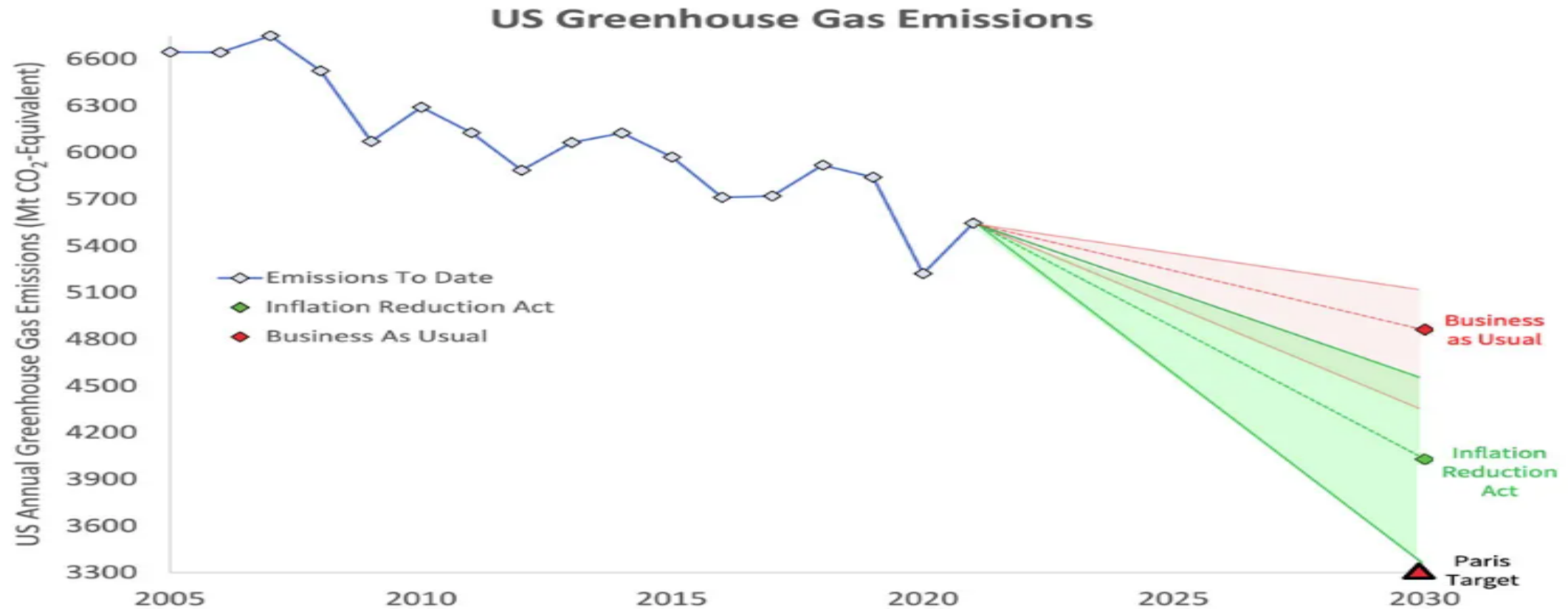
The US Inflation Reduction Act an historic moment in global efforts to halt global warming

- Until now, with its pledge of reducing emissions by at least 50 percent by 2030, the Biden administration had promised more climate progress than existing policies are actually capable of achieving. For more see

<https://www.npr.org/2022/08/07/1116190180/democrats-are-set-to-pass-a-major-climate-health-and-tax-bill-heres-whats-in-it>

and see graph on next slide

The US Inflation Reduction Act an historic moment in global efforts to halt global warming



U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, projected emissions under current policy (red), and under the Inflation Reduction Act according to Princeton REPEAT, Energy Innovation, and Rhodium Group analyses. (Created by Dana Nuccitelli)

Client Earth joined legal action against greenwashing ads by a DC gas company

- Client Earth are teaming up with environmental and consumer groups in the United States to bring a first-of-its-kind lawsuit against District of Columbia power utility Washington Gas, over greenwashing in its marketing

Client Earth joined legal action against greenwashing ads by a DC gas company

- Client Earth filed a lawsuit with US PIRG Education Fund and Environment America Research & Policy Center, arguing that Washington Gas Light Company, has violated Washington, D.C.'s consumer protection laws for labelling its gas power as clean and sustainable. For more see

<https://www.clientearth.org/latest/latest-updates/news/we-re-joining-legal-action-against-greenwashing-ads-by-a-dc-gas-company/>

Pushing for energy transition, climate activists protest against the East African oil pipeline

- Local and international climate change activists are pushing against the construction of the world's longest heated oil pipeline known as East Africa Oil pipeline (EACOP).
- With the aim to export more fossil fuels to the international oil market, the construction of the 1445 kilometer-long pipeline from Kabale near Lake Albert in Uganda to Tanga in Tanzania is already on going. The Final Investment Decisions were signed between the government of Uganda and oil companies in February 2022.

Pushing for energy transition, climate activists protest against the East African oil pipeline

- The governments of Uganda and Tanzania along with French oil giant Total Energies EP and Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) are set to be the project developers for this pipeline. Total Energies is leading the EACOP, with 62 percent shareholding, followed by Uganda National Oil Company and Tanzania Petroleum Development Company with 15 percent each, and China National Offshore Oil Corporation with a 8 percent shareholding. For more see

<https://climatetracker.org/pushing-for-energy-transition-climate-activists-protest-against-the-east-african-oil-pipeline/>

Egypt COP27 Presidency and Germany, Co-Chairs of the 13th Petersburg Climate Dialogue unveil 2022 conclusions

- The 2022 Petersburg Climate Dialog took place in a context where the link between the climate crisis and other global crises (COVID-19, energy, food, debt, UKR-RUS war, biodiversity) has never been clearer. In this context, ministers spoke about the new challenges they faced, but also the increased urgency to act on climate as a risk and risk multiplier to sustainable social and economic development efforts and gains, economic stability and security.

Egypt COP27 Presidency and Germany, Co-Chairs of the 13th Petersburg Climate Dialogue unveil 2022 conclusions – contin.

- 1. A common sense of the growing risk that climate impacts present to resilient development pathways, and the need to better support those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in adapting to and addressing them.
- 2. The understanding that limiting impacts going forward will depend first on accelerated mitigation implementation and ambition
- 3. Both climate finance provision and progressing in making the global financial flows and architecture consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement, were highlighted by many as key enabling factors in accelerating implementation

<https://www.cop27.eg/#/news/egypt-COP27-Presidency-and-Germany>