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SHINE ON

In the middle of a pandemic, renewables are taking over the grid

May 1, 2020

Pollution blocks solar radiation, and the fine particles spat out during combustion can settle on the surface of solar panels, reducing their efficiency. Smog-free skies, along with a lucky combination of sunny days and cooler temperatures, which boost panel efficiency, have helped solar panels break records in the U.K., Germany, and Spain this spring. The trend points to the potential for a positive (and hopeful) feedback loop — as polluting energy sources are replaced by solar panels, those solar panels will be able to generate more energy.

https://grist.org/energy/in-the-middle-of-coronavirus-renewables-are-taking-over-the-grid/?fbclid=IwAR2r5NxBurBEtPkV_T85Gsg9Su0XuAjtGGBje2AHLdJfZxdH06DJGJ1whdw

Coronavirus: NASA images show China pollution clear amid slowdown (BBC, Feb. 29, 2020)

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-51691967?SThisFB&fbclid=IwAR2Xl3mGb31kc8ndZ_6lP00WDrY92w_eG8qOq9FxAJWA0lgYiwpY0rE_TMU

Venice canal runs clear as coronavirus halts pollution

https://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/news/article/venice-canal-runs-clear-as-coronavirus-lockdown-halts-pollution-in-italy?fbclid=IwAR0mlSWILnGWYcQ-Et1ZhCfLgLIMiQvTUm4I8S7eL-nqB_7fEc67eE4DGOk

Satellite images show Italy's air pollution dissipating

https://earthier.gizmodo.com/satellites-show-italys-air-pollution-dissipating-as-cov-1842316669?utm_medium=sharefromsite&utm_source=earthier_facebook&fbclid=IwAR0jtX4O6RmtgZTt_eMhjpliGFicudCp4_oWAgc8JQrN8vPVNPF8tjRMS2Ac

LA just had its longest stretch of clean air since 1980

April 3, 2020

Amid a rainy March in which millions of Angelenos observed orders to stay at home, sight lines in the city got clearer and the region's notorious smog was nowhere to be found. For nearly the entire month of March, air quality maps tracking the region's scores on the Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality Index were nothing but green—the color that denotes the cleanest air. Historical data from the EPA suggests that it may have been the longest stretch of clean air since 1980, the earliest year with available data.

<https://la.curbed.com/2020/3/26/21195699/pollution-los-angeles-traffic-coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR3H-Bli-0l3nY7HqHrhk3ltaYwpms92Rtp7Jre0Oy1EswrHhlpmeY1vyq8>

Toronto Star, April 14, 2020:

Wildlife thrives in Yosemite National Park after coronavirus keeps tourists away

https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2020/04/13/wildlife-thrives-in-yosemite-national-park-after-coronavirus-keeps-tourists-away.html?fbclid=IwAR2POmwWMwAmccR7mrpaL7EMD5_WvqQMTlei1om2pSvDSb6MRMWjuUkXpl0

The dramatic quietening of towns and cities in lockdown Britain has changed the way the Earth moves beneath our feet, scientists say.

"Seismologists at the British Geological Survey have found that their sensors are twitching less now that human activity has been curtailed, leading to a drop in the anthropogenic din that vibrates through the planet."

https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/apr/06/lockdown-has-cut-britains-vibrations-seismologists-find?CMP=share_btn_link

CBC, April 22, 2020:

Pandemic will drive biggest drop in CO2 emissions since WW II, World Meteorological Organization says

The coronavirus pandemic is expected to drive carbon dioxide emissions down six per cent this year, the head of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Wednesday, in what would be the biggest yearly drop since World War II.

"This crisis has had an impact on the emissions of greenhouse gases," WMO Secretary General Petteri Taalas told a virtual briefing in Geneva.

"We estimate that there is going to be a six per cent drop in carbon emissions this year because of the lack of emissions from transportation and industrial energy production."

But the WMO warned that past economic recoveries had been associated with even higher emissions growth than before the crises.

"COVID-19 may result in a temporary reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, but it is not a substitute for sustained climate action," the Geneva-based agency said in a statement released on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 1970.

"We need to show the same determination and unity against climate change as against COVID-19," Taalas said.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/climate-emissions-wmo-1.5540721?fbclid=IwAR0uKEUvYeU1IqWW32jB8irhldGhrRd8ooXZL2QlgskjBDSHCbXR183dy4U>