



What Can YOU Do?

Get Involved, Make a Difference. Make some NOISE!

Newsletter: Monday, 14 January 2019

Issue No.065



Dear Readers,

We are happy to share with you the What Can You Do Newsletter with the most interesting facts and news for the period of last week.

Please let us know if you have any questions, or would like to suggest an idea for our news feed, please send us an email:

motherearth@whatcanyoudo.earth

Thank you!

https://twitter.com/WCYDO_Earth

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Focus of the Week

Alternative Sources of Energy

- Researches figures out how to generate power from falling raindrops – which could solve the biggest problem with solar energy

“One of the biggest problems plaguing the widespread adoption of solar power is, quite simply, rainy weather. Solar panels are designed to convert sunlight into electricity. But when it's cloudy or rainy, they're rendered useless. There are batteries, like the Tesla Powerwall, designed to store electricity for those cloudy days. But the technology isn't quite effective or cheap enough to make using solar power worth it in regions that don't receive a lot of sunlight.”

Source: <https://www.businessinsider.com/solar-panels-could-generate-power-from-raindrops-2018-3>

- **Renewables overtake coal as Germany's main energy source.**

“Renewables overtook coal as Germany's main source of energy for the first-time last year, accounting for just over 40 percent of electricity production, research showed on Thursday.

The shift marks progress as Europe's biggest economy aims for renewables to provide 65 percent of its energy by 2030 in a costly transition as it abandons nuclear power by 2022 and is devising plans for an orderly long-term exit from coal.

The research from the Fraunhofer organization of applied science showed that output of solar, wind, biomass and hydroelectric generation units rose 4.3 percent last year to produce 219 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity. That was out of a total national power production of 542 TWh derived from both green and fossil fuels, of which coal burning accounted for 38 percent.”

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-power-renewables/renewables-overtake-coal-as-germanys-main-energy-source-idUSKCN1OX0U2>



Interesting topics

- “Right to Repair”: Fixing our own broken stuff should be standard. Check the [link](#) for more information.
- *****Oceans warming faster than expected, set heat record in 2018: scientists. ***** Follow the [link](#) to read full version of the article.
- An island in India is disappearing, but some of the last residents say they can’t afford to move away. Learn [more](#).
- ‘Tis the Season to redesign and reduce our waste. Check [here](#).
- Time to make some climate resolutions. Read [here](#).
- 2018 was 4th warmest year on record, EU climate change report finds. Follow the [link](#) for more information.
- Ocean warming is accelerating faster than thought, new research finds. Read [here](#).
- Food-Safety inspections halted due to shut down: report. Learn [more](#).
- World’s Largest Solar + Battery plant unveiled in Hawaii. Check out the [link](#) for the full version of the article.
- *****As glacier disappears, humans lose a lot more than ice. ***** Read [here](#).
- Climate change and health: infectious diseases. Check [here](#) for more information.
- Soil Health: the next agricultural revolution. Check [here](#).
- Trump’s \$5 billion border wall plan could wreak environmental havoc, causing rivers to flood and animals to become “zombie species”. Find out [more](#).
- Tropical rainforests have a soundtrack. Recording it may save them. Learn more via the [link](#).
- *****After three years of decline, carbon emissions rose sharply in the US in 2018. ***** Learn [more](#).
- Dumber humans – that’s juts one effect of a more polluted future. Click the [link](#) to access full version of the article.
- A major climate treaty to reduce air conditioning emissions just went into force – without the US. Learn [more](#).
- What the government shutdown means for our coasts and ocean. Learn [more](#).

Quote of the Week:

“The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share.”

Lady Bird Johnson



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