



“The destruction of the environment is an offence against God. I make this heartfelt appeal: Let us choose life! Let us choose the future!”

Pope Francis, in a letter addressed to world leaders at COP28

FLAT-PACK SOLAR INVENTION IS HEATING WATER IN WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES

In much of the world the only way people can heat water is to use non-renewable fuel such as gas or charcoal. Innovative new solar technology, developed in Dundee, is helping heat water in some of the world's poorest countries. The flat-pack self-build system, also helps to reduce carbon emissions. Its inventor, Faisal Ghani, who set up Solariskit in 2020, took the equipment to the COP28 climate change summit in Dubai. The small and simple-to-construct devices are already being used in Rwanda and Ghana. People in those countries have previously relied on wood and charcoal to heat water. The special glass prisms that hold heat in coiled pipes use the sun to provide people in African countries with instant hot water for the first time. It is also cutting costs and carbon emissions.

[BBC report](#) [Learn more](#)

RECORD TEMPERATURES IN BRAZIL

On 15 November, record temperatures in Rio de Janeiro, were experienced, reaching almost 60 degrees Celsius, as reported by [BBC News](#).

The heat index reached plus 58.5 degrees Celsius, marking the highest level recorded since measurements began in the 1940s. Brazil was grappling with an extremely intense heatwave that affected a significant part of the country since 12 November, and was expected to last until 17 November. Officials have attributed the extreme weather to the El Niño phenomenon and climate change.

All web links in this newsletter can be found on the [Our Common Home](#) page of the parish website.

The Earth was here before us and was given to us - Our Common Home. It is God's dominion, but entrusted to us, and it is our shared responsibility to be good stewards of everything we have received - nature, one another, resources, gifts and talents.

CAN YOU SPOT GREENWASHING?

Greenwashing takes on many forms, from words and phrases to colours and visuals. Here is a selection of the most common buzzwords used to portray planet-friendliness, but in reality are pretty woolly:

Eco-friendly – There are no rules that require companies to prove that something is beneficial to the environment, so this term is often exploited.

Natural – This term isn't regulated and does not guarantee that it's better for the environment or healthier. What does it actually mean?!

Chemical-free – Everything is a chemical, but not all are bad, so check the ingredients list. If you can't pronounce it, it's probably best to avoid it.

Biodegradable – This claim can be misleading if the product only biodegrades under specific conditions that usually don't exist in landfill. Biodegradable packaging is also unlikely to be home-compostable and can cause issues if put into the recycling.

100% recyclable – Soft, flexible plastic is very hard to recycle, as there is little infrastructure to do so in the UK. If a bread bag says so, exercise your sceptical side.

Carbon neutral – This doesn't mean that the brand doesn't produce any emissions. Instead, it means that the company has 'offset' its emissions by investing in projects which supposedly absorb an equal amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Currently it is very hard to prove a product is carbon neutral.

- from [Everyday Plastic](#)

COME AND JOIN US!

New members of the Our Common Home Team are always welcome. Please come to our next meeting with your ideas or to find out how you can help. Our next three meetings are:

14th January, 11 February and 17 March 2024

We meet in the parish library at 10am for one hour before 11am Mass..

