

# Teignbridge Action on Climate - Carbon Cutters team.

## Number 6. The news.

My previous articles have

- Explained why reducing global carbon emissions is important
- Set out simple things we can do to reduce our personal carbon emissions including home, transport and holiday ideas
- Discussed heat pumps

This month I break from my previous pattern of articles to think about the news.

For eighteen years, since Al Gore's 2006 film "An inconvenient truth", scientists and the press have regularly warned of approaching climate tipping points that if breached, will lead inevitably to climate breakdown. There is a wider discussion of how society will either function or perhaps break down following climate breakdown.

A tipping point is a critical point beyond which a significant and often unstoppable effect or change takes place.

The media routinely reports impacts of climate change, for example the recent extreme flooding in Florida, North Carolina, Nigeria, Tunisia, Mexico, India, Nepal and Vietnam; and receding glaciers in Norway, the Dolomites and Nepal that have been features of our landscape since the last ice age. Yesterday I was reading about the possible collapse of the Greenland icecap and the resulting seven meters of global sea level rise that may inundate some of the world's major cities.

As an individual I worry about the impact climate breakdown may have on our children and grandchildren, but most of us struggle to see how we can change the course of events.

## Some good news?

Professor Tim Lenton, Director of the Global Systems Institute at the University of Exeter has identified that "positive tipping points" are happening.

For example, Norway's dramatic shift to EVs with nearly 80% of new car registrations being electric and globally, new solar and wind energy supply projects are cheaper than new fossil fuel energy supply projects.

According to a report by Systemiq, positive tipping points could be reached by 2030 in sectors representing 90% of greenhouse gas emissions.

For this to happen we will need a positive policy environment in which solutions are adopted because they are affordable, attractive and accessible.

We each have personal power in this.

