



### Issue Introduction:

Welcome to our first issue of the Earthly Roundup where we will be covering the month's global issues and challenges related to both people and the environment. The roundup will highlight the current environmental concerns and celebrate the awareness days that arise within the month. For September's issue, we have a range of content for you to discover, including the celebration of world tourism, changes of the season from summer to autumn and the importance of Fairtrade. Happy reading!

## World Tourism: The industry is needed, but at what cost to the local area?

Get ready for the 27th September 2024 as Arena Academy acknowledges the 44th annual World Tourism Day! Since 1980, 160 Member States of UN Tourism destinations including the UK, Libya and Papua New Guinea have come together to raise awareness about the importance of tourism and its impacts on the global economy, cultural exchange and environmental sustainability.

Tourism is the commercial organisation and operation of holidays and visits to places of interest for relaxation, recreation and pleasure, with many people seeking vacations to destinations associated with their interests such as adventure or having a long respite from home.

Tourism is highly important to many cities around the world. One positive impact can snowball into others, creating a positive multiplier effect in local areas and create further opportunities for investment and adventure. For example, in the Maldives, an island nation in the Indian Ocean, has the second largest reliance on tourism with 38.9% of its GDP coming from tourism.

Even though tourism does play a huge part in global economics, there are also negative impacts to tourism. Because of tourism, many consequences occur like the increase in litter and pollution, cultural clashes and even water overuse. An example of this is in Zanzibar where water overuse is a large problem. An average household consumes a little over 93 litres of water per day there.

To ensure the preservation of the local area tourists can protect and revitalise wildlife through preservation programmes against illegal poaching and it also creates conservation jobs. You can also help with beach clean ups or just simply putting your litter in the bin. Whatever you choose to do, tourists supporting local areas with issues that may arise is key for the industry to remain popular with residents, visitors and the natural landscape.



Photo above: Maldivian beach (Source: Virgin Holidays)

# Summer to autumn: The transition in our environment and how you can embrace the seasons

This changing of seasons means the temperature is getting cooler and the leaves are falling all around.

Summer was a time of a scintillating sun and a beautiful array of wildflowers being found everywhere. It is a favourite season to many and time where everything flourishes. Yet when autumn arrives, mornings and evenings are becoming darker, and people are more inclined to stay in the warm. With piles of orange leaves gathering around every corner, gloves and scarves are beginning to make an appearance.

Seasons change due to the Earth's tilt and its orbit around the sun. For example, the UK in the northern hemisphere experiences summer when tilted towards the sun between June and August and winter when directing away in the months of November to February.

This current season change is drastically different, yet so underappreciated. There are so many ways to enjoy this season change to appreciate it in a way where you can control how far you delve into the spirit of this magical time.



There are many different fun activities that you can partake in. As we lead into October, pumpkin carving/ pumpkin picking is a great way to keep yourself busy as well as decorating your home! However, prior to that seasonal paintings, long walks and baking sweet treats are also a great way to occupy yourself whilst getting into the autumnal spirit.

Contrasting this on a negative note, safety is always a very prominent topic to raise discussions about as the mornings and evenings are getting darker so safety in numbers and the avoidance of what are perceived to be risky areas will ensure that you can enjoy the new season whilst protecting yourself against the risk of any danger. So, now is your chance to embrace the browning leaves falling, the pumpkin carving and the cosy nights as we enter our planet tilting away from the hot weather in 2024!



*Photo above: A series of pumpkins in a picking patch (Source: Simply Seed).*

*Photo left: Autumnal scenes in a Hyde Park, London as a recommendation for a seasonal walk (Source: Londonist).*

# Fairtrade Fortnight: A reminder of the organisation that encourages us all to "Be the Change" in 2024



*Photos left:  
The banner  
for this  
year's event.  
The famous  
Fairtrade  
logo you can  
find on their  
certified  
products  
(Source:  
Fairtrade).*

Here at Arena Academy, there has been one occasion that we have marked within our time awareness activities that are showcasing challenges that are incredibly important to many people across the globe – Fairtrade Fortnight.

Fairtrade Fortnight is a 2-week annual event from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. This event brings people together to share the stories of those who grow crops for the food we eat every single day. This celebration raises awareness for the farmers who need support due to them being in low-income countries. Generally, in these locations such as Brazil and Kenya including the growth of products such as coffee beans, bananas, flowers and tea.

This event is also done to promote the Fairtrade products that should fly off the supermarket shelves. Fairtrade Fortnights are held in several different countries including the UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

The main objective of the event is to ensure that producers are paid fairly so they can live sustainable lives that they are in control of. There are 1.7 million Fairtrade farmers and workers across 73 countries. These workers are often subjected to poor working and living conditions alongside their restricted wages, including insufficient housing and poorly developed equipment for very demanding manual labour jobs.

Each Fairtrade Fortnight has focused on a theme, for example in 2021 the theme was; climate, Fairtrade and you. This year in 2024, the slogan is 'Be the change' with the aim of enacting further movement in the right direction for these global citizens. As stated on their website, 2024's Fairtrade Fortnight is a special one "because we're celebrating 30 years of the Fairtrade movement in the UK. So together, let's be the change to make trade fair."

As part of their personal mission this year, the company were encouraging local people to encourage and persuade their local representatives to support the movement - "calling for MPs to pledge their support for Fairtrade so we can continue enjoying the foods we love while ensuring the farmers who produce them receive a fair price for their hard work."

Fairtrade is a ground-breaking organisation across the distribution of the agriculture sector since it sets rigorous standards to protect workers and the environment, so offering support to the movement through education and spending those extra pennies on products with the logo stuck on will be the keys to success for a life changing movement for many.

# Exciting ecosystems and gracious green spaces: Why they are important in our world

Cities like Birmingham, London and Manchester are all the urban metropolises of the UK which is widely known. Even cities such as these with the skyscrapers and the indulgent buildings have the contrasting areas of nature and greenery. It is underappreciated how much a natural untouched space can help people in their times of need of a refresh and a step away from the normalities of life. It is time there was a space that addressed the benefits of having areas of green scenes that contrast the urban sprawl of everyday and ways that you can indulge and make the most of the finest beauty.

Since the pandemic hit in 2020, there has been an increased emphasis on the ways that gardens and venturing into nature can boost mental and physical health by encouraging peace and relaxation, however, it can sometimes go under the radar that embracing natural spaces can also help with reducing mortality. Impact assessment studies show that through direct and indirect exposure, natural spaces relieve social isolation, and encourage coping with exposure to temperature, noise, and air pollution.

Furthermore, they serve as natural filters, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere which is crucial at a time when the enhanced greenhouse effect is making changes across the world. Spaces like Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens and Green Park play a crucial role in biodiversity conservation by providing a habitat for plant and animal species that many aim to protect and preserve for the future.

An example success story can be seen in Amsterdam, Netherlands where city planners are currently implementing a new green infrastructure plan. Using the city as a hypothetical case study, the researchers applied their framework to understand how Amsterdam's plans to build or improve new parks might affect physical activity for everyone in the city. The researchers also looked at the effects on different sub-populations, like youth, the elderly, and low-income groups. This example illustrates how the city could invest in urban nature to have the greatest physical activity benefits for human health. It could potentially be recommended that the UK and other countries in the world make more efforts with green spaces and highlighting their importance to us as people but also the continuity of our planet as we know it today.

With the highlighted benefits and the example of the success across the North Sea, it only seems correct that more recommendations are made for how the public can play their part and encourage a love for these locations. Many sources suggest tackling issues with litter, increasing lighting and facilities such as toilets and café's, encouraging free planting initiatives and ensuring these spaces are inclusive, accessible and welcoming for all.



*Photo right: Birmingham Botanical Gardens (Source: Great British Gardens).*

# Are EV's the future? How the global car market for the alternative has revved up a gear

## What are EV's?

EV's (electric vehicles) are vehicles such as boats, cars, planes and trains that instead of being powered by combustion engines are powered by electricity. They are a significant part in history, surprisingly dating back to the 1832 when Scottish inventor and chemist Robert Anderson used Hungarian engineer Ányos Jedlik's 1828 electric engine in the first electric vehicle. However, you have to fast forward to William Morris, an American inventor in 1890, who is credited with making the first fully electric car.

Nissan was ahead of its time in 1947 when it brought out its Tama model which had an electric range of 96.3km and a top speed of 35.2km/h. Today, due to the rising costs of fuel, electric cars have made a raging comeback, combined with other influences such as improved technology, government support, and changing consumer attitudes.

## Statistics

On average, cars alone produce 4.6 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, that's 16 kilograms per day. Combining all combustion powered engines, the number of pollutants going into our atmosphere can cause catastrophic events.

We have seen this before such as the terrible floods in Bangladesh to the horrific wildfires in Australia. Yet we still pump out intoxicating amounts of gases that cause people in major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai to be forced into wearing masks due to the air quality that is a consequence of the power sources chosen across the country.



*Photo above: The Nissan Tama from 1947 which is one of the first electric vehicles, described as a pioneer in EV history (Source: Nissan Global).*

## Popularity

In 2023, nearly one in five cars sold was electric, with an impressive 14 million new electric cars registered across the world, more than six times higher than years such as 2018, when electric cars accounted for only 2% of all car sales, showing a boom in drivers switching to what is seen as a friendlier option for our environment. This growth is projected by analysts to continue, with EVs forecasted to account for 23.5% of the global vehicle market by 2025 and 45.3% by 2030.

Specifically analysing the UK, as of only two months ago in July 2024, electric cars make up 16.8% of all new car sales which is an impressive 10.5% increase from the same point in the year in 2023. It is a fair and well supported statement that as of the present electric vehicles have now got a firm place within society and will likely be one of the options seen to be dominant as we head into the future.

# Cruise ship pollution disaster airs in the media again as European destinations are at the forefront of blockades

It is the news that has been circulating outlets for the last few months during summer tourist season, however as we turn over into the depths of autumn it is a headline that is not sinking further down the papers as cruise ships are being criticised for their contribution to the pollution of our planet.

It is well documented that cruise ships which many enjoy for their holidays are contributing to the ever-decreasing conditions of our oceans, our air and the noises we are exposed to as the days roll by like the waves in the water. A single cruise ship can emit as much sulphur dioxide as 13.1 million cars in a day on top of their other emissions that include carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, black carbon soot, heavy metals and other particulates.

In a world where we are becoming more environmentally conscious, many are noting down the significant ways that cruises contribute to pollution that affects fragile habitats and human health. In just a single day the average ship will produce 318-454kg of carbon emissions, which is much higher than flying, driving, or a traditional land vacation due to the choice of using bunker fuel (classically the dirtiest one available).



Further adding to the list of negatives of cruise travel, a seven-day cruise is more than three times as carbon-intensive as flying and staying abroad. Despite this information being widely available across a plethora of platforms, many still choose to hop on board and pass over to destination after destination – but why?

The main reason will be the versatility and increased numbers of destinations seen over the time frame. It is a slow pace of life with included benefits in packages whilst seeing many places across the world in one time frame – what's not to love? Plus, they are overall highly rated with the pre-planned itinerary, cultural exchange opportunities, daily entertainment and the relief of not unpacking and repacking within the same holiday. Cruises can access places that are difficult to reach by land as well as supports significant economic output, GDP, jobs, and wages of people in the tourism industry.

Whilst the incident in Marseille on September 21st is an example of one action groups are choosing to take, there are actions being taken by the cruise companies themselves. Cruise lines are increasingly using sustainable fuel options, exhaust gas cleaning systems, and wastewater treatment systems to reduce their environmental impact. It is not an improvement that is going to drastically happen overnight, however there are steps being taken in the right direction for cruise ships to still offer their fantastic benefits for the easier pace of life travellers, whilst doing their part to protect our wonderful world.



*Photo above: Cruise in Southampton (Source: Southampton Cruise Centre)*

*Photo above right: A RCC cruise (Source: Royal Caribbean Cruises)*