

Taylor's Tips

Mrs Taylor's Climate-Smart Tips: Easy Lifestyle Changes for a Healthier Planet

Did you know your freezer works more efficiently when it's full? Here's a clever, low-effort way to save energy and prep for your next picnic:

Make a Freezer Brick!

Simply fill an old plastic bottle or milk carton with water, seal it tightly, and pop it in the freezer. This "freezer brick" helps keep the temperature stable (your freezer uses less electricity), and if there's ever a power cut, it keeps your food cold for longer. Even better? You've got a ready-made ice pack for lunchboxes, picnics or camping trips — all for free, and no extra plastic needed.

Cooler freezer, cooler planet. Give it a go!



Chew Valley School Climate Action Team

NEWSLETTER

How the Global Trade War Impacts Climate Action

News to Nature: The Climate Connection by Iona Riddy

The escalating global trade war is affecting the clean energy transition by raising costs for renewable technologies. Tariffs on Chinese exports, including solar panels and batteries, have made these essential climate solutions more expensive, limiting their accessibility. The U.S. has imposed tariffs exceeding **100%** on Chinese goods, while China has retaliated with similar measures. Higher prices could slow the shift away from fossil fuels and delay international climate goals. Additionally, economic uncertainty has reduced investment in sustainability initiatives, making green innovation harder to fund. The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** reports that tariff increases are linked to a **persistent decline in economic growth**, which could impact climate funding. Some experts predict that China may refocus clean energy exports toward Europe, potentially altering global supply chains. While nations look for alternative

suppliers, long-term impacts remain uncertain. Balancing trade policies with climate priorities will be a challenge for governments worldwide. Norway is one of the most dependent countries on renewable energy, with **almost 100% of its electricity** coming from renewable sources, primarily **hydro-power**. Other countries with high renewable energy dependence include **Iceland**, which relies heavily on **geothermal energy**, and **Costa Rica**, which has consistently generated over **98% of its electricity** from renewable. This could mean **higher costs for solar panels, batteries, and wind turbines**. If these costs rise significantly, some industries may **temporarily increase fossil fuel use** to maintain energy security. Additionally, lower fossil fuel prices—another consequence of the trade war—could make **oil and gas more attractive** in the short term.



Tips to Protect Chew Valley and its Local Biodiversity

A Vital Link in Canada's Ecosystems

Salmon are a keystone species in Canada's ecosystems, playing a critical role in both freshwater and marine environments. These fish provide essential nutrients to forests, support diverse wildlife—including bears, eagles, and orcas—and sustain Indigenous communities and local economies. Their journey upstream fertilizes rivers and strengthens biodiversity. However, climate change and overfishing threaten salmon populations. Protecting their habitats is crucial for maintaining ecological balance and ensuring the survival of countless species that rely on them.

Wildlife matters: Protecting nature close to home by Hannah Tovey

Try not to feed ducks or other waterfowl bread

They might enjoy it and it may be better than nothing, but it lacks essential nutrients and is basically like junk-food! It can cause many problems with their health and they are able to forage for their own food, especially in the warmer months.

Please feed them instead:

- ◆ Peas
- ◆ Oats
- ◆ Seeds and grains
- ◆ Rice
- ◆ Lettuce
- ◆ Sweetcorn
- ◆ Bird food (you can purchase this in pet stores and at the salt and malt restaurant!)

Please avoid:

- ◆ Chips and other "junk foods"
- ◆ Crackers
- ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Sweets
- ◆ Mouldy food
- ◆ Citrus fruits
- ◆ Avocados
- ◆ Onions and spinach



There is a group of goslings, 3 have been spotted so far, in the Chew Valley lake by salt and malt! They are still young, so please be respectable around them and their mother if you choose to visit. There has also been an eel sighting in the River Chew in Chew Magna as well as an influx in the small fish population!

