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COP26: What does it mean for Sedgemoor – Steve Mewes





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Who am I?

- Local Nature Partnership Coordinator and Advocacy Manager – Somerset Wildlife Trust – the day job
- Somerset lad, living in Wedmore, Sedgemoor
- Chair of Green Wedmore (2006)
- Chair of Wedmore Community Power Co-Op (2013)
- Chair of Somerset Climate Action Network (2018)

My work to date

SWT – advocacy, carbon footprint, Honeygar farm, adaptation

LNP – climate workstreams, NRN, Green Economy, Food & Farming, Nature & Wellbeing

Green Wedmore – multiple projects around energy, transport, food, wellbeing, carbon and nature.

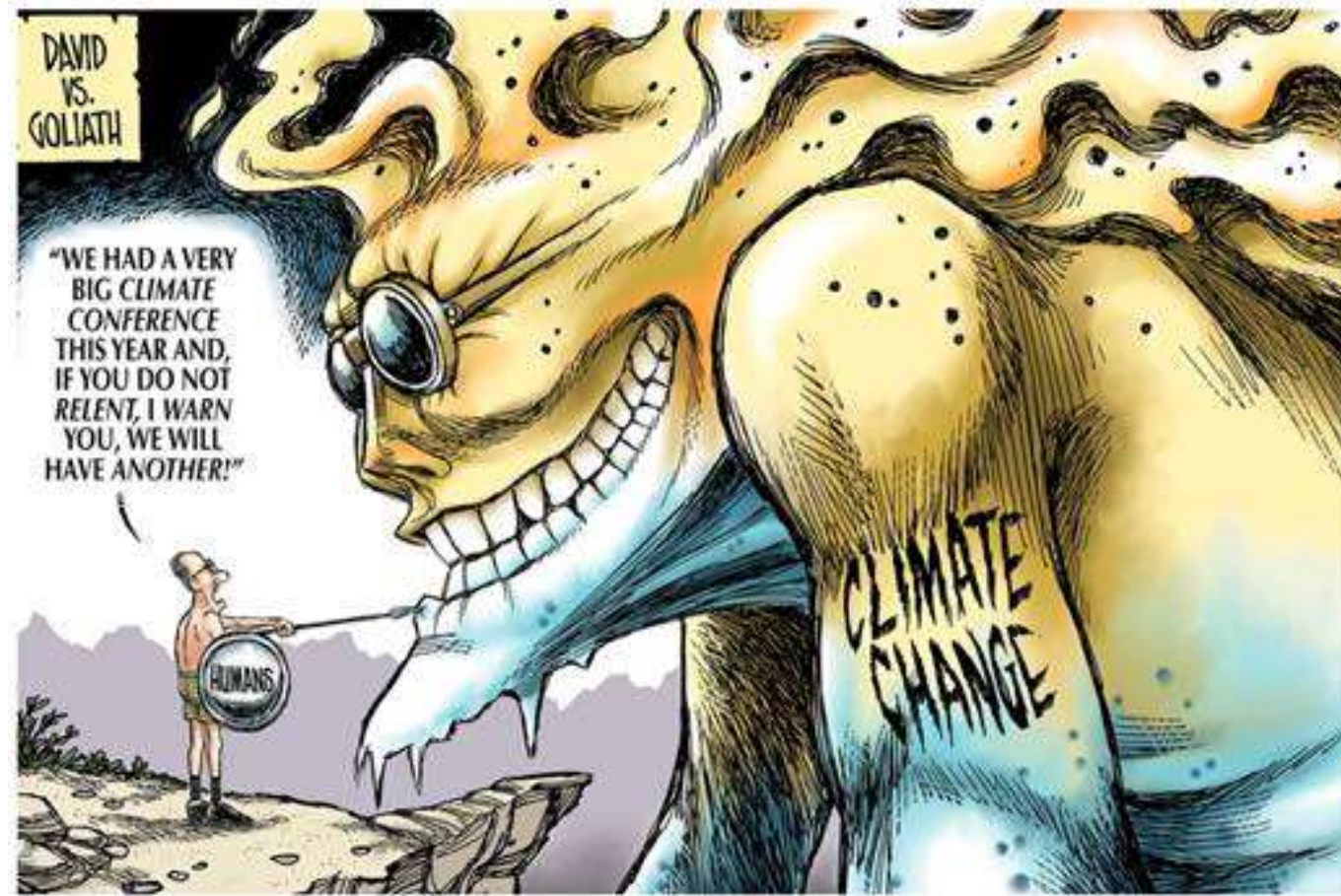
Wedmore CPC – 1MW non-profit community owned solar farm - £600k community fund

Somerset CAN – research, engagement, network building and empowerment



Some COP26 Outcomes and some focus/thinking points

- Virtually 100% of carbon sequestration is done by nature. We need to boost that capacity.
- We have to stop exploitation of carbon as quickly as possible – in Somerset, stop digging peat!
- Protect and restore other natural areas doing an amazing climate job, saltmarshes, mudflats, woodlands
- To stay below 1.5oC, the world needs to reduce emissions by 45% (on 2010 levels) by 2030. Currently due to increase by 2030, plus 1.5 will still be devastating.
- Climate Adaptation featured more at COP26 – this aspect is key for Sedgemoor (on climates front line) – links with resilience – Adaptation Pathways in Somerset – Adapting the Levels
- Tech aspects – we have all the tech we need - no need, no time, no money for big tech e.g. small modular reactors – HPD!



By David Horsey

Seattle Times cartoonist

Gaps in knowledge and capacity

I think we know enough. The gaps are in capacity, money, ambition, empowerment, authority.

With a Green New Deal mentality and working on the war footing which this emergency demands in Sedgemoor we can;

- Create high skilled jobs in conservation, eco-tourism, energy saving and renewable energy
- Adapt to the locked in climate change we will see using nature-based solutions
- Drastically reduce our emissions leading to cost savings and restored natural capital such as cleaner air.
- Empower, network and come together to tackle climate injustice and eco-anxiety.



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