

Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

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Presentation Content

- Introduction
- COVID & Climate Change
- Resilient Recovery Climate Change
- The New Normal (Behavioural changes)



• **Company History**

- Founded in 1990 To Provide specialised training in: Environmental, Quality and Health & Safety Management Systems and Circular Economy
- Aspects have established a International reputation for the quality & training expertise in practical application and approach.

Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **COVID-19**
- Is affecting the lives of millions of people and, the environment.
- CO2 emissions and human mobility have been reduced
- Improves air quality and encourages wild animals to come out and explore the cities.



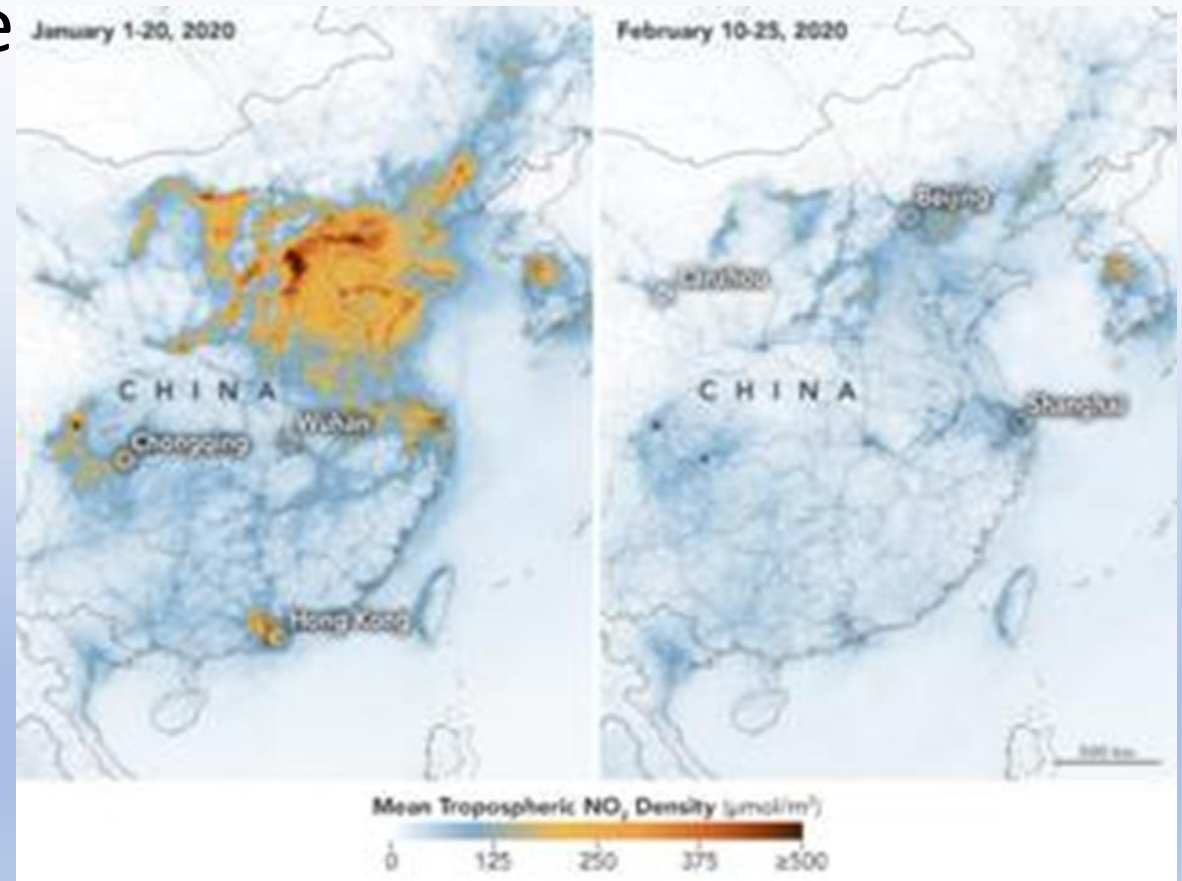
Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- Scientists have confirmed that air quality in certain regions has improved.
- Industries, aviation, and other means of transportation have stop,
- Air pollution is reduced in countries severely affected by the virus, such as China, Italy, Spain and the UK.



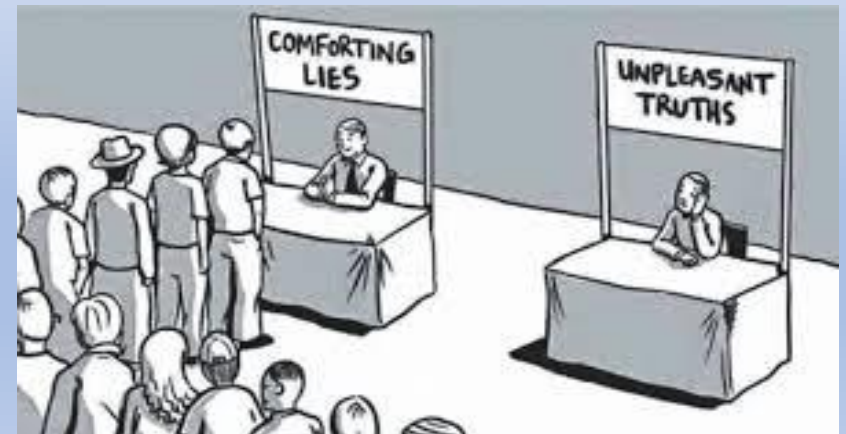
Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- NASA's satellite images have evidenced the pollution reduction in China right after the carbon emissions had dropped by 25% in four weeks of lockdown.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- On the 10th March 2020
- The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, indicated the threat of COVID-19 is temporary, meanwhile, the threat of droughts, floods, and extreme storms linked to climate change will remain for years and will require constant action.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- Clearly, we are part of nature and all activity that impacts the environment also impacts on us.
- Marshall Burke from the Department of Earth System Science at Stanford University, has calculated that the two months of cleaner air resulting from the coronavirus restrictions has saved the lives of between 1,400 and 4,000 children under five, and 51,700 to 73,000 adults over seventy in China.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- COVID-19 can be an historic turning point in tackling the global climate crisis.
- No one wanted carbon emissions to be reduced this way. it has a dark cost to our lives.
- It has also shown that communities can make a difference when they take care of each other, and this could be an invaluable lesson when we face climate change.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- Countries must seize the opportunity to turn the COVID-19 crisis into a defining moment in the fight against climate change.
- We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address these urgent challenges together; therefore the COVID-19 pandemic can accelerate the transition to a successful and low-carbon economy and improve our climate resilience.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **Short-term evidence** indicates very substantial reductions in energy use and emissions.
- An early comprehensive estimate suggests that global emissions declined by over 5% in the first quarter (Q1) of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.
- Projections for the annual emissions in 2020 depend very strongly on the assumed global economic trajectory in the second half of the year – with recent estimates ranging from a 2% to a 13% decline on 2019 levels.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **Medium-term impacts**
- Will be driven by investments in new long-life, low-carbon infrastructure, would help support high global carbon reduction for many years.
- The stock of high-carbon infrastructure existing prior to 2020 already implies enough lifetime cumulative emissions to take the world close to exceeding the Paris Agreement.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

• Longer-term

- The prospects for addressing global climate change will be affected by the as-yet unknowable impacts of COVID-19 on investment and attitudes to global collaboration.
- The possible reductions in global emissions in 2020 are estimated to be similar to the annual reduction rates that would need to be maintained every year for many decades to keep warming to well below the 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
- Maintaining strong collaboration across borders will be essential if the world is to achieve and maintain the scale of annual average reductions required.





What is needed for a resilient recovery



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **Low-carbon retrofits and buildings that are fit for the future.**
- There are vital new employment and reskilling opportunities.
- The construction of new housing to the highest standards.
- Roll-out of ‘green passports’ for buildings and local area energy plans.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **Tree planting, peatland restoration, and green infrastructure.**
- Investing in nature, including in our towns and cities.
- By making substantial changes in our use of land, which are needed to meet the a Net Zero target.



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- **Energy networks must be strengthened**
- The net-zero energy transformation is required in order to support electrification of transport and heating.
- Governments require to bring forward private sector investment.
- New hydrogen and carbon capture and storage (CCS) infrastructure.
- Fast-tracked electric vehicle will hasten the move towards a full phase out of petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032 or earlier.



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- **Infrastructure to make it easy for people to walk, cycle, and work remotely.**
- Dedicated safe spaces for walking and cycling, more bike parking and support for shared bikes and e-scooters.
- For home working to be truly a widespread option, resilient digital technology (eg 5G and fibre broadband) will be required.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **Moving towards a circular economy.**
- We can not only increase reuse & recycling rates rapidly but stop sending biodegradable wastes to landfill.
- Local authorities need support to invest strategically recycling infrastructure.
- Support the transition and the recovery by investing in lower-carbon behaviours and innovation:



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **Reskilling and retraining programmes.**
- The net-zero economy will require a net-zero workforce.
- Make homes comfortable; by design.
- Put carbon back, rather than taking carbon out, from under the Sea.
- Now is the time to build and equip workers with vital skills for the future.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **Leading a move towards positive behaviours.**
- There is a window for countries to reinforce the ‘climate-positive’ behaviours that have emerged during the COVID crises.
- The governments must lead by example by encouraging remote working.



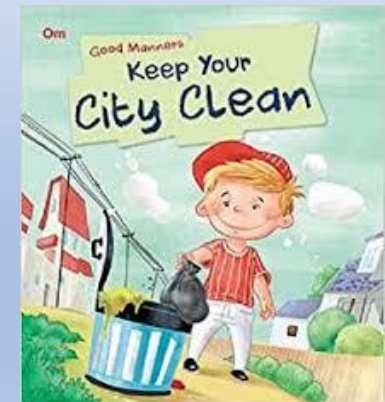
Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **Targeted science and innovation**
- Fund research and innovation in low-carbon and adaptation technologies.
- The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the importance of research to understand fully the threats and learn how to manage them.
- Achieving the global climate goals and rebuilding economies fit naturally together.
- Each makes the other possible.
- Success demands that we do both.





In Conclusion The New Normal



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **The New Normal**
- New ways of living, attitudes and values.
- The pandemic has forced the population to change how they live their daily lives.
- In particular, ways of working and travelling have changed rapidly.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **The New Normal (Working Practices)**
- Working from home and reduced business travel.
- Organisations have to rapidly change the way they work.
- Increased reliance on video- and tele-conferencing.
- There are parallels to the net-zero transition.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **The New Normal (Public transport.)**
- Health concerns over using public transport.
- Public transport is a 'natural first choice'.
- Public transport still has clear benefits for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **The New Normal (International travel.)**
- The perceived increase in the risks of air travel.
- Social distancing requirements on aircraft.
- Health checks at airports.
- The possibility of quarantine upon landing.
- This will be reinforced by changes in business practices.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

- **The New Normal (Climate change remains a priority.)**
- People believe that climate change is as serious a risk as COVID-19 in the long term, 70% agree that if their Government should act now to combat climate change.
- Climate change and the environment remains in the top four priority areas in answer to the questions 'what are the most important issues facing the country'
- Participants in the UK Climate Assembly overwhelmingly (93%) agreed that the Government, employers and others should take steps as lockdown eases to encourage lifestyles to change to be more compatible with reaching Net Zero.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?



- **The economics of a resilient recovery**
- **In the short term**, green stimulus policies can be economically advantageous compared to traditional fiscal stimuli.
- **In the long term**, investments in low-carbon and adaptation technologies can lower costs and help to accelerate deployment and innovation in a 'virtuous reinforcing cycle'.
- **NB** The 'green' stimulus measures that were introduced in the wake of 2008-09 global financial crisis accounted for only 16% of the total global stimulus at the time.



Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Change?

• Global Co-operation

- COVID -19 has shown the road map for the global community to implement to reduce the effects of CO₂ and climate change.
- Going back to the normal is not an option.
- Procrastination and pontification is a waste of time and effort.
- The benefits of action now exceeds the cost to humanity in the future.





The End

For further information please contact Aspects International Ltd.

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