



# Friends of Penzance B.S.A.C Conservation Officers Report March 2013



New estimates from a Norwegian project on Climate calculations suggest that Global warming is less extreme than feared. Policymakers are attempting to contain global warming at less than 2°C. New estimates from this Norwegian project on climate calculations indicate this target may be more attainable than many experts had feared. Climate researchers at Stockholm University have evaluated the Norwegian project and are enthusiastic. In fact they say “These results are truly sensational, if confirmed by other studies this could have far-reaching impacts on efforts to achieve the political targets for climate.” Temperature rise is levelling off. After Earth’s mean surface temperature climbed sharply through the 1990s, the increase has levelled off nearly completely at it’s 2000 level. Ocean warming also appears to have stabilised somewhat, despite the fact that CO2 emissions and other anthropogenic factors thought to contribute to global warming are still on the rise. It is the focus on this post-2000 trend that sets the Norwegian researchers calculations on global warming apart.



Ocean warming also appears to have stabilised

Emissions from coal fired power stations could be drastically reduced by a new energy-efficient material that absorbs large amounts of carbon dioxide, then releases it when exposed to sunlight. In a study at Monash University scientists for the first time discovered a photosensitive metal organic framework (MOF) a class of materials known for their exceptional capacity to store gases. This has created a cost-effective and powerful new tool to capture and store, or potentially recycle, carbon dioxide. By using sunlight to release the stored carbon the new material overcomes the problems of expense and inefficiency associated with current, energy-intensive methods of carbon capture. Current technologies uses liquid capture materials that are then heated in a prolonged process to release the carbon dioxide for storage. This is a step-change in carbon capture technologies.

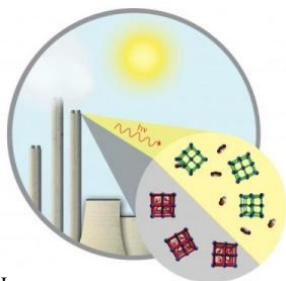


Image courtesy of Monash University

A study shows that tiny free-living house dust mites, which thrives in the mattresses, sofas and carpets of even the cleanest homes, evolved from parasites, which in turn evolved from free-living organisms millions of years ago. All analyses conclusively demonstrate that house dust mites have abandoned a parasitic life-style becoming free-living and then speciated in several habitats including human habitations.

Bottlenose Dolphins were seen off Newlyn Harbour Mouth Sennen and Chapel Porth during February A pod of dolphins off Goredrevy were also probably Bottlenose. Harbour Porpoises were seen off The Brisons, Gwennap Head and Coverack. A Grey Seal was seen off Polzeath and a Minke Whale off Tater du



Dust Mite