

**The Climate Change Poems read by Ian Beech at the Crediton  
Climate Challenge**

**Climate Crossroads:**

**Don't Be An Amber Gambler**

Amber Rudd, Amber Rudd,  
Now's the time to do some good.  
Amber Rudd, Amber Rudd,  
You'll never turn red  
That's clearly understood  
But most of us here are extremely keen  
For true-blue Amber to start turning green.

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**Earth to Humans**

Earth to humans.  
Come in, humans.  
There's something you need to hear  
And yet I fear  
Your ears are closed  
  
This planet is not yours.  
  
You have no right to dispose  
Of rainforests, glaciers and floes.

You do not own me.

Too clever for your own good,  
But not sufficiently wise,  
You loot and pollute the earth, the sea and skies.  
Whether you're a car manufacturer pedalling lies  
Or a nuclear physicist winning a prize,  
Just remember, every species dies.

Your life cycle  
More than like'll  
End –  
And soon,  
Cut short by your short-term atavistic greed.  
So take heed  
You need to change and fast:  
Industrial development,  
Economic growth,  
They simply cannot last.

Take stock before all is lost  
And I alone am left to count the cost  
With consequences increasingly drastic,  
As you drown in seas awash with plastic.

Collectively, you have to see the error of your ways  
Before self-inflicting a premature end to your days.  
And each of you needs to take a pledge  
To pull yourself away from the edge.  
You really need to take the hint:  
Reduce your crushing carbon-fuelled footprint.  
Prove you've got the gumption  
To forsake your invidious, conspicuous consumption  
Of all that in me lies.

Open your eyes.  
I'll survive,  
Though ravaged  
By your savage  
Disregard.

But you?

Don't leave with the dubious distinction  
Of perpetrating this planet's greatest mass extinction.  
Set yourselves free.  
Respect me  
But don't expect me  
To protect you.

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## UN Climate Talks

Climate change. There's been more talk

At the United Nations in New York.

Self-important heads of state,

Doing far too little, far too late.

While across the globe we all despair

Listening to so much hot air.

But maybe this time there's more chance

When they meet in Paris, France.

Save Our Planet sunflower banners unfurled

By activists protesting all around the world.

We need their vision, action and determination,

Commitment from earth-loving people in every nation.

We need to insist that a better future is attainable

To make human, and all other life, sustainable.

I don't want our current generations to be blameable.

To me it seems abundantly clear

That we need to steer away from all things nuclear.

Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, Fukushima and the rest,

Don't tell me that nuclear scientists know what's best,

Condemning our descendants to radio-active half-lives at their behest.

Hinkley C could see all our futures going west.

There is another way!

Forgetting my scary sci-fi dream that one day,

Every woman, child and man'll

Have their own built-in solar panel.

Sustainable Crediton,

It's doing its level best.

Today I've been so impressed:

Climate activists full of hope, vim, vitality and South West zest,

Promoting positive solutions

To surplant our sick pollutions.

It's not rocket science.

It's more important than that.

We can all play a part.

It's not too late

If we stop being insular.

We must fully insulate

Across the South West peninsula

And as well as promoting renewables,

We must all use eco light bulbs,

And our loved ones too,

Whether bayonet-fits or screwables.

We must harness the great forces of nature to offer us hope

Wind, wave, and sun must help us off this slippery slope.

For instance, let's talk about wind.

I've been rotating in the windmills of my mind,

I'm not sure which is the better kind.

Well, which would you rather see,

Wind turbines on the land or standing in the sea?

Onshore, offshore?

I'm not sure.

I think I need to learn about it just a little bit more.

We'll need them both, I guess

But it'll need careful planning to save us from our current mess.

New energy protecting worldwide greenery

Without destroying all the scenery.

But Nimbies beware!

You who seem to live pretty much everywhere.

Remember we simply can't save the planet

With just a handful of turbines off the coast of Thanet –

And some don't seem to like them even there.

It's the same with solar parks and solar farms.

We don't need your rage and loud alarms.

Don't be so depressingly archaic.

We simply must become far more photo voltaic.

Yes, we need sensitive planning and siting and local support

And that's starting to happen, I'm glad to report.

People need to hear renewable information and advice

So that we don't all pay the ultimate price.

Keep stressing the value to us all

Of renewable schemes both large and small.

We need to win over the sceptical, the ill-informed and frankly crass,

To promote the value of technologies such as biomass.

It's a great idea to arrange open days at local schemes

To see the reality and prove they work and aren't just dreams.

Let's praise the cool inventor

Of the red-hot woodchip boiler

At our local leisure centre.

Credit in Crediton, where credit's due.

Help make it happen in a building near to you.

Personally, I prefer non-profit schemes.

(That's one of my most regular themes).

I'm not keen on multi-nationals hijacking everything renewable,

So large they make their own laws and are totally unsueable.

So whatever the weather,

Remember that we're all much stronger together,

Avoiding sectional rifts

To fully harness nature's renewable gifts.

And don't waste energy listening to me.

Go out and green the world on the land, in the air and on the sea

In all the best ways that you can

For all earth's creatures, and every woman, child and man.

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