Stay Cool, But Get A Wiggle On!
Written by Jules Procter. August 2026. http://www.banburyshire.net

Introduction
In 2026 in the UK we have seen a number of heatwaves. This will become the normal, so how can we cope, what can we do, how soon should we act?
We now have many technologies to mitigate the effects of the climate emergency.
It is too late now, just to refer to it as climate change, and so we need to make fundamental changes in most areas of our lives, and quickly. Community groups will be key, as government agencies are far too slow to react, or are just badly informed.

Keeping cool :-
Plant more trees in urban locations, as well as rural locations.
Shading houses with trees in the gardens, and implement solar panels in community spaces, instead of just of home roof tops.
This is fine for the medium term, and needs to be done, but other things have to be done sooner.
So build solar panel "trees" in gardens. Clad flats in solar, and store the energy in batteries.
At home make use of heat pumps to move heat out of properties, as well as to warm them in cooler months.
As a quick win, use water evaporation combined with de-humidifiers to cool rooms.
Implement a “central cooling system”. Adapt an existing central heating system, adding in an external radiator (adapted from a car?) , fans, temperature sensors and switches, to move heat out from a building overnight, when the outside air is cooler (by, say. 5C).
In new builds, store heat underground in the hot months, to use as heating in the cold ones. Replacing the hot air with cooler air from an underground reservoir.
Mandatory provision of cool spaces in public buildings, village halls, libraries, museums.
Provide large shade canopies at music festivals, to supplement the parasols. This re-enforces the message that we can’t just sit out in the sun any more, and not expect consequences.

Food and Water :-

There needs to be a massive change the crops we grow and the animals we raise for food.
Agrivoltaics (having solar panels raised above a field surface) needs to be widely used, to shield crops and animals from the heat, and to generate electricity.
Reduce size of beef cattle herds by 90%. The impact on methane production would have a positive effect very quickly. The remaining field-grown meat would be sold at a more realistic cost which would benefit the farmer. (Reducing dairy herds is more problematic, as there currently isn’t a direct milk replacement, so this is an area for urgent research. Soy milk and suchlike have their own environmental impacts, so we shouldn’t just adopt these as a replacement.)
Replace the field-grown animals with meat protein grown in factory environments, on an industrial scale. This will greatly reduce the amount of water needed to produce beef protein, improve animal welfare, and reduce the food miles, as the factories would be located in towns and cities, and so be closer to where the food would be consumed.
Vegetables and fruits would benefit from being grown beneath solar panels, but many could be grown in factory conditions, close to markets.
Additional potable water should be produced from desalination plants located on the coast. The salts left over could then used to make sodium batteries, and hydrochloric acid.

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Energy

There is a lot of sunshine around, make use of it.
In homes, use roof solar, garden solar, balcony solar to power space cooling. We need to use energy to move heat around.
Make use of wind kites for generating power at temporary events, such as music festivals.
(There is no excuse for using diesel generators any more.)
Harness the energy of the sea, this is challenging from an engineering and materials front, but there is a huge amount to be tapped into. (See The Cobb Net Project)
By using local grids for local use we can implement solutions quickly, and bring in ownership by the community. We need a system which allows change, not delay.

Rubbish

We have been useless at collecting rubbish in the UK for decades.
It is a valuable resource, but needs to be managed properly. All household rubbish should be collected in one large bin for centralised processing. This allows for a consistent, and economical, method to be used to direct all items to the correct place. Expecting individuals to understand the myriad of labels, and match them against the local authorities ever changing diktats, is ridiculous.
All methane given off from rubbish must be captured. Metals extracted and reused, plastics dealt with appropriately. (There are now ways to break plastics down into useful chemicals, to be used as feedstock, and so have a value, instead of being a cost.)
Why not use hard plastics, in pellet form, with a suitable binder, to fill potholes on roads? We need to find a replacement for tarmac, which can withstand the higher temperatures we are experiencing.

Transport

Implement an affordable car use change to EVs .(See View of the Future of Cars)
It is unrealistic to expect everyone to be able to just shell out large amounts of money, it has to be affordable.
Mandatory change to EV vans for last mile deliveries, and for low range business use.
Mandatory change to HGV EV trucks for long range deliveries, and movements of materials.
(There isn't an EV solution for 7.5 ton wagons yet, so this needs addressing.)
By rapidly changing fuel use, and moving food production into town and cities, this will reduce the volume of road transport by a small, but significant, amount.
Mandate commercial jets to avoid making contrails by avoiding high concentrations of water vapour in the sky. (Military jets have been doing this for decades, so the technology is tried and tested.) Medium distance air transport will be replaced by systems such as the HAV Airlander helium-filled airship. But there is no solution to long haul flights, so changes in flight procedure will be needed, and the small increase in cost born by those who are still flying this way.

Summary

We have entered a new age, where the world as we once thought would go on forever, has changed.
It is too late to prevent the extinction of many animals and plants, but we still, just, have an opportunity to make use of our inventiveness to cling on to surviving on this planet in any great number, together with the plants and animals be haven't caused, yet, to go extinct.
So very many changes have to take place, expectations managed, systems replaced.
I think it can be done, but time is running out, and it is up to those who are much younger than me, to pick up the baton and run with it. Stay cool! (But get a wiggle on.)