

## *How is Covid-19 impacting the environment?*

**By Eco committee members- Poppy, Marina and Laila**



During the Coronavirus pandemic the world has come to a standstill with everyone staying indoors and only going out if necessary, due to this global carbon emissions have fallen massively. It has been estimated that at least one-quarter of the world's population (roughly 2 billion people) are or have been under some sort of stay-at-home regulation because of COVID-19.

This significant slowdown in economic activities has led to an equally significant environmental impact on the planet, particularly in the air. These environmental changes wrought by the coronavirus were even becoming visible from space. At Argonne National Laboratory in the U.S scientist Scott Collins said that satellite imagery and other atmospheric monitors are already showing a dramatic reduction in pollution found in the air.

As motorways cleared and factories closed, dirty brown pollution belts shrunk over cities and industrial centres in country after country within days of lockdown. First China, then Italy, the UK, Germany and dozens of other countries are experiencing temporary falls in carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide of as much as 40%, greatly improving their air quality.

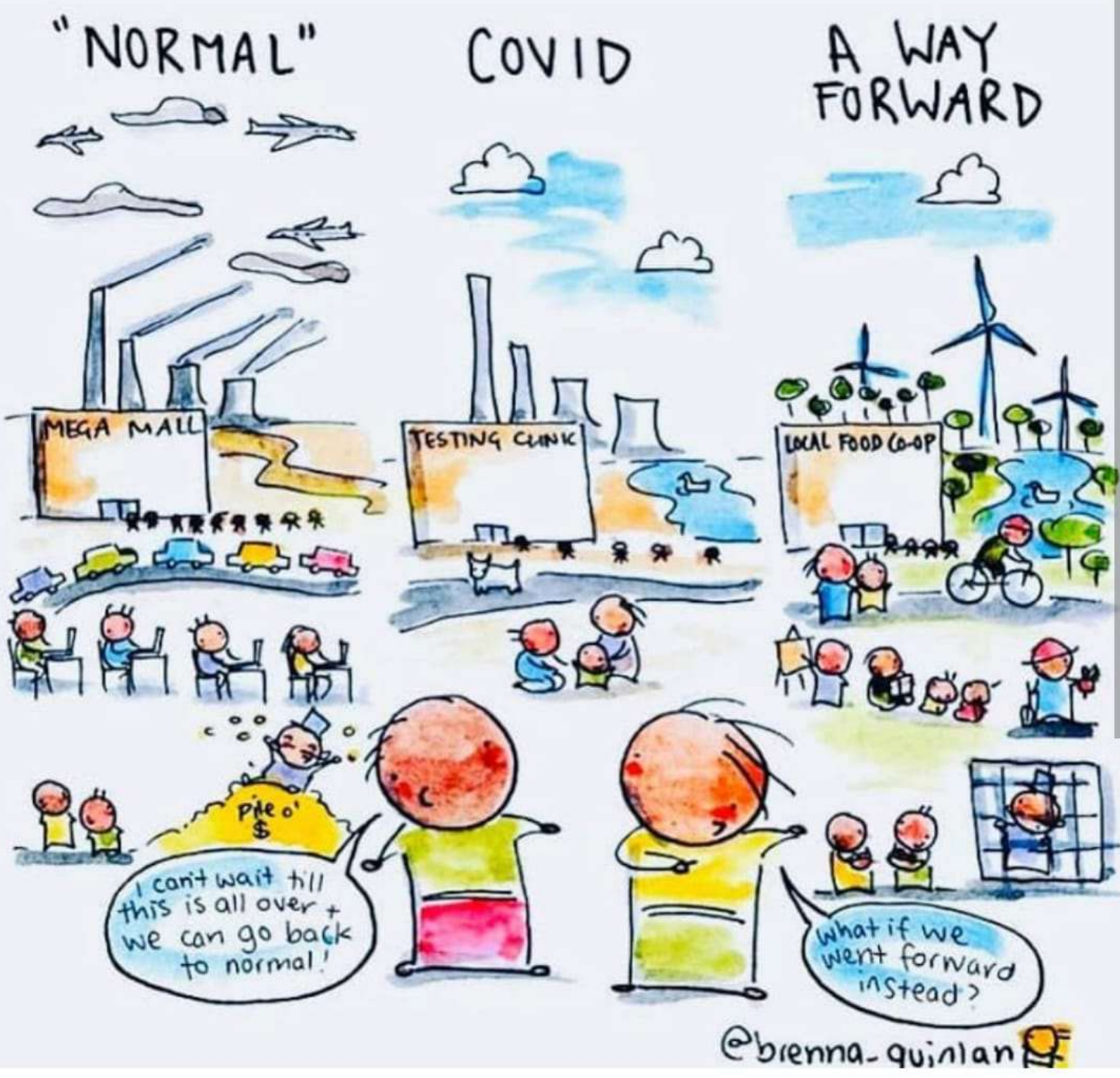


*In China, emissions fell 25% at the start of the year as people were instructed to stay at home, factories shuttered and coal use fell by 40% at China's six largest power plants since the last quarter of 2019. The proportion of days with "good quality air" was up 11.4% compared with the same time last year in 337 cities across China, according to its Ministry of Ecology and Environment. In Europe, satellite images show nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions fading away over northern Italy. A similar story is playing out in Spain and the UK.*

*In Europe, satellite images show nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions fading away over northern Italy. A similar story is playing out in Spain and the UK.*

For many experts, it is a glimpse of what the world might look like without fossil fuels. But hopes that humanity could emerge from this horror into a healthier, cleaner world will depend not on the short-term impact of the virus, but on the long-term political decisions too. Hopefully this proves that with the small signs of how quickly the natural systems may be able to bounce back as soon as human behaviour changes, it should give governments ideas of how to make a more environmentally friendly world for us all live in.

Yes it is sad that we can't go on holiday or see loved ones at this time but the reduction in emissions has helped the world we live in and given everyone some good news despite the main headlines.



*Could this be our new way ahead? Could you make a change that will affect the world? We can do it if we want to.*