

What about the weather? - Tony Pearce

So, what about the weather? Now, this is about weather of course and it's a bit difficult to predict weather because you can get it totally wrong. It all relies on the predictions that the weather's going to get warmer.

There's one slight problem. Just over the last year, the weather has got colder. In fact, this winter has been remarkable for the extent of very cold weather we've had. A little bit of cold weather here but nothing like they've had in other parts of the world.

Siberia had one of its coldest winters on record with temperatures in the vast northern Asian region having regularly dipped below minus 50 degrees centigrade (that's minus 58 degrees Fahrenheit).

Over the past few months, since mid-December 2020, much of Central and Western Asia has also been battling brutal and unusual freezes, which, in turn, have led to food and energy prices soaring to record heights.

China and Japan have been extremely cold, with heavy snowfalls. Food production in China has been hit because of the very cold weather over the last few weeks.

Now, they've had the heaviest snow and cold ever recorded in Madrid and across Spain, and much of southern Europe, including Greece, which had the most intense snowfall since the 1970s.

Libya sees snow for the first time in 15 years. There's been snow in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia even.

So, we've had unusually cold weather across much of the world and particularly in North America where the snow cover has been almost off the charts, as the Earth temperature sinks below the 1970 to 2000 average.



This February, the U.S. broke 9075 low temperature records after January, with extreme snow events across the country from California to New York. Temperatures were 40 to 50 degrees below average for a large portion of the Central and Southern plains.

So, is this a trend in the world to come? Even in the Southern Hemisphere where they have their summer, temperatures have been lower than usual. With New Zealand and Australia having rare summer snow in the highlands of New Zealand, the South Island, during their summer.

I've also read in the paper today that the Gulf Stream is dangerously close to a tipping point. The ocean current is at its weakest in over a thousand years and could plunge Europe into a deep freeze.

So, that's not very good news. Neither is it very good news if you want to tell people that we've got to save ourselves from Global Warming, when it's actually going to get colder.

Now people who are sceptics on the Global Warming front say that what is happening is something called a 'Grand Solar Minimum' which means that the sun is not emitting the same amount of heat because it's not generating the same number of sunspots. And when this happens, the Earth then faces colder weather, including very cold winters.

It has happened in the past. And if you go to the National Gallery, you can see pictures of this: London Bridge with the Thames frozen solid underneath it, and people having ice fairs on it, in the 17th Century, in a period which was known as the 'Little Ice Age'.

They worked out that the reason for this 'little ice age' was that it was a period when the sun experienced a 'solar minimum'. And that is what we're having right now. As I say, it's a bit dangerous to predict the weather because it could go into reverse. But the interesting point is that this is something over which we have no control. We can't control what happens with the sun. We can't control what happens with the wind and with the ocean currents. Also, some scientists are saying that as a result of this phenomenon of the solar minimum, the rays of the sun coming to the Earth are affected. And it actually causes us to have more earthquakes and volcano eruptions.

I personally don't understand the connection, but I have read this in one paper. Another one of the features of the last days is an increase in earthquakes and volcano eruptions.

We also saw that the very cold weather which hit the United States recently, hit Texas in particular, and knocked out the electricity system. One of the reasons it knocked out the electricity system in Texas was because they'd gone over to relying to quite a large extent of their energy supply on renewables, on wind farms.

When this cold weather came down, the wind farms actually froze and didn't work, so people had to

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