



## The Pixel Planet Today New Year's Newsletter

Happy New Year! While we're very excited to leave 2021 in the rearview (as I'm sure you are), it wasn't all bad! In terms of the project, we had our first officially Sponsored post, we followed the roller coaster that was COP26, and even introduced two new Series to the project!

NEWS

**COP26 - The Climate Conference for the Future**

COP26 was called the most important climate conference yet, and for good reason. UN member states, corporations, and activists came together to come up with plans to avoid the worst of human-caused climate change. While the conference was blasted for being seen as nothing more than 'empty promises', there were some very important promises that, if kept, could keep the planet from some of the worst effects of climate change.

We covered the first week in detail with the daily posts ([Starting with Post 814: the preface of our coverage](#)), but we also wrote a blog post about [our take on the conference overall](#).

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## **New Series: Highlights & Yin Yang**

We can't lie, as COP26 rolled in, we were super excited to see what the conference would bring. But by the end of the first day, we realized that we didn't have a great format to cover multiple tidbits at a time (the project thus far had been focused on one fact per day). So with the sheer amount of news that was coming out of the conference, we decided to create Highlights. Instead of one fact per day, with a small outline of 3 or 4 items, we could hit the biggest points of each day.

The idea for Yin Yang, however, had been tossed around for quite a while. Some facts have both good and bad news attached to them, so by looking at the pros, cons, and a final verdict, we can show that not all environmental issues are black and white.

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## **Blog post: Why we hid our Instagram likes**

Social media is like a box of bittersweet chocolates. In some ways, it's the best (this project wouldn't exist without it!) but in other ways, it's the black eye of modern society. So to ease a bit of our qualms with social media, we hid our Instagram like counts (and we're never looking back). Curious why we did (or why you should too)? [Read our blog post about it.](#)

# HIGHLIGHTS



## **Flat-packed pasta could save more than 60 percent of packaging space used by traditional pasta**

Pasta comes in all shapes and sizes - it adds a bit of fun to any pasta dish. Being vegan, pasta is a lot more sustainable than some other foods, but not all pasta shapes are as eco-friendly as others... ([Read more](#))

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## **Over 500 defunct oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico have been converted into vertical reefs**

Oil rigs aren't the regular poster-children of conservation - but there is a way they can actually benefit the planet, rather than destroy it. Starting in the 1980s with the National Fishing Enhancement Act, unused/old oil rigs can now be transformed... ([Read more](#))



## Neopelagic communities are ecosystems where coastal organisms have taken up residence in ocean garbage patches

The Pacific Garbage Patch - a huge expanse of trash like water bottles, fishing nets, and other plastic products floating in the middle of the Pacific Ocean - has long been a concern... ([Read more](#))

# FREEBIES

## Wallpaper Previewer

We released the [Wallpaper Previewer](#) with our first newsletter - but it's back now with even more options! With the previewer, you can download a variety of system-themed pixel wallpapers for Android, Apple, Google, or Windows devices!

Backgrounds come in mobile and desktop sizes, making it easy to customize any screen size. And if you can't decide which one you want? Just download all of them.

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## Pixel Planet Today on Giphy

Like the daily pixel posts but wish they had a bit more pizzazz? Well check out the [Pixel Planet Today Giphy channel](#)! We post animated versions of select daily posts, holiday-themed pixel animations, and lots of other social media stickers. To see them, just search "@pixelplanettoday" on Giphy Search in whatever app you already enjoy Giphy content.



## 2021 Goal Review: Renewables by 2022

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: transparency is key. So while we didn't meet our goal of creating daily posts using 100% renewable energy by 2022, we are making real steps to achieving that goal. At the moment, we are gauging what size/type of system we need by measuring our average power usage across all devices, but by the end of this month, we should have all the readings we need to make an educated decision. From there, we will be able to find a system that will not only serve our current needs, but help us adapt as we continue to grow.

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## 2022 Goal: Day 1000, Twitter, other website things

On top of the finish-our-resolution-from-last-year goal, we have a few other things we're hoping to accomplish this year. If you've been following our daily posts, you know that we're quickly approaching Day 1000 (just a bit more than 100 days left!). We have something really special planned for this day, so we're doing everything we can to get things ready for the celebration. Stay tuned for updates as we approach the huge milestone!

This year, we're also wanting to incorporate a few fun "extra-curriculars" like creating a Twitter profile, add more information about the project to the website, and perhaps even add more items to the online store! We'll let you know how it goes. 😊❤️🌍

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