

# NEWS

warm and slushy, or unbearably cold, often switching on a dime.

It can be hard to take global warming or climate change seriously while we are shivering at the bus stop on a cold, winter day. How can the world be melting when we're freezing? But it is happening nonetheless, and the problem is only going to get worse unless we do something.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently announced that a temperature rise of 1.5°C will have devastating effects on our planet. Temperatures have already increased 1°C due to human impact and we are on track to surpass 1.5°C by as early as 2030. Immediate action needs to be taken and that largely involves reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with the move towards renewable energy. The IPCC states that renewable energy must account for at least seventy percent of worldwide electricity by 2050 if we plan to keep the planet at a safe temperature.

Unfortunately, the move away from coal and other fossil fuels towards renewable sources, like wind and solar, require government support and involvement. Making the turn to sustainable energy and cleaning up our planet is a financial hit for the people that have the power to implement these changes.

Politicians have the oil industry right in their pockets and are amongst the exclusive class of people least impacted by the effects of climate change. As disasters continue to wipe out homes, and climate change cripples businesses like agriculture, politicians are able to rebuild, rebuy, and pay extra for goods and services: luxuries that most of the world are not so fortunate to access.

For this reason, many politicians deny or minimize the ever-growing problem that is climate change, making it as important as ever to be involved in your local politics. We must elect people into power who care about the future of our planet and are devoted to extending its longevity. While we, as individuals, are not capable of solving climate change on our own, we can each do our part by being mindful of our own carbon footprint, as well as advocating for the change our world needs to see. †

## The Boring Company cancels plans to open its Sepulveda test tunnel

BY RILEY EDLING

**L**ATE LAST NOVEMBER, the Boring Company announced that it is cancelling its plans to open a high-speed, subterranean test tunnel in Los Angeles, according to the *Washington Post*. The founder of the company, Elon Musk, said it withdrew its project underneath Sepulveda Boulevard after it settled with local community groups that had sued the Los Angeles government over plans to exempt the company from an environmental review process.

The ideology behind the underground tunnel network was to eliminate the nightmare of traffic that consumes Los Angeles roadways. By building a viable high-speed alternative to driving, it would relieve congestion on major freeways while cutting transportation time greatly. Musk has been open about his tunneling system, remarking that his idea had simply started by digging a large hole in the ground and connecting ideas and thoughts from there.

“The Boring Company is no longer seeking the development of the Sepulveda test tunnel and instead seeks to construct an operational tunnel at Dodger Stadium,” the company reported.



Photograph provided by The Boring Company: Tunnel

The company is now taking its ideologies and engineering and creating a mass transportation network that could become the new form of transit. As alternative tunnel plans develop and progress, the company strides closer to completing its goal of creating an ultra-high-speed transit system through the use of pod-and-tube transportation system, known as the hyperloop.

This system is vacuumed based, meaning it can move people and cars without wind resistance up to 600 miles per hour safely. In theory, it could deliver someone from New York to D.C. in just thirty minutes, which is currently another proposed route to be constructed. The Boring Company has also proposed to build these systems in Chicago.

Musk stated last month that Boring would hold an event to showcase a test tunnel in Hawthorne, Cali. on December 10<sup>th</sup> and offer free rides to the public the next

day, according to the *Washington Post*. Musk went to Twitter to announce that passengers would be traveling as fast as 155 miles per hour. This test tunnel is still on schedule for the event and will not see closure prior to Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. †

## Thanks to Science, You Can Eat an Apple a Day

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

**Y**OU WAKE UP ON A FRESH SATURDAY MORNING in mid-June and you decide you would like to start your day with an apple. You go to the fridge, grab a firm Braeburn apple from the crisper, and bite into its succulence. But it's June, and the harvest season for apples across the United States is between September and October. How was your apple kept fresh for so long before they were sold to you?

The answer to this is Controllable Atmosphere (CA) technology. This idea of modifying an atmosphere for food storage can be traced back to the 1800's. The modern facilities we use today are the children of research done by Cambridge University pomology researcher Robert Smock during the 1920's. He began with experimentation, placing McIntosh apples inside several containers filled with varying levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide and paying attention to how well they stayed fresh.

What he discovered is that you can essentially make an apple “sleepy” by exposing it to air with a higher percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> than oxygen. Due to the apples not getting the amount of oxygen required to fully ripen, the process is effectively slowed down, which means that the apples will remain crisp and fresh for months after they are harvested.

However, this is not a “one size (or proportion of CO<sub>2</sub> to oxygen) fits all” process; one species of apple will require a different balance of the two gasses than another. Too little oxygen and the apple will not be able to respire and will begin

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