

To: Letters.editor@ft.com

Subject: Letter in response to Martin Wolf's 'Humanity is a cuckoo in the planetary nest' (FT 10th March)

Dear FT letters editor

Martin Wolf's 'Humanity is a cuckoo in the planetary nest' (FT 10th March) is correct to highlight the role of diet in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. From our work with the RSA on 'Herefordshire 2030' - a project to make the county greener, fairer and more prosperous by 2030 - we have found that widespread diet change to a mixed but plant-rich diet and a 30% reduction in domestic food waste could reduce the need for grazing pasture by as much as 35%. Replacing that land with woodland would reduce the carbon-equivalent footprint of agriculture in the county by as much as 57% - which is equivalent to 650,000 tonnes CO₂e or the annual total carbon footprint of 43,000 people.

While we agree on the scale of the challenge, this shows that, based simply on behavioural change, there is a way forward for counties like Herefordshire without over reliance on as yet uncertain new technology.

Yours sincerely

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