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*Newsletter*

June 2023

## *Strength in Breadth*

Welcome to the fifth *Cleaning Up* newsletter. Thank you for your continued support of the show and for providing your email address via [cleaningup.live](mailto:cleaningup@live.com)

**The three episodes that aired in June were a perfect demonstration of the breadth of voices you're likely to hear on *Cleaning Up* over the course of a month.** June began in the company of a clean energy investment visionary, continued with one of Canada's most revered and divisive climate activists, and ended with a deep-dive into the practicalities of going radically green in local government.

While neither Paddy Padmanathan nor ACWA Power are household names, both can claim a great deal of responsibility for moving the dial on the cost of renewable power, repeatedly delivering solar power at prices previously thought impossible. Paddy had long been earmarked to come on the show and the episode did not disappoint, with Michael taking the chance to ask about those legendary numbers, the future of the global grid, and to probe Paddy's high hopes for a coming surge in green hydrogen production.

Tzeporah Berman took the climate fight to big tech on their own turf whilst at Greenpeace and has ensured the safety of millions of hectares of North American old-growth forest; not for nothing has she been dubbed Canada's "Queen of Green". Tzeporah's account of her education in the *realpolitik* of climate conflict in Alberta, Canada was particularly arresting, and goes a long way to explaining the hardened resolve she brings to chairing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, in the hope of organising a multilateral, managed climb-down from fossil fuel use. Social media has been full of praise for Episode 131 and the eloquence and tact with which Michael and Tzeporah conducted their debate.

There are lots of reasons to like Jon Burke, like his plain-speaking, infectious passion for transformation of the public realm, his ingenuity in finding means to turn highly urban areas green, and – frankly – his impeccable Scouse accent. Unfortunately, lots of people don't like Jon, chiefly because of his unapologetic championing of low-traffic neighbourhoods whilst in-post as the London Borough of Hackney's environment lead.

# Latest Episodes & Edited Highlights



» Edited Highlights / 130



» Edited Highlights / 131



» Edited Highlights / 132

In Episode 132, Michael and Jon discuss the transformative impact of those LTNs and the social and personal repercussions of ardently pursuing green policy. Michael predicts that Jon's is a powerful political voice that will not long stay dormant, and listening to the episode, you may well be inclined to agree.

## News...

Michael was in Paris this month to attend the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, jointly convened by the French President Emmanuel Macron and Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados. Mottley is spearheading the Bridgetown Initiative, a radical new agenda to tackle the cost of borrowing and the burden of debt in the developing world as it confronts climate change. To watch all of the episodes of *Cleaning Up* that concern development, [click here](#).

June saw the official launch of PragmaCharge, the Electric Trucking-as-a-Service platform aiming to decarbonise heavy-duty road transportation by helping fleet owners go electric. Michael sits on the Board of Directors alongside Henry Lawson and Pietrojan Gilardini, with Anil Srivastava, formerly of Leclanché, serving as the company's CEO, and Nikhil Amin, formerly of Amazon, its COO. You can read the [full press release here](#).

We have a flurry of recordings scheduled in July for this season and next with an extraordinary array of voices on the climate, so don't forget to subscribe to *Cleaning Up* [wherever you get your podcasts](#).

*Charlie*

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