Some positive side-effects of coronavirus

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You always find a way to make the best of a bad situation
-Pete Waite

Pressing Environmental issues

Transportation industry:

- Responsible for 25-30% of the total greenhouse gas emissions

- Causes noise pollution which affects psychological and physical health

- Causes additional air pollution which leads to a range of respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological diseases

Pressing Environmental issue
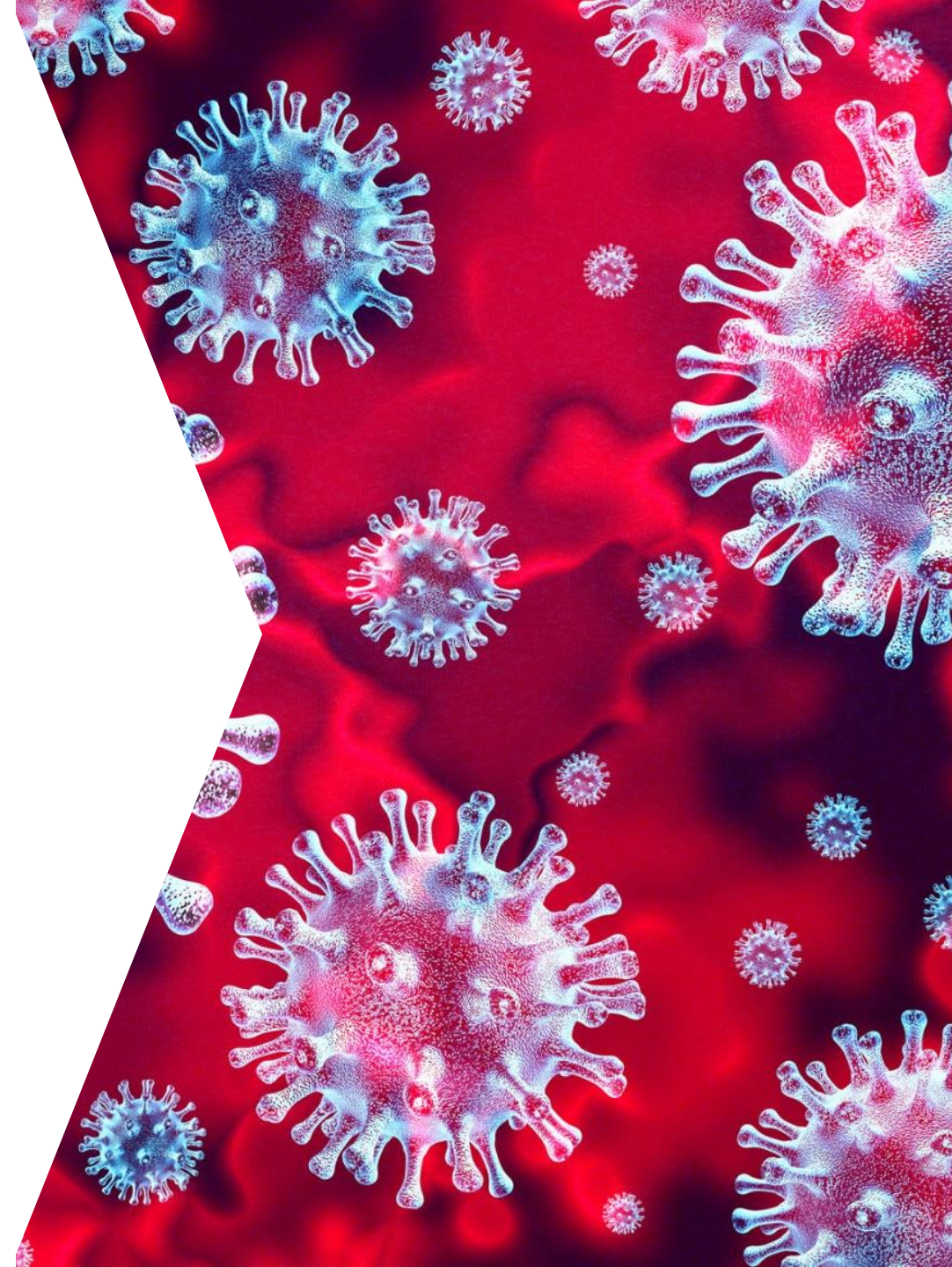
Manufacturing industry:
(amongst others):

- Global warming due to hazardous chemicals released (e.g. methane, carbon dioxide). This influences temperature levels, sea levels, wildlife, and ice melting.
- Soil pollution, as the chemicals released can make the soil infertile, or contaminate our food

Some pressing social issue

- The <u>Digital Divide</u>, which is the gap between those who have access and know how to use internet technologies, and those who do not.
- <u>Lack of accessibility in:</u>
  - ✓ <u>Employment</u>: in 2019, only 56% of companies globally, allowed any form of teleworking, which reduced employment opportunities for people who can only work from home (people with disabilities or parents of young children)
  - ✓ <u>Services:</u> government services and education are not easily available to anyone who cannot visit facilities physically

Coronavirus Effects on these issues:
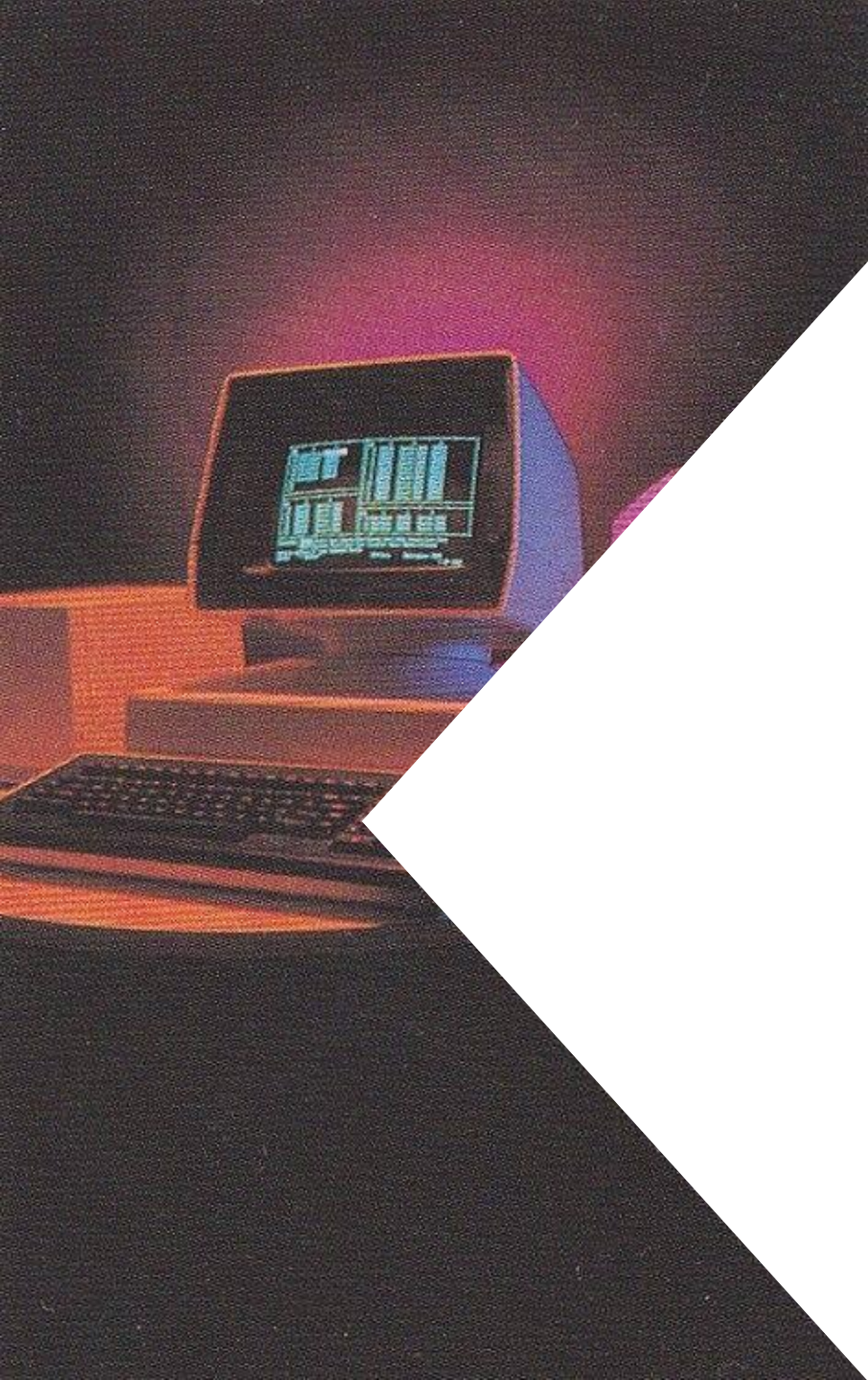
Coronavirus Effects:

Environment:

The majority of factories have temporarily stopped their operations, and the use of transportation services has been reduced significantly, both of which had impressive results!

Coronavirus Effects:
Environmental

- China:
  - ✓ Emissions in China fell by 25%
  - ✓ Coal use fell by 40%
- Europe (France, Spain, Italy): Less nitrogen dioxide in the atmosphere
- Italy: Water quality has improved due to decreased boat activity in the canals of Venice
- USA (New York): Pollution has fallen by 50%
- In Japan, Canada, Wales (and other countries as well): animals have been wandering in previously-human-occupied areas:

16
TRINITY
SQUARE

Coronavirus Effects:

Socio-technological
Even if we could not exit the house freely, some jobs and tasks had to be done. Thus, we found ways to do them!

Coronavirus Effects:
Socio-technological

- Several countries (Greece included), have digitized a wide range of services, such as the process of obtaining doctor prescriptions or carrying out school registration processes (even libraries!)
- Increased teleworking, has highlighted the need for 5G technology, which will speed up the transition to it, to allow better online communication (and overall better internet connection)
- The rise of teleworking increases the accessibility of employment: companies have set up the infrastructure to support it and hence can continue using it with workers that have to work from home

Coronavirus Effects:
Socio-technological

- Education has been moved online, which provides opportunities for areas and schools with staff shortages, but also for students who cannot go to school daily (due to a disability or being in a remote location). This also means an increase in educational opportunities for the public
- People being obligated to move to digital means of carrying out activities, results in combating technological illiteracy and therefore bridging the digital divide
- Many people have developed better personal hygiene practices, which will definitely be useful for the future

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