



## Overarching Campaigns Briefing 2008

*For activists likely to lobby their MPs in autumn 2008 on the Renewables Directive and the Climate Change and Planning Bills.*

### **Introduction – why we've put together this over-arching briefing**

This autumn is a busy time for Friends of the Earth in Parliament. The Climate Change Bill will receive its final readings in late October or November, we're asking MPs to tell Gordon Brown not to wriggle out of our EU Renewables Directive obligations, and in addition to those two priority campaigns there are also crucial final votes on the Planning and the Energy Bills. Both of the latter are important pieces of legislation with implications for and beyond the development of a low carbon economy in the UK. Although we haven't run a grassroots campaign on the Energy Bill it is small but important part of our wider work on the Renewables Campaign and for this reason it is worth knowing about if you are going to see your MP about Renewables.

Your group might be working on one or more of these campaigns, and if you visit your MP they may well mention one or more of these campaigns in your meeting. You may also want to know a little bit about these campaigns so that you feel confident that you know what else Friends of the Earth has been saying to MPs on these issues. This is why we have put together this short briefing tying together the different campaigns and providing tips on how to lobby an MP on more than one issue at one sitting.

**But remember:** It's up to you and your group to decide which campaigns you work on. We're clear that our priorities for this autumn are the Climate Change Bill and the Renewables Directive Day of Action. If you can fit in working on both of these, great. If you have time to work on more than this, fantastic. But we're not expecting you to be fully versed in all of this overnight. Take on what you're comfortable with, and get in touch with your Network Developer if you need more guidance.

### **Why might you want to lobby on more than one issue?**

It is usually wisest to concentrate on one or two campaigns rather than spread yourself thinly across several. This autumn though things are a bit different. Here's why:

1. Friends of the Earth is working at a Parliamentary level on all three pieces of legislation mentioned above, and we need support from MPs to influence UK policy on the Renewables Directive as well. So when you go to visit your MP, they may well mention any or all of these campaigns and you need to be prepared.
2. Local groups have been working hard for months on the Planning Bill, and for years on the Climate Change Bill through the Big Ask campaign. Both of these Bills, along with the Energy Bill, have their crucial votes this autumn. There's no getting around this clash in timings as it's beyond our control, so we're trying to help you to work on as many of these campaigns as you want to, as successfully as possible.
3. The Government is trying to sell its proposals in these pieces of legislation as a joined up approach to tackling climate change whilst securing energy supplies. It's therefore handy to know how the Bills and Directive relate to each other, even if you only want to lobby on one.
4. MPs may expect you to know about their work on a different Bill to that which you are there to talk to them about. Although you *don't* need to know details about other legislation you will feel more comfortable if your MP meeting is not the first time you hear about Friends of the Earth's work on it! And the fact you know about it will ensure the MP knows it is important to you, even if you aren't there to talk about it.
5. Your MP might also argue that your problem with one Bill is adequately dealt with elsewhere in one of the other Bills. This is not the case, and if you're informed about all the legislation then you'll be able to argue your case.

Nonetheless there are pitfalls to trying to lobby your MP on more than one issue at a time. Being aware of them is the first step to over-coming them. Here are some pitfalls to be aware of:

1. You need to prepare more.
2. It's easier to lose control of the conversation as your MP may wish to focus on one area to the exclusion of the others.
3. You need to be much more careful about how much time you spend talking about each issue with your MP – you may run out of time faster than you realise.
4. Both you and your MP may get confused between issues
5. It's harder to get your MP to commit to your requests
6. It is easier for your MP to wriggle out of his/her commitments.
7. It's harder for you to keep track of what your MP is meant to do.

But all you need to do to deal with these problems is be prepared and so the next sections suggest ways to get ready. If you have any doubts about your right to lobby your MP on more than one issue just remember the following advice from our Parliamentary team:

*"It is everyone's **democratic right** to ask their MP to do as many things as they like. Always remember your MP is your representative servant in Parliament: they are accountable to you and not you to them. If you want them to vote a certain way on 2, 5, 10 or 50 different Bills or to sign 2, 5, 10 or 50 different EDMs etc you are allowed to ask them to do s. NEVER be afraid of asking your MP to do things"*

### **Tips on how to lobby your MP on more than one issue**

#### Before the meeting:

If starting from scratch, you'd want to think about what you want to talk about, doing a bit of research if necessary. Then decide on key messages, thinking about how could link them together. You do not need to know the details about any one campaign, let alone all of them, but sometimes saying a few things about each can increase your lobbying impact, particularly if they overlap. Do prepare a simple list of the points and action requests you want to cover in the meeting and take it along with you.

This briefing does much of that work for you by extracting the key messages from the three campaigns and explaining how they link up. It might help to make your own notes though, perhaps even using speaker cards to prompt you through your meeting.

#### At the meeting:

1. Check how long you have with your MP, then tell him/her what you plan to talk about.
2. Keep your conversation and points made on each campaign short and concise. Time is likely to not be on your side so stick to the action requests with a minimal amount of detail as to why you're asking the MP to take those actions. Beware if your MP leads you off tangents of detail, they may be time wasting.
3. Requests must be clear and the desired action must be concrete and measurable, e.g. sign EDM A and EDM B and vote for Bill C at its Second Reading. Top-line suggestions for what to ask are below. You can find further details of the exact asks on each of the campaigns in the relevant Action Guide – see end for details.
4. Give your MP briefings or other further reading later, and request they be read. This is handy for when your MP wants to talk in detail about something you don't know a lot about –give them a more detailed briefing (or offer to send them one) that they can read later
5. Control the conversation: have your pre-written agenda in front of you and stick to it. This is where speaking cards might be useful. If your MP waffles off on something that is not directly relevant politely and firmly bring them back on track. e.g. "with all due respect Mr Smith as you know we don't have much time so if you could please clarify whether you will sign EDM X and then we can move on to discuss Y".
6. Make sure you put all the requested actions to your MP. If they are not giving you a simple 'yes' to any action request don't be afraid to be a little pushy (but always remain polite!) until you get a clear 'yes' or 'no'. If you do get a clear 'no' ask why.
7. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Note down clearly *exactly* what your MP says in terms of actions. Word for word is best - if they say yes or no and the reasons they give for saying no write it down - this is *very* valuable evidence for us which we can use.
8. Wrap up the meeting with a summary of your request and confirmation from your MP that s/he will do what you have requested.

9. Follow up your meeting with a confirmation in writing to your MP, specifying exactly what they promised to do, and by when.
10. Let us know how it went! Email [julian.kirby@foe.co.uk](mailto:julian.kirby@foe.co.uk) . Thanks!

### **Summary of the Renewables Directive and Climate Change, Planning and Energy Bills**

Below you can read a summary of the issues and asks relating to the three Bills and Directive this autumn. Each contains some background and then the priority request to your MP. This is of course a summary and so if you want to find out more please look up the briefings on each of these campaigns separately. Remember this is just for your info – don't feel you have to lobby on all of these.

#### **Renewables Directive**

The EU Renewables Directive, currently going through its last stages in the European Parliament and Council, says that 20% of all EU energy should come from renewable sources by 2020. Different nations have different targets that together average out to that 20%. The proposed target for the UK is 15%. But over recent months the UK has been attempting to undermine the target at the EU level, for example by proposing that countries could buy renewable energy credits from outside the EU, that Carbon capture and storage (CCS) from fossil fuel plants could count or that concessions be granted for large-scale projects. If the UK is successful in getting these proposals into the Renewable Energy Directive it could completely undermine the Directive as a whole by giving countries get-out clauses. At present only around 7% of the EU's energy comes from renewable sources, with a lamentable 2% in the UK. Achieving a 15% target by 2020 in the UK, as proposed in the draft Renewable Energy Directive, would be an important start and deliver investment in our own considerable renewable resources such as wind and wave power.

What we're asking MPs to do:

Do not allow the UK to undermine the EU Renewables Directive. The Energy Council, consisting of the UK and other Member State governments, will be meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008 to discuss the Directive. We need to put pressure on the government to support the Directive and not to try and wriggle out of it. Ask your MP to write to Gordon Brown and tell him we need the UK to support the Renewable Energy Directive and not to undermine it.

#### **Energy Bill:**

It is crucial that the Government commits to meeting, in full, the EU Renewables Directive target. However the timetable is tight so we need to put the right legislation in place now to promote renewables in the UK. Friends of the Earth is calling on the Government to include an amendment in the Energy Bill, currently going through Parliament, to introduce, within one year, a Renewable Energy Tariff. This scheme (often also known as a feed-in tariff or FIT) operates successfully in most European countries. It encourages businesses, householders and communities to invest in installing their own small-scale renewable energy technologies by guaranteeing a long-term premium payment for the energy they produce.

What national Friends of the Earth has been asking MPs to do:

The Government has so far resisted passing an amendment supported by Friends of the Earth which has the support of both of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties and many backbench Labour MPs. We would like MPs to vote for this vital amendment when it is debated in the House of Commons. It is worth your knowing this in case your MP brings it up in your discussion, in which case you can tell them what national Friends of the Earth is campaigning for and politely direct the conversation back to what you want to talk about. Alternatively you could bring it up yourself. This would be more powerful but if you feel you already have too much to think about then don't worry about doing so. If you do so we'd suggest you just tell them that national Friends of the Earth is working on this legislation and that you support our requests for MPs to vote so support the FIT amendment. Again, avoid getting into debate on this by saying that you are not working on it yourself and that it is not the main issue you have come to talk about.

### **Climate Change Bill:**

Friends of the Earth has led the campaign for a climate change law that commits the UK to cutting carbon emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050 and which covers all sectors of the economy, including the UK's share of international aviation and shipping emissions.

The Bill is a groundbreaking piece of legislation. But it urgently needs improvement if it is to deliver the cuts that scientists say are needed, and if it is to show the international leadership which we need to show.

We are therefore calling for:

1. **Bigger cuts:** The latest science shows we need carbon dioxide emissions reductions of at least 80 per cent by 2050.
2. **Aviation and shipping:** Currently the Bill allows the Government to opt-out of including these, the only proviso being that it issues a report explaining why. We need to remove this opt-out so that these emissions are counted from 2012 onwards, that being the start of the second budget period of the Bill.

A string of authorities from political, scientific, economic, development and other fields have stressed that these changes must be made to the UK's Climate Change Bill if the UK is to make its fair share of cuts and avoid setting a dangerous example to the rest of the world. These include the United Nations Development Programme, Sir Nicholas Stern and scientists from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. The Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, recently signed a bilateral accord with South Africa pledging that "All developed countries" should make cuts "in the range of 80% - 95% by 2050". Even Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said that the current target is too low.

### **What we're asking MPs to do:**

The Bill will be debated by all MPs during the Report Stage in late October or early November. Please ask your MP to commit to **voting** in favour of Report Stage amendments that will

- a) raise the 2050 target to at least 80%, and,
- b) that will ensure that the UK's share of international aviation and shipping emissions are included.

### **Planning Bill:**

The Planning Bill puts in place a new planning system for major projects. It requires Ministers to set out National Policy Statements (NPS) containing government policy on, for example, what sorts of power generating stations are built. It also sets up an unaccountable body, the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) to make the decisions on whether to approve or reject development applications. The Bill also covers the building or alteration of major roads, railways, airports, hazardous waste facilities, harbours and reservoirs. It makes no reference to climate change, or the need to reduce carbon emissions with regard to these major projects. It also removes historic rights to participate in planning inquiries and reduces the integrity and independence of public consultations by allowing the developer instead of the public authority to run the pre-application public consultation.

Friends of the Earth is campaigning for two amendments to the Bill, to ensure that National Policy Statements consider climate change, and to ensure the IPC considers the climate change impacts of prospective major infrastructure developments before deciding as to their approval. These amendments are essential to ensure the transformation to a low carbon Britain.

What we're asking MPs to do:

The Bill is being discussed in the Lords until the 16th October. We expect it to return to the Commons in early November. The Government is refusing to acknowledge the importance of considering climate change when building the infrastructure of low-carbon Britain. It is essential that all MPs support the climate change amendments to the Bill so please ask your MP to support "Amendment 10A: Climate Change" and "Amendment 2: Infrastructure Planning Commission to consider Climate Change"

## **How the legislation links up:**

**Climate Change Bill** – the overarching driver to reduce our emissions. Sets amount we *must* cut emissions by. The science is clear and the Bill must reflect the science. This Bill sets the targets for emissions reductions, the other Bills and Directive are how we will meet those targets; they translate the Climate Bill into practice. Without our amendments for deeper and wider cuts we are more likely to build long-lasting carbon intensive developments (Planning Bill) and less likely to foster a clean green renewables industry (Energy Bill and Renewables Directive).

**Planning Bill** – the infrastructure of the future must be increasingly climate friendly. The Climate Change Bill does **not** specify climate standards for developments and unless the Planning Bill states that NPSs and the IPC have regard to the Climate Change Bill there is no obligation on either to do so. This is particularly troublesome given how little ‘joined up government’ really happens, i.e. Government departments pull in different directions. Our amendments to the Planning Bill would make it much harder to build airports and coal-fired power stations and would favour instead the renewables supported by the Energy Bill and required by the Renewables Directive.

**Renewables Directive:** sets the targets for how much carbon free power we generate. So this is a vital piece of legislation for ensuring that we make our Climate Change Bill cuts by forcing the energy revolution necessary to clean up our power supply. By keeping to this agreement we will set ourselves on course to a clean green future. If we wriggle out now then the Government will build carbon intensive power stations and attempt to ‘trade’ the carbon over-seas.

**Energy Bill** – this includes new legislation to change the way renewable electricity is funded. It therefore sets the financial environment in which clean green renewables will either thrive or lose out to dirty and dangerous fossil fuels and nuclear. It could, with our changes, promote much more renewable power generation by businesses, communities and households, bringing about a democratisation and decentralisation of energy supply that is much fairer, cheaper and more efficient.

## **Sticky questions and answers**

### **1. Does the Climate Change Bill not cover the Planning Bill?**

There is no reference in the Climate Change Bill to major infrastructure, or planning. There is no requirement in the Planning Bill to consider climate change when making decisions on new development. The Planning Bill only requires local planning to address climate change (Clause 173). There is no similar requirement for national policy statements or decisions made by the Infrastructure Planning Commission around any of major infrastructure projects listed in the Bill.

The Government says that the Climate Change Bill will take care of the issue. But the Climate Change Bill does not apply to independent bodies such as the Infrastructure Planning Commission. This means there is no way of calling the Commission to account under the Climate Change Bill. We think that if the Government really wanted to address climate change, they would ensure that the Planning Bill made a clear reference to climate change in national policy and ensured the Infrastructure Planning Commission considered the issue when making decisions. Our amendments would enable this to happen.

### **2. Doesn't the Planning Bill speed up the roll out of renewables?**

The Planning Bill only streamlines the planning system for energy developments over 50MW. There are no proposed onshore wind farms bigger than 50MW so none of the scores of wind farm proposals that are stuck in the planning system would benefit. Nor would domestic generation. A feed-in tariff, as in our Energy Bill amendment, would provide the best driver for micro- and domestic renewable power generation.

### 3. **The Energy Bill is good enough to promote renewables in the UK**

By failing to include a Feed-in Tariff the Energy Bill misses a golden opportunity to promote the kind of thriving domestic renewable energy industry enjoyed in many European countries, Germany in particular. If we are serious about meeting our 15% Renewables Directive target then we must put legislation in the Energy Bill to set up Feed-in Tariffs in the UK.

### 4. **Won't all these pieces of legislation mean that energy bills will go up?**

Bills are likely to go up as much if not more if we continue to use oil, gas and coal. Global demand for fossil fuels, particularly from large and developing countries like China is rising and pushing up prices. So the global price is likely to increase over the next decades. Conversely, the more renewable energy developments that are built then there is greater likelihood of energy costs reducing as technical innovations would be achieved more quickly.

### 5. **Shouldn't we be focusing on energy efficiency and reducing demand instead?**

The UK needs to be doing all it can to reduce energy consumption and associated carbon dioxide emissions, from insulating homes, to investing in better public transport and more efficient cars, driving and flying less, even eating less meat. It's not an either/or question, we need to focus on both renewable energy and reducing energy demand. The UK might cost-effectively achieve a 30% or more reduction in its current energy use by saving energy and using less.

### 6. **Isn't this plan going to cost huge amounts of money (estimated £100 billion)?**

We have to invest in our energy infrastructure – we can spend this money in the right way or the wrong way. Our addiction to fossil fuels is exposing us to massive fuel price hikes and given that oil is a finite resource this problem isn't going to go away. Thinking long term and investing in energy efficiency and alternative energy sources is the only way to overcome this problem.

We waste a huge amount of energy– the best way to bring down fuel bills and tackle fuel poverty is for the Government to launch a massive energy efficiency programme.

Householders are already suffering from spiraling cost of fuel – investing in home grown renewable energy means we will have a safe, stable supply of energy and we will be protected from future price hikes.

The £100 billion figure has very little basis and doesn't take into account the benefits which will come to our economy from investing in renewables. It is estimated that the German government's climate protection programme will lead to savings of five billion euro in private households and industry by 2020.

## **Futher information**

### Briefings for activists – Priority Campaigns

- Renewables Directive Day of Action:

<http://community.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/renewables/index.html>

Or email [tom.wright@foe.co.uk](mailto:tom.wright@foe.co.uk)

- Climate Change Bill:

[http://community.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/lobby\\_mp.html](http://community.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/lobby_mp.html)

Or email [julian.kirby@foe.co.uk](mailto:julian.kirby@foe.co.uk)

### Briefings for activists – Secondary Campaign

- Planning Bill: <http://community.foe.co.uk/campaigns/rights/planningbill.html>

Or email [Jenny.lopez@foe.co.uk](mailto:Jenny.lopez@foe.co.uk)

### General Briefing:

- Energy Bill: [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing\\_notes/feedin\\_tariff.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing_notes/feedin_tariff.pdf)