



**Friends of
the Earth**

How to: meet the Climate Challenge 2004

Would you like to campaign on climate but don't know where to start? Are you already campaigning on climate and would like to share your expertise with more people? Climate Campaigner Alex Phillips explains the next steps...

We are asking local groups and individuals across the UK to accept a challenge to do something that will make a tangible difference within the next 12 months.

2004 could be a year dominated by big political questions that may feel difficult to influence, such as:

- will George Bush be re-elected and continue to ignore international efforts to tackle climate change?
- will Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin ratify the Kyoto Protocol, making it legally binding for all countries who are signed up?

International questions such as these can make it hard to know where to start on climate campaigns – and yet there is so much that can be done.

Is this a good time in the UK to be focusing on climate change?

The timing is perfect. Last year's Energy White Paper put nuclear power on the back burner for the time being, and has given renewable energy a window of opportunity. The Government's Renewables Obligation, which has set targets for renewables is also creating incentives to get renewable projects up and running.



Top tips

To measure your carbon emissions try Global Action Plan's carbon calculator at www.carboncalculator.org/

Grants are available for

- increasing energy efficiency and installing your own renewables
www.saveenergy.co.uk/renewables/funding/grants.cfm or call the EE Helpline 0845 727 7200











- converting and changing your car
www.powershift.org.uk.

The Energy Saving Trust website is packed with interesting tidbits of information and advice for people on how to make their homes energy efficient. With sections such as "Boilers – if it ain't broke, it still might need fixing" and "Treat your tank...

give it a jacket" there is plenty for every home owner to try out. And if they're not sure what's needed, there is even a DIY online home energy check www.est.org.uk.

Climate Challenge 2004

There are ten suggested challenges for your group to choose from. You are also welcome to make up your own. The challenges are:

 1 Green Energy Challenge – encourage as many people as possible to sign up to green energy	 4 Get a renewables project started and promoted	 8 Influence local authority spending plans
 2 Persuade your local authority to ensure that all large developments must include renewables	 5 Get a local garage or supermarket forecourt to stock biodiesel	 9 Bet on your own emissions saving – challenge a figure of authority in your town to make a difference
 3 Help a proposed renewables development through planning	 6 Install your own renewables	 10 Set up your own carbon trading scheme – the ultimate challenge.
	 7 Persuade a company in your region to invest in renewables	

Some of the challenges in more detail

1 Green Energy Challenge



The one thing that everyone can do to tackle climate change is to encourage the growth of renewable energy. And an easy way for anyone to do that, whether in a town or in a rural area, is make the switch to a green electricity supplier. There are four companies recommended in our updated green electricity league table at www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/choose_green_energy/index.html (published January 2004). Choose what suits you best – we are not backing one particular company. For those already signed up with Unit[e], the company is now called Good Energy, you may have seen the ads.

So, a good climate challenge for 2004 could be to encourage a number of people locally, be it 50 or 500, to switch their supplier.

2 Persuade your local authority to ensure that all large developments must include renewables



Generating energy at the point at which it is needed is one of the most efficient ways of meeting our energy needs and – if produced renewably – can drastically reduce carbon emissions. However, new developments are still being built which rely on external sources of energy that are often transported long distances. Luckily, some local authorities have shown great initiative and started exploring ways in which renewable energy targets can be built in to planning permissions for new developments. Merton Council in London has introduced their own policy and others are now following.

To get your local council to introduce a similar policy you will need to influence the content of your unitary development plan (UDP) or local plan (LP). When the Planning Bill becomes law this summer, UDPs and LPs will be called Local Development Frameworks (LDF).

Support available (see Get the smallprint on page 14)

- Examples of policies already in existence or being considered



Getting more people to take up Green Energy was something we'd always intended to do but never quite got round to. The Climate Challenge has given us the push we needed and we've already had an article in our newsletter asking our members to buy Green Energy as their New Year's resolution. Next we'll get out on to the street.

Jill Perry, West Cumbria and North Lakes



www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/choose_green_energy/index.html

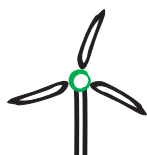
Eco Energy tariff
www.nie.co.uk

Ecotricity tariff
www.ecotricity.co.uk

Good Energy tariff
www.good-energy.co.uk

RSPB Energy tariff
www.southern-electric.co.uk/home/home_rspb_energy_welcome.asp

3 Help a proposed renewables development through planning



There are a variety of renewable energy technologies, such as wind, solar and biomass, and the Government has shown support for them by introducing a renewables obligation on suppliers.

Galvanising local opinion in favour of renewable projects and making this support known to local authorities is one way in which we can help support renewables. Why not take up the challenge to support a renewable application through the planning process?

Support available (see Get the smallprint on the next page)

- List/map of projects in your region
- Advice on how to respond to applications in your region

4 Get a renewables project started and promoted



If you can find no renewable energy projects in your area, why not think about getting one off the ground in 2004?

Initiate a community led scheme to install renewables in your area. For example the Countryside Agency, with money from Government, has set up the Community Renewables Initiative (CRI) to help local people do just that for buildings such as schools, offices and community halls. It supports schemes such as solar roofs, biomass and wood heat schemes, farm waste schemes and small/medium wind turbines.

Support available (see Get the smallprint on the next page)

- Putting you in touch with potential allies for information exchanges and skill sharing
- List of useful contact details

9 Bet on your own emissions saving challenge



Do you know about The Bet – a challenge set up by the youth branch of Friends of the Earth in the Netherlands? The Bet began in 2000 – and was a challenge to young people between 12 and 18 to make the reductions in carbon dioxide that their Government had signed up to, in either their schools or at home. The idea was simple, the European Union agreed to an initial 8 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide by 2012 – but the challenge was not to wait years to make the reduction.

Across Europe the young people bet officials that they could achieve the change in a few months, and if they managed it the official agreed to do a pre-arranged forfeit – which in turn would involve them reducing their own emissions. The original bet led to Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom having to cycle to work for a month. The Bet concept is a way of making energy efficiency more mainstream. It has plenty of opportunities for media work and photos, and can make tackling climate change on a local level fun.



Sign us up. We have just succeeded (we think) in getting the 10 per cent renewables target in the council's unitary development plan, and we are keen to see it translated into reality by getting renewables installed in new developments.

Quentin Given, Tottenham and Wood Green



The climate challenge 2004 is a real way that all local groups can make a positive impact on climate change. When my group has its annual review I want to be able to demonstrate the difference our campaigning has made over the past year. Cardiff will be campaigning to get many local garages to stock bio-diesel by the end of 2004, but then we always relish a challenge.

Tony Curry, Cardiff



The climate challenge is an excellent idea. Key councillors in Bury are already interested.

David Archer, Bury

Should our group take part in the Climate Challenge?

YES if you have ever:

- Wanted to take action on climate change but not known where to start
- Felt that whilst changing your light bulbs is a good start it doesn't quite seem to tally with the huge issue that is climate change
- Wanted to do more positive climate campaigning
- Chatted to friends about solutions to climate change, but needed more information to back it up
- Been approached by others in your area wanting your group to help with an energy project, but not known what advice to give them
- Campaigned on climate and energy and would like to share your experiences.

How to take part in the climate challenge

- 1 Decide as a group that you would like to take part
- 2 Choose a challenge – it can be one from our list, or one of your own. The 10 suggested challenges are available online or by post
- 3 Let us know what you're planning and go right ahead... don't forget to tell us how you get on by contacting Alex Phillips (details below)
- 4 We will make a list of everyone who is taking part in the challenge, and put it online (and post it to those of you without access to computers). We hope to provide a sense of working together to achieve a difference
- 5 We may contact you to see how the Challenge is going during the year and send out an update to everyone who is taking part
- 6 At the end of the year we will be asking for feedback on what tangible changes have been made in 2004, and then we celebrate our successes! Details are yet to be arranged, but there will be prizes for those individuals or groups who have made a striking difference!

Get the smallprint

A full text explaining the idea behind, and suggestions for, each challenge is available online at www.foe.co.uk/resource/guides/climate_challenge_2004_suggestions.pdf or we can post you a copy. If you have a question about the Climate Challenge or want to feedback your group's progress then contact Alex Phillips on 020 7566 1673 or alex@foe.co.uk.

You can also share tips and ideas about how your group has risen to the Climate Challenge 2004 at http://community.foe.co.uk/quote_unquote/



See introduction to the Community Renewables Initiative at www.countryside.gov.uk/NewEnterprise/Economies/crri.asp

- http://community.foe.co.uk/resource/how_tos/cyw_41_understand_planning_system.pdf How to understand the new planning system.

- Council contact details at www.upmystreet.com (type in your postcode for lots of local information including council contact details).

- www.yes2wind.com – a coalition website created with the aim of providing information and resources for the public to support wind farm proposals locally.

- Also see www.foe.co.uk/resource/factsheets/wind_power.pdf and our free booklet *Wind Power: your questions answered* (L528), available from 020 7490 1555.

Community website

Friends of the Earth's Community website at <http://community.foe.co.uk> is a great place to publicise your campaigns. There are discussion forums where you can share tips, and get advice on what works and what doesn't.