

2 August 2010

SEMINAR OUTLINES

The following is provided for information – further details are to be added. These sessions are still subject to amends/updates.

You will be able to sign up to attend seminars at Conference. You do not need to book in advance. Seminars take place on Saturday 11 September. Please see the Conference agenda for further details.

Title	Outline	Speakers
<p>Resistance is fertile: reclaiming power in the food chain</p>	<p>Who controls our food from field to fork? Why is the balance of power in the food system increasingly with corporations, Governments, corporate farm businesses, and even the World Bank; not family farmers, consumers or citizens? The seminar will look at why is this a problem. How are people and the environment losing out and what and how the balance needs to change? How have local communities taken back some control - what role could community resistance have in the bigger picture? And why we also need to change the rules - why legislation/changing the system is needed to regain control of our food.</p> <p>Delegates will find out more about where the power really lies in the food system – from UK to global - and why this is often a big threat to environmental justice. They will hear different perspectives on how to address the corporate takeover of the food system and develop the links between local activism and big picture systemic change and see the value of both approaches. They will also hear from some inspiring and expert speakers.</p>	<p>Speakers: Vicki Hird/Sandra Bell, Senior Campaigners Food Chain, Friends of the Earth</p> <p>Geoff Tansey (Author, The Future Control of Food)</p> <p>Speaker from WSPA (invited)</p>
<p>England’s Power Shift: navigating the spending cuts, Big Society, localism, and economic growth agenda.</p>	<p>Everything is in flux and the implications of the Government’s localism, ‘Big Society’, planning reform and spending cuts agenda can be imagined but are yet to play out.</p> <p>The seminar will update delegates on the Government’s plans to ‘push power back to the local level’ and remove regional and central government strategies and targets at the same time as they propose spending cuts bite, further planning reform and require local councils to push for local economic growth.</p> <p>In this seminar delegates and staff will pool their ‘best guesses’ on what is and may happen, how to take advantage of the localism / big society agenda, the rising role of England’s city regions and how local groups can intervene and work with allies to work help build a truly big society and sustainable economic recovery.</p>	<p>Speakers : Chris Crean, Helen Rimmer and Simon Bowens, England Team campaigners</p> <p>Tanya Sayer, South Cheshire local group</p> <p>Anna Watson, Senior Campaigner, Rights & Justice</p>

<p>Home and away – biodiversity in decline: who and what drives biodiversity loss in the UK and globally, what strategies should we have to address this and how to avoid the pitfalls awaiting us whether working locally or globally?</p>	<p>To consider strategies for addressing biodiversity loss, identify the key causes / drivers, examine the (limited) role of markets and valuation of the environment as solutions, explore Friends of the Earth International’s people-based approach and link our work to protect global nature with efforts to halt the UK’s biodiversity decline.</p> <p>Speaker 1 (Vicki Hird): The main threats to and drivers of global biodiversity, false solutions such as market mechanisms, what might be better.</p> <p>Speaker 2 (Paul de Zylva): The state of and threats to UK biodiversity, links to global losses and current trends such as valuing the environment, eco-system services and opportunities for influence such as EU CAP reform, planning reform and the Government’s Natural Environment White Paper.</p> <p>Speaker 3 (Owen Espley): Explore Friends of the Earth International’s approach of community and people's rights as alternatives to market based approaches.</p> <p>Delegates will see the links between UK and global biodiversity decline, understand how debate around biodiversity is being steered, be equipped to engage in the mainstream discourse with a critical eye and contribute to the organisation’s current thinking on how to engage with decision makers on the topic.</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Vicki Hird, Senior Campaigner, Food Team Paul de Zylva, Senior Campaigner, England local and regional team + Chair of Wildlife and Countryside Link Owen Espley, Food Chain Campaign Coordinator</p>
<p>Economy at the crossroads – back to business as usual or a fair deal for all?</p>	<p>What do the financial crisis and the climate crisis have in common? This seminar will look at the root causes of the financial crisis, deregulated financial capitalism, and the subsequent bank bail-outs and global recession and explore its links with the causes of the climate crisis and broader environmental crisis. It will address the new government’s response and analyse the dangers of the cuts agenda, with its emphasis on getting back to business as usual: fossil fuel based economy, unsustainable industrial and agricultural base, deregulated financial and commodity markets, emphasis on growth at all costs. What do we need instead? Just transition and a green new deal; reducing over-consumption; finding prosperity, decent jobs and wellbeing without growth.</p> <p>Delegates will gain an understanding of the interlinkages between the financial crisis and the climate crisis; a greater critical awareness of how the government’s plans to get us out of the recession are bad for the environment in the long-term and an understanding of some of the alternative solutions on the table and how we might achieve them.</p>	<p>Speakers: Sarah-Jayne Clifton, International Climate Campaigner</p> <p>Professor Tim Jackson (Author, Prosperity without Growth) invited</p> <p>Union representative (tbc)</p>

<p>Land – they’re not making it anymore.</p>	<p>Our use of land is another way of thinking about limits. We already use large amounts of land around the world to keep the UK going, while proposals to use biomass and biofuels to produce energy, and for increased use of other bio-based products, will require more land. At the same time there is an increasing demand for land from other parts of the world, as people eat more meat and expect a higher standard of living. But the world’s land is limited, is needed to maintain biodiversity and is an important part of the rights of local people. How can we reduce UK/EU land use to sustainable and equitable levels whilst also addressing the other environmental challenges?</p> <p>Delegates will gain an insight of land as a finite resource, and how decisions taken in the EU and the UK impact upon human rights and biodiversity overseas as we consume yet more than our fair share of that resource. Delegates will gain an understanding the drivers behind ‘land grabbing’- often apparently benign such as the push for more renewable energy - and local, UK and EU level strategies for reducing our land footprint.</p>	<p>Speakers: Michael Warhurst, Senior Campaigner Resource Use, Friends of the Earth</p> <p>Nyikaw Ochalla, Director of the Anywaa Survival Organisation (ASO), advocates for the human and land rights of indigenous peoples in the Gambela region of Ethiopia.</p> <p>Danbale Warajida (tbc)</p>
<p>International Climate</p> <p>Whose atmosphere is it anyway? – who gains from the battle for the right to pollute?</p>	<p>With only 3 months left before the global negotiations in Cancun, this session will look at the issues that cut through the current international climate negotiations. From discussions about levels of emissions cuts, temperature rise thresholds, safe levels of risk, right through to the amount of climate finance and technology needed by developing countries we examine how the politics of the global carbon budget are influencing the negotiations. With the value of the existing carbon budget being calculated in excess of \$3 trillion – who has consumed what of the earth’s atmosphere and what is the fair share of what remains have become a critical issue in the negotiations.</p> <p>Delegates will gain an insight into the underlying issues in the climate negotiations, the political and economic interests that are being defended UK, EU, and other global players such as the USA and China, who benefits from these positions as well as the real world implications for billions of the poorest people and the planet. Delegates will also gain an understanding of the drivers and obstacles to a strong and fair agreement and how we as Friends of the Earth can help achieve a fair and strong agreement.</p>	<p>Speakers: Asad Rehman – Senior Campaigner International Climate</p> <p>Magda Stockiewicz – Director Friends of the Earth Europe</p> <p>John Vidal – Environment Correspondent Guardian</p> <p>or Gary Younge – US correspondent Guardian</p> <p>China expert tbc</p> <p>Africa climate analyst</p>

