

Climate and Energy Campaigners Update



**Friends of
the Earth**

December 2005

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The Big Ask – The Climate Change Bill

What has happened over the last few months, and what's coming up



Thank you to all of you who have continued to build momentum behind The Big Ask campaign.

The central theme of The Big Ask is to get the Climate Change Bill to become law.

Our plan for the year 2005-2006 is to try and build support amongst MPs. At the time of writing this is going very well. 302 MPs have signed Early Day Motion 178 in support, and another 9 who do not sign (either because of their position in government, or because they never sign EDMs), have also stated their support. **This means that 311 MPs back the Bill so far!**

This is great news, thank you to all of you that have worked so hard to get this far.

There are always milestones in campaigning, and 300 MPs is a good one. When we reach 324 we can celebrate again, because this will mean we have achieved a majority. 400 is our aim, as this is the amount of support we will need to really get the Bill to become law.

How you can help?

- **Spread the word** – continue to get postcards signed to sent to your MP. Even if your MP has signed the EDM, they do need to know just how many of their constituents are worried about climate change.
- **Build your MPs commitment** – signing the EDM is the first step. In a few years time when the pressure is on, it may take more than their signature on an EDM to really sway your MP. We need them to become more involved – so any media opportunity or public speaking opportunity that you can create – go for it!
- **Public Meetings** – these are a great way of building awareness of climate change, spreading the word about The Big Ask and hopefully getting your local MPs to make an appearance. It would be great if each local group could host their own public meeting. We will commit to providing a speaker - contact Nick Davies to let us know nickdav@foe.co.uk or 020 7566 1724.

Resources

As well as all the public information materials, there are Action Guides to help you campaign locally. They are available to download, or we can post them to you, just ask Alex for a copy (020 7566 1673).

[Action Pack 2](#) (251k) - Lobbying your MP

[Action Pack 3](#) (62k) - Making links

[Action Pack 4](#) (629k) - Public Meetings on The Climate Change Bill

The Big Ask on the Big Screen

Update on the cinema advert

“What will happen to the polar bears?”

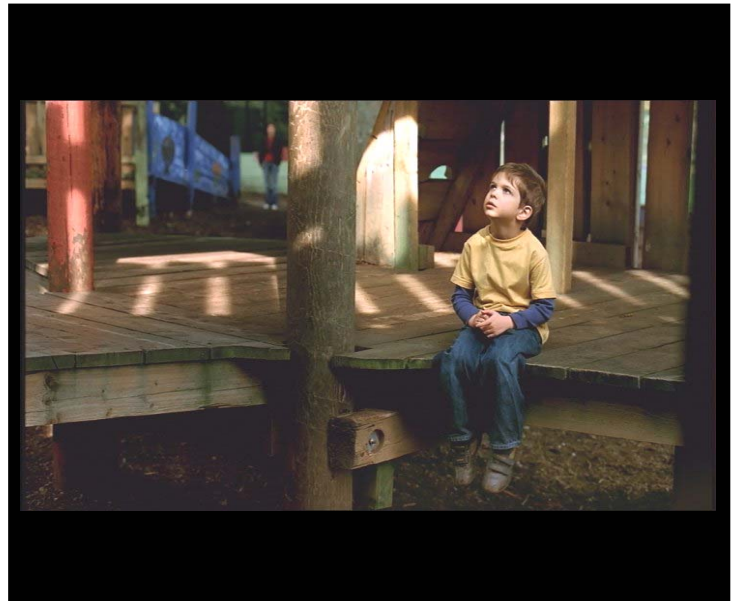
We've had a great reaction to our 60 second cinema advertisement for The Big Ask (right). An estimated 300,000 people viewed the advert during its six-week run in major cinemas in June and July, and 50 independent cinemas nationwide have now agreed to show it free of charge. It's also been shown at a number of film festivals, including the Super Shorts Film Festivals in London and Newcastle, and the Beyond TV festival in Swansea.

The advert was produced for us on a *pro bono* basis by renowned advertising agency, Clemmow Hornby Inge. It was shot on a beautiful spring day back in April 2005 and features children expressing their questions about climate change. Moving and thought-provoking, it asks people to visit www.thebigask.com and contact their MP - as although today's children will be much more affected by climate change than adults, they need grown-ups to get their politicians to do something about it on their behalf.

To find out where the advert is showing near you, please go to http://community.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/cinema_and_online_ad.pdf. You can also view the advert online by visiting <http://www.thebigask.com> and clicking on 'Cinema ad'.

We need your help...

Huge thanks to those who have contacted us to let us know about screening opportunities at venues that might show the advert for us free of charge – such as cinemas, film societies or film festivals, all of whom often have some flexibility in their advertising contracts. Unfortunately we simply can't afford to run the cinema advert in mainstream cinemas at the going market rate, so we need to use our powers of persuasion to get the advert shown for free wherever we can. **Do please keep the screening ideas coming over: contact Dave Powell at davep@foe.co.uk or 020 7566 4093.**



The Big Ask summer of fun

Summer festivals aplenty



This summer we took The Big Ask to a total of 13 festivals, gigs and other events across the country. These ranged from summer festivals like The Big Chill and Leicester Summer Sundae, to an exclusive gig for The Big Ask at the Junction in Cambridge (left), which was covered by the *NME*. We also had a great presence in Edinburgh at the 220,000-strong Make Poverty History march, teaming up with Friends of the Earth Scotland with a very visible stall and huge banners promoting The Big Ask and making sure that the link between climate change and poverty was heard loud and clear.

To make us really stand out at these events we took along a number of huge blackboards, onto which participants were encouraged to write their own personal messages about climate change and to give us their own take on The Big Ask's silhouette theme by drawing round their body. These were a huge success and were especially popular with children – keeping them occupied whilst our campaigners spoke to their parents about the campaign!

All in all the events were hugely successful and really worth the effort we put into trying to engage a different type of audience with The Big Ask. We collected over 5,000 completed postcards and another 2,100 people signed The Big Ask petition. We also made face-to-face contact with thousands of people – and estimate that as many as 400,000 may have seen our huge Big Ask banners and flags at these events.

Buoyed by this success, we're currently planning a number of exciting events for The Big Ask for the 2006, details of which we'll share with you closer to the time. We'll keep you posted!

Shout about climate change

The school's week in November was a great success

From 7 – 11 November schools all around the country took part in Friends of the Earth's Shout about climate change week. With pupils taking part in a range of activities from making a film (see the animated plasticine penguins right!) about climate change to writing climate pledges and carrying out school energy surveys.



Around 1,700 teachers and youth group workers requested our 'Shout about climate change' pack. And with so much enthusiasm being shown throughout the schools, both teachers and students have certainly shown that they are not only concerned about climate change but are ready to do something about it.

The Big Ask – Local Authorities and Planning

A chance to get progressive policies into your local plans

We have sent out a briefing to all Local Authorities in England (Wales to follow before Christmas, Northern Ireland in 2006) about their Local Development Frameworks to try and encourage them to include policies to ensure new developments have low carbon emissions.

Why?

The briefing is relevant because all the English Local Authorities have already begun, or soon will, writing their local planning documents. Some councils, like Croydon and the London Borough of Merton, have made some good steps by ensuring that large new developments must have embedded renewables. There is so much more that can be done - yet recently when we rang round 65 local authorities we discovered that only 11 were definitely considering including similar policies themselves. We are therefore writing to Local Authorities to raise awareness of the issue, and to try and prompt them into taking action. The briefing we sent is linked from here (or included in your mailing):

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/news/local_plans.html

Take Action!

Would you like your council to be more progressive? If you would like to get involved with your council's plans - then check out The Big Ask Action Guide 5 which is linked from these pages, which will explain everything you need to know (no prior experience in the planning system required!):

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

And, if you do get involved in commenting on your council's local plans, please do let me know how you get on!

Stop Climate Chaos

The national coalition on climate change is launched



September 1st saw the launch of Stop Climate Chaos - the new coalition of environment and development groups working together to generate unstoppable pressure to take action on climate change.

Stop Climate Chaos intends to dramatically increase the public's understanding of the urgent need to take action on climate change now.

The coalition was launched by 300 people in London – who were part of a human installation in Jubilee Gardens by the London Eye. Thank you to all of you that came along!

The story ran in the Guardian, the FT on the BBC website, BBC London, and BBC 1 This Morning.

Stop Climate Chaos/Atal Anhrefn Hinsawdd was launched on the same day in Cardiff at the Museum of Welsh Life, where the banner was from the Iron Age roundhouses to the House for the Future. An event was also held in Birmingham.

The members of STOP CLIMATE CHAOS are Airport Watch, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Medact, National Federation of Women's Institutes, Network for Social Change, Operation Noah, Oxfam, People & Planet, Practical Action, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts, Sustrans, Tearfund, Woodland Trust and WWF-UK.



A month later Stop Climate Chaos took out a full page advert in the Times, entitled 'Global Warning - Hurricane Katrina & Climate Change'. You can see the advert reproduced here. The text on the advert said:

GLOBAL WARNING - We can't be sure Hurricane Katrina was caused by global warming. But without urgent action to slash greenhouse gas emissions we can expect hurricanes as powerful as Katrina to occur more often:

'...the intensity of hurricanes is related to surface sea temperature and we know that over the last 15 to 20 years surface sea temperatures in these regions have increased by about half a degree centigrade.' Sir David King, the Government's chief scientific adviser speaking about hurricane Katrina on Channel 4.

The response of the governments of the world to climate change is too little, too slow. Hundreds of millions of people, particularly the world's poorest and most vulnerable, will be at severe risk of extreme weather, as well as drought, flooding, starvation and disease.

We have been warned. Go to www.stopclimatechaos.org and urge the Prime Minister to act now before it's too late.

GLOBAL WARNING.

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The coalition is now looking forward to next year – there is an event now being planned for **Wednesday March 1st**. Watch this space for more details.

Energy

Update on the Friends of the Earth campaign and the Energy Review

This update contains important information on the shape of our energy campaigning for the coming year, including work currently taking place to determine Friends of the Earth's energy vision for 2020, which we'll be feeding into the Government's Energy Review. We'd be interested to hear your feedback.

The Energy Review, and developing our energy vision for 2020

Energy is at the top of the news agenda - the Government has announced its Energy Review to consider how the UK can meet its climate targets post 2010, and this looks set to be dominated by the suggestion that we should once again consider the nuclear option.

It's being characterised in the media as a nuclear vs. wind debate, and is set against a background of growing interest in energy security, with media scare stories asking 'will the lights go out this winter?' and concern at our growing reliance on gas as the UK switches from being an energy exporter, to an importer.

We've done the sums, and believe we can make massive cuts in carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity sector through policies that promote renewables, combined heat and power (CHP), energy efficiency and demand reduction, and by significant efficiency improvements in our gas or coal fired power stations **without** the need for a new fleet of nuclear power stations.

The Government are hoping to announce their recommendations in early summer 2006. We'll need to work hard to counteract the arguments of the pro-nuclear lobby, and demonstrate that we have credible solutions to fill the energy gap AND meet ambitious climate targets

Largely thanks to our recent analysis of the role for coal (see below), we've been reviewing Friends of the Earth's energy vision, particularly for the period up to 2020, concentrating on electricity generation. By assessing realistic estimates of electricity that could be generated from Renewable Energy and CHP, and the potential for demand reduction/energy efficiency, we can identify the "energy gap" that will still need to be filled by conventional generation. We remain convinced that nuclear power is not an option, hence this gap must be met by gas or coal fired power plant.

Take a deep breath – here come the numbers...

The renewables and CHP industries estimate that with the right policies in place by 2020 they can be generating some 200 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity – half our current demand. Efficiency improvements and demand management could deliver savings of around 10% of current levels. The remaining nuclear plant will still be generating about 24 TWh. That leaves a shortfall of some 150 TWh – so how do we meet this demand?

Gas continues to offer much lower emissions (around 410g CO₂ per kWh of electricity generated compared to 960g CO₂ per kWh for coal) and should therefore continue to be our preferred option for meeting climate targets, however, both gas and coal generation are getting cleaner. New advanced gas plant could be 10% more efficient, while the potential for efficiency improvements to

coal stations are huge: current coal plant operates at 35% efficiency, but this could be raised to around 50%. At this higher efficiency we could justify co-firing large volumes of biomass, leading to an overall halving of emissions from coal plant (although still not as low as gas). Finally, Carbon Capture and Storage technology has been developing rapidly, bringing closer the possibility of underground storage of carbon dioxide. Given the urgent need for action on climate change, we think that at the very least we should be insisting that all new coal or gas plant should be constructed as 'carbon capture ready' (though we maintain some concerns, especially on the ability of storage sites to keep the CO₂ underground for thousands of years).

Energy security

These options can't be viewed in isolation from the current energy security debate. The UK has recently switched from being an energy exporter, to importing minor, but growing quantities of natural gas.

This has raised questions in Parliament and the media regarding the wisdom of relying on increasing gas imports. It's an argument which has been exaggerated - few media reports mention, for example, that most of our imports this decade will come from Norway and the Netherlands - and exploited by those promoting nuclear power. But in the longer term (2010-2020) an increasing amount of gas will come from other parts of the world outside the European Union, such as Russia, Africa and the Caribbean, and this has led to concerns about security of supply (though these parts of the world have been major suppliers for other countries in Europe that lack oil and gas reserves, for many decades without any disruptions so far).

However, we cannot ignore this debate, and the implications of a growing global dependence on gas, hence a need to consider the role of coal.

The Good News

Our analysis has come up with some very encouraging results which suggest that we can make CO₂ emissions reductions of the order of 60% in the electricity sector by 2020, while continuing the nuclear phaseout. Our preliminary findings are contained in our recent submission to the Environmental Audit Committee.

More information and your views

Further information, including a number of scenarios we are currently modelling, and the assumptions upon which they are based, are available by contacting Alex Phillips.

020 7566 1673 or alex@foe.co.uk

We would be very interested in any feedback particularly on the results of the scenario work, which will form part of a new report to be issued in the new year. We're having to respond to rapidly evolving technologies, and a growing climate threat, which means evolving and refining some of our existing policy. Send feedback and questions to Nick Rau. 020 7566 1714

nickr@foe.co.uk

Site campaigns

Coal fired power stations

Those of you with your ear to the ground will know that for some time we've been discussing an update of our league table of coal fired power stations, the so-called 'Carbon Dinosaurs', and we were hoping to identify some coal stations which were ripe for closure which could form the basis of some good site campaigns and citizen action.

However, after much research we've found that while it's relatively straightforward to rank power stations by their performance (e.g. their emissions of CO₂ per unit of electricity generated, or their thermal efficiency - and we will probably publish a new ranking next year) it has proved too difficult to identify *specific* stations which should close and what should replace them on a site by site basis. This is because such a decision depends on such a large variety of factors such as location, specific role in the electricity market, other stations in a company's portfolio and so on.

The problem with coal

Most of our coal stations are 40 years old and hugely inefficient, and they emit twice as much CO₂ per unit of electricity compared to a modern gas-fired power station. However, they are a key component of the UK's electricity sector, which produces over 30% of UK CO₂ emissions.

Each of the 16 large-ish coal fired stations is individually responsible for 1-2% of total UK emissions, and Drax emits nearly 4% (though Drax is actually one of the most efficient, modern plant – but at nearly 4GW capacity it's just so much bigger). There's no doubt that in order to reduce emissions these stations should be replaced by cleaner technology.

The Government strategy for cleaning up electricity generators is relying on the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), whereby generators must pay for their CO₂ emissions, and the Large Combustion Plant Directive (LCPD), which will force the closure of any coal plant not fitted with Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) by 2015.

The trouble is that emissions allowances received under the ETS have been far too generous and their high value, and the low price for purchasing additional allowances, act as an incentive to keep plants open. UK challenges to the European definitions under the LCPD mean that it's also still very unclear which plants will fit FGD, and which won't – part of a wider industry malaise in the absence of clear signals from the Government.

These are key commercial factors for the operators, but other issues such as access to ports (and thus cheaper coal movements) and location on the national grid also need to be taken into consideration.

So with regret, it looks like we'll be unable to take this 'site campaign' work forward in the way we'd envisaged. A big apology for this, especially to those who've spent much time and effort discussing this with us. HOWEVER, it has not been in vain – it has prompted a lot of thinking round our broader vision for UK energy policy

We **are** working on different types of site campaigns and you'll hear more about this soon.

UN Climate Meeting – COP 11 COP/MOP 1

It's finally underway



The UN climate meeting is underway in Montreal. This meeting is the first one since Kyoto was ratified, and as such, of key importance.

What is at stake?

One of the key issues will be to look beyond the current phase of the Kyoto Protocol, which ends in 2012. The Kyoto Protocol came out of negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change way back in 1997. Whilst we all recognise that the Protocol does not go nearly far enough in terms of targets, it does provide a useful framework because it commits countries to **mandatory targets**.

During this meeting, countries are negotiating the next steps, we want to see them agree that future negotiations will occur within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol (thereby including some form of mandatory target) rather than taking a step backwards and negotiating under the Convention, which would mean only voluntary targets.

Currently the signs from Montreal do not look good, with the EU looking wobbly on taking a strong position on this issue.

What will Friends of the Earth be doing?

In the run up to the meeting Friends of the Earth Internationally has been lobbying politicians around the world. In the UK campaigners have had numerous meetings with the ministers and civil servants involved, to press the case for tough action. We have also been doing proactive and reactive media work on this issue.

Beyond the one to one lobbying in meeting rooms, thousands of people have taken online actions through the website, writing to the UK Minister for Climate Change - Elliot Morley. Thank you to all of you that took part. As the UK are the current chair of the European Union, they will be leading the negotiations for Europe, so their stance is even more crucial than usual.

Catherine Pearce and Katie Elliot from the climate and parliamentary teams are in Montreal, where they are doing all they can to influence the negotiations. There are also representatives from several Friends of the Earth International groups so we should have a strong team there to push for action.

This week Friends of the Earth International organised a side event at the UN meeting on climate justice. We had speakers from Friends of the Earth groups in Nepal, Australia, Brazil and Argentina talking about the climate change impacts in their countries.

For loads more information check out the daily blogs from Montreal:

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/news/montreal_talks_nov_2005/index.html

The Climate Mosaic

Thousands of people also painted tiles for the huge art installation that has now been built into a huge – 50 metres long by 5 metres high – climate mosaic. The mosaic is right outside the venue, and has formed the backdrop for several actions already, including the huge climate march that took place on Saturday Dec 3rd.

Before the tiles went to Montreal they were also sent to Brussels where there were displayed at a crucial EU meeting where European environment ministers were deciding on their stance for the climate negotiations. A special tile was handed over to Elliot Morley at that meeting, along with a letter. Although apparently the tiles were very popular with lots of the EU politicians present, with some even asking if they could take one home with them!

Thank you to all of you that painted a tile – have a look at the photos and see if you can spot yours!

December 3rd climate march

The Campaign Against Climate Change organised a very successful march in Central London this week, attended by thousands of people. It was great to meet so many of you there! Demonstrations were held on the same day in 32 countries worldwide in cities as diverse as Dhaka and Mexico City, Istanbul and Seoul. It truly was a global protest on a global issue. Let's hope we can build on this for even bigger and better actions in 2006.

Montreal climate meeting

In pictures!



Jan Kowalsig from Friends of the Earth Europe hands over a special tile and a letter to Elliot Morley, UK Minister for Climate Change, in Brussels.



Campaigners outside the meeting in Brussels make our position clear.



After Brussels the tiles are shipped to Canada where Friends of the Earth campaigners spend a chilly 3 nights in an unheated cellar in Montreal, drilling the tiles.



The mammoth task of 1000's of tiles that need to be fixed into place!



The construction of the scaffolding to keep the huge climate mosaic in place.



Then the mosaic all fits into place. Keir from the events team gives it a final inspection!



The climate mosaic is officially opened and hundreds of people come to have a look.



Catherine Pearce, the International Climate Campaign Co-ordinator hands over a special tile to the Canadian Deputy Environment Minister.



Every day a new message is added to the mosaic.



The mosaic faces the equally colourful conference centre – so delegates look out onto the installation.



Meanwhile, inside the conference centre, the talks go on almost 24 hours a day. There is so much at stake, yet it looks like - whilst they have been reinvigorated by the ratification of Kyoto – the outcome may still be a disappointment. Check out our website on Monday 12th December for analysis of the final outcomes.

Local Groups Advisory Committee

First meeting planned for January 2006

Thank you to all of you that volunteered to be on the local groups advisory committee – applications proved to be an embarrassment of riches as we had over twenty people putting their names forward. We then had the impossible task of choosing six of those that gave a fair distribution of locations, interests and skills!

The first meeting of the group will be in the first week of January, and we hope it will be a big step forward in better integrating the needs of local campaigners with the work we do in the offices. Watch out for outcomes from the advisory committee in 2006.

Email v paper

How we send out information

Just a reminder that there is a local campaigner email list called <climatefcs> to which I send regular campaign updates and calls to action. Please let me know if you would like to join this list. There is no limit to numbers, so several people from one group are welcome to join if you like!

It is vastly simpler and quicker to send updates to the email list, so I use this as the main method of communications with the network. I am afraid that currently the postal list receives significantly less information, with only 3 or 4 mailings a year, so if any of you would like to join the email list please do let me know.

Perhaps this is an issue for the advisory group to take up? If any of you feel strongly that I should be sending out more mailings by post, I would be interested to hear your views. Contact me, Alex, on 020 7566 1673 or alexp@foe.co.uk

New resources

Community webpages, public info leaflet and a DVD

Since the update in July, there are now three new resources:

The Big Ask DVD

The Big Ask DVD is now available which contains the following:

- *Thinking*: Friends of the Earth's cinema ad, a thought provoking, piece featuring young children expressing their fears, feelings and understanding of climate change (60 seconds)
- *The making of the cinema ad*: Behind the scenes of the cinema ad production, ad follows (3 minutes)
- *Shout about launch in Wales*: Footage from the launch of Shout about climate change in Wales in June 2005 (3 minutes)
- *3 minutes to save the world*: Three 3-minute animated films about climate change; one focussing on Home, one on Transport and one on Consumer issues (3x3 minutes)
- *The Big Ask launch*: News coverage and interviews from the launch of Friends of the Earth's climate change campaign, The Big Ask (5 minutes)
- *Thom Yorke interview*: Five short interviews with Thom Yorke on his motivation behind supporting The Big Ask and his opinions about climate change (15 minutes)

The DVD should now have been sent to all local groups, either to the co-ordinator via Change Your World or to climate campaigners or educators who specially requested a copy. If you don't have one, and would find it useful, then let me know and I will send you a copy.



The new public information leaflet

As a result of all your feedback we have produced a new public information leaflet, which simply states why climate change is a problem, and what people can do (write to their MP to support the Climate Change Bill). We have 1000's of leaflets available, just let Alex know (alex@foe.co.uk 020 7566 1673) if you would like to order any.

The climate campaigner webpages

Many of you made it clear that you found it difficult to find your way around the webpages, so I have now created a climate 'portal' that I hope will provide a one stop shop for everything that you need to find online. If there is anything missing from the pages, let me know and I will try and add it to the site. See what you think at:

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



Who's who

The climate and parliamentary teams are back up to full strength

Climate Team



Alex Phillips
Climate Campaign Assistant

First port of call for any requests,
no matter how big or small!

alexp@foe.co.uk
020 7566 1673



Nick Rau
Renewables Campaigner



Catherine Pearce
International Climate Campaign
Co-ordinator

(Catherine works for Friends of the
Earth International, co-ordinating
the international campaign)



Germana Canzi
Senior Climate and Energy
Campaigner

And, of course, Celia Austin who continues to be our fantastic volunteer.

Parliamentary Team

Because of the focus of The Big Ask on the Climate Change Bill, the Parliamentary team are all working on climate change.

No picture
– sorry!

Nick Davies
Parliamentary Assistant

nickdav@foe.co.uk
020 7566 1726



Katie Elliott
Parliamentary Campaigner



Martyn Williams
Senior Parliamentary Campaigner