

Climate and Energy Campaigners Update



**Friends of
the Earth**

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Carbon Dinosaurs

What is happening now?

As you are probably aware the carbon dinosaurs campaign focuses on the emissions trading scheme. The scheme - that will come into force in 2005 - is currently in the design phase. It focuses on the largest point source emitters of carbon dioxide – which in the case of the UK is our coal fired power stations.



At present the UK is deciding on how tough our national 'cap' – level of emissions reductions - will be. Friends of the Earth and DEFRA believe that the UK should set itself a tough cap in line with our national 20% carbon dioxide reduction target - to show that we are serious about reducing our emissions. However, the DTI are worried this could threaten our competitiveness in Europe. The DTI prefer a cap in line with a 15% reduction by 2010 which reflects where they expect business as usual emissions to be by then. We are currently working hard to try and support DEFRA and ensure the government takes a tough line.

You can help! A Campaign Express pack has gone out this month encouraging people to take action on this issue. We have some extra postcards from this pack addressed to Patricia Hewitt asking her to be tough on industry. The decision on the cap will be made in January.

Take Action

Please contact Alex Phillips at Friends of the Earth if you are able to distribute the carbon dinosaurs postcards to your supporters or at any events that your group is attending. The decision will be taken some time in January, so the sooner the better!

What happens once the level of the cap is set?

Once the UK has set its 'cap', and when all the other European countries have done the same, the focus will switch to Brussels. It is at the European Parliament that the finer point of the emissions trading scheme will be decided. We plan to have our big inflatable dinosaur ready by late spring to help us in our campaign in Brussels. The dinosaur will then be going on tour in the summer (this is later than originally planned) to help climate change awareness raising around Europe. We will let you know more as the campaign develops.

More Information look at:

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/carbon_dinosaurs/index.html or contact Alex Phillips in the climate team.

Baku Ceyhan Campaign

Two multilateral banks have given the go ahead, but the campaign continues

Despite the best efforts of the Baku Ceyhan campaign coalition, both the International Monetary fund (the arm of the World Bank that funds private companies) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development have voted to financially support the Baku Ceyhan pipelines.

Hilary Benn, as the Secretary of State for International Development, is the individual with whom this decision finally rested. This is because it's his department – the Department for International Development - that recommends to UK representative on the voting panel of each bank which way to vote.



Jean Lambert MEP and Mark Thomas outside DFID

In recognition of Hilary Benn's stance on the Baku Ceyhan pipelines the coalition went to the Department for International Development and held a renaming ceremony. Mark Thomas, the campaigner and comedian, read a speech to the assembled campaigners, all dressed as fat cats, 'congratulating' Hilary Benn and formally renaming DFID the Department for Corporate Welfare.

This is of course very disappointing, however there is some positive news. Members of the campaign met with the UK Director of the EBRD and he indicated that because of all that has happened over the Baku pipeline, the EBRD may be due for a review of their funding policy for oil and gas projects. This is encouraging, as is the final report of the World Bank's '*Extractive Industries Review*' which recommends a phase-out of financing for oil projects in developing countries.

The campaign still continues. The pipeline consortium, led by BP, will now approach private banks to find the remainder of the funds needed for the project. We are currently putting pressure on these banks that have yet to decide whether to back the pipeline project.

Take Action

Email HSBC and The Royal Bank of Scotland - asking them not to give loans to the pipeline:

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/corporates/press_for_change/email_btc_banks/index.html

StopEsso Campaign

Round up of 2003 and a look forward to 2004

The Friends of the Earth work we mentioned in the last mailing has been postponed until the new year – so watch out for developments then.

The campaign has continued to hit the media headlines over 2003 – here's the update from StopEsso...

2003 A big year

2003 has seen a lot of activity at StopEsso. We started off with Greenpeace shutting down 120 Esso stations across the UK; then went into the Iraq war with oil being a major feature of protests. We got our logo back in France. Bush issued a very Exxon-like climate plan... and got rubbished by top scientists for it. At the company's annual meeting in May support grew for climate and renewable energy resolutions (and Greenpeace shut down the HQ in Dallas). We had a glimpse of a global warming future with a record hot summer. And several new scientific reports all showing that global warming is with us already. Exxon-funded sceptic scientists have been out in force, but their voices are getting weaker.

2004 Even Bigger!

We look forward to much, much more in 2004 - which will be a key year for ExxonMobil. Arch climate sceptic, Lee Raymond, is due to retire. We've also got the US elections - will Bush get back in, and condemn the planet to a frightening future... or might he be replaced by someone with a conscience?



When Bush visited the country in November the Campaign Against Climate Change was straight off the blocks in organising a demo in London on the evening of his arrival. Friends of the Earth were there to support the protests – providing some lanterns to add to the effect.

Green Energy League Table

Updated and online

One of the things that every individual can do is switch to a green electricity tariff. However the choice of green tariffs varies widely, and so the choice can be confusing. To tackle this we have updated our Green Energy League table, and published it on the web as a Guide to Green Electricity 2004. In a slightly different format, it is now up to date reflecting recent the changes in the industry.

The good news is that our league table has been very influential and whereas there was only one tariff last year we felt we could recommend there are now four.

The top tariffs (in alphabetical order) are now:

- Eco Energy (in Northern Ireland)
- Ecotricity 121
- RSPB energy from Scottish and Southern
- Unit-e

Check out the new league table online:

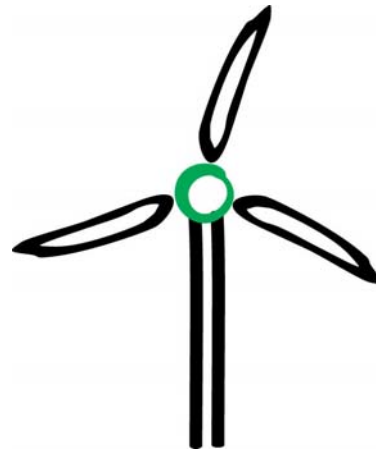
http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/choose_green_energy/index.html

If you don't have access to the internet then ring Alex Phillips and she will happily print off a copy for you.

Renewable Energy

What can we do to help?

We have a new volunteer in the team, Katie Elliot, who is keen to do more to make sure that we support you on your work on climate change. She only been with us a few weeks, but she has already created a map of all the proposed and actual renewable projects in England and Wales. We are currently looking at the possibility of hosting the map online - as a useful resource. We are keen to hear about all potential renewable projects – not just in renewable electricity but heat and transport fuels too.



Press for Change

Is there anything that Katie can do to help you campaign for renewables in your area? Let her know – contact Alex Phillips and she will put you in touch.

Also, have you been working on a renewable project, or are in the middle of a campaign and would like to share your experiences to help other local campaigners? We would love to hear from you, so that we can write up your story and host it on the web as a resource for other campaigners

Local Campaign Case Studies

Can you share your expertise?

We would like to use the website to host case studies of local campaigners experiences, to help other campaigners who would like to benefit from your insights. So far we have one case study on producing biofuels that is already being written by a member of Brighton and Hove Friends of the Earth – but we are looking for lots more.

Press for Change

If you have campaign experiences that you would like to share – then please contact Alex Phillips

Other Energy and Climate Updates

COP 9

What happens next?

COP 9 was held in Milan during the first two weeks of December and was a fairly muted affair. The main talks revolved around the finer points of funding and forest carbon sinks, but all the talk in the corridors was about when Russia will ratify. So far nothing has superseded the statement at the Moscow climate conference, hosted by Putin, where Russia said it was still considering the matter. As the Russian parliamentary elections take place in the spring next year, no one is expecting an announcement until after then. We will let you know when we hear any more.

Renewables Obligation

Extended by 5 years

The Renewable Obligation is designed to try and ensure that the UK is generating 10% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2010. Despite the good intention of the Obligation the relatively short time scale has meant that investors haven't had sufficient confidence to invest in the market. The announcement this month that the Obligation will be extended until 2015 to a corresponding 15% is therefore good news, as it will create more confidence for investors.

Bad news this month, however, on 'co-firing' or the burning of biowaste in existing coal fired stations. We and many people in the renewable industry felt that recent proposals from Government to extend the eligibility of co-firing were ill-founded. However, despite widespread dissatisfaction, the government has announced it intends to press ahead with the changes. Friends of the Earth's submission to the Renewables Obligation amendment explaining our opposition to more co-firing is hosted online here: http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/consultation_responses/renewables_obligation.pdf

We also have a report on cofiring biomass with fossil fuels that we commissioned from Campbell Carr to inform our submission. This is on the website here: http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/cofiring_renewables_obligation.pdf

If you don't have access to email then contact Alex Phillips and she will send you a copy.

Energy Bill

Is it important?

The Government's Energy Bill announced in the Queen's speech is currently progressing through the House of Lords. It will enable the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to be set up. As far as climate change is concerned the Bill is largely a 'tidying up' Bill but there are important clauses relating to the granting of licences to off-shore wind farms beyond territorial waters. We don't expect the Bill to run into problems but we will be using the opportunity it provides to brief MPs and peers on broader energy issues we would like to see tackled by Government in the forthcoming review of our Climate Change Programme.

And finally....

...Thank you

Thank you to all of you who have campaigned on climate and energy over 2003 – and best wishes for future successes in 2004!