

Change your world

Friends of the Earth's magazine
for local groups and activists
www.foe.co.uk/community

Time travelling



**Friends of
the Earth**

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A quick pit stop



It's been a year dominated by speculation. Who would take power at Westminster? How would a coalition work? And which priorities will be downgraded by a government focussed more on debt management than our changing climate?

There's been a lot of rhetoric about change.

But Friends of the Earth's

local groups and activists have remained committed to achieving real transformation. In this *Change Your World*, we hear more about the Sustainable Livestock Bill's progress (p4-5) and share more success stories from local groups (p12-13). Plus we feature highlights from September's inspirational Local Groups Conference, and celebrate this year's Earthmovers Awards' winners (p10-11).

As well as time travelling, take a journey to Paraguay (p6), Ghana (p7) and Denmark

(p12) to hear first-hand from campaigners with international perspectives.

In this whirlwind tour of 2010, including our tricky quiz of the year (p15), there's a chance to celebrate the success and hard work of this year. Even more importantly let's look forward to what we can achieve together so that 2011 becomes a year of actual and lasting change.

Liz Baddaley, Editor

PS Pop *Change Your World* on Christmas stalls back-to-front to promote ways to spread Seasons Greenings.

Diary

DECEMBER

4 National Climate March

Organised by the Campaign Against Climate Change.

See www.campaigncc.org/node/419

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011

Regional Gatherings

Events are being held in the following English regions:

15 January **South West (Plymouth) / East Midlands**

22 January **West Midlands**

29 January **Greater South East**

12 February **South West (Salisbury)**

Dates for the **North East, North West and Yorks & Humber** regions are still being finalised, and will be communicated to groups in these regions shortly.

Go to www.foe.co.uk/events or contact your Network Developer for more information.

For all the latest events visit: www.foe.co.uk/events

STAY ON THE PULSE



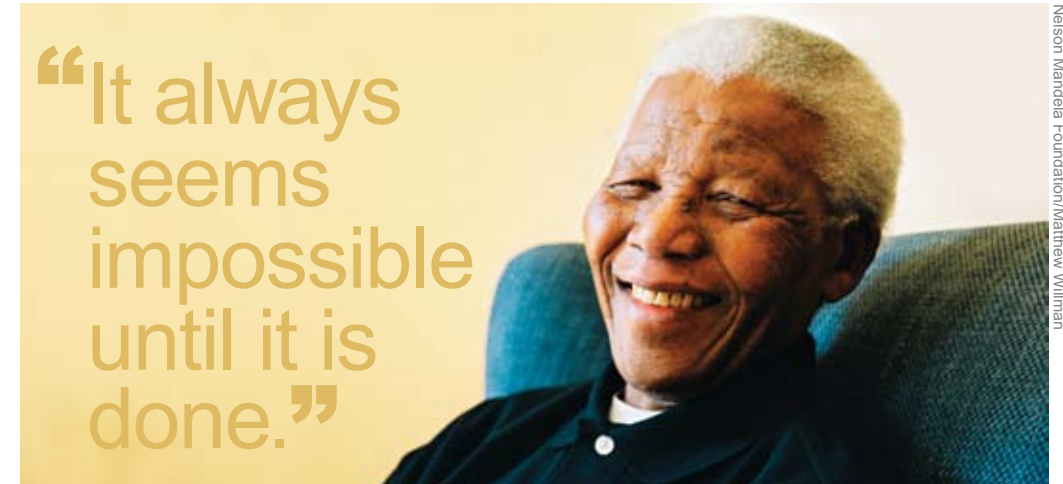
23,285 people follow us on Twitter. Make sure you don't miss out. Follow us at www.twitter.com/wwwfoecouk for up-to-the minute news, including urgent actions, latest briefings, hot topics, and inspiring local and national campaign stories.



We're on Facebook too. Join us at www.facebook.com/wwwfoecouk

Climb every mountain

International Co-ordinator, Helen Wolfson, takes inspiration from Nelson Mandela's words, "After climbing a great hill... one only finds that there are many more hills to climb."



Nelson Mandela Foundation/Matthew Willman

Last December, I returned from Copenhagen exhausted and disheartened. The climate talks had ended in chaos, despite our lobbying, marching and shouting. Some people even wrongly believe it showed it's fruitless to campaign for a strong and fair climate agreement.

Over the past year – the hottest on record – while speaking with Friends of the Earth campaigners in Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe and North America I've learnt about the realities of facing wild fires, floods and droughts. Yet even this extreme weather is nothing compared to the impacts of the cobbled-together-at-midnight Copenhagen Accord, which commits the world to a temperature rise of 4.2 degrees. I don't want this to be the best our generation can do.

That's why we've been working to put pressure on international negotiators to raise ambitions ahead of climate talks in Cancun, Mexico this December. We want:

- urgent, real and deep emissions cuts in developed countries
- a fairly governed climate fund so developing countries can adapt to climate change and switch to low carbon economies
- an agreement which protects forests and those who depend on them.

We don't expect to see an agreement this December, but the talks are significant. Some proposals, such as Bolivia's, are very progressive. Others could be disastrous, making the Copenhagen Accord's voluntary pledges the blueprint for future agreements.

This winter we have our work cut out for us. Again Nelson Mandela has the best advice: "It always seems impossible until it is done". We need you to step up to the mark again. We will be in Cancun, putting pressure on negotiators to prioritise the planet and humanity. And back home we'll be lobbying Heads of State.

Make sure everyone in your local group signs up to take action at www.foe.co.uk

Fix the Food Chain

Ready for pastures new

Senior Campaigner for the food team, Vicki Hird, tells us why she is elated by our progress on fixing the food chain, and establishing the MOOvement.



Barnet & Enfield Friends of the Earth

Phil Fletcher, Barnet & Enfield Friends of the Earth, with Theresa Villiers MP discussing meaty policies

As I write we've not had the all-important Second Reading of the **Sustainable Livestock Bill** in the House of Commons (Friday 12 Nov). So I don't know if we're set to push the Sustainable Livestock Bill through Parliament during 2011, or needing to plan a new way to fast-track action on our consumption of meat and dairy. Either way, I feel elated by what we have achieved.

We managed to get an MP to take up our Bill despite competition from literally hundreds of other organisations. And then securing

Labour's Rob Ffello was a fantastic testament to the huge effort of local groups, activists and staff.

But it wasn't all about those three weeks in June. We'd already used the **election** to put candidates on the spot – many agreed to support the campaign, and we're now holding them to account.

Lupins, fava beans and dried peas started coming into focus as our research – and our work with farmers – showed that you can feed livestock without forest-trashing soy.



Rob Ffello MP with a cow from Manchester

And the resulting report, **Pastures New**, had a great reception in the House of Commons, with Rob Ffello giving a powerful and affirming speech about why he took up the Bill.



Another exciting major win was the Government finally accepting the need for a **supermarkets watchdog**, as we started campaigning for this in 2004. It's not in place yet though, and ensuring retailers are fair, as well as GM free, remains vital.

We've also been lobbying to expose the Government's poor record on improving food bought for schools, hospitals, and other **public establishments**; and making our mark with respect to the **European Common Agricultural Policy** – joining with our European network, responding to proposals, and inspiring



Friends of the Earth

Geraint Davies MP meets a herd from Swansea

MEPs to tackle livestock and climate issues in the next round of CAP reform.

Milestone ahead

The outstanding achievement is **local people and local action**. The numbers are impressive – more than 50,000 postcards and emails were sent. But most of all I've been amazed by the tenacity, variety and ingenuity of stalls and lobbying. The Day of Action on 9 October really showed MPs what matters. Coming on the back of a brilliant summer of local action, this has brought us to the next milestone – the vote on 12 November – in a very strong position. Huge thanks to everyone involved.

Having started the livestock campaign with a small proposal back in 2007, I am thrilled we've got this far. Winning this campaign would mean tackling a key cause of massive emissions and biodiversity loss, not to mention the food poverty, rural community loss and human health implications. **What better reason to keep the MOOvement alive? www.fixthefoodchain.com**

Travellers' tales

How Paraguay can tackle the spread of soy



Campaigner Nick Rau, shares news about the joint project Friends of the Earth is working on with Sobrevivencia to defend communities and biodiversity from intensive soy production.

Everywhere you go in Paraguay you hear the same story: big landowners are buying up vast tracts of land for soy. Small farmers find themselves isolated, surrounded on all sides by soy plantations. This new agribusiness exposes them to frequent spraying, which often ruins their smallholdings and can have grave effects on their health, including birth defects and even deaths. Environmental laws do exist, but they are universally flouted, and corruption is rife.



Sobrevivencia's community guide on how to use the law, in Spanish and Guaraní

Last year Friends of the Earth and Sobrevivencia (Friends of the Earth Paraguay) launched a pilot project in the community of Luz Bella, where large-scale soy production is just beginning. We are teaching people their rights and how to use the law. We are also helping them find ways to make a living that help protect the local environment. This means diversifying their crops, preserving traditional seed varieties, and using organic farming techniques.

We've held workshops to identify common breaches of law, make official reports, and use GPS to record environmental crimes (such as deforestation which can then be confirmed through satellite imaging).

Young people are making radio programmes and jingles highlighting key environmental issues. It's one of the most effective ways to tell local people what's really going on.

As a direct result the Paraguayan Environment Ministry is finally beginning to act, launching eight investigations in Luz Bella; including deforestation, lack of protection barriers round soy crops, cultivation of soy close to homes and growing soy without a licence.

Many other communities are now keen to copy the project so we'll be working in three new locations in the coming months.

For more information see www.foei.org/en/who-we-are/member-directory/groups-by-region/paraguay.html

The nasty side of biofuels



Campaigner Kenneth Richter went to Accra, Ghana to find out more about the serious bout of biofuel-driven land grabbing.

Foreign companies are grabbing land across Africa to grow biofuel crops. In Ghana, the spreading cultivation of the jatropha crop pushes farmers off their land and removes valuable food sources such as shea nut and dawadawa trees. We spoke to Ghanaian communities and saw how frighteningly easy it is for companies to take control of their land.

Farmer Boya Fataa said the Nkoranza community had been evicted from their farmland without notice from the Government, chiefs or the company who claimed to have bought it. **"I have farmed this land for the past 25 years and it is my only source of income and my family's livelihood. All my crops have been destroyed without compensation, and my animals killed. Where do I go from here?"**

At an abandoned jatropha plantation once run by a European company that promised to create jobs and schools, locals have been left jobless and the jatropha bushes, which are difficult to eradicate, make it hard to use the land for food crops again.

Friends of the Earth's new report, *Africa: Up for Grabs*, reveals that some 5 million hectares of land has already been acquired by European companies for biofuels in 11 African



Boya Faata and our translator

countries. This is set to increase if the EU continues towards its target of 10 per cent of transport fuels being biofuels by 2020... despite the EU's own research showing these biofuel targets will increase emissions, not reduce them.

Read the report at www.foeeurope.org/agrofuels/FoEE_Africa_up_for_grabs_2010.pdf

Tell Norman Baker, Under Secretary of State for Transport, to stop ignoring the deforestation caused by biofuels at www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/biodiversity/press_for_change/dont_ignore_deforestation_25427.html

UK climate

Our offer is on the table

The **Get Serious About CO₂** campaign has gathered huge momentum over the months as we push for a low-carbon future for all our local communities.



In June, Climate Secretary Chris Huhne asked councils to make an offer of how they might help meet the challenge of the Climate Change Act. Friends of the Earth met his challenge by launching a petition with council leaders saying that local carbon budgets was their offer and asking for legislation in this session of Parliament.

The initiative has caused a real stir in local and national Government. Support ranges from some of the biggest authorities to small district councils, and across all parties. Find out more at www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/council_offer_government.pdf

This response has only been possible as a result of the invaluable work of local groups.

The case for local carbon budgets was also made by council leaders, business, and trade union allies at packed Friends of the Earth fringe meetings held at Lib Dem, Labour and Conservative party conferences in September and October.

Chris Huhne, shadow Secretary of State John Denham and Climate Change Minister Greg Barker, were left in no illusion as to the strength and breadth of support for local carbon budgets legislation.

As well as getting councils to sign our petition, we also need to get MPs on board supporting our demands when relevant legislation goes through Parliament. We are working to table an Early Day Motion calling for local carbon budgets, and we'll be asking MPs to support amendments to Bills in the New Year.

Get involved

Read our brand new campaign resources and find out more about lobbying your MP and asking your council to sign our petition at

www.foe.co.uk/community/getserious

We've also got new resources on building alliances at www.foe.co.uk/community/getserious/alliancebuilding



Renewable heat payments saved

A welcome announcement in the **Comprehensive Spending Review was the go-ahead for the Renewable Heat Incentive which will start next year.**

Heating produces almost half the UK's CO₂ emissions. Reducing this level is vital for meeting our climate change and renewable energy targets. The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is similar to the Feed-In Tariff for renewable electricity. It will pay people, businesses and councils for generating renewable heat from solar thermal heating, heat pumps and biomass boilers.

The spending review saw the scheme under threat but concerted pressure from Friends of the Earth, energy companies and groups, including the National Farmers Union, helped convince the Government to confirm the go-ahead, though some details are still unclear.



Caroline Lucas, Zac Goldsmith and Alan Whitehead join 43 other MPs to support our stunt

"We're delighted the Government has given the green light for the RHI. Heating is almost half our CO₂ problem. The RHI will hopefully set us on the right track to renewable heat and lower emissions," said Friends of the Earth's sustainable energy adviser Alan Simpson.

Reduce resource use

More jobs, less waste



Our new report *More jobs, less waste* shows economic recovery and environmental priorities can work together – more than 70,000 new UK jobs could be created by recycling more.

- At least 51,400 new jobs from recycling 70 per cent of the waste local councils collect
- 18,800 more jobs by recycling commercial and industrial waste at the same rate
- If the whole of Europe recycled 70 per cent of its waste, it would create more than half a million new jobs
- Recycling creates around ten times more jobs per tonne than sending rubbish to landfill or incineration.

We're using these findings to call for more ambitious recycling targets in Defra's current review of waste policy in England. If you're trying to increase your council's ambitions for dealing with waste, you can use this report for arguing the potential economic benefits.

Read the report at www.foe.co.uk/waste

A trip back to Conference

There were lots of reasons to come to Conference; from hearing Ken Livingstone (Mayor of London 2000 – 2008) through to training sessions. Put simply, Conference helps make us all better campaigners.

“The world turns the right way up when I come to Conference. It is an explosion of concentrated energy that takes me through the year – giving me the inspiration, support and knowledge to do something meaningful.”

Delegate, 2010



All images: Friends of the Earth



Meena Raman

Conference gives Friends of the Earth a once-a-year opportunity to come together, celebrate, and learn from each other. Key highlights this year included hearing from the wider Friends of

the Earth family with speakers from Europe, Australia and Paraguay. Meena Raman (FOEI/FOE Malaysia) closed Conference with a truly inspiring plenary about finding the strength to carry on campaigning: “I feel energised and powerful because I stand with this movement of people”.

Watch videos from key plenary sessions as well as other highlights from this year at www.foe.co.uk/events/conference.html

Campaigning can be long and lonely – especially when you face setbacks. So coming together with like-minded people helps you let off steam and re-charge. That’s exactly what happened during the social at Conference when a herd of cows invaded the dance-floor to strut their stuff at the silent disco. But the Food Chain campaign still kept us focussed on the serious side of their work, with a Sunday morning mass letter-writing action.



Bet there are dancing cows

Earthmovers Awards

Judges (Hilary Griffiths and John Halladay, Board members, and Denis Walker and Tania Sayer, Activism Forum members) had some

tough calls to make. Huge congratulations go to our winners and to all those who took part.



Earthmovers Winners

- **Group of the Year: Harwich Peninsula** for getting a new group re-energised and campaign ready, all within 12 months.
- **Project of the Year: Portsmouth** for the **Grow to Eat Well** project, bringing in more than £250,000 for helping local schools establish food growing and education projects.
- **Spreading the Word: Shrewsbury** for over 20 years of producing their area’s **Green Guide** which goes to 5,000 people.
- **Friend of the Earth: Ali Abbas, Manchester** described by fellow group members as “a constant source of inspiration”.

People’s Choice Awards

- **Photo of the year: Leicester** for baring all in their innovative stunt highlighting Marinets’ campaign **They are stripping our seas bare** to highlight over-fishing.
- **In the media: Warwickshire** for turning a crisis into a fantastic news story.

Find out more at: www.foe.co.uk/events/conference/ema_noms2010_24991.html and read responses from the winners at www.foe.co.uk/news/earthmovers_winners_2010_25221.html



Ali Abbas, Manchester



Harwich Peninsula



Warwickshire



Portsmouth



Leicester



Shrewsbury

Conference 2011

Next year Friends of the Earth is 40 years old. There will be lots of opportunities in the next 12 months to make the most of our anniversary, but our Conference in Nottingham is sure to be one of the highlights. So put **Friday 9 - Sunday 11 September 2011** in your diary now.

Grassroots news

Havering and Stockton: new groups

Everybody needs good neighbours... and that is just what has helped a new Friends of the Earth group get established in the Stockton area.

Rob Tucker, co-ordinator of **Middlesbrough**, has been working to build the network around him. Over the summer he collected contact details of people in the Stockton local area who were interested in getting involved. Working with John Tweedle, and his Network Developer, they arranged their first meeting at a local cycle centre. A number of interested people came, as well as members of neighbouring groups Middlesbrough and Darlington. John, now co-ordinator of the new Stockton group is raising their profile in local colleges and libraries, and working with supportive allies to build the group.



Havering get MOOVing straight away

Havering held its official launch on 5 October at a church hall in Upminster. The evening included a talk on Friends of the Earth's history and a discussion of local issues alongside the Food Chain campaign.

If you want to set up your own group, please contact your Network Developer.

From Manchester to Denmark

As part of Friends of the Earth Europe's Kolga project, writes Ali Abbas of Manchester, "I joined campaigners Helen Wolfson and Helen Rimmer on a trip to Copenhagen to share experiences of running a local group and campaigns with NOAH.

NOAH (Friends of the Earth Denmark) was founded in 1969, to tackle air and water pollution, and soon had 70 local groups. After achieving tighter regulation from the Danish government, it began to lose momentum.

Over the past two years NOAH has been working with Helen Wolfson to build capacity – doubling their financial supporters, organising last year's Flood and Klima Forum

in Copenhagen, and bringing in lots of new volunteers.

Our visit focussed on managing finances and co-ordinating activity, communicating effectively, and planning campaigns. It was fascinating to share. By the end of the visit, I felt that my experiences had been absorbed, and I look forward to continuing to help NOAH to flourish."

Bromley: raising cash

When Bromley heard about our urgent appeal, they organised an auction of pledges.

Sheila Brown, joint co-ordinator said, "What was most encouraging was how people got behind it – we ended up with 45 lots. Local businesses were very supportive in donating things, and the huge variety of items under the gavel included

mandolin lessons, lifts, and a tandem ride. We're really grateful to group members. It was a really fun evening, but most importantly, it made an amazing £602."

London and Herts whistle-stop tour

Camden Friends of the Earth hosted a pop-up vegan banquet to raise funds for Friends of the Earth. Alongside a delicious meal people wore fancy dress, took part in a swap shop, and raised awareness for the 350 campaign. www.foe.co.uk/news/camden_banquet_25317.html

St Albans is working with its council to lend electricity monitors so people can review their power use. They plan to involve schools, guides, scouts, neighbourhood and faith groups.

www.foe.co.uk/news/electricity_detectives_25255.html

North Herts screened *Food Inc* to promote the Food Chain campaign and asked two local councils to Get Serious About CO₂.

Islington Friends of the Earth launched a campaign asking local restaurants and bars to serve tap water instead of bottled water. Their creative approach includes a film documenting the battle between the waters, a still from which is pictured here.



St Albans are helping locals count the cost of energy use



Islington refuse to water down their message

Regional network inspiration

How well do you share know-how? Here are two ideas that could make your network work even better together.

Help the message fly

Did you know – if everyone in the world lived as the people in the South East of England do, the human race would need three and a half planets to survive? Friends of the Earth South East has been working on this issue as a member of the South East Forum for Sustainability (SEFS), a network of environmental groups. The common sense actions they are promoting encourage everyone to reduce their impact on the planet's resources, and include walking and cycling short distances, improving insulation, reducing food waste and cutting down water consumption.

An A5 flyer with these messages has been sent to groups in the region to use on stalls and at

meetings. But these are relevant beyond the South East so copies are available on request from alison.walters@foe.co.uk and the flyer is available on the SEFS website www.sefs.org.uk/make-a-difference/

Wherever you live please help people to avoid following in the big footprints of the South East. Use the SEFS flyers to spread the message in your region.



Share your skills



Have you ever been to a local group meeting where you've struck upon an idea for the perfect campaign action, local project, event or fundraiser and wondered whether any other groups had tried it? Then did you start wondering how they did it?

There's a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience among our local groups network

and we know that groups would like to be able to tap into this more effectively.

That's why we're trialling a simple, centralised database in the South West to help local groups (and staff) do just that. Feedback from groups told us it needs to be:

- well promoted and **accessible** to all group members
- **easily searchable** with clear headings to help people find what they're looking for
- **centrally maintained** by staff so that it's up-to-date and use is actively encouraged

Visit www.foe.co.uk/community/campaigns/networks.html to find out more about the **South West project**.

Think this would be useful for your local group, region or area? Contact your **Network Developer** for help.

Quiz of the Year 2010

What's been happening at Friends of the Earth and in the wider world this year? Test your memory in our quiz below. (Answers at the foot of the page.)

- Q.1 How old is Friends of the Earth EWNI?
- Q.2 We are part of Friends of the Earth International. How many other national member groups are there?
- Q.3 Who are we partnered with in the European capacity building project?
- Q.4 Who won Earthmovers Awards at Conference 2010?
- Q.5 How did we make it into the *NME* in July?
- Q.6 How many people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland live in areas now with Get Serious About CO₂ targets of at least 40 per cent by 2020?
- Q.7 According to our latest research on the Food Chain, how many UK deaths could be prevented each year with a lower-meat diet?
- Q.8 How many of our activists took part in the Flood (in Copenhagen) in December 2009? Which famous face was amongst them?
- Q.9 And next year... where and when is Conference 2011 ?
- Q.10 There's no doubt it's been another busy year – together we've racked up some key successes. But the best one has to be...



Q.1: 39 years – 2011 is our 40th birthday
 Q.2: 76 (there are 77 member groups in total) / Q.3: NOAH – Friends of the Earth Denmark / Q.4: Shrewsbury FOE (Spreading the Word), Harwich Peninsula (Group of the Year), Portsmouth FOE (Project of the Year), All Abbas (Friend of the Earth), Leicester FOE (Photo of the Year) and Warwickshire Network (in the Media) / Q.5: Coverage of our partnerships with Fair Share Music / Q.6: Over 5 million / Q.7: 45,000 / Q.8: 100 and Actress Helen Baxendale / Q.9: 9-11 September 2011, at the University of Nottingham / Q.10: Let us know your highlight at cyw@foe.co.uk

Think you've cracked it? Take a look at the answers →

Christopher Aszman

Seasons' Greenings

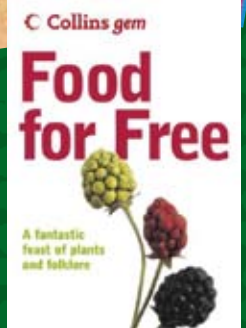
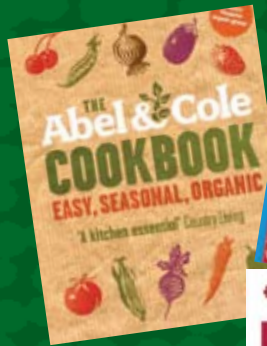
If you want your seasonal shopping to have a positive impact this year, buy green pressies that also support Friends of the Earth's campaigns.

Green books

Friends of the Earth's Shop stocks a great range of books covering topics from green living and climate change to food and cooking, travel and nature. Our books are packed with ideas to inspire you to green your lifestyle, one step at a time.

Local group members get 30 per cent off everything in the Shop. So fill your stockings, save cash and save the planet.

Visit www.foe.co.uk/shop – click on the 'Local Groups' link.



Natural Collection

Friends of the Earth's ethical gifts partner, the Natural Collection, has been working for years to lower the environmental impact of consumerism. Its range of fair trade, organic and eco-friendly products offers a fantastic selection of Christmas gifts for all the family, plus cards, decorations and much more.

Every time you order from www.naturalcollection.com/foe Friends of the Earth will receive a donation equal to 5 per cent of your order.



Friends of the Earth

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Making life better for people by inspiring solutions to environmental problems

Friends of the Earth is the collective name for Friends of the Earth Trust, registered charity 281681, company number 1533942, and Friends of the Earth Limited, company number 1012357.

Printed on paper made from 100 per cent post-consumer waste