

Annual review 2016

How we
made it



WELCOME TO YOUR 2016 ANNUAL REVIEW

In my first full calendar year as Chief Executive we've won some memorable victories on our mission for a safer climate, flourishing nature, and healthy air, food and water.

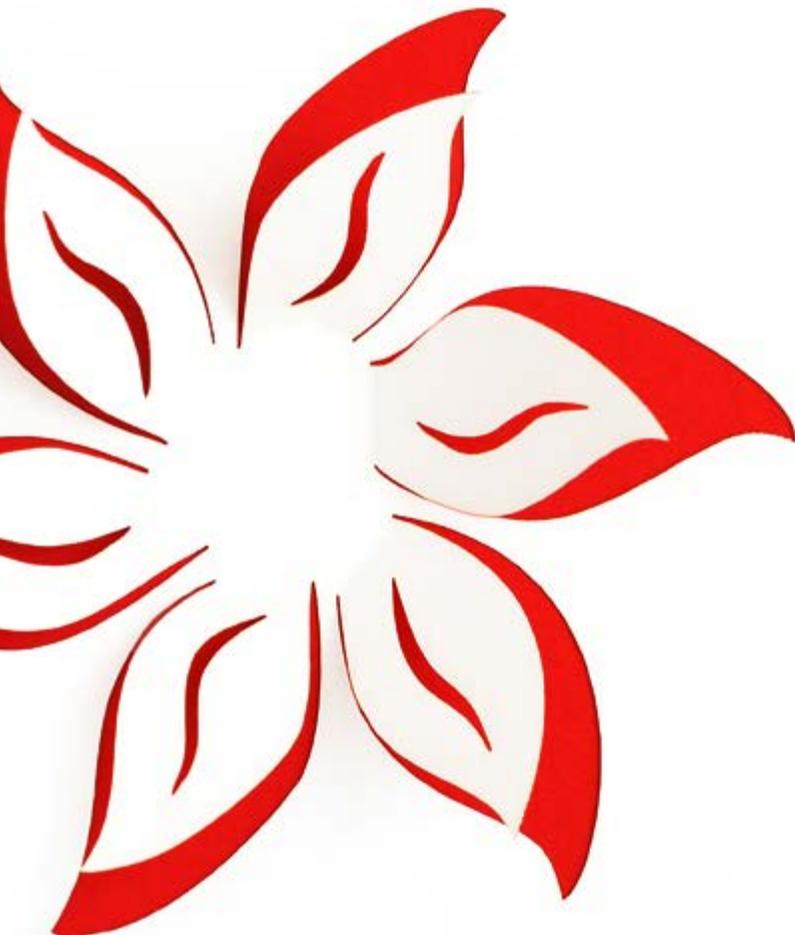
We've formed alliances with a diverse range of groups, and provided expert support for local communities, to keep coal and gas in the ground; protect renewable energy jobs; help people measure and avoid air pollution; promote planet-healthy food; grow bee-friendly habitats; and lots more which I hope you enjoy reading about in this review.

Astoundingly, it's also been a period when we've had to defend our right to campaign. Certain politicians and sections of the media have spent years attacking charities, hoping to silence democratic dissent. We've been told to "stick to our knitting" – a deeply patronising phrase which presumably means we should only ever undertake practical work.

It's true that we have a proud history of practical work including the setting up of doorstep recycling schemes across the country, many of which created employment opportunities. Our local groups and volunteers are to this day on the streets making change happen. For example, they've created hundreds of Bee Worlds in parks, gardens, schools and hospitals to provide habitats for declining bee populations.



Craig Bennett,
Friends of the Earth
Chief Executive



But practical action alone isn't enough. Some of humanity's greatest steps have been achieved through campaigning. The abolition of slavery, universal women's suffrage, and homosexual rights – none of these could have happened if far-sighted campaigners and campaigning organisations had stuck to their knitting.

2016 arrived on the back of a win we were told wasn't possible. Yet we'd played a critical role in ensuring an international climate deal to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees. Let's be clear, the UN agreement forged in Paris is an ambition – not a legally binding strategy. But it's a historic moment that clearly shows fossil fuels have had their day. And it happened because of tireless campaigning by campaign groups like Friends of the Earth, and the scientists and negotiators who have put so much into the process.

In the past 12 months we've also learnt that the hole in the ozone layer is healing: phenomenal news. Our campaigning in the 1980s to ban products containing ozone-destroying chemicals is making headlines years later. The distinction between campaigning and practical action is a false one. Both are necessary if we are going to achieve the lasting real-world change we need.

Never has our strong network of local and international groups been more relevant than in these turbulent political times. We're transforming the way we work to enable more people than ever before to shape their environment, to broaden our skillset and diversity, and to champion innovation that changes behaviour.

Thank you for your support.

Craig Bennett, Chief Executive, Friends of the Earth

By 2030 the next generation will enjoy an environment that's getting better:

- > A safer climate
- > Flourishing nature
- > Healthy air,
- > Water and food

SAVING BEES AND RESTORING NATURE



A bee and bug-friendly home made from old wooden pallets

There is overwhelming scientific evidence that neonicotinoid pesticides are a threat to all bees

Nature is vital for food production, pollination, climate regulation and flood protection. Studies have also found that spending time in nature is good for health and wellbeing.

Your passion for the natural world and commitment to our work have boosted our campaign to reverse the declining British bee population. In doing so, we're reconnecting a growing number of people with nature.

Banning bee-harming pesticides

Thanks to your support, our campaign for a permanent ban on bee-harming pesticides took a leap forward in 2016. You can celebrate three big wins. The government rejected a request by the National Farmers Union (NFU) to temporarily let farmers use two banned neonicotinoid pesticides. Councils in the South West agreed to prevent neonicotinoids being used on their land. And supermarket chain Aldi UK promised to review its pesticides policy to protect pollinators. We now need the government to support a complete and permanent ban on all bee-harming pesticides.

World-first pollinator scheme in Wales

Friends of the Earth Cymru launched an initiative together with the Welsh government's Pollinator Taskforce. Bee Friendly encourages communities, schools and businesses to work towards

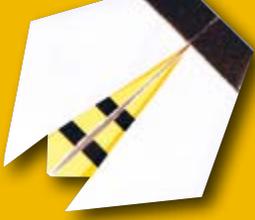
accreditation with tasks focused on habitat, forage, pesticides and community involvement.

The Bee Cause taking flight

From an appearance on BBC's *Springwatch* and at the River Cottage Festival to bee talks at the acclaimed Hive installation at Kew Gardens, our celebrity-endorsed Bee Cause campaign is reaching ever wider audiences. In the summer we ran the third Great British Bee Count when an astonishing 15,000 people took part by downloading our smartphone app. And our powerful local network has been bringing together experts, councillors, businesses and the public to help bees locally: developing bee-friendly initiatives and planting Bee Worlds – wildflower habitats – across the UK.

EU nature laws

A year before the EU referendum, we joined forces with a number of organisations to help over 500,000 people tell the European Parliament to defend vital laws protecting some of the UK's best-loved wildlife and nature sites. And it worked. We're absolutely delighted to report that the EU won't be weakening these laws and will instead look to implement them better – exactly what we've been calling for. However, Brexit does put these protections in jeopardy. With your support, we'll make sure the UK government maintains and uses the opportunity to strengthen these safeguards.



“A wonderful thing to do – makes me feel I am helping the future safety of bees”

One of 15,000 participants in the 2016 Great British Bee Count



A SAFER CLIMATE

Early indications suggest 2016 has been the hottest year on record. If so, it will be a new high for the third year in a row.

Every year we're seeing the impacts of man-made global warming grow. Floods, droughts and storms are all getting worse – threatening food supplies, damaging homes and devastating lives.

We can still avoid the worst impacts of climate change by not burning the majority of global fossil fuel reserves. Your support has enabled us, as part of an international network, to help local communities keep coal and gas in the ground.



Helping communities keep oil and gas in the ground



Chris Austin, local resident and activist, points towards Ffos-y-Fran opencast coal mine. Chris and fellow residents fought off plans for another 15 years of coal mining at Nant Llesg.

Keeping coal in the ground

At the beginning of the year, the threat of an enormous opencast coal mine loomed large over the residents of Nant Llesg near Merthyr Tydfil. The council had already rejected the mine following years of community campaigning supported by Friends of the Earth. But the coal company appealed. We immediately set up a petition enabling thousands of people to object to the Welsh Planning Inspectorate. Happily, the mine looks unlikely to be pursued.

In July Northumberland Council approved an opencast coal mine at wildlife-rich beauty spot Druridge Bay. Working with the local community, we gave councillors plenty of reasons to reject the mine – including 10,000 objections and independent legal opinion. Even TV conservationist Bill Oddie joined the campaign. We are pleased to report that the Secretary of State has intervened and will now make the final decision on climate change grounds.

No fracking in the UK

It's been a year of highs and lows for communities resisting fracking. With your help, we've been able to provide them with support and expertise to inform council decisions on fracking. We helped residents' groups like Frack Free Lancashire, organised public meetings, and presented detailed evidence on waste and climate change impacts. Actor and fracking campaigner Mark Ruffalo famously recorded a video with us, telling the Prime Minister it was a big mistake to ignore local democracy and pursue fracking. Disappointingly, that's exactly what happened. But with mounting

legal challenges and local opposition, Britain remains frack free. These communities are not prepared to drop their cases and with your help we'll continue to support them.

Fossil fuel divestment

Churches, universities, pension funds and other institutions are increasingly moving their investments away from coal, oil and gas. We're supporting local campaigns to encourage councils to take their cash out of dirty energy projects and invest it in cleaner alternatives. This year Haringey Council removed a staggering £220 million of its pension fund from fossil fuel investments.

Wales passes climate law

In February, Wales passed the Environment (Wales) Act, becoming the latest country to adopt climate change legislation. It's a great success. We've been campaigning for this since Wales got law-making powers in 2011. The law includes measuring the carbon footprint for everything used and produced, and making sure the nation stays within its carbon budgets.

Solar campaign nominated for award

Our campaign to save the UK's solar industry was recognised with a nomination for the Business Green Leaders Awards 2016. Playing a leading role in a broad coalition including the Solar Trade Association, 10:10 and Greenpeace, we persuaded the government to reduce its industry-crushing funding cuts.

40,000

estimated
early deaths
each year
due to air
pollution



CLEANING UP OUR AIR

Campaigning for a Clean Air Act fit for the 21st century

Air pollution is linked to 40,000 early deaths every year in the UK. It's linked to lung cancer, heart disease, asthma and diabetes. Many places, up and down the country, regularly exceed legal limits for air pollution.

So this year, with your help, we launched our campaign for clean air. We're working with our local groups, health experts and local communities to come up with solutions – and speed up the government's response to this national health crisis.

Diesel-free roads

In the UK road traffic is the biggest problem when it comes to air pollution, and diesel is the worst of all. We've even seen some car manufacturers cheating emissions tests. And the government has promoted diesel vehicles through tax breaks, rather than making clean cars and alternatives to driving more affordable.

Your support for our campaign to ditch diesel will help us save lives. We've already persuaded London's new mayor Sadiq Khan to improve his plans to clean up the capital's polluted air. He has now committed to no more money being spent

on all-diesel double-decker buses by 2018 – two years sooner than his pre-election pledge.

Clean Air Schools

Air pollution is particularly dangerous for children as it can prevent their lungs from developing properly. With your support, we're working with schools to help them monitor their air and educate and inspire a generation to take action on air pollution through innovative teaching resources.

Air monitoring kits fly off the shelf

Empowering people to shape their environment is an important part of our work – and one we know you care strongly about. We're delighted to report that our new Clean Air Kits were so popular that we ran out of them in just under three hours. The citizen science kits include monitoring equipment for people to measure air pollution where they live. They also come with top tips on avoiding pollution as well as ideas for taking action to clean up the UK's air. Working with King's College London, we're adding all the results to a map to build a better picture of air pollution in the UK.



We're working with asthma awareness and air quality campaigner Rosamund Kissi-Debrah, from the Ella Roberta Family Foundation, to highlight health impacts from air pollution

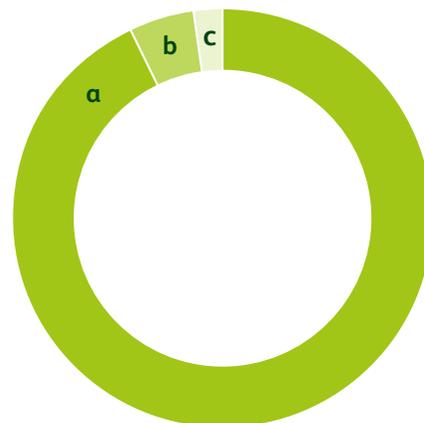
“Breathing clean air should be a basic human right. If you want to walk down the street and get a newspaper, you deserve to breathe”

**Rosamund
Kissi-Debrah**

WHERE YOUR SUPPORT GOES

Friends of the Earth Limited

Friends of the Earth Limited is a campaigning organisation and exists to protect and improve the environment through influencing political policies and business practices, inspiring personal and political action, and stimulating wide and intelligent debate.



Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 May 2016

Friends of the Earth Limited	£
Income	1,603,406
Expenditure	1,803,260
Deficit for the year	199,854

Breakdown

a) Campaigning and information provision	1,680,556	93%
b) Fundraising	90,260	5%
c) Management and administration	32,444	2%



Waitrose is committed to protecting Britain's bees and is pleased to support the Great British Bee Count

Tor Harris,
Head of Sustainability &
Responsible Sourcing, Waitrose

Gifts in Wills

We would like to pay tribute to those supporters who generously donated gifts in their Wills to protect the long-term future of our planet. Our grateful thanks go to:

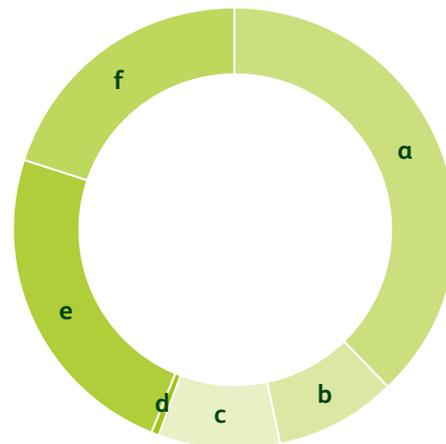
Marion Laura Allardyce	Denys Leslie Deere-Jones	William Robert Knott	Jean Mary Sawyer
Arthur John Allen	Joan Mary Dilloway	H M Lane	Michael Linden Scollan
Clara Alman	Mary Edgington	Graham Anthony Langsdale	David Scott
Peter Baker	Margaret Phyllis Eggleston	Michael Lord	Pauline Shanahan
June Beacall	Innis Elizabeth Ellis-Jones	Stephen Massey	Rev K Shaw
Edna Lillian Blake	V T Evans	Kim Matthews	Kathleen Monica Shaw
R Boulton	Penelope Annette Evans	James Frederick McCarthy	Michael Hugh Smith
Brian Norman Bowcock	Lynn Everson	Kieran McGuirk	Liane Katherine Sparks
Elizabeth Bowlby	Stanley Fitzpatrick	John Tennent Mead	Rosemary Stevenson
Margaret Dorothy Bran	Shirley Flynn	Andrew Merkler	David Stewart
Freda Olive Briden	Dorothy Gasson	Robin Pitt Miller	Sylvia Iris Stone
Judith Brierley	Ursula Margaret Gayler	Pauline Alexandra Mills	Ada Cecily Struthers
Stella Evelyn Garton Brown	Anne Vallender & Malcolm John Greene	Lesley Elizabeth Milne	Betty Swanwick
Irene Doris Browning	Dorothy Rose Gribble	Richard Newton De Mussenden Leathes	Pamela Margaret Tate
John Peter Burden	Dorothy Grimwood	G Parmley	Alan Taylor
R F Burlinson	Frederick George Gurnsey	Howard Peake	Dorothy Tyler
W E Burrows	Ivan Leslie Heaney	Eileen Margaret Perkins	Jeanie Lucinda Verney
The Honourable Margret Buxton	Patricia Hobson	S M Peters	M E Ward
Katia Cadman	E D Holyoake	Thelma Audrey Radecki	Reginald Leonard Webb
Rosemary Grimwade Carey	Beryl Mortimer Humphreys	A L Reynell	Nanette Elizabeth Mary Whitbread
Gillian Mure Chambers	Phyllis Marjorie Lovat Irving	Alan Richardson	Isla Williams
Michael Connaughton	Derek Howell Tyrrell Jones	Dr John Frankland Rigby	Ronald Sidney Williams
Mary Coombs	Alan Kershaw Jones	George Frank Rogers	Lyn Williamson
Diana Christine Crees	E M Kendall	Dr Michael Salt	N G Wills
M H Crowhurst	Roy King	Peter Samuel	Rose Wybrow



Friends of the Earth Trust

Friends of the Earth Trust is committed to the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment and promotes sustainable development for public benefit. It furthers these objectives by campaigning, undertaking research, education and publishing, and providing an information service on solutions to environmental problems.

Friends of the Earth comprises two separate legal entities – Friends of the Earth Trust (a registered charity) and Friends of the Earth Limited (a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee). They work closely together, sharing staff, resources and a brand, in order to achieve their separate but similar objects as cost effectively as possible.



Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 May 2016

Friends of the Earth Trust £

Income	9,172,767
Expenditure	9,988,434
Surplus for the year	815,667

Breakdown

a) Climate and Energy	3,788,831	38%
b) Land Use, Food and Water	893,205	9%
c) Economics and Resource Use	863,599	9%
d) Fair and Planned Transition	15,892	0.2%
e) Nature and Ecosystems	2,442,005	24%
f) Raising funds	1,984,902	20%

Full audited accounts for both companies are available at foe.co.uk

Since 2014 players of People's Postcode Lottery have raised an incredible £500,000 to support Friends of the Earth

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone whose incredible generosity has helped make our work possible this year. Special thanks to:

Annapurna Recruitment

Dr Antony Lewis

Apivita

Barbara Cairns Trust

Big Lottery Fund (Our Bright Future)

Brian Gaze

Community Windpower Ltd

The Dorset Foundation

Ecotricity

European Climate Foundation

The Freshfield Foundation

Good Energy

Graham Hales

Jacob and Miranda Cnattingius

Leslie and Lesley Michaels

Lisa Fairtlough

Martin Taylor

Mike and Kathy Smyth

My Hotels Group

Nigel and Margaret Woodward, founding
Trustees of the Network of Wellbeing

Paper Round Ltd

Patagonia

Peck & Strong Bakery

The Persula Foundation

Players of the People's Postcode Lottery

Rachel and Geoff Evatt

The Raphael Trust

Miss RCR Angel Charitable Trust

Reed Foundation through the Big Give
Challenge

Richard Constant

Roger Ross, all those at the Lots Road
Auctions and the Rainmaker Foundation

Roger de Freitas

Rosie Pearson

The SEM Charitable Trust

Shine Investments

Triodos Bank

The Underwood Trust

Waitrose

Friends of the Earth Europe and Friends of the Earth International through which we have received grants from The Mava Foundation and the European Commission for our contribution to joint projects

2016 SUCCESSES

The progress we're making

2 million +

visits to our website in 12 months. Many of these people landed on our web pages on our web pages for the first time. Also, our Facebook following increased by an impressive 31,000 new fans - beating the average growth rate for the non-profit sector.

65,000

people did something positive for the environment by taking action with us online for the first time in 2015-2016.



50,000

people joined us for the largest ever climate march. It happened on London's streets as 2015 drew to a close. We took a further 500 campaigners to the Paris climate talks where we used thousands of mobile phones to send a message to leaders. And we got a result - a historic agreement to keep global temperature rises below 1.5°C. Now we need to make sure governments honour this commitment.

3 million

tonnes of coal could stay in the ground This follows an excellent ongoing local campaign supported by Friends of the Earth. The go-ahead for an opencast mine at beauty spot Druridge Bay in Northumberland had threatened the environment, wildlife habitats and tourism. But the government granted our request to call in the plans and make the final decision on climate change grounds. We helped raise over 10,000 objections, provided independent legal advice and teamed up with TV conservationist Bill Oddie to raise awareness.

160

young people will become the next generation of campaigners through a new five-year project supporting 16-21 year olds to gain an OCN (Open College Network) accredited qualification in Community Campaigning. My World My Home is part of Our Bright Future, a programme of 31 projects across the UK funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Each project has received around £1 million of funding to help young people step up and create what is rightfully theirs: a healthy planet, a thriving economy and a better future.



£15 million

pledged by the government for flood control, after an investigation by Friends of the Earth revealed that ministers had broken promises to support natural flood management, such as planting trees.

1,150

people signed up for Meat Free May – our annual challenge to show how easy, tasty and healthy plant-based foods can be, and encourage more people to take up a low-meat lifestyle.

205

Friends of the Earth Bee Worlds got the green light in 2016. This makes the total number 561. That's roughly 6,226m² of bee-friendly habitat – and plenty of local communities are helping wildlife thrive, greening their neighbourhood and having fun outdoors.



383,759

that's how many bees were spotted during our Great British Bee Count. Well done to everyone who took part. We surveyed 2,000 participants in the Great British Bee Count – 97% had been inspired to help bees by taking practical action like growing bee-friendly plants.

£220 million

that's how much of its pension fund Haringey Council moved out of fossil fuels this year. Churches, universities, pension funds and other institutions are increasingly moving their investments away from coal, oil and gas. You've been helping us support local campaigns to encourage councils to take their cash out of fossil fuels and invest it in clean energy projects.

7,948

of our supporters demanded the safe release of Friends of the Earth Mexico's Director Gustavo Castro. He was shot in Honduras during the murder of fellow campaigner Berta Caceres. As the sole witness his life was in danger, and officials were illegally preventing him from leaving the country. Thanks to our collective efforts, Gustavo returned home safely – and key investors pulled their money out of the dam project that Berta had been campaigning against.

IN 2017 TOGETHER WE WILL



“Never has our network of local and international groups been more relevant than in these turbulent political times”

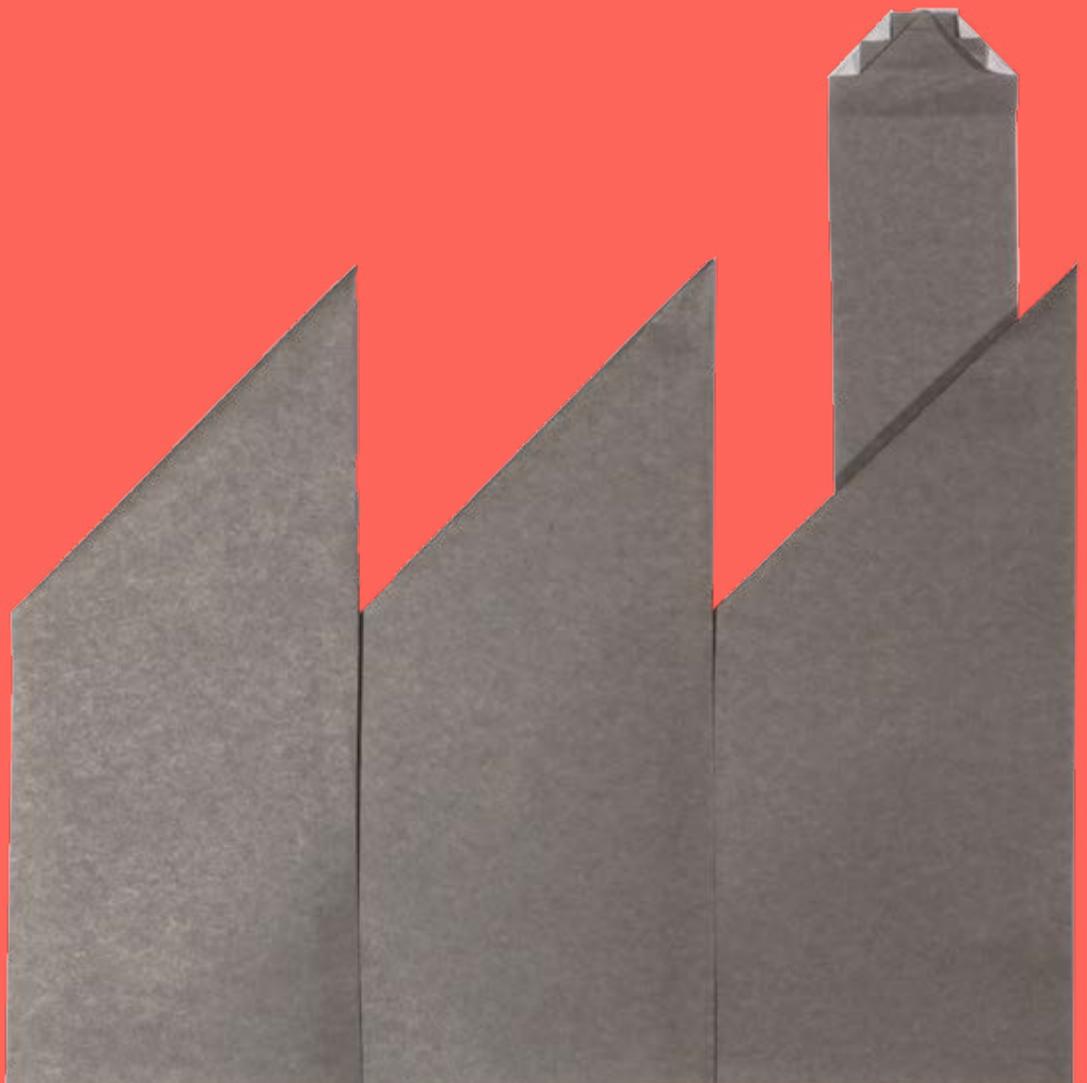
Craig Bennett, Chief Executive, Friends of the Earth

- > Win the campaign to permanently protect bees and other pollinators from the devastating impact of neonicotinoid pesticides.
- > Stop new opencast coal sites in the UK and support communities opposing fracking for gas – while championing energy efficiency and renewable power.
- > Accelerate the disappearance of dirty diesel vehicles from our roads, so that young lungs can develop properly and fewer people die prematurely from air pollution.
- > Defend the laws that protect the UK’s environment. Working with others to ensure that Brexit negotiations maintain and strengthen these safeguards.
- > Help people take practical action to protect the environment – from switching to healthy low-meat diets, to planting bee-friendly plants, to monitoring the air pollution where they live.
- > Support our sister groups around the world to protect environmental campaigners. Far too many are threatened, imprisoned or killed.
- > Compel countries to work together for fair and rapid progress on shared environmental threats like climate change.

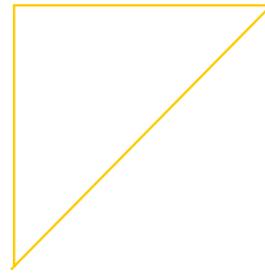
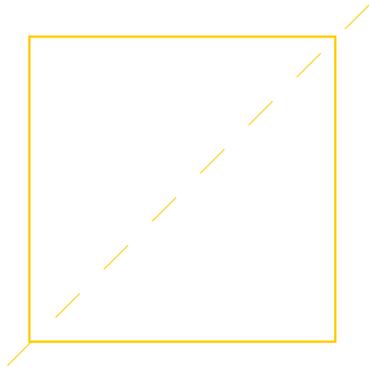
These actions will help us achieve our 2030 goal to ensure the next generation enjoys an environment that’s getting better: a safer climate, flourishing nature, and healthy air, water and food.

159

**Friends of the Earth local groups
operate across Wales, Northern
Ireland and England**



ORIGAMI BEE



Instructions:

A. Cut along the diagonal line into two triangles.



B. Fold 1-2 inwards.



C. Fold 3-4 outwards then fold along lines 5a-c rolling inwards.



D. Fold flap 6 and 7 away from you and tuck under the bee.



ta da ... you have a origami bee!

83% of people want laws that match or exceed current environmental protections – *YouGov for Friends of the Earth*



How we made it...



www.foe.co.uk  facebook.com/wwwfoeouk  twitter.com/wwwfoeouk

Friends of the Earth Trust, registered charity number 281681, company number 1533942. Friends of the Earth Limited, company number 1012357. Our paper is totally recycled and our printers hold EMAS certification which means they care about the environment. February 2017. Cover photo: Origami bee garden.

Words: Phil Byrne
Design: Glynn Perkins
Photography: Andrew McGibbon



For more than 40 years we've seen that the wellbeing of people and planet go hand in hand – and it's been the inspiration for our campaigns. Together with thousands of people like you we've secured safer food and water, defended wildlife and natural habitats, championed the move to clean energy and acted to keep our climate stable.