

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro



Newsletter April 2009

Join the Energy Revolution

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth is taking part in a national campaign to put pressure on the Government to tackle climate change now by a massive increase in investment in renewable energy.

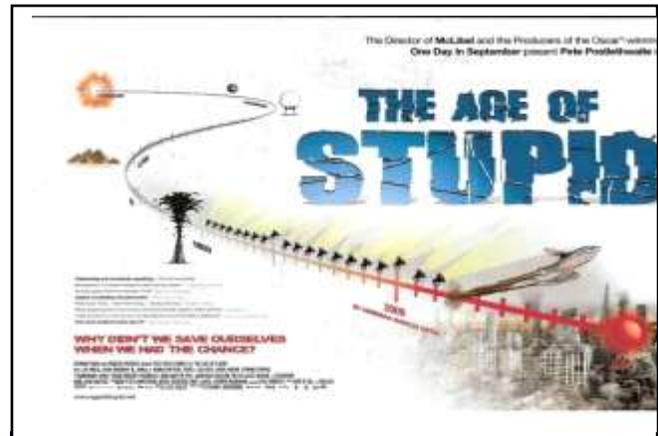
We want to show that all sorts of people from all parts of the country back this revolution in energy production. We're really excited about the potential for so much of the community, we're all a part of, to join together to call for action on climate change.

Under the EU Renewables Directive legislation, the UK has been given a target of sourcing 15% of our energy from renewables by 2020. This is a massive challenge for this country as, the UK still only sources 1.8% of its energy from renewables; Sweden sources around 40%, Germany 14%. The Government is now due to publish a 'Renewable Energy Strategy' in June of this year detailing how it intends to reach the 15% target.

If you belong to a group, business or organization which you think would be happy to join the others in our community in supporting the campaign. Please ask them to sign the enclosed the Action Card and **return it to the SPAN Office by Mid April.** (address on back of newsletter). For more details go to:-

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/energy_revolution_15905.html

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/renewables_phase2_briefing_feb09.pdf



Showing at the Queens Hall Narberth

Sunday 19th April at 7.30

Admission £4.50,

Free to film club members.

Screening organised by **Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth** as part of **Wales One World Film Festival**

Please pass on the word and bring your friends to this acclaimed Climate change film starring Pete Postlethwaite

Poster and fliers enclosed

Pembrokeshire County Council wanted A40 at all costs

Under the Freedom of information Act Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth was able to access for the legal costs to the council of challenging the Assemblies decision not to dual the A40. The total cost was £111,468. We will be paying for this through our council tax.

Wasteful Pembroke Power Station Given Go-Ahead

The government is constantly urging the public to save energy by switching off stand-by, buying low-energy light bulbs, insulating homes and so on. Yet, on February 5, it gave the go-ahead to a new LNG-fired power station at Pembroke that will waste over half the energy content of the gas, emit almost six million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year and threaten an important marine ecosystem.

We have calculated that the heat wasted from the new power station would be equivalent to 40 per cent of Wales' electricity demand or sufficient to heat 350,000 homes.

The government is giving this power station the green light knowing that a much more efficient technology - combined heat and power (CHP) - is available that would generate electricity, use waste heat in neighbouring industrial activities, emit less carbon dioxide and create jobs.

At Milford Haven CHP systems could be built close to the two oil refineries and the two LNG terminals, all of which have a big demand for heat. These technologies are widely used in other countries, such as Denmark.

With both climate change and energy security now posing such concern, we should be using the best technologies available to meet our energy needs. CHP would also prevent the harmful dumping of large quantities of warm water into Milford Haven waterway Special Area of Conservation. It is incredible that the government is ignoring the strong objections of its experts, the Countryside Council for Wales, on this issue.

This decision makes a mockery of the government's claim that it wants to take a lead role in developing the green economy in order to tackle both the economic recession and the immense threat now posed by climate change. And it is a missed opportunity for Wales to fulfil its aim of being a world leader in clean energy.

We have obtained advice from our legal team about a possible legal challenge. They do not consider that the case is strong enough for a judicial review but believe we could refer the decision to the European Commission because of its impact on the Milford

Haven Special Area of Conservation. This is a very slow process that will not prevent the power station going ahead but will scrutinise the government's decision and expose any flaws.

Dying on a Jet Plane

Air travel produces 19 times the greenhouse gas emissions of trains. One return flight to Florida produces the equivalent CO2 of a year's average motoring.

Aviation is the fastest growing sources of carbon dioxide emissions. It currently accounts for 6.4 per cent of UK emissions, but, as these have a much more harmful effect at altitude, it is responsible for 13 per cent of the UK's total climate change impact.

For this dubious honour, it receives an annual tax break worth £10 billion. Aviation fuel is the only fuel that is not taxed. As the richest 18 per cent of the population are responsible for 54 per cent of the flights, whilst the poorest 18 per cent are responsible for just 5 per cent, this is a subsidy for the better off.

While all sectors, such as homes, businesses, industry and road transport, will have to make significant emission cuts to meet targets in the Climate Change Act, the government has said that emissions from aviation can rise if these other sectors compensate by cutting their emissions more.

As more people fly out from the UK for holidays than fly in, it causes a tourism deficit of £15 billion a year to the UK economy.

An Exeter University study has shown that the emission reductions achieved by well-meaning greens by actions such as recycling, using low energy light bulbs and insulating the loft are wiped out by flying.

It can be challenging but we really ought to avoid flying.

Please write to your MP to ask him to urge the government to support placing a tax on aircraft fuel. This could certainly be done on internal flights without waiting for the agreement of other governments and would be far more effective than placing aviation in the European Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). All the impact assessments currently on the table show that integrating aviation into the EU-ETS will do next to nothing to reduce aviation emissions. Even an assessment by Ernst & Young commissioned by the aviation industry shows that even in the toughest scenario envisaged, by 2020 emissions would grow by 83% rather than 86% in a business-as-usual situation

**Friends of the Earth Cymru Local Groups
Conference will be held on the weekend
of 22-24th May 2009 at Ty'r Morwydd**

**Environmental Studies Centre
Abergavenny**

<http://www.tmeso.org.uk>

Scallop dredging

The Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society is making an official complaint to the European Union about the failure of Welsh Assembly Government to protect the Cardigan Bay SAC by allowing scallop trawling which is unsustainable.

This method of harvesting the food species destroys the sea bed; it is energy intensive and removes virtually all of the scallops so regeneration is substantially delayed. Also lead and other heavy metals at present buried in the sand on the sea bed are brought back up into the food chain.

It has emerged that the large boats are hiring foreign crews at very low pay rates. There is virtually no benefit to the Welsh economy as they often land their catches abroad, pay no local taxes apart from the initial licence fee and displace local fishermen. The legislation needs to be overhauled.

There are alternative methods of harvesting scallops which are sustainable and would also produce long-term benefit for the local economy: hand picking by divers or farmed in large, sea-floor baskets are examples of these.

Saved – the dolphins of the Moray Firth

Following a successful local campaign the Department of Energy and Climate Change DECC has just agreed not to carry out any seismic survey activity for oil and gas in the Moray Firth this year.

The Government has also agreed to fund independent research and to demonstrate the impact that oil and gas activity would have. They have to show that it will have 'no adverse impact' on the dolphins. This is a huge step forward for the campaign

The Marine Bill needs strengthening.

The UK's coastal and marine environments are some of the most beautiful in the world, supporting an astonishing diversity of habitats and species, as well as providing vital resources for economic development, food and recreation. However, coastal habitats are under increasing pressure from development, tourism and climate change, whilst further offshore, marine habitats and species are threatened by activities associated with fisheries, aggregate extraction and offshore energy developments.

Take action:

Stephen Eades from MARINET – the Marine Network of Friends of the Earth local groups has asked for help. You can help amend and strengthen the Marine and Coastal Access Bill which is currently before Parliament by urging your MP to support Early Day Motion (EDM) 337 which seeks to create a network of highly protected marine reserves in order to rebuild commercial fish stocks and marine biodiversity, and to use scientific criteria as the basis of this process. At present, the Marine Bill does not do this.

For a template letter to send to your MP go to:

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/>

Let Stephen know, if you've written (his email is below). It would be great if between us all, we could lobby in one form or another, most if not all of the MPs in Wales

stephen.marinet@btinternet.com

SPAN BIG PLANT SALE

Saturday 2nd May

Town Moor, Narberth.

Gardeners please donate us some plants or seedlings for the FOE stall.

Leave a message on: 07768228584

See you there

Find out what you can do to reduce your environmental impact by signing up to Friends of the Earth's Tip Of The day at:

<http://www.foe.co.uk/living/tips/>

"Climate change is like eating a slap-up meal then handing the bill to the world's poor"

Ricardo Navarro, CESTA El Salvador.

“There is a dawning realisation among this generation of protestors that we grown-ups have stolen their future. We have had the cheap energy and the cheap food, the cheap houses and the cheap mortgages with which to buy them. We have had the cheap pensions – which they will pay – and the stable climate without which nothing will ever be cheap again”

Tom Burke, a former director of Friends of the Earth and a visiting professor at Imperial College, London, writing about the Plane Stupid protestors at Stanstead airport in an article entitled, ‘When Quiet Protest Turns to Rage’.

Lammas appeal is now with the Welsh Assembly Planning inspectorate.

Lammas would really appreciate it if you could take a brief minute to e-mail a simple message of support to the Planning inspectorate. Simply go to www.lammas.org.uk/appeal and fill out the form online.

Business as usual for Local Development Plan (L.D.P.)

Pembrokeshire County Council have just produced a draft of their new L.D.P which will be the blueprint for planning decisions from 2011 - 2021.

It is called the 'Preferred Strategy' and can be found on Pembrokeshire County Council website. It basically proposes that the county should proceed as usual with a bit of greenwash for good measure:-

- There is no mention of transition, peak oil, permaculture, organic farming, ecological footprinting, carbon reduction or low-impact development.
- Renewable energy is considered, though as an add-on to conventional energy development.



Cartoon:-www.chrismadden.co.uk

Sustainable transport is considered, though again as an add-on to, improving road networks to encourage economic development.

- Sustainable Development is referred to throughout as something that needs to be addressed, though the interpretation of what sustainable development is seems to be very loose.
- Whilst there is a strategy being developed to tackle the impacts of climate change, there appears to be no attempt whatsoever within the LDP to tackle the causes of climate change.

There is an opportunity until 6th May to make your comments

A West Wales Transition Forum that has been set-up :-<http://westwalestransition.org/>

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