



# Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

## Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter November 2009

**United Nations Climate Change Conference  
COPENHAGEN – Dec7- Dec18 2009  
*Keep Up The Pressure***

Far more could be done here and now to cut climate-changing emissions by using green energy, slashing energy waste and developing sustainable agriculture and transport. This low-carbon route also offers major economic and job creating benefits

Yet, we are still heading rapidly in the wrong direction. Scientists are warning that, if we are to avoid catastrophic consequences within the lifetime of our children and grandchildren, major cuts in global emissions must be made soon. This is why Copenhagen has been called the most important conference ever.

As the rich developed nations are responsible for three quarters of emissions historically, Friends of the Earth believes they have a legal and moral obligation to make the biggest reductions and provide finance and technology to developing countries.

We are calling for an agreement at Copenhagen that:

- Commits wealthy industrialised countries to at least 40% cuts in emissions domestically by 2020.
- Does not allow cuts to be achieved by buying carbon credits or 'offsets' from developing countries
- Commits rich countries to provide additional money for developing countries to grow in a clean way and to cope with the consequences of climate change.

In the build up to Copenhagen, there have been limited signs of progress as Europe has backed the transfer of some funding to poorer countries and China and India have shown a greater willingness to make emissions cuts. The likelihood of a deal involving legally binding cuts is now, though, unlikely with resistance from industry interests within the USA proving to be a major obstacle.

Some political agreement is likely at Copenhagen and it is essential that this is built upon next year and converted into effective action. It is also essential that individual countries, such as Wales, drive forward their own programmes to maximise emission reductions and economic opportunities.



*Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth with their stall at the Celtic Blue Rock Festival in August, busy demonstrating the effects of climate change*

We must keep up the pressure on our political representatives to support policies that cut climate-changing emissions. If you have not

already done so, please write to your MP and sign the FoE International petition at: <http://www.foe.co.uk/climatetalks/petition.html> so, please make the effort to attend the UK's main climate demonstration, called The Wave, in London on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> – See Below

Friends of the Earth's excellent new report on carbon trading and offsetting, A Dangerous Obsession, can be found here: [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/dangerous\\_obsession.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/dangerous_obsession.pdf)

The [Wave](#) has been organised by the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition, which includes a huge number of civil groups such as FoE, RSPB, WWF, WI, Oxfam, The Salvation Army, Christian Aid, Cafod, Woodland Trust, Wildlife Trusts, Greenpeace, Unison, NUS and Unicef. It is expected to be the largest climate demonstration ever staged in the UK. The main event will include a march on parliament culminating in a human wave which will surround the Parliament buildings. Those attending are therefore asked to wear blue. This will be your last chance to put pressure on those sealing the fate of the planet in Copenhagen the following Monday.



**MAKE WAVES – SAVE LIVES**  
**THE WAVE National Climate Change Demonstration, London, Sat Dec 5<sup>th</sup>**

The Green Dragon Minibus (16 seater), which runs on low carbon Welsh Straight Vegetable Oil, has been booked for the day. The bus will leave the Car Park in Crymych between the Petrol Station and the School early (usually at 6am) on Saturday and return late on the same evening.

The return fare on the bus will be £35 which will be needed to be paid before a seat can be booked. Being a minibus the places are limited. If you can't come and wants to support the bus by making a donation this would be

greatly appreciated as the organiser, Daniel Blackburn, often has to end up covering any financial deficit on top of putting in the voluntary time and effort it takes to arrange this. Cheques should be made out to Daniel Blackburn and sent to Dyffryn Cefnfaes Farm, Tegryn, Llanfyrnach, Pembrokeshire, SA35 0DN. To book a seat please contact Daniel on 01239 698237 or [info@vegoilmotoring.com](mailto:info@vegoilmotoring.com)

**Please JOIN US for our  
AGM  
The Gallery Queens Hall Narberth  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 7.30pm**  
There will be a short business meeting followed by an illustrated talk at 8pm  
**Pembrokeshire Marine Life  
by Mark Burton of Skomer Marine Nature Reserve**  
refreshments



*FoE stall at the Food Festival in September in support of the Food Chain Campaign which aims to stop the forests in South America being destroyed in order to grow soy for animal feed . 300 postcards were signed to send to MPs*

## Support Wear Point Wind Farm

Gordon James has been asked to submit evidence to the planning committee in support for the proposed new wind farm on the shores of Milford Haven.

It is estimated that the four-turbine wind farm would generate enough electricity for over 5,000 homes, making a welcome cut in greenhouse gas emissions locally. As it would be sited on an industrial location, we believe it could enhance the landscape of the Milford Haven waterway.

Wind is technically the most advanced of the renewable energy options available and can deliver much-needed cuts in carbon dioxide emissions now. In a world that is increasingly threatened by climate change, insecure energy supplies and shrinking oil reserves, wind power has much to offer.

The Wear Point wind farm would also make an important contribution to the disappointingly small amount of electricity generated from renewable sources in Pembrokeshire. This situation will have to change as challenging targets have been set in Wales, the UK and Europe to switch from polluting fossil fuels to low-carbon renewable energy sources.

***Please write to your local county councillor or to the Western Telegraph in support of this application.***



**Lammas Ecovillage won approval on August 29<sup>th</sup> 2009.** Families have already started building their homes with the help of volunteers.

The settlement will consist of 9 eco-smallholdings, a campsite and a community hub building. It is sited on 76 acres of mixed pasture and woodland next to the village of Glandwr, Pembrokeshire

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## The End of the Line

Those of you who saw “the End of the Line” film, which we showed recently in the Narberth Film Club, will be aware of the massive threat to our fish stocks because of over-fishing. This doesn’t mean that we have to stop eating fish but we need to check that our fish retailers sell fish from a sustainable source which has the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) label. Although many stores and supermarkets have signed up with the MSC, this does not necessarily mean that all their fish is MSC certified. At the moment only 3 per cent of the world's oceans are marine protected areas. When you shop or eat out, please look for or ask about the MSC certification.

Sample letter for you copy or use as a guideline to write to your local fish retailers:

*Dear.....,*

*The recent film “The End of the Line”, by investigative journalist Charles Glover, highlights the massive threat to our fish stocks because of over-fishing which is taking place on an industrial scale. Many fish, such as the Bluefin tuna, are becoming endangered species and the evidence of falling catches and depleted fish stocks is compelling. Just as I would not wish to see fish removed from my diet, I’m sure you would not want to see your business dwindling if fish supplies run out.*

*Fortunately, there is hope for both of us as well as the fish. “The End of the Line” is a wake-up call to the world to protect and replenish our fish stocks by fishing sustainably. Where marine reserves are established, the sea recovers with remarkable speed and with careful conservation based on good science, fishing can be sustainable, as demonstrated in Alaska.*

*I would therefore urge you to only stock fish from a sustainable source.*

*The Marine Stewardship Council runs a certification scheme for fish produced according to principles of sustainability, which you can find out about on the MSC website - <http://www.msc.org/>. There are useful guides to what fish you can buy with a (fairly) clear conscience. In the UK one is produced by the Marine Conservation Society. You can find the guide on their website - <http://www.mcsuk.org/>*

*The film-makers, Friends of the Earth and others are recommending that we only buy fish from sustainable sources and check for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). I am therefore requesting that you only stock fish with the MSC label as I hope to continue buying from you in the future.*



*Just look for the label!*

*Yours sincerely*

We hope that when people buy fish in a shop or in restaurant, they will ask where it comes from; whether it is from a sustainable source, whether it is an endangered or over-exploited species.

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### **STUDENT PLACEMENT – Many Thanks Sean**

Over the summer months, we supervised a student from Bournemouth University on placement with Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth. During this time, Sean Badrick, whose home is in Milford Haven, wrote two useful papers on waste issues relating to Pembrokeshire.

The first paper Sean produced was a response to the Welsh Assembly Government's waste strategy consultation. We helped him in this by providing a response produced by Friends of the Earth Cymru which Sean adapted to the

Pembrokeshire situation. This was a great help to us and, without Sean's help, it's unlikely that we would have had the time to do a separate submission for Pembrokeshire. His second paper, on municipal waste in Pembrokeshire, is a detailed, informative and very useful account of the waste situation in the county.

*Copies of these papers can be obtained from Eleanor Clegg at [silhouette@cooptel.net](mailto:silhouette@cooptel.net)*

### **Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth's Green Heroes**

Two members of Pembrokeshire FoE, Daniel Blackburn and Gordon James, were recently honoured in Wales' first ever list of green heroes. Organised by Cynnal Cymru/Sustain Wales, 52 sustainable development champions were selected for taking action to create a brighter future for Wales.



*Members of Pembs FoE on a walk in the Gwaun Valley in October.*

### **Pembrokeshire FoE Contact Info**

*Post: c/o Span Arts, Town Moor, Narberth SA67 7AG*

*Website: [www.foepembrokeshire.co.uk](http://www.foepembrokeshire.co.uk)*

*Telephone: 07768228584*