

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter November 2008



“The Big Ask” Victory

Parliament has voted for a strong Climate Change Bill which includes all three demands Friends of the Earth has been making during the campaign. The target is for an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and it includes shipping and aviation, so we can now say we have won!

“A big, big pat on the back and a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved with the Big Ask. It’s been 3 ½ years of outstanding effort to get this far and if anyone ever wonders whether individual action can make a difference or whether we in Friends of the Earth are effective then this is surely the answer.

This is *huge* make no mistake about it, and will govern how we live our lives in the next 40 years, it will mean big changes for the better and will act as an example to other countries of what can be done. Indeed the Big Ask is already spreading across Europe.

Go out and buy some bubbly (locally sourced only obviously!) and have a well deserved drink and say thank you to everyone you know who has been involved in letter writing, signing postcards, sending emails, visiting MPs, doing stalls, hosting events and cinema showings and writing to the media.”

Bleddyn Lake , Cardiff Office, FoE Cymru
(Carbon Trading Cartoon :www.chrismadden.org.uk)

Join the Energy Revolution

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth is taking part in a national campaign to make sure that the Government supports a strong renewable energy strategy here in the UK with an ambitious program to make renewables our number one source of energy. This could generate hundreds of thousands of jobs, billions of pounds worth of business, and a secure and long lasting energy supply for the UK.



We want to see the Strategy commit to:

- Delivering at least 15 per cent of UK energy from renewables by 2020.
- Making sure the energy regulator's main job is to cut climate change emissions by prioritising renewables and energy efficiency.

The UK needs to see a massive investment in renewable energy. The Government needs to start acting now. *continued next page*

Continued from page one. The aim is to get as many different groups, organisations and businesses in your own community to send a message to your MP, by signing the **Community Action Card**. They don't need to do any more than this. Each postcard has a lot more political impact since it represents a whole group of constituents.

If you belong to or know of any group organisation or business that you think would support this campaign by signing a card please contact us..

Cardigan Bay Oil and Gas Exploration

An invitation has gone out from the Government for companies to bid for licences to explore for oil and gas in Cardigan Bay.

Save Our Seas(SOS) is having a major event on Friday 5th December in Aberystwyth when they will try to launch a bid to establish a Marine Park (analogous to a National Park on land) covering the whole of Cardigan Bay. Any one interested in attending please contact us at Pembs FoE for details.

“Who Left the Lights On at Morrisons?”

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth has written to the manager of Morrisons in Haverfordwest urging them to reduce their electricity consumption by turning off their lights following a complaint by one of their customers. We were recently contacted by one of Morrison's customers who expressed concern that the external lights in the retail area at the supermarket have now been left on continuously for three years and four months. The customer said he had contacted the company on four occasions with regard to this. Despite this, the lights still remained on 24 hours a day.

In addition, he said, there is a section of lighting at the entrance to the store that has been on continuously now for three and a half months - since the beginning of June.



These lights are next to the Morrison filling station where the 41 forecourt canopy lights are generally left on even on the brightest of days.

Pembrokeshire County Council recently decided to switch off up to 95% of the county's street lighting after midnight in order to cut both fuel bills and harmful emissions. We support this initiative and urge Morrisons to follow the example the council has set.

Talk Film Showing of Tribal People's battle with Aluminium Industry by Felix Padel

The recent showing of a selection of pieces from two films made about one of India's most isolated tribes, the Dongria Kondh, whose lives are threatened by bauxite mining for aluminium was well attended. We hope to show the full length film, made by the tribal people who are fighting to stop British FTSE 100 company, Vedanta, from mining bauxite on their sacred mountain, when Felix is back in Pembrokeshire next year. Felix lives in Orissa where he campaigns for the rights of the tribal people. The mountain that Vedanta wants to mine is not only the Dongria Kondh's most sacred site, it is also integral to the entire ecosystem of the hills, enabling the numerous streams and lush forests which sustain the Dongrias to continue to thrive. For more information please contact Miriam Ross at Survival International - email mr@survival-international.org

New Executive Director

Friends of the Earth has a new Executive Director. His name is Andy Atkins and he has led a range of campaigns on environmental and social issues.

Andy joins Friends of the Earth from development charity Tearfund. He launched their work on climate change and persuaded UK development charities to work on climate change as a poverty issue. Andy has also campaigned for human rights in Chile and has worked for development charity CAFOD. Under Andy's leadership, Friends of the Earth will continue to push for political action to tackle environmental challenges. Our work will focus on climate change and biodiversity loss.



Andy replaces Tony Juniper, who has stood down after 18 years at Friends of the Earth.

Some inspiring examples of local FoE group achievements, including Welsh ones, from the Local Group Awards made at the Conference held at Loughborough in September this year

- Darlington FoE – Run a farmer's market stall; produced a local green shopping directory; organised a screening of *The Inconvenient Truth*; and built a greenhouse out of plastic bottles as part of its campaign to increase local recycling rates.
- Llangollen FoE – In its first year, it launched a successful campaign to make Llangollen a plastic free town with the support of 65 retailers. It is now partnered with the town council, county councillors and local businesses to make the town carbon neutral.

- High Peak FoE – Worked with a renewable energy company to establish a community-owned hydro-electric scheme.
- Monmouth FoE – set up the town's farmer's market
- Abergavenny & Crickhowell FoE – Set up and run a furniture recycling business that employs two people and provides rehabilitation work for inmates from a local prison.
- Southwark FoE – Run a community outreach project to improve home energy saving amongst different ethnic, faith and socio-economic backgrounds.

EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East named as "Environmental Heroes 2008" by TIME Magazine

Friends of the Earth Middle East's work to bring Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians together to rehabilitate our shared environment and promote cross border partnerships is turning heads all over the world for its effective results and innovative methodology.

TIME Environmental Heroes Award's highlights FoE ME's efforts to rehabilitate the Jordan River and Dead Sea ecosystem and to establish the cross border Jordan River Peace Park.

Andrew Lee Butters, Middle East TIME correspondent, wrote of FoE ME: "They understand that 'the road to sustainability, like the road to peace, is going to be a slow, messy human project of community organizing, education and trust-building.'"

FoEME's takes just this grassroots approach by advancing cross border municipal level cooperation, even in the midst of conflict.

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth petition to oppose plans to build 2000MW power station burning LNG

Thank you to all of those who have collected signatures, please return them to the SPAN Office in Narberth

“Blue ice” and climate change reach Pembrokeshire.

On the 31st October, 2008, the 'Blue Ice' climate change modelling computer was unveiled at the Technium Centre, Pembroke. The computer is the result of a partnership between Swansea University and IBM and will be used to improve climate change prediction. A hoped for by-product is to develop a knowledge-based economy for the County by the synergy between academia and the private sector.

At the launch there were speeches and presentations from the EU, hydrocarbon companies (Chevron, RWE n Power), renewable technology manufacturers (Wavedragon, Quiet Revolution and INFINERGY).

For those attending in the hope of being convinced that Government and the hydro carbon based energy producers are taking urgent and effective steps to reduce CO2 emissions the event was disappointing.

The overriding messages were that;

- A diversity of energy sources is critical.
- Energy should be generated as close as possible to where it will be used
- Local authorities should be involved in supporting grid access for renewables but that neither Government nor the consumer should pay
- The UK has to have a Renewable Energy Action Plan in place by 2010.

Extract from an article by Charlie Mason.

Pembrokeshire County Council Challenges Decision to Reject Dualling of A40

Following the public inquiry into the Robeston Wathen bypass, at which the inspector decided to reject the councils argument that the A40 should be dualled, the Council has appealed against the decision. A special Assembly Procedure Committee is examining the arguments and will make their final decision later this year.



Pembs FoE Co-ordinator relaxing in the sunshine at the Climate Change Camp at Kingsnorth power station in Kent this August

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