

Hotline

News for employees of Exxonmobil companies in UK and Ireland
Issue 1 November 2003



**“Global warming...
What global warming?”**

Welcome...

to the first edition of **HOTLINE**, StopEsso's newspaper for Esso staff. We bring you updates on global warming, our campaign, and other things your company would rather you didn't know. We've even got a gossip column for you to make your own contribution (see back page).

Lee Raymond comes to town

Your chief executive swung through town early November to collect his award for Oil Executive of the Year

After collecting his award at a gala dinner, Lee made a rousing speech to his adoring fans, but cancelled his keynote speech the next morning. Andrew Swiger had to step in, but his speech was drowned out by a 3000-watt broadcast warning Exxon to drop its extreme position on climate change.

The Greenpeace truck with the sound system was parked outside, right next to

the conference room window.

Workers from surrounding offices came out to watch as the warning blasted out, "You are surrounded, come out with your hands up...you and your company, Esso, are surrounded on all sides. You are surrounded by eminent scientists who tell you that global warming is happening and that it is caused by burning fossil fuels. By world leaders like Tony Blair. By the one million UK drivers who refuse to buy your products".

Sorry to spoil your moment, Andrew.

"Proud to be an oilman"?

Lee gave a speech after he got his award. StopEsso admits to having changed a few words here and there - we call it a translation... but here's a fresh transcript for you

"... particular attention has been placed on the contribution of hydrocarbon use to global climate change. Scientific research must continue so that we can put off any decisions for as long as possible so as to make as much money from oil as we humanly can.

As Winston Churchill said: "The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it. Ignorance may deride it. But in the end, there it is."

This does not mean, however, that we should stand still. In my view, we should continue to take actions now, and work with others to develop effective, long-term solutions that ensure we continue burning fossil fuels well into the future so as to maximise profit.

Never mind the risk of climate change which will cause undesirable social and economic consequences. After all, it's the developing countries who will be worst hit by climate change, not us.

To help meet this challenge, we worked to launch a groundbreaking research effort - the Global Climate and Energy Project.

Stanford University will lead the effort in which scientists and engineers from universities and companies will work on a wide range of issues associated with energy needs. We have asked them to focus specifically on ways to ensure that we can keep pumping oil - and building nuclear power stations.

Both the research itself and dissemination of the project's findings

will explicitly consider developing countries. We're blaming them for future global warming and ignoring what's happening now.

We have seen that the energy we provide has contributed significantly to human enhanced climate change in every part of the world, but we choose to ignore it.

Indeed, I believe that ours is one of the greatest - if not the greatest industry - in the history of mankind. It is, after all, causing the greatest ever environmental threat to planet earth.

Our best years lie ahead - surpassing even the greatest achievements of the century gone by - an era that was rightly dubbed The Century of Oil. We will see the 21st century as being the one where it is climate disasters, not weapons of mass destruction, which threaten the world, but where we continue to profit from it.

At this special milestone in a long and rewarding career, I am proud to be an oilman and feel privileged to have served its great purpose".



Esso, On the Run? News from StopEsso Ireland

"Global anti-Esso protest reaches Ireland" declared The Irish Times following the launch of StopEsso Ireland by a coalition of Friends of the Earth Ireland, Friends of the Irish Environment, GRAIN, VOICE, Green Party and Union of Students in Ireland on February 22nd 2003.

StopEsso cheerleaders started the capital's first picket at the Esso station in Rathmines, Dublin chanting "One, Two, Three, Four, don't buy Esso anymore", while StopEsso supporters handed out leaflets and car stickers to curious onlookers.

Heads turned and so did the Esso customers when they heard about Esso's decade of dirty tricks to undermine any international action on climate change. Protests also took place in Cork, Limerick and Kilkenny, all with a great response from the public. Ireland joins with nine other countries to have an active StopEsso campaign.

This year's highlight was "StopEsso Live" at the Temple Bar Music Centre, Dublin in July. Headlined by StopEsso supporter, actor and DJ Goldie, the Big Brother celeb was joined by four other Dj's from the UK and Ireland and they took crowds at the packed venue to fever pitch with the finest Drum and Bass.

We were amused to hear that some Esso stations in Ireland are getting a makeover and having their name changed to "Esso, On the Run". A sign of the times? No doubt.

Students see ExxonMobil off campus

For the first time in years, ExxonMobil has decided **not** to undertake its presentations to students around the UK this year as part of its graduate recruitment drive.

People & Planet, the student campaign network were last spotted by Esso staff in March at their party on the front lawn at

Leatherhead.

But the students have spent the last two years joining the fun at company presentations at universities across the country, making life hell for the staff running them.

And now they've been cancelled altogether, leaving BP and Shell to clean up.

Global Warming Warning



What's happening with the weather? The summer of 2003 saw record droughts across Europe, and even a typhoon in Washington DC which has seen more rain than ever before.

In Eastern Europe, countries which normally export grain are having to import. Across the EU as a whole, wheat production is down 10m tonnes, or about 10%.

Recent science shows that the Arctic is warming 20 times faster than it was 100 years ago: the summer is extended by five days each year. It's predicted that the habitat of the polar bear – the sea ice – will be gone within 100 years... and with that the polar bear, the largest and most majestic of the bear family.

The largest ice shelf in Canada, which supported a freshwater lake and had been there for 3,000 years, has split in half, with scientists blaming global warming.

Meanwhile at the opposite pole, in the Antarctic, scientists also report that the ice shelf there is melting rapidly as a result of warming seas. An ice shelf the size of Scotland - the Larsen Ice Shelf - may disappear within 70 years, independent scientists say.

The weird weather over the summer saw strong warnings from two of Europe's top climate scientists.

The first came from Professor John Schellnhuber of the Tyndall Centre on climate change.

"What we are seeing is absolutely unusual," he told the Guardian. "We know that global warming is proceeding apace, but most of us were thinking that in 20-30 years time we would be seeing hot spells [like this]. But it's happening now. Clearly extreme weather events will increase."

In a blistering attack on George Bush for "an abdication of leadership of epic proportions" and Tony Blair for taking no action for fear of offending him, Sir John Houghton, former head of the Met Office, told the Guardian, that global warming is real and here now, killing people through heatwaves and storms.

"The parallels between global climate change and global terrorism are becoming increasingly obvious", yet no action is taken by either leader, he says.

He said everyone now knows that the US is the world's biggest polluter, and that with only a 20th of the world's population it produces a quarter of its greenhouse gas emissions.



Ice running out for Polar bears

"But the US government... is utterly refusing to take the problem seriously, and Britain, presumably because Blair wishes not to offend George Bush, is beginning to fall behind too."

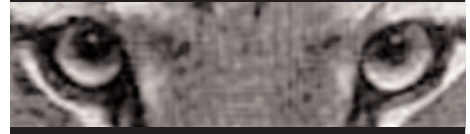
The US media was also starting to turn from its normal anti-climate rants: "Love it or hate it, it is time carbon emissions control received serious treatment. Bogus mumblings about science "not having proved anything" can no longer be taken seriously," said the Washington Post in an editorial.

It continued: "...the [Bush] administration's announcement of yet

another vast "climate change" study has to be greeted with a large dollop of skepticism. If the goal is merely to combine the expertise of the many government departments and scientific bodies that study this issue, that's a fine idea... But if the goal is to pretend, for another decade or so, that global warming isn't happening, or that the impact of greenhouse gases is still in doubt, then the study will simply generate more paper (and needlessly kill trees that could mitigate the problem)."

We would like to hear from you. Text us your comments in confidence, see back page.

SCEPTIC



WATCH

What do the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the Frontiers for Freedom and the George C Marshall Institute have in common?

They are all member of the "Cooler Heads Coalition" which is an anti-climate science lobby group. They all promote the climate sceptic scientists. And they have all received large amounts of funding from ExxonMobil, consistently, for the past ten years.

The CEI, which runs the Cooler Heads Coalition, has received \$1,000,000 from the company since 1998. Frontiers of Freedom has received \$272,000 and the George C Marshall Institute \$250,000. And that's just the beginning of the list.

So when ExxonMobil says it "cares" about climate change, just check out exactly what these groups are saying and doing.

A leaked memo from the CEI to the White House last year called for George W Bush to distance himself from an EPA report which confirmed the US finally accepted climate change. When asked by the New York Times about the CEI's funding from ExxonMobil, the CEI's head said "Firefighters' budgets go up when fires go up."

Tom Cirigliano of XOM in the US says that by funding these groups Exxon is "broadening the debate".

What's Hot

- The Arctic. Warming 8 times faster in the last 20 years compared with last 100.
- UK band Athlete's lead singer wore an Esso SUCKS t-shirt for his Mercury Award photo calls.
- Esso petrol, warmed up to expand slightly before delivery, so as to ensure less petrol delivered to retailer.
- Californian bushfires

What's Not

- Yukos
- Bush on climate change.
- Arctic drilling.
- ExxonMobil's reputation, according to Frank Sprow.

US Senate votes on global warming

Politicians recognise that action needs to be taken as nearly half the Senate supports a "mini Kyoto" bill, reflecting US public opinion.

Esso says, in response to the StopEsso campaign, that "opposition to the [Kyoto] Protocol remains the mainstream view in the United States and the subject continues to be debated in other countries around the globe."

But there has been a sea change in US politics. In 1997, the senate voted 95-0 against US undertaking compulsory CO2 reductions without developing countries involvement. But on 31 October this year, the Senate voted on a similar bill - and the outcome was 55-43. The "mini

Kyoto" bill called on the US Government to cut CO2 emissions, no matter what the rest of the world does.

The New York Times summed it up: "This reflects not only lobbying from environmental groups but a growing realization among governors, mayors and businesses large and small that the long-term costs of climate change could be far greater than the costs of bringing it under control..." "One suspects that the Senate will someday wake up to the fact that the White House sees bogeymen where none exist."

Voices from within ExxonMobil

ExxonMobil staff members in the USA seem to agree with StopEsso. This is what one of them posted on a weblog after Greenpeace shut down the Dallas HQ:

"I work for Exxon, and while I don't like your tactics, your message ought to be heard. There are many of us working for this company who believe that current management is making a mistake by ignoring or, worse, challenging the

science on climate change.

It's a public relations mistake, and a market positioning mistake, that other oil companies have been quicker to avoid.

Oil isn't going to go away tomorrow. But then, neither is global warming, and we ought to stop pretending it will.

I'd prefer to work for a company that took that problem seriously, and did more to look after my children's future."

EYE OF THE TIGER



Her eyes adorn more than 1500 Esso stations up and down the country. But Tessa, the famous Esso tiger, winner of a BAFTA award, is living a painful, humiliating life in the Caribbean.

Tourists pay \$25 to stroke Tessa and pose for photos. She suffers six sessions a day, each with about 20 customers.

Despite being endowed with a coat suited to the minus 50 deg C temperature of Siberia, Tessa has only a small patch of shade from the Caribbean sun, inside her enclosure at the back of a shopping

mall in Aruba in the Dutch antillies, a resort which attracts American tourists.

The Daily Mail reports that the arthritic old tiger, aged 12, the human equivalent of 70 years, "staggers around her 30 ft enclosure, padding out the same route over and over again - behaviour which animal experts point to as a sign of mental stress."

"Hardly able to get up in the mornings because of severe arthritis, she struggles to her feet, her hindquarters swaying as she makes faltering, uncontrolled steps."

Caption Competition:

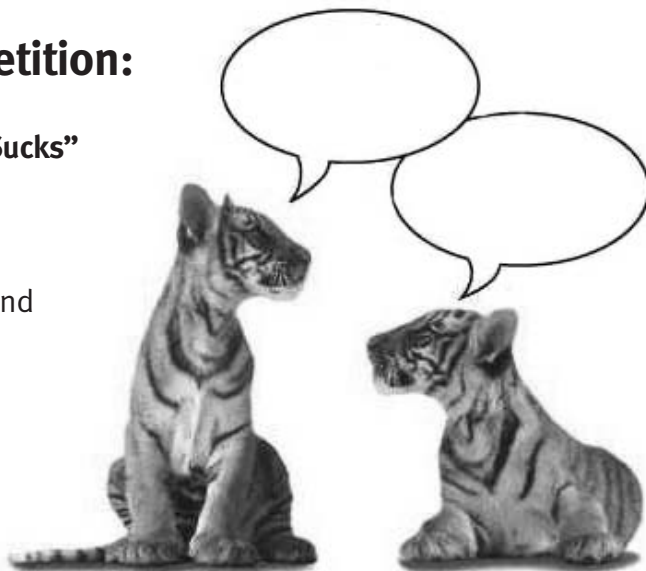
A prize of an "Esso Sucks" tee-shirt goes to the best caption.

fill in, cut out and send with a SAE to:

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Office Gossip

Got any? What's happening? Tell us what you think about Esso?

Text to 07745 908 799

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We will keep any of your details confidential!

Thanks to all of you who told us about the Gleneagles party. We gather there was outrage in some quarters at the taxpayer having to pay for police to provide round the clock security. This for a meeting of executives from one of the most profitable companies in the world.

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