

## Pushing Carbon Onto the Agenda

*Young Friends of the Earth join in the 'One Penny' campaign at Ovenden Moor wind farm, reports Alex*

News September 2011

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Inspired young people from across the UK came together to hold our first [Young FoE](#) summer camp on the August 20–21 weekend. The location was beautiful – a secluded place at Jerusalem Farm, near Mytholmroyd in Yorkshire.

It was the first event organised by [Young FoE](#) in the UK, and it felt like it was the start of something great. We arrived on the Friday and had a great curry cooked up by Rachel, then sat drinking and getting to know each other, while having a jamming session on guitar and fiddle...

On the Saturday we started the sessions – and even the 'ice-breakers' were really fun, where we had to get to know someone new and draw a picture of them – more fun than it sounds, honest!

We wanted to do an action this weekend on [Push Europe](#) – a campaign to get Europe to commit to reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> that the science says are needed to keep our planet safe from unstoppable global warming. So after learning about this campaign we talked about the [One Penny](#) campaign – an ingenious way to petition by getting huge numbers of people to send 1p as a bank transfer to your government with a message attached – and made banners and signs for the action the next day. Helena gave an interview on BBC radio – you can still [listen to this interview](http://audioboo.fm/boos/451894-young-friends-of-the-earth-push-europe-20-08-11-interview-11) (http://audioboo.fm/boos/451894-young-friends-of-the-earth-push-europe-20-08-11-interview-11)

The next day we walked up to the Ovenden Moor wind farm, which is a beautiful place. How anyone can describe wind farms as ugly is beyond me! On heather-strewn moors with rolling hills they looked fantastic. We spent about three hours



*Young Friends of the Earth joining in the Push Europe campaign among the turbines at Ovenden Moor*

there, taking photos to make a stop motion video with the banners and signs spelling out different messages as we moved around. It took ages, and it was so cold and windy – standing around for that long was hard!

We had a [Young FoE](#) session at the [FoE Local Groups conference](#), and hope to get more people involved in the group. After the camp it definitely felt like there was a desire from everyone to do more together. So watch this space, sign up to [Young FoE](#), and look out for updates on [Push Europe](#) and the [One Penny](#) campaign!

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## Join the Conversation – Have Your Say on Our Energy Future

*Friends of the Earth are gearing up for a hard-hitting new campaign on Energy, says Damian*



Friends of the Earth are justly famous for our success at energy campaigning. The Big Ask led to the world's first ever emissions targets set in law at national level, and the Get Serious About CO<sub>2</sub> campaign saw local authorities across the country (including Manchester City Council) commit to their own emissions reductions in line with what science says we need.

Now we need a new approach, taking a much more detailed view at how we are to reach the challenging, but achievable, targets resulting from The Big Ask and Get Serious.

It's time for FoE's Big Energy Conversation!

All FoE Local Groups have been out and about asking the public what, in their opinion, is the answer to the three big energy questions:

1. What's the most important energy issue facing the UK today?
2. Where do you think the most money should go to keep the lights on and reduce dependency on oil?
3. Should more green energy be generated locally, by solar panels on roofs or wind farms owned by councils or communities?

But don't feel you've missed out – you may still be in time to make your voice heard! The questionnaire is available online until the end of September for you to complete at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3W26TKGAs>

Just tick the boxes and fill in your details and you will be entered into a prize draw to win a Wattson energy monitor, which will help you keep track of the electricity you use at home – and hopefully save money too!

So far, we have found a variety of views on what is the most important energy issue. The clear frontrunners are the impact of energy generation on climate change and the price we currently pay for energy, but which of these issues edges ahead depends on who we've been asking.

We have contrasting responses from the two stalls where we had most replies, at the Beech Road Festival in Chorlton and, courtesy of Bolton Friends of the Earth, Moses Gate Country Park. In Chorlton, 45% of people thought the biggest energy issue was the impact of electricity generation on climate change (29% of people we asked in Bolton chose this), whereas in Bolton the front-running issue was the price of fuel, chosen by 41% of respondents (as against only 12% in Chorlton).

Dependence on imported oil and gas, such as from the Arab world and Russia, is also a prominent issue: 16% of responses chose this as the crucial issue (Chorlton 21%, Bolton 13%). The biggest contrast was with the safety of nuclear power, which came out in front for only 3% of people in Bolton but 14% of people in Chorlton.

So much for the problems – looking at the solutions, there is no difficulty at all in spotting the winner. Using renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and wave power, was the preferred option for 62% of respondents overall (Bolton 72%, Chorlton 56%). The runner-up was making energy savings in homes, businesses and industry, chosen by 25% of people (Chorlton 30%, Bolton 26%). Only 7% of people thought we ought to switch to investing in nuclear as our main source of energy, and 3% thought we ought to try to make fossil fuel power stations carbon-neutral by capturing their emissions.

Despite the differences over which is the UK's main energy-related problem and which solution we ought to be investing the most money in, nearly everyone (96% of replies) agreed that more green energy should be generated locally, by solar panels on roofs or community- or council-owned wind farms.

Finally, if this reaches you during September, there is still time for you to contribute – just visit the survey web site above and pick your favourite options!

## Bike Fabulous is Back in Town

*Katy is here to tell us how Bike Fab came back to wow the Arndale with fashion and fruit smoothies*



Following on from the success of last year's event, Bike Fabulous 2011 again took place at Manchester Arndale on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Saturday shoppers were once more wowed by a fantastic range of activities, from catwalk shows and bicycle magic to pedal powered sound and smoothies.

The fun wasn't limited to adults, and children were given the chance to customise reflective vests with pens, glitter and more – this proved so popular that we ran out of vests!

As well as promoting Love Your Bike and other Manchester FoE campaigns, there were stalls from BikeRight!, Breeze and the Manchester BMX Centre.

This year also saw more retailer involvement; local bike shops Keep Pedalling and Ridelow provided stylish cyclewear to display, and everyday items perfect for cycling in style were selected from Manchester Arndale stores.

More than 30 volunteers helped to make the event so ...well, fabulous! From planning to pedalling, catwalk to craft, every contribution was valuable and a fantastic (if tiring) time was had by all.

The hard work and creative thinking has also led to Bike Fabulous being selected as one of the most innovative events in Bike Week by the Team Green Britain Bike Week panel.

Catch up on the events of the day and check out photos on [www.bikefabulous.org](http://www.bikefabulous.org)

Follow Bike Fabulous on Twitter @bikefabulous or "like" our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/bikefabulous](http://www.facebook.com/bikefabulous)



*David Hughes on the catwalk at Bike Fabulous*



*Ice-cold fruit smoothies on the menu at Bike Fabulous – half a minute's pedalling does the trick!*



## A Certain Future – Update

*Manchester's action plan is growing up, with literature and a plan of campaign, reports Dave*

As covered in the last newsletter, one of the most important climate change campaign actions the group can take in Manchester is supporting and promoting Manchester's climate change action plan: Manchester: A Certain Future.

Until now, other than its website ([www.manchesterclimate.com](http://www.manchesterclimate.com)), the plan has never had any promotional materials. Earlier this month MFoE climate campaigner James designed a fantastic four-page leaflet on behalf of the group, explaining the plan and encouraging involvement. After receiving positive accolades from the Steering Group this is now being loaded onto [manchesterclimate.com](http://manchesterclimate.com) for individuals and organisations across Manchester to print and email out to help promote the plan.

You can have a sneak preview here:  
<http://bit.ly/qYSOYE>

We are now scheduling visits to the shops and businesses featured in our guides and membership scheme, to talk about the plan to business owners, and encourage and support them in their climate change actions. If you'd like to get involved or help us with a joint visit to a business or shop near you, email [ali@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:ali@manchesterfoe.org.uk).

## Local Groups Conference 2011 – Friends of the Earth at 40

*Colette Humphrey, joint co-ordinator, talks about some of this year's highlights:*

At the time of writing, seven members of the Manchester group have just returned from an inspirational and fun-filled Local Groups Conference. This is held annually for local group members from across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The weekend is always packed full of exciting speakers, practical workshops and a celebration of the year with the Earthmovers awards.

Friends of the Earth is currently celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year of environmental campaigning. So the session I was most looking forward to was getting together four of the organisation's previous Executive Directors, along with Andy Atkins, who currently holds the role.

Tom Burke, Jonathon Porritt, Charles Secrett and Tony Juniper took to the stage on Friday evening for a panel discussion. As expected, the session included great insights, distant memories and certainly some moments of controversy!



*The Manchester Friends of the Earth delegation, plus Faye from Stockport, at the end of an amazing Local Groups Conference*

As a reminder of our membership of Friends of the Earth International, it has become traditional to invite guests from other groups around the world. This year was no exception, with Nnimmo Bassey, Chair of Friends of the Earth International, from Nigeria, and Jagoda Munić, Friends of the Earth Croatia, joining us.

Presentations from both were incredibly inspiring and entertaining. Nnimmo gave a quote that I will certainly remember: "Keep the oil in the soil, the coal in the hole, the tar sands in the land – keep fossil fuels where they belong." He couldn't think of one for fracking for gas but it got a mention anyway!

Jagoda's presentation was full of great pictures of campaigning actions they have taken and was an exciting source of ideas for our future campaigns.

The weekend was full of a huge choice of seminars and workshops to attend. Some that I went to concentrated on the new national campaigns being planned for the next twelve months – these will focus on bees, energy and resource use. We had lots of fun thinking up creative ideas of how the campaigns should be developed for local groups to use in our street campaigning.

The last presentation of the conference was by Kate Pickett, author of *The Spirit Level*. The presentation gave some highlights about equality and how relatively unequal societies suffer more from problems including life expectancy, obesity, crime – and carbon emissions.



**An action at Conference to save the Mabira forest in Uganda from being turned into a sugar cane plantation**

The theme of the conference this year focused on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with past memories but also future plans: 'Journey to 2050: The next 40 years'. In line with this, two of the directors, Craig Bennett and Joe Jenkins, presented the strategy that has recently been developed outlining the world as we want to see it in 2050, and what we

need to do to achieve it. You can imagine that involves a huge amount of work and campaigning – and I, along with many others, am full of enthusiasm to get on with whatever needs doing to succeed. If you too want to play a part, get in touch with us to see how you can get involved.

## How Bad are Bananas?

*Ever wondered about the carbon footprint of your consumer choices? Cat reviews a new book which will answer your questions*



Many of us, I'm sure, would have had the experience of standing in the fruit and veg department of a supermarket, biting our nails and jumping from one foot to another, trying to decide, environmentally, what the best choice might be. Local strawberries grown in a hothouse, Kenyan mixed lettuce flown into the UK this morning... in paper or plastic... in season or out of season?!

Well your dilemmas may well be over, after reading Mike Berners-Lee's book *How bad are bananas?* Mike sets out in readable detail the carbon footprint of over 100 items from the very small (a text message) to the extreme (a war) with more useful entries making up the majority of the items covered to help people and businesses make choices about where they can get best return for their carbon reduction efforts.

Mike introduces the concept of people developing a sense of 'Carbon impact', something that he acknowledges is difficult to experience given that the consequences of this impact is spread across the world's population and over many years, rather than the instant feedback we might get from spending too much money!

The book is peppered with a great number of contact details and websites to direct people to more information and, perhaps most importantly, Mike is not preachy at all but encourages people to enjoy their lives with more consideration of their carbon footprint. A great read!



## One Step Beyond (Fossil Fuels) – Moving Planet



*The international campaign against the Tar Sands is moving into its next phase, Moving Planet, writes Damian*

What do the following people have in common: Naomi Klein, author of *No Logo*, Bill McKibben, founder of online protest website [www.350.org](http://www.350.org), and *Blade Runner* and *Kill Bill* actress Daryl Hannah? There are another 1,249 names to add to this list, to make up all those arrested in a massive protest in Washington DC against the Keystone XL pipeline, aimed at transporting oil from the Canadian Tar Sands to refineries in Texas.

This pipeline not only opens the way to expansion of this environmentally devastating project in Alberta, but also risks pollution and spillages over a huge area of the American plains states from Montana to the Gulf of Mexico.



The next step in the campaign to show the world how we can move beyond fossil fuels, and to call on our leaders to take action, is Moving Planet ([www.moving-planet.org/](http://www.moving-planet.org/)) on Saturday 24 September. Events are taking place worldwide to show the bicycle is more glamorous than the car, and the people more powerful than the polluters!

Here in Manchester, Bridge 5 Mill, home of MERCi, is hosting the Revolution event (see *back page*), a day of fun and positive action to help start a transport revolution...



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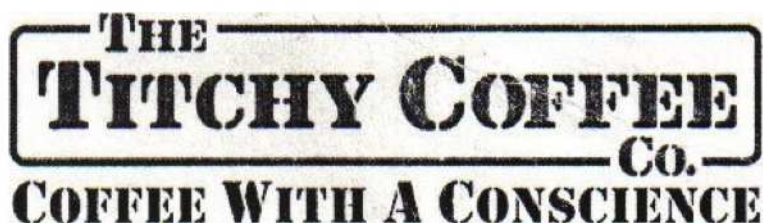
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**Please note that Dojo will  
be closed during May.**

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ethically sourced from small local companies.

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Lower ground floor of the Triangle (the old Corn Exchange) on  
Exchange Square, Corporation Street, M14 3TR.

## Coming Up



### Saturday 24th September

Revolution, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, M4 7HR from 11am to 4pm.

Join MERCi for a day of fun and positive action as part of Moving Planet. Repair clothes, make plant pots from old junk, learn energy saving tips – plus food and prizes!

<http://www.en4m.org.uk/?q=node/2319>

### Saturday 1st October

Speak Out For Climate Justice, Manchester Academy, Oxford Road M13 9PR

A Stop Climate Chaos event organised by People & Planet. Join us for a day of talks, workshops, a procession and a vigil on the eve of the Conservative Party Conference, to call for climate justice for the world's poor.

<http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/bearing-witness>

### Wednesday 19th October

Hunger for Justice—From Food Crisis to Food Sovereignty, Mechanics Institute, Princess St International speakers explore re-localising and democratising the food system in a meeting sponsored by Unicorn Grocery.

<http://www.wdm.org.uk/events/hunger-justice-0>

## Regular Events



### Second Tuesday of the month 6.45 for 7pm.

Full group meeting. Green Fish Resource Centre, 46–50 Oldham Street. New members very welcome to come along and find out more about the group!

### Last Thursday of the month 6.45 for 7pm.

Campaigns meeting. Green Fish Resource Centre, 46–50 Oldham Street. All welcome. We split into groups to focus on our main campaign areas: Climate, Transport and Food.

### Last Friday of the month

Bike Friday. Rides from a range of locations in Greater Manchester to work, college or university. Starting points are Worsley (Worsley Road/Chatsworth Road), Stretford Mall, Chorlton Library, Withington Library, Levenshulme Station and Prestwich (Bury New Road/Scholes Lane).

[www.bikefriday.org](http://www.bikefriday.org)

## Happy Birthday, Friends of the Earth!

*(For those of you who missed Conference...)*

As some of you will know, we are celebrating Friends of the Earth's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and we would like to join in the festivities here at Manchester FoE.

### Can you help us?

We decided it would be amazing if we could track down as many as possible of Manchester FoE's coordinators and activists down the years for a grand reunion and party later in the year, maybe at the time of the AGM in December.

If you can let us know their whereabouts and if they would be happy to take part, please feel free to contact us at:

[colette@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:colette@manchesterfoe.org.uk)

**Thanks!**

Thanks a lot for your contributions to the September 2011 issue. Don't forget to email me if you have any articles or ideas for future issues of the Manchester FoE newsletter ([newsletter@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@manchesterfoe.org.uk)).

*Damian*, Manchester FoE Newsletter Editor

Manchester FoE is an award-winning campaign group working on issues relating to the environment and social justice. We campaign on issues with a local connection and also lobby for policy changes at local, regional, national and international levels. We work on a diverse range of issues including climate change, corporate responsibility, real food, trade justice, sustainable transport and aviation, and waste and recycling.

For more information about Manchester FoE and our campaigns, see [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk)

**Manchester FoE is backing the City's climate change action plan Manchester: A Certain Future** <http://www.manchesterclimate.com/>