

Act!on

How Smart Is Your Phone?

*FoE's new campaign has been launched, with a focus
on smartphones, reports Damian*

Spring 2013

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Have you bought a new smartphone recently?
Have you wondered where its components came
from, and what impact its production had on the
environment?

As we mentioned in the last newsletter of 2012,
Friends of the Earth has launched its new
campaign, *Make It Better*, to focus on the total
supply chain of consumer goods. The first action
of the campaign is an ongoing drive to get
smartphone manufacturers Samsung and Apple
to reveal where the tin they use to solder their
components together is sourced.

Why tin? you may ask. In all probability the tin in
their smartphones originated in the Indonesian
island of Bangka, just off Sumatra. This island is
the source of about one third of all tin currently
mined worldwide.

Here, unregulated mining is regularly leading to
deaths and serious injuries—figures for 2011
show that an average of one miner a week died in
an accident. Also, the livelihoods of fishermen
have been put in jeopardy by widespread
dredging of the seabed, leading to contamination
of inshore waters and destruction of coral reefs.

In a survey carried out for national FoE, 55 per
cent of people believed that manufacturers have
the biggest responsibility for cleaning up their
supply chain, ahead of shoppers and the
government. As two of the world's leading
consumers of tin, Samsung and Apple have a
major part to play in ensuring they source their
own tin ethically, and standing up for international
environmental standards.



*Is your smartphone helping damage the environment in
Indonesia? Time to ask the manufacturers...*

Strangely, considering their role in helping people
communicate all over the world, it took a concerted
campaign of emails and tweets to get Samsung to
agree to meet national FoE and discuss FoE's
questions about where they source their tin. You
can help keep up the pressure by asking Samsung
at <http://tinyurl.com/emailsamsung>.

If you would like to get involved in this campaign
with Manchester FoE, please email Colette at
colette@manchesterfoe.org.uk or visit
<http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/calendar/> to find out
about the next *Make It Better* campaign meeting.

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Clean Power or Dirty in 2030?

Who wants a target to get carbon out of power generation—and who doesn't? asks Damian

As you may already be aware, there is currently an Energy Bill making its way through Parliament. This is the Coalition Government's attempt to deal with the UK's energy crisis and provide for new electricity generating capacity to replace many existing power stations which are coming to the end of their lives.

However, there is one major shortcoming with this bill. Scientific opinion, including the Government's own Committee on Climate Change, has said the UK needs to set a target for 2030 of 50 g CO₂ per kilowatt-hour of energy generated in our power stations. The Government wants to put off making a decision on this for another three years, as well as threatening a disastrous second 'dash for gas'. This means we would continue to pump CO₂ into the atmosphere at the current (high) rate (this is about 500 g per kWh, by the way).

As Kevin Anderson at Manchester's Tyndall Centre points out, rises in temperature depend on the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted. This means we will need to make more extensive emissions cuts later if we fail to set targets immediately. Many organisations realise this and are pressing for a target to be included in the bill. Friends of the Earth has put together a list of organisations that back a 2030 target—and those that don't. Have a look at <http://tinyurl.com/2030target> and see if you can spot the difference!

With such widespread support, we obviously need to keep trying to get a target into the bill and, fortunately, there is now an amendment, tabled by Tory MP Tim Yeo and Barry Gardiner for Labour, that would put a target similar to that mentioned above into law.

This amendment would make the Government set a decarbonisation target by April next year, which would guarantee a long-term return on investment in renewables and so boost the confidence of investors.

You can take action yourself by asking your MP to back the amendment. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/cleanpoweraction> to find out how. If you have the time, you could even go along to a surgery in your constituency and ask him or her in person!



Sir Gerald Kaufman, MP for Gorton, joins campaigner Helen Rimmer to back our Clean British Energy campaign for a decarbonisation target

Manchester FoE is also campaigning on other issues related to climate in the Manchester area, including supporting the city's climate change action plan, A Certain Future. To find out more please contact Ali at ali@manchesterfoe.org.uk.

Stop Food Going Bad

Safia explains the background to Manchester FoE's food campaigning for 2013

The impact of current intensive agriculture on land, natural resources and the environment is dangerous in many ways. The overconsumption and demand for cosmetic perfection that feed this industry not only encourage current practices but also produce massive amounts of food waste throughout the supply chain.

Half of usable land worldwide is already used for pastoral or intensive agriculture, and much of the remaining land is infertile. With the alarming increase in heat, droughts and floods over the last 20+ years, we need an urgent shift in the way we grow, distribute and consume our food globally, not just to reduce the impact of climate change, but to introduce new farming practices to adapt to it.

How the system has gone bad (or is mad)

- Deforestation and disappearance of important ecosystems
- Intensive monocultures
- Intensive factory farming of livestock
- Barriers to organic farming
- Genetically modified organisms and aggressive biotech lawsuits
- Oil dependency
- Public health and overconsumption
- Increasing competition between uses of land for food versus land for biomass, resulting in shrinking natural habitats
- EU market regulations and supermarket cosmetic standards

As global populations increase, the demand for food also increases. However, the world currently produces enough food to feed 10 billion mouths, but wastes at least one third of that up and down the food supply chain. If we wasted less food, we would need to produce less and there would be less support for the bad and mad practices that are the norm in today's industrial food supply.

The 'taste before beauty' campaign aims to highlight the avoidable food waste created when supermarkets reject large amounts of food because it is not cosmetically perfect.

Last year, due to the extreme weather conditions, UK farmers suffered one of the worst harvests in recent years. However, it wasn't all bad news for UK farmers, as most of the big supermarkets announced a reversal of policy and started stocking non-cosmetically perfect fruit and vegetables, which meant farmers could sell more of their harvests and waste less food.

Before the change of heart, supermarkets often said they were responding to their customers by only stocking fruit and vegetables that were cosmetically perfect. Manchester FoE argues that most customers still are unaware of the amount of perfectly good food being wasted.

Join our campaign to ask supermarkets to put 'taste before beauty'. Tell your supermarket that:

- You are happy to buy great tasting food that isn't cosmetically perfect; and
- You want a pledge from them that they will continue to stock non-cosmetically perfect fruit and vegetables, even if harvests return to normal this year and the next.

How you can take action

- Join our campaigning around food waste
- Get involved with recycling organisations like FoodCycle and FareShare
- Shop at market stalls or farmers' markets
- Grow your own or help out on a community allotment
- Sign up to a fruit and veg box scheme
- Love your leftovers and get inventive with food; visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/ for inspiring recipes and ideas on how you can reduce your own food waste footprint
- For international campaigns, visit www.foeeurope.org/yfoee/food-agriculture and see the reCAP campaign.

The MFOE food campaign is involved in organising a 'Feeding the 5K' event here in Manchester for 15 June. For more information and to keep up with the latest campaign news, please email safia@manchesterfoe.org.uk, visit <http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/campaigns/> or come to a food campaign meeting.

taste
before beauty



Stop supermarkets rejecting perfectly good food. Join our campaign by sending a message to the supermarkets.
www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/tastebeforebeauty

Love It Lock It!

Make sure you see your bike again! warns Cat

With a bike being stolen in Manchester roughly once every 30 minutes, leaving your bike on the streets of this fine city is a fretful experience and one distressing enough to put a lot of people off cycling altogether. So, with a small grant from the (former) Greater Manchester Police Authority, the transport subgroup launched its **Love It Lock It!** campaign in February.



This campaign aims to improve people's awareness of the do's and don'ts of bike security by attaching bike lock-shaped flyers to poorly locked bikes in the city and giving tips and links on a web page. Discounts have been offered by several of Manchester's cycle shops for those wanting to purchase a decent lock.

But bike security isn't just the responsibility of cyclists. The group will also be using the campaign to call for the local council and newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner to address the low levels of cycle parking infrastructure in Manchester and to improve the recovery rate of stolen bikes across the city. So how do you increase your chances of keeping your bike? Here are a few tips:

- Don't be tempted—lock it no matter how quick you will be.
- Think about where you leave your bike. Location seems a little obvious, but simple things like the level of street lighting and the distance of the nearest house or shop can make a thief think twice.

- Consider what you lock your bike to. It needs to be solid and immovable.
- Buy a good quality lock. A general rule is: the more heavy and expensive the lock, the better it is. The general guide is to spend 10% of your bike's price on the lock. The ultimate locks are D-locks, although even these can vary in price and quality. Both heavy and robust, a gold standard D-lock can take a professional bike thief 5 minutes to break, compared with the 30 seconds a passing thief would take to break a £20 cable lock.
- Make sure you lock up your bike well. Put the lock through the triangle of the bike frame and, if you have a cable lock as well, thread that through the D-lock and the wheels. Secure any removable parts or, even better, take them with you!

For more details, as well as how to get involved, see <http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/loveitlockit/>. Please check our website for our latest offers.



Launching the Love It Lock It campaign, in Albert Square on Valentine's Day

Manchester FoE Gets Busy for Bees!

2013 will prove to be an exciting year for the Bee Cause campaign, reports Stephanie

Through the efforts of dedicated campaigners nationwide (FoE and others), national FoE is pleased to announce that Homebase, B&Q and Wickes plan to remove the most dangerous products for bees, containing neonicotinoid pesticides, from their shelves. What a success!

There is plenty more work to be done to help boost the population of our lovely pollinators, so this year national FoE has challenged the local groups to create some official 'bee worlds'. A bee world must consist of an area of wild grass and flower meadow measuring at least 5 x 5 metres with a two-year maintenance plan.

Public places, such as schools, hospitals and housing associations, will be some of the targets to host bee worlds. FoE aims to create at least 60 of these bee worlds throughout the country to mark the fact that the UK has lost 97% of wild flower meadows since the Queen came to the throne 60 years ago.



Manchester FoE coordinator Colette gets into the spirit of the Bees campaign at Kersal Moor

MFoE is keen to create at least one official bee world and a number of mini bee worlds throughout the city. These will provide the much-needed habitat that our bees have lost. They will be accompanied by bee hotels and bug boxes to make them as enticing as possible for a number of species. Public awareness is still very important for the Bee Cause campaign, and MFoE will continue to campaign for a national bee plan. We want to raise awareness with local MPs too, so we will be inviting them to see the bee worlds we create.

So we have lots of exciting plans to get stuck into! In the words of the Gallagher brothers, let's get this city 'buzzing'. Sorry, I couldn't resist!

Horse-free Burgers

Here is a recipe for black bean burgers from Veganomicon, care of Cat, and guaranteed not to contain any nasty surprises!



Ingredients

- 2 cups cooked/1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup breadcrumbs
- 1 tsp chilli powder, or to taste!
- ½ tsp cumin powder
- ¼ cup water
- 1 tbsp tomato paste
- ¼ cup chopped coriander (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ small onion, grated
- Olive oil to cook
- Wholewheat buns

Method

Mash the beans with a fork in a mixing bowl—don't overdo it, you should have some half beans left! Add the breadcrumbs, chilli, cumin, water, tomato paste, coriander, garlic and onion. Mix everything together with a fork and then knead with your hands until the mixture is firm and uniformly mixed (about a minute).

Divide the mixture into six equal pieces and roll each into a firm ball. Use your palm to press the ball down onto a clean surface to form a patty that is about ½ inch thick.

Preheat a heavy-bottomed pan over medium heat. Pour a thin layer of oil into the pan and cook the patties for five minutes on each side. Gently but firmly press down on them with a spatula. When cooked, the patties will be very firm when you press down on them.

Serve on the warm buns with salad and the sauces of your choice—and perhaps a little horseradish mayonnaise!

The Bees campaign is set to take off in 2013—time to meet lead campaigner Stephanie Lynch



How long have you been in Manchester FoE?
Since November 2012, very much a newbie still!

What sort of activities have you been involved with? As I joined at the end of 2012, I haven't had much of a chance to get involved in many campaigns but I was thrilled to discover the Bee Cause needed a campaign lead, so I put myself forward. After taking part in the Bee Cause teleconference in January, I am excited to be taking part in creating some bee worlds in Manchester this year. There will also be many opportunities to fundraise and campaign at events. I can't wait!

What environmental issues concern you most? There are so many! I am the type of person that holds the weight of the world on their shoulders, and so MFoE is great to turn the 'negative' energy created from the many concerns and turning it into a positive contribution. I am a big wildlife enthusiast, so I would say my main concerns are linked with the loss of natural habitat, pollution and climate change.

Why do you choose to campaign with Manchester FoE? I started campaigning for environmental issues online, and I saw the Bee Cause pop up on a site one day. Through the national FoE site I found the group and decided to go to a meeting. It was very inspiring to meet people that are so dedicated to making a

difference in a time of planetary need and so I was eager to get involved.

What would you say to someone considering getting involved? Go for it! The great thing about the group is you can get involved as much or as little as you want. There are no pressures, and you can pick and choose what campaigns you want to get involved in.

The campaigns that are running (both national and local) are very worthwhile and there are some fantastic opportunities to get involved in. The members are really friendly and helpful, so there is no need to be nervous before going to your first group meeting.

Who Do Your Savings Support?

*Save with Triodos Bank and they will donate
£40 to Friends of the Earth*

You may have seen the Friends of the Earth – Make It Better campaign (*see front cover*), where we're encouraging everyone to really consider the impact that the things we buy have on our world. We're calling for companies to be honest about how they do business, to ensure that the products they make don't hurt people and the environment.

For many years savers have put their trust in banks and asked few questions about what happens to their money once it's deposited, or the kinds of businesses that banks lend it to. Thousands of people have chosen to move their money in the wake of the financial scandals that have rocked the big high street banks. But even if you don't bank with the worst offenders, it's still almost impossible to find out exactly who your bank lends your money to. Most won't say.

One easy way to make sure that your savings are used to support the things you believe in is to save with Triodos Bank, which publishes details of every single organisation it lends to on its website. You can help FoE by opening an account with Triodos and they will donate £40 to FoE once you credit your account with £100. For details, visit <http://tinyurl.com/foetriodos>

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Public meeting with Mark Hunter, Lib Dem

Also keep your diary free for the **Make It**

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