

Act!on



Award Winners!

Manchester FoE wins the Group of the Year award at national FoE's BASECAMP

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Anyone who went to Friends of the Earth's first ever BASECAMP last year will remember what a great success it was, as an event bringing many campaigners together from all across the FoE network. It was no surprise that FoE decided to stick with a winning formula and, over the weekend of 13–15 June, nearly 400 activists gathered in Castleton Youth Hostel, in the Derbyshire Peak District, for a mixture of campaign planning, inspiring speeches and fun!

This year Manchester FoE sent our largest ever group to a FoE conference (*see photo opposite*). We were present at the Earthmovers Award ceremony to see Manchester FoE win the 'Group of the Year' award for our wide-ranging campaigning, particularly on bees and fracking. The stall at Dig The City last August, our Bee Worlds and screening of More Than Honey, and our campaigning against fracking on Barton Moss all helped us win this prestigious award.

This wasn't our only contribution to the weekend, however. Corin and the Real Junk Food Project Manchester sourced enough waste food to cook up a tasty vegetarian curry for all the hundreds of Basecampers, served with rice donated by grocer Unicorn in Chorlton, potatoes, or innovative coleslaw made from mooli (the East Asian radish lookalike). Have a look online at <http://realjunkfoodmanchester.co.uk/blog/> to find out more about this amazing achievement, as well as all their other missions to fight hunger and save Manchester from food waste.

Obviously, there was never going to be room for all 400 or so activists in the Youth Hostel, so a nearby camping field was opened up for us to use. Manchester FoE volunteers put in a lot of

effort in the run-up to Basecamp laying out a neat gravel path with handrail through the trees and digging a compost toilet, both of which will remain for campers to use in the future.



Manchester FoE's award-winning contingent—Colette proudly displaying our 'Group of the Year' award

Throughout the weekend a strange figure kept appearing at the end of the lawn behind the youth hostel. First a business suit was draped across a framework of poles, then it grew a head in the shape of a gas wellhead 'Christmas tree'; finally, puppeteers Polyp and Schlunke presented us with 'Mr Frack Head', the monster who stalked across the lawn in the closing action on Sunday afternoon, interrupting an unsuspecting couple's breakfast with his fracking threats. Luckily, the Run On Sun kids turned up in time to drive back the monster with the power of solar energy. You can find out about FoE's new Run On Sun campaign inside!

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From Solar Power...

Manchester FoE brings the brand new national campaign to Ashton on Mersey village centre

At last year's Basecamp many of us took part in discussions around tables in the marquee to choose what Friends of the Earth's next big campaign should be. Maybe inspired by the summer heatwave, we decided to show the positive side of the energy debate by campaigning to get solar panels installed on school roofs nationwide. As every community has its own school, the Run On Sun campaign gives us the chance to promote renewables in a more upbeat way, compared with focusing exclusively on the dangers of fracking and coal bed methane. It will also make the next generation of potential FoE activists familiar with green energy right from the very start.

Appropriately, FoE picked Saturday 21 June, the longest day, to launch Run On Sun. With the invaluable help of face painter Hannah, Manchester FoE activists Eileen, Morven, Ali and Damian brought the campaign message to the Ashton on Mersey summer market. Over 250 people signed our postcards asking the Government to allow schools to borrow the upfront costs of rooftop solar panel installations. At the moment, schools can only borrow for retrofit purposes, such as roof and wall insulation—even though solar panels can earn a school between £1500 and £8000 a year, finance is not available. This is in spite of the fact that solar panel installations will pay for themselves over the course of eight to ten years, so there is a guaranteed return on the initial investment. If you want to find out more about Run On Sun and how you can get involved, visit www.foe.co.uk/runonsun where you can sign up to the FoE petition, find out how Saltaire primary school in Yorkshire has already made the choice to run on solar energy, and donate to help support Run On Sun achieve its goals.



Damian, Morven and Hannah at the Ashton on Mersey market, launching Run on Sun on the longest day

...To Wild Flowers

Ashton on Mersey also shares in a rerun of 2013's big success, the Bee Cause

The Bee Cause has been one of Friends of the Earth's longest-running campaigns, and at Manchester FoE we decided to bring it to a close on a larger scale by planting not just one, but two, Bee Worlds in the village centre at Ashton on Mersey.

There is a large patch of grass in Ashton village centre, kept regularly mown by the council and therefore a bit of a 'green desert' when it comes to the needs of our pollinating insects. Having checked the neighbourhood out for suitable spots for wild flowers, we picked this area as it is quite close to a busy walking route and just across from the Buck pub car park, so bound to draw attention.

In order to start planting, we had to get our plans approved by the Friends of Ashton Village and Trafford Council, so it took a little time to finalise the design and flower mix. However, we got the go-ahead at last and, on the May Day bank holiday, we finally started digging.

On Saturday 10 May, we brought 'Ashton Village—A Hive of Activity' to the village high street, Green Lane. Children came over to the Bee World and took turns at scattering wild flower seed mix over the freshly turned first patch of ground. In between the showers, we continued with the second Bee World, which was finally finished at the beginning of June.



*Ashton on Mersey village centre —
sowing the seed for the Bee World*

Both Bee Worlds are now showing welcome signs of growth. We look forward to seeing plenty of flowers appearing later in the summer to keep our pollinators happy and well fed. Whether at a FoE Bee World or in your local park or garden, you can join in Friends of the Earth's <http://www.greatbritishbeecount.co.uk/>

30 Days—Over 300 Events

*Bike Month MCR was again a great success,
reports Graeme*



During June, Manchester FoE's Love Your Bike, with support from Manchester City Council, coordinated another Bike-tastic celebration of all things pedal-powered, with events from organisations across Greater Manchester. It kicked off with the Bolton Sky Ride and culminated in our very own Pothole Party. As well as providing the calendar for the

month (www.bikemonthmcr.org), Love Your Bike volunteers led on four special events.

The first was the Big Commute Challenge, on Friday 20th June, a friendly contest from Crumpsall to the city centre, featuring council leader Sir Richard Leese on his bike, Manchester Evening News transport correspondent Charlotte Cox on Metrolink, FoE's Helen Rimmer on the bus, Manchester Cycle Deliveries' Pavol Gajdos on his Wagl cargo bike and local resident Rob Raikes in his car. The bikes, naturally, won, with Sir Richard completing the journey in 14 minutes and the car coming in last at 43 minutes. Two days later, Love Your Bike led the Bicycle Bloc at the Manchester Day Parade, fulfilling the 'Going Global' theme of the whole event by 'Going Dutch', with a giant Dutch woman on an equally giant bike followed by over fifty normal-sized cycling enthusiasts. Friday 27th saw our regular Bike Friday (www.bikefriday.org) commuter cycling rides culminating in sunshine, coffee and cake outside Eastern Bloc records, all free to those taking part.

Finally, our Pothole Party, organised in partnership with the University of Manchester's Manchester Cycling Lab, was a fun way to raise and tackle a serious issue. Timed to coincide with Manchester City Council's announcement of £50,000 for minor road improvements, the event ran a photo competition to report potholes and issues of concern of those cycling in the city and featured photos of some very creatively 'made up' pieces of tarmac. We also invited visitors to our website to pledge to cycle throughout June, with 112 people signing up and 12 finding themselves winners of great prizes. Bike Month MCR may well become a regular feature but, as our on-going calendar shows (www.loveyourbike.org/cyclingcalendar), you don't need to wait for Bike Month to enjoy great cycling events in Greater Manchester.

Manchester's TreeStation

Patrick Morello from TreeStation announces its new share offer and open day

Based in Gorton, the TreeStation is a not-for-profit social enterprise aiming to make the best use of local timber resources. The by-products of routine tree maintenance work in Manchester are used to make firewood and sawn timber, which are used by local people to heat houses and make furniture.

Shockingly, vast amounts of firewood are imported from Lithuania and elsewhere in Eastern Europe, often illegally coming from across the border in Russia so it can claim to be an EU product. This wood is unsustainably harvested, kiln-dried and transported large distances. At the same time, in the UK, a lot of wood is just chipped for use in paper mills or as low-grade biomass for power stations. Similarly, almost all hardwood sawn timber in the UK is from overseas— if not Europe, then the Americas or South-East Asia.

The TreeStation uses the larger trunks of sycamore, beech, ash and other species to make planks, which are sold to local joiners to make furniture. The carbon is then locked up for generations. One of its main customers is Start in Salford, a mental health charity which runs a joinery workshop where people recovering from mental health problems can get creative with wood. Start is now selling its chopping boards to John Lewis— made from TreeStation timber.

Ben Thomas of Start said “Without the continued development of the TreeStation and its products we would be unable to offer the unique service we do, which provides both community engagement and social return, but also economic return in the form of income for the Charity which owns Start Creative. The TreeStation are the only supplier of the product we need.”

The TreeStation is offering shares to friends and supporters to raise money for a biomass-powered kiln and other equipment. The aim is to greatly increase the availability of low-carbon

wood fuels in Manchester, and to be able to dry sawn timber without burning fossil fuels. Anyone buying shares can benefit from a 30% tax refund and gets to own part of a unique social enterprise!



TreeStation lets people get creative with waste wood and makes good use of local timber resources

Now, the TreeStation is set to get even more sustainable with its new community share issue, and is aiming to install a woodchip-burning boiler which will heat its office building as well as powering a kiln. This means that for the first time, and uniquely in the North-West, its timber will be kiln-dried without using fossil fuels. Also, this will enable the TreeStation to kiln-dry firewood sustainably, helping to increase production to meet the high winter demand for dry wood.

Anyone interested in the TreeStation is welcome to attend the open day on 12th July —please visit <http://www.treestation.co.uk/about/treestation-open-days/> for more information. Many of the enterprise's woody partners will be there— joiners, mushroom growers, the Biomass Energy Co-op—and there will be demonstrations, tours, chainsaw carving and cake, and a presentation of the new share offer.

Membership Application Form

To join Manchester Friends of the Earth, please complete this form (in CAPITALS) and post it to:

Manchester FOE, Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham St, Manchester M4 1LE

As a member you will not only get our quarterly newsletter and a free subscription to national Friends of the Earth's online magazine, "Earthed" but also, if you wish, a membership card offering discounts at selected local businesses. The latest deals are listed on our website (www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/discounts) and will be included with your card.

SPECIAL OFFER: Join by standing order today and receive a FREE* battery charger or a limited edition "Love Your Bike" fluorescent vest

* While stocks last. Offer subject to paying at least £2 per month by standing order. For vest sizes, see <http://bit.ly/vestsizes>

Most of our members kindly pay by monthly standing order, which saves us time and money and helps with budgeting. If you are taking out a standing order, please complete the standing order section below (in CAPITALS) and remember to sign and date it before returning the form to us (do not send it to your bank). **Thank you for your support!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Phone/Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Where did you find out about us? ☐ website ☐ national FOE ☐ stall ☐ newsletter ☐ friend/family ☐ other

☐ Tick here if you would like to receive our weekly email digest of the latest news, online actions & local events

☐ Tick here if you would prefer to receive the Manchester FOE newsletter by post rather than by email

☐ Tick here if you'd like us to send you a membership card offering discounts at selected local businesses

☐ Tick here if you'd like a free battery charger ☐ Tick here if you'd like a free Love Your Bike vest (size: _____)

Your details will be stored in a database and used to send you information about Manchester Friends of the Earth. We will not pass your information on to other organisations. If you do not wish us to keep your details in our database, please tick here ☐

Membership Type (tick one):	Monthly membership rates (tick one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Active: I hope to get involved with the group's activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged:	£0.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Armchair: I'm happy just to support the group financially	<input type="checkbox"/> Low waged:	£1.00
Method of Payment (tick one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Waged:	£2.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Standing order: I have completed & signed the standing order section below.	<input type="checkbox"/> Household:	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque (made payable to Manchester Friends of the Earth):		
I enclose my membership fee of £_____ (plus a donation of £_____)		

Complete this section for standing orders (please use CAPITALS):

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Account number: _____ Sort code: _____

Bank name & _____

branch address: _____

Instructions to the bank

Please pay the sum of £_____ each MONTH on the _____ day of each month starting on (enter date at least two months from today) ____/____/____ until further notice to:

'Manchester Friends of the Earth', account no. 65164538, sort code 08-92-99, bank address:

The Co-operative Bank Plc, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recipe—Dairy-free Soda Bread

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In June, the Manchester FoE food campaign had one of our many Food Socials, this one under the title 'Show Us Your Loaf'. The theme of this was, unsurprisingly, bread—sustainably produced, or even home-made. Newsletter editor Damian adapted a soda bread recipe to remove its dairy content and so reduce its impact on the environment.

Ingredients

- 250 g/8 oz plain white flour
- 250 g/8 oz plain wholemeal flour
- 100 g/3½ oz oats
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 50 g/1¾ oz margarine
- 250 ml/9 fl oz soy milk
- 250 ml/9 fl oz vegetable oil

Method

- Preheat oven to 200°C/400°F/gas mark 6.
- Mix the flour, oats, salt and bicarbonate of soda together in a mixing bowl.
- Rub the margarine into the dry ingredients with your fingers until there are no lumps of margarine left.
- Pour in the soy milk and vegetable oil, mixing them in quickly using a palette knife. Then bring the mixture together with your fingers with the minimum of handling.
- Shape the mixture into a flat-bottomed loaf about 20 cm/8 inches in diameter.
- Place the loaf on a baking sheet and cut across the top in both directions to make it cook through evenly (don't cut too deep, though, as this may lead to the loaf breaking up).
- Bake for 35 minutes, after which the surface of the loaf should be dry to the touch and sound hollow when tapped.
- Cool on a wire rack under a tea towel to stop the soda bread drying out.



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Coming Up



Saturday 12 July

TTIP Day of Action. Join the fight against this international trade agreement, which threatens to allow companies to sue governments in secret courts, undermining laws protecting the environment. 12 noon–3pm, Market Street, Manchester. Learn more at <http://stopttipmcr.wordpress.com>

Saturday 2–Sunday 10 August

Dig The City. Manchester's annual garden festival, with stalls to show you how to make the most of limited garden space—including one from Manchester FoE. St Ann's Square, Manchester. To get involved email steph@manchesterfoe.org.uk

Sunday 3 August

SkyRide. Annual traffic-free cycling day, through city centre Manchester streets. From 10am, route to be confirmed. Find out more and register for this event at www.goskyride.com/ManchesterSkyRide.

Regular Events



Our **Full Group Meeting** is on the second Tuesday of the month at 6.45 for 7pm at Green Fish Resource Centre, 46–50 Oldham Street. This is the perfect occasion to come and find out more about the group. All welcome.

For details of our **Campaigns Meetings**, see <http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/calendar/>. These are also held at Green Fish Resource Centre, usually at 6.30 or 7pm, but times may vary. All welcome. There is one meeting every month for each of our campaigns: Climate Change and Fracking, Transport and Food.

Bike Friday is on the last Friday of the month (not December). Rides from various locations in Greater Manchester to work, college or university. Starting points are Worsley/Monton, Blackley/Middleton (Rochdale Road/Victoria Avenue East), Sale Waterside, Chorlton Library, Withington Library, Levenshulme Station, Prestwich (Bury New Road/Scholes Lane) and Stockport (Mersey Square). www.bikefriday.org

Do you live in Trafford?

Do you know anyone who does?

If you do, either you or your friends or relatives are on the latest fracking frontline.

Fracking company iGas have of course already been drilling at Barton Moss, testing for shale gas and coal bed methane.

Just across the Manchester Ship Canal, Davyhulme is next in their sights. iGas have moved on to a patch of land by the M60, opposite the Chill Factore and next to the land earmarked for the biomass incinerator.

They have applied for planning permission to extract coal bed methane over a period of 25 years, and we expect Trafford Council to decide on this in September.

Whilst the window for the public to object to this application has closed, there is still time to put pressure on Trafford Council to refuse planning permission.

At Manchester FoE, we are continuing to campaign on this issue, and we have been active in gathering signatures for a petition to make Trafford a 'Frack Free Borough'.

If you'd like to help with our campaign, please download our petition using the link below and ask any Trafford residents you know to sign it: bit.ly/fftpetition

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

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