

Act!on

Manchester Friends of the Earth

December
2004

www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

Russian Into Climate Change?

Kyoto and onwards...



...“parking tickets” for large urban 4X4s parked on city streets (nowhere near the mountains or wilderness you see in the adverts)

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Join hundreds of people from all over the country who are angry about the scale of the Government’s airport expansion plans.

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**Friends of the Earth
Manchester**

Manchester Friends of the Earth is a prominent pressure group working on campaigns relating to the environment and to 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 sustainable transport, real food, climate change, waste and recycling, air quality, social exclusion and trade.

New FoE Team!

Congratulations to Ali and Dave, who were voted co-ordinators at the AGM on 7th December. Thanks to Kerstin and Graeme for their work as co-ordinators this year and well done to Dave for carrying on for another year! Ali will also be continuing to do the web site and look after the computer. Collette will be taking over from Michael as treasurer and Liz will be continuing as membership officer. Thanks to everyone for their hard work this year and good luck to the 2005 team!



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JOIN IN!

Manchester FoE's campaign centre is located in the basement of the Friends Meeting House. The Quaker's Building, 6 Mount Street, behind Central Library.

To find the campaigns centre, take Bootle Street which is down the side of the Friends Meeting House on the left as you face the main entrance. Ring the MFoE bell if the door is locked. Go down the corridor, turn left then immediate right and we're on the left. The Campaigns Centre is run entirely by volunteers, so it is not always open. Please phone in advance on 0161 8348221 if you wish to see someone.

Meetings: 7pm on the second Tuesday and the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Friends' Meeting House, generally in room 5.

Manchester FoE, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS

Telephone 0161 8348221 **Email** office@manchesterfoe.org.uk **Website** www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

As a member you get not only the newsletter but also:

50% off a meal at Earth Cafe

10% off selected purchases at Harry Hall Cycles

10% off food and drink at Misty's Cafe

10% off purchases at the Manchester branches of Field & Trek and The Outdoor Shop

15% off food and drink at the Nectar Cafe in Hale

Just fill in the membership form on the back cover and get involved!

contributors to this issue: Ali Abbas, David Archer (Bury FoE), Dave Coleman, Colette Humphrey, Kerstin Moritz, Graeme Sherriff (editor), photos: p5 Calliste Lelliot (FoE) and cover 'Imagesource'



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...

The waste campaign has so far focused on household recycling services. We have devised a survey to gain the views of local residents regarding kerbside recycling collection services. The survey was first used at the Stockport Environment Fair and will continue to be used over the coming months to build feedback on local services.

The survey can now be downloaded from our website to enable you to complete the survey and return it to us. See www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/waste

Plans for 2005 for the waste campaign include:

- Working with the eco-schools scheme to encourage more children, and their parents, to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste.
- Encouraging businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste – by increasing awareness of the need to reduce waste and by increasing awareness of the services available.
- Researching methods of implementing recycling services for waste streams not currently available in the Manchester area.

If you want to get involved in the waste campaign please email recycle@manchesterfoe.org.uk or get in touch using the details on page two.

To find details of the recycling bank nearest to you call the Recycling Team on 0161 954 9000 or visit the waste page of our website: www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/waste

If you want to become a recycling community champion for your area please call David Groves on 0161 223 8200.

**Waste campaign co-ordinator:
Colette Humphrey
colette@manchesterfoe.org.uk**

Watching the Christmas Waste line

Christmas Cards

- Send e-cards rather than buying paper cards.
- Buy cards made from 100% recycled paper.
- Recycle the cards you receive after Christmas - take them to Boots, Tesco or WH Smith who all have recycling points.

Gift Wrapping

- Use wrapping paper made from 100% recycled paper.

Christmas Trees

- Buy a tree that you can plant in the garden after Christmas.
- Take your tree to a recycling centre after Christmas – contact your local council for details.

Gifts

- Give money/ gift vouchers or theatre/ cinema tickets as presents. Give presents made from recycled materials – see www.recycledproducts.org.uk or www.recyclenow.com for details and ideas.
- Buy subscriptions and memberships for longer-lasting present ideas.
- Give unwanted presents to charity shops.

Shopping

- Buy products with minimal packaging.
- Buy presents from Fair Trade suppliers, to ensure the products were made in a sustainable way.
- Buy food and drinks in containers that can be easily reused or recycled.
- Use reusable shopping bags.
- Reuse and/or recycle plastic shopping bags.



In the UK at Christmas we send up to 1 billion Xmas cards,



Dreaming of a...



consume an extra 750m bottles and glass containers and another 500m drinks cans!

We use approximately 83 sq km of wrapping paper and buy half a million Christmas trees – most of this ends up as waste in landfill.



Try to buy presents that last long after Christmas is over and avoid overpackaging. Support local designers and avoid the high street by buying your presents at local shops, markets and craft centres. Alternatively, Fairtrade (www.fairtrade.org.uk) promotes a fair deal to Third World producers and tells you where to buy these products. Oxfam for example has joined with Traidcraft to sell ethical gifts on-line and the Natural Collection catalogue offers a big range of organic, energy-efficient and fair-trade items (www.naturalcollection.com). For a list of fair trade shops in Manchester have a look our www.realfoodguide.org.uk.

When buying **Christmas cards** make sure they are printed on recycled paper, or are Forest Stewardship Council approved and remember smaller cards use less paper. Or send E-cards (see www.foe.co.uk/cards/index.html). Christmas cards can't be recycled with normal paper. This year WH Smiths and Tesco have teamed up with The Woodland Trust for a card-recycling scheme. Cards could be used for arts and craft projects with your kids. Reuse the envelopes or cut out the stamps from all your Christmas letters and donate them to, for example, the British Kidney Patient Association, who sell them and use the proceeds for their Children's Holiday Fund to give young kidney patients the chance of a break (Children's Holiday Fund Appeal, British Kidney Patient Association, Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 9JZ).

Most **Christmas trees** are farmed like crops and use pesticides. How about treating yourself to a new plant you can enjoy all year and decorate it? Or maybe use an existing one? Or use an artificial tree instead of a real one. But if you prefer a real one buy one of Greater Manchester's sustainable Christmas trees (www.tree2mydoor.com). Alternatively rooted trees can be replanted as garden trees if looked after carefully.

Instead of buying Christmas **tree decorations**, be creative and make them! For example, create a gingerbread house or beautiful garlands (www.kid-art.com/htdoc/lesson55.html). Or buy decorations that can be used again and again, you can find nice ones at the Christmas market in town or visit charity shops such as Oxfam and pick some up from there. Take your Christmas tree to one of Manchester's civic amenity sites for recycling. There are three in



Manchester: Longley Lane in Sharston, Reliance Street in Newton Heath and Sandfold Lane in Levenshulme. Alternatively contact the council about dropping it at your local park for mulching or give it to Chorlton Water Park for recycling.

When **wrapping** your presents re-use paper or make your own individual wrapping paper by using newsprint, maps, posters or left over wall paper. Instead of wrapping paper try to use gift bags as they can easily be reused. But if you prefer wrapping paper buy one that can easily be recycled. Rather than spending lots of money on gift tags cut up used greeting tags and use them!

...green Christmas

After the hectic run up to Christmas, enjoy a **Christmas meal** made from home-grown, organic ingredients and relax with a bottle of organic wine or juice, which you can buy from many places around the city – check out our real food website to find a shop near where you live!

And when it's all over... pass good quality unwanted presents onto charity shops including all the plastic bags you got in the run up to Christmas (every plastic bag in landfill takes 500 years to decay), and recycle and compost as much waste as you can.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year! If you cannot access the internet but would be interest in any material I referred to above, please send an S.A.E our office.

Manchester Friends of the Earth campaigns for cycling, walking, alternative fuels and quality public transport to be at the heart of the way we get around.



Join hundreds of people from all over the country who are angry about the scale of the Government's airport expansion plans. ...after only two months more than thousand people had already signed it!

The pledge is a response to the Government's Aviation White Paper launched a year ago. It shows the Government the scale of opposition to unnecessary airport growth and that those who sign it are ready to take personal non-violent action to oppose runway development. The White Paper forecast a near-trebling of passengers using UK airports over the next 30 years and cleared the way for Manchester Airport to have roughly the same number of flights as Heathrow does now within this timeframe.

The pledge is your chance to register your opposition to airport expansion and choose an action to take that is entirely a matter of your personal choice. By signing the pledge you make sure your opposition is recognised from the outset.

Help us to fight unnecessary airport expansion and sign the pledge at www.airportpledge.org.uk or send your statement to The Airport Pledge, 16b Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 1BG.* There are far more effective ways to manage the rapidly growing demand for air transport!

Kerstin Moritz

* Please provide your full name, postal address or e-mail. Your personal information is confidential and will never be given to anyone. Only your name/ nickname and your personal pledge will be listed on the website.

4X4s Action Just the Ticket!

We are having a "Stop Urban 4x4s" day of action on Saturday **December 18th**. Camden FoE originated the idea of printing "parking tickets" for large urban 4X4s parked on city streets (nowhere near the mountains or wilderness you see in the adverts) pointing out what a poor vehicle choice they are for urban areas. If you would like to come along and help ticket a few petrol guzzling monsters, please join us at the Friends Meeting House at 10am.. Please contact us if you would like to join in !

Transport campaign co-ordinator:
Graeme Sherriff
graeme@manchesterfoe.org.uk

The Station Cafe

becomes

Nectar

14 Victoria Road, Hale, Cheshire,
WA15 9AD
0161 928 3000

- Organic Produce
- Local Produce
- Natural Produce
- GM Free
- Fair Trade Foodstuffs

For Everything Good in Life



We continue to pursue an unsustainable energy supply based mainly on fossil fuels, despite many feasible alternatives. Fossil fuels produce carbon dioxide which is instrumental in causing climate change. We need to switch to greener fuels and use energy more efficiently.

Halve your CO2 emissions

The Atkinsons achieved this by switching to a renewable electricity supplier and by deciding to stay in the UK for a holiday instead of flying to the USA.

in tonnes of carbon dioxide:

These are the figures for the Atkinson family, who are typical users of gas and electricity. They have a car which does about 12000 miles a year.

The numbers show the tonnes of CO₂ emitted.

	Last Year	This Year
Electricity	2	zero
Gas	5	5
Car	4	4
Holiday flights	7	zero
Total	18	9

The next goals for the Atkinson family are to reduce their car fuel use by changing to a more economical model and to have their house checked for energy efficiency by the local energy advice centre.

First Manchester, then the world...

So far over 200 households in Manchester have signed our MFoE Big Switch pledges to consider switching to an electricity supplier whose energy is produced only from renewable sources. In addition we have distributed many more Switch Guides at events, meetings and through our newsletter and other mailings. We have also handed out over 150 low energy light-bulbs to help households reduce their CO₂ emission right away. We have already received messages from some households to say they have switched - please e-mail us the good news if you have! We will be reviewing the overall success of the Big Switch campaign in February.

Climate campaign co-ordinator:
Dave Coleman
dave@manchesterfoe.org.uk

On the good news front, in October Russia agreed to ratify the Kyoto

protocol on Climate Change. As 126 nations responsible for more than 55% of the world's CO₂ emitters now subscribe, the protocol has come into force and takes effect on February 16th 2005. Getting most of the world's industrial nations to sign up is a major step forward both because it will hopefully result in a genuine focus on slowing our growth in Climate Change gas emissions (the protocol targets a 5.2% reduction in 1990 levels by 2008-12) as well as highlighting even further the US and Australia's world isolation in refusing to sign. Less welcome news in November however was that the re-election of the Bush administration probably makes US ratification even more remote. The rest of the world is going to have to continue to cope with an administration that still explicitly refuses to acknowledge that Climate Change exists.





Kerstin at the June recycling day

Promoting Real Food at the Manchester Food and Drink Festival (right) and getting pledges for the climate challenge (bottom right).



2004 in Photos



Launching our 'Earth Mover' award-nominated Real Food Guide. The category for award was "Inspirational Voice". Next year we are aiming for 'best costumes and hair styles.'



And of course the Christmas Social...

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Take action

Campaigns Meetings:

Tues 14th December Campaigns Meeting, Friends Meeting House, 7pm - then second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday of each month (except December), same time.

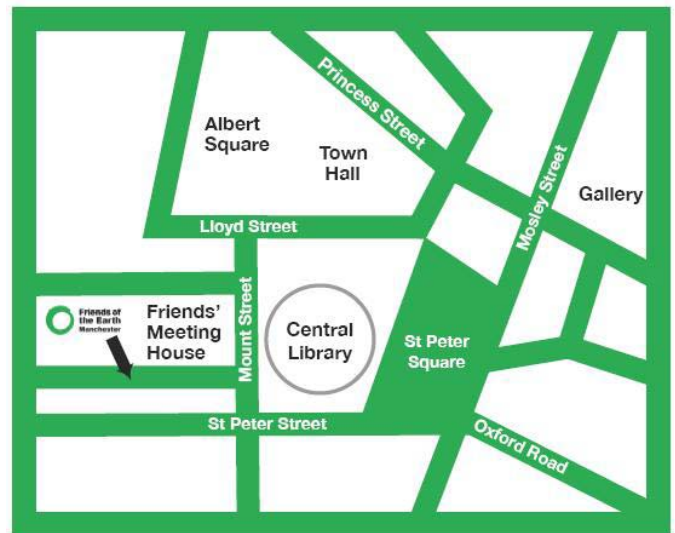
Actions:

Sat 18th December Four by Four day of action. Meet at Friends Meeting House at 10am

Other events:

Monday 24th January 7pm - Real Food Event with buffet and speakers at Nectar in Hale (see page 5).

more at www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/calendar.htm



New Year Resolutions...

If you have...

15 minutes a week.. Why not sit down and consider your journeys for the next week? How will you make them in a way that will cut environmental pollution, save time, money and stress? Go to www.gmpte.gov.uk to check out your public transport options.

If you have...

1 hour a week... Go to our guide www.realfoodguide.org.uk and find your nearest 'real food' shop. Why not take a trip and check out the healthy and environmentally friendly options?

If you have...

2 hours week.. Get involved with Manchester FoE! Come along to one of our meetings and see what you can do as part of our campaigns. A calendar of meetings and actions is on our website.

Manchester Friends of the Earth Membership Form

To join Manchester FoE, please complete the details on the form below and post to Manchester Friends of the Earth, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS. Financially, it helps if you can take out a standing order – this means you pay a fixed amount on a regular basis, either monthly or annually. Standing orders mean that we can predict how much money is coming in and plan better. To take out a standing order, only complete the details below on the right, sign it and return to us at the above address. Thank you for your support.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone Number:

Please tick an appropriate rate:

£3 unwaged ___ £6 low wages ___ £12 waged ___ £20 household ___ I enclose an additional donation of £_____

For standing orders:

Your bank account number:

The name on the account:

Your branch name and address:

Branch sort code:

Instructions to the bank Please pay the sum of £_____ on the ___ day/date of each month/year (delete as appropriate) until further notice to 'Manchester Friends of the Earth' account number 27187308, sort code 72-00-01, bank address: Alliance and Leicester, Bootle, Merseyside, GIR 0AA

Signed

Dated

Gift Membership If you would like to make this membership a gift to someone please fill the recipients details here:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Message (up to 30 words):