

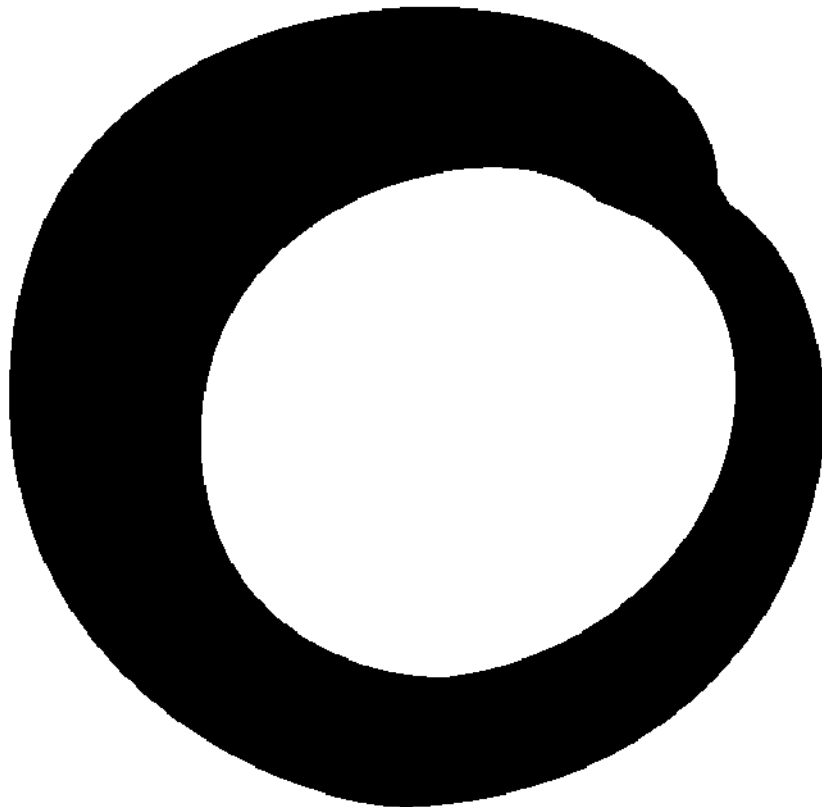
Newsletter of Manchester Friends of the Earth

# Act!On



Friends of  
the Earth  
Manchester

[www.manchesterfoe.org.uk](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk)



THE  
REAL  
WORLD

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"Only 4 out of 43 local authorities (9%) in the North West currently meet the minimum targets of the Recycling Act, compared with 26% of local authorities nationwide."  
Colette Humphrey, Page 6

"What the GM debate in the UK does highlight is that your views count and you have the power to make a difference."  
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## Who are Manchester FoE?

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 the 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.

## A friend of FoE:

Name: Kerstin Moritz

Age: 26

Occupation: I am doing my Master's Degree in Applied Economics and Civil Engineering at the University of Karlsruhe but I'm based in Manchester.

Role in Manchester FoE?

I am one of the coordinators and our aviation campaigner.

How long have you been involved?

About a year.

What is your main concern?

That we still believe exploiting our planet is the only way to make profit.

What keeps you going?

The belief that we can tackle environmental problems and injustice and probably a lot of optimism.



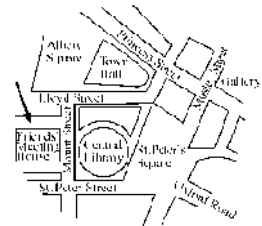
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## JOIN IN!

Manchester FoE's Campaigns 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 at it. Ring the MFoE bell if the door is locked or enter and go down the corridor, turn left then immediate right and we're on the left. The Campaigns Centre is run totally by volunteers, so it is not always open. Please ring us on 0161 834 8221 in advance 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 834 8221. **Email:** office@manchesterfoe.org.uk. **Website:** www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

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

£50% off a meal at Earth Café;

£10% off selected purchases at Harry Hall Cycles;

£10% off food and drink at Misty's Café;

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

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

Contributors to this issue: Linda Vettanen (Editor and Layout), Ali Abbas, Dave Coleman, Colette Humphrey, Clive Mingham, Kerstin Moritz, Kirsty Ogle, Claire Seaward, Graeme Sherriff



# Vegetables Take to the Streets!

On Saturday 13th March, shoppers at the Manchester Farmers' Market got more than they bargained for. Members of Manchester Friends of the Earth had taken to the streets, dressed as fruit and vegetables, to promote the Manchester Real Food Guide ([www.realfoodguide.org.uk](http://www.realfoodguide.org.uk)), their brand new online guide to "real food".

More and more people are starting to think about the food that they eat and where it comes from. The recent outbreak of chicken flu, reports of the rise in childhood obesity, and the government's controversial decision to allow the commercial planting of genetically modified (GM) crops (see below), have led people to search for healthier and more environmentally sound alternatives.

Ali Abbas, Manchester FoE's Real Food Campaigner, is hoping that the new guide will help people to make a more informed choice.

It's time for Real Food. It's time to rethink artificial fertilizers and pesticides, and the wasteful transportation of produce across the world. Real Food is GM free, organic and where possible locally sourced.



Real Food Guide Launch in Farmers' Market

Local shops have welcomed the site, as Beth Knowles from Unicorn Grocery explains: 'Allowing the web-surfing public, in and out of Greater Manchester, the opportunity to find a varied selection of good 'real food' outlets in this area is a great resource worth congratulating. Share the knowledge. Well done FoE'.

Ali Abbas

Thanks to House of Haynes ([www.houseofhaynes.co.uk](http://www.houseofhaynes.co.uk)) for the costume hire. For more information on real food, please visit the Manchester Real Food Guide website at [www.realfoodguide.org.uk](http://www.realfoodguide.org.uk).

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## GM Victory!

March has been a rollercoaster month on the GM front. First came the bad news: on 9 March, the Government granted its approval to the commercial planting of genetically modified maize, flying in the face of public opinion and ignoring the considerable risks and uncertainty surrounding GM technology.

### Unviable

But all was not lost: three weeks later, Bayer CropScience suddenly announced that it was abandoning plans to grow its GM maize because it felt that regulations put in place to protect the environment made the crop "economically unviable". This news, greeted with great jubilation by campaigners, means that no GM crops are likely to be grown commercially in the UK until at least 2008.

### Legal challenge

Although this was a welcome victory, the threat from GM is still all too real. The United States has filed a legal challenge against the European Union (EU) at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), arguing that the EU moratorium on the commercial development of GM foods is an "illegal" trade barrier. And even though it will no longer be grown here, GM ingredients and cattle feed are still being imported into the UK.

### Take action!

The good news is that there's still plenty we can do. Visit our Real Food campaign pages at [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/food](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/food) to find out how to sign up to the Global Citizens' Objection against the US legal challenge at the WTO, and challenge your supermarket to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to GM food.

Ali Abbas

Real Food campaign co-ordinator: Ali Abbas  
email: [ali@realfoodguide.org.uk](mailto:ali@realfoodguide.org.uk)





## Noisy Nuisance

Friends of the Earth has joined other airport campaigning groups across Europe in supporting a Written Declaration (a petition that only MEPs can sign). The Declaration calls on the European Parliament to introduce legislation for a ban on night flights at all airports in the European Union between 11pm and 7am.

Night flights are regarded as one of the biggest problems facing communities across Europe. Manchester Airport, for instance, allows up to 7% of total daily flights to fly at night. Night flights are generally relatively few in number, compared to day flights, and are simply not necessary. Many airports have spare capacity during the day and much air freight traffic could be carried by other transport modes.

Aircraft noise is the most significant environmental impact to affect the lives of millions of people, who live or work near to an airport. Aircraft noise can also affect people far away from airports if they live or work under aircraft approach and departure routes. Night noise from aircraft has been proved to be responsible for sleep dis-



turbance, increased heart rates and day-after effects such as depressed moods.

### Take action!

Tell your MP and MEPs that you are concerned about night flights and the effects they have on people's lives! You can find further information and MEP contact details on [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/planettruth](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/planettruth).

Kerstin Moritz

Aviation campaign co-ordinator: Kerstin Moritz  
email: [kerstin@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:kerstin@manchesterfoe.org.uk)

## Aviation Policy Impacts Global Warming

'If aviation emissions increase on the scale predicted by the Department for Transport, the UK's 60% carbon emission reduction target, which the Government set last year, will become meaningless and unachievable', according to the UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee.

Carbon Dioxide is the main gas blamed for global warming. Only four years ago the Government published its ambitious 10-year-plan for transport and promised to invest £180bn over the decade to tackle the twin problems congestion and pollution. Ministers expected CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to be 1.6m tonnes lower than they would have been without the £180bn plan. Yet the 1.6m tonnes saved will be wiped out by CO<sub>2</sub> generated by the aviation industry, following the green light

for massive air travel expansion in the Aviation White Paper. This is estimated to be approximately 10m tonnes per decade.

In the future, many industries will have to work hard to cut carbon emissions as a result of international greenhouse gas emissions trading schemes. If they don't cut emissions, they have to buy credits from companies that have cut emissions, or pay a fine. Yet aviation is excluded from these schemes, as well as from international agreements to cut carbon emissions. It is time to stop these unfair competition advantages and to incentivise the aviation industry to cut its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions too. Much can be done to stop catastrophic climate change, but decisive action is needed from governments and industry now.

Kerstin Moritz



# School Bus Success

One of the successes of Manchester FoE's recent Longsight transport project was the formation of a group of local people to work on transport issues in the area, using as a basis the research we had done. In this issue, we hear of its recent progress from member Kirsty Ogle.

The Longsight Transport Group (LTG) has managed to convince the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTE) to put on a school bus from Longsight to Manchester Academy.

Two secondary school students attended the third meeting of the LTG. They told us about their long and frustrating wait for the No.53 on weekday mornings and how the delayed bus service meant that they were getting to school late and having this marked against them. Late attendance is clearly not acceptable, so representatives of

LTG took these concerns to a meeting with the GMPTE the next day arguing that students' education should not be suffering due to a poor cross-city bus service.

GMPTE got back to us, agreeing to pay for a school bus service from the shopping centre on Stockport Road, following the 53 bus route to Manchester Academy beginning after Easter. Students will pay the usual fare. They also responded to suggestions from the LTG to make the 196 a more regular service in Longsight. Improvements will be seen from April 25th.

If you would like to get involved come along to our next meeting at Longsight Library on Wednesday 26th May from 6-7.30pm.

Contact: Kirsty on 2484248 or 07855 698737

Kirsty Ogle

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


## Climate Campaign

# MFoE Climate Challenge 2004


Currently Climate Change campaigning is at an interesting point. Successful campaigning for ambitious UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions targets, and anticipation of the US presidential election to see if a more enlightened administration will sign up to the Kyoto treaty, means that we are waiting for action on climate change at an international level.


In line with our motto of "Think Global Act Local", Manchester FoE is focusing on what we can do locally to have a direct affect on climate change. We are therefore launching Climate Challenge 2004; a set of local activities and actions we can all take to reduce our impact on global warming and positively address Climate Change.


We are focusing on four areas:

 Encouraging our friends and neighbours to switch to renewable electricity suppliers in our homes

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 global change. We need to switch to greener fuels and use energy more efficiently.

 Reducing our demand for electricity so that less electricity needs to be generated from non-sustainable sources

 Promoting and supporting the development of renewable energy generation (such as wind-farms, solar, and small hydro plants) in our region, and

 Addressing the poor availability of renewable motor fuels such as Biodiesel and Bioethanol in the region.

In future issues of Act!on you will be able to read more about what you personally can do to help, but in the meantime, if you would like to make a difference in any of these areas, or get involved, please get in touch using the details on the "take Act!on" page.

Dave Coleman



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



# Doorstep Recycling

Thanks to years of pressure from Friends of the Earth supporters, the Household Waste Recycling Act was passed late last year. The Act requires local authorities to provide every household in England with a separate collection of at least two types of recyclable material by 2010. Friends of the Earth have recently conducted a survey on doorstep recycling in England, for which they sought data from every local authority in the country between September 2003 and February 2004.

The data obtained for Manchester City Council shows that while 39% of households receive collections for 3 materials; paper, glass and cans, the other 61% of households receive no collections for recyclable waste. The household waste recycling rate for Manchester City Council stands at 4.28%.

Only 4 out of 43 local authorities (9%) in the North West currently meet the minimum targets of the Recycling Act, compared with 26% of local

authorities nationwide. North West councils meeting the targets include neighbouring Salford, which offers collections of 5 or more recyclable materials to 100% of its households.

Manchester FoE are currently developing a waste campaign with the aim of increasing the recycling rates within the Manchester area. Contact us at Manchester FoE to help increase Manchester's recycling rate and see our suggestions on the back of this newsletter.

Colette Humphrey



Picture: EMERGE Recycling

A link to detailed research findings of the survey can be found at [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/waste](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/waste)

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## Editorial

Since our last newsletter, we have launched our Real Food guide and Bayer has pulled out of planting Genetically Modified crops in the UK. Whilst we don't think the two events are directly related (!) what the GM debate in the UK does highlight is that your views count and you have the power to make a difference.

Whilst officially approving GM Maize for planting, would the UK government have placed such a series of hurdles in Bayer's way (to the point where Bayer feel it is pointless to continue) without the groundswell of individuals contacting MPs, attending GM debates (such as ours in Manchester), and telling their shops to stay GM free?

As Friends of the Earth has proven time after time, groups of individuals making small changes locally add up to a big change on a local, national

and international scale. This holds true when you choose to buy Real Food and oppose GM. It also holds true in all our other campaign areas. Good Luck in making another small but significant difference this month .....

Dave Coleman

Did you know?

"Locally produced food travels much shorter distances, which cuts down on pollution. For example, supermarket food travels on average 1,000 miles, compared with just 30 to a farmers' market."

Did you know?

"Studies have shown that pesticide residues on many of the fruit and vegetables regularly consumed in the UK exceed recommended levels. A Cox's apple on the supermarket shelf is treated with 35 pesticides before it reaches you."

# Wave Energy

The sun heats the earth's atmosphere unevenly, which causes pressure variations that cause wind. Wind blowing over the world's oceans creates waves. As anyone who has ever been pummeled in the surf or bounced around in a small boat will know, waves contain a lot of energy. This energy is renewable, clean and available most of the time.

With its long coastline and large waves, the UK is one of the best places in the world for wave energy. It has been estimated that the amount of wave energy arriving at our shores every day is more than three times our daily use. So why aren't we using wave energy to boil our kettles and light our homes?

Well, the sea is a hostile environment. When storms aren't converting a carefully engineered wave energy device to twisted metal, salt water is corroding it or sea creatures are fouling it up.

**"With its long coastline and large waves, the UK is one of the best places in the world for wave energy."**

Despite the many and varied designs for wave energy devices there is only one device which is connected to the grid and generating usable power. This is called LIMPET and is on the island of Islay in Scotland. LIMPET was developed by Queen's University, Belfast (QUB), and uses incoming waves to oscillate a water column. This drives air back and forward through a turbine.

Historically, wave energy devices were designed using a combination of small scale physical models in wave tanks. These were coupled with some simplified mathematics to predict and tune performance. With the increasing speed of computers it has been possible to improve the mathematical representation of waves and more accurately simulate the performance of wave



LIMPET wave energy device

energy devices. This is useful because it is much easier to change a few numbers in a computer to alter sizes, water depths, types of waves etc. than to physically rebuild models and repeat wave tank experiments.

The Centre for Mathematical Modelling and Flow Analysis (CMMFA) at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) are joining forces with the QUB experimental team, and are undertaking a joint experimental and mathematical project to analyse a new type of wave energy device. This new device is essentially a pendular paddle that rocks back and forth, in response to incoming waves, and drives a generator. The two and a half year government funded project aims to analyse various configurations of the device in order to maximise the energy produced (see <http://www.owsc.ac.uk/> for more details).

As a first step, and to test the in-house software (called AMAZON-SC that can simulate water, air, breaking waves and moving bodies), we started by simulating LIMPET. This was well received at the recent European wave energy conference and has led to enquiries from other wave energy groups, and a European bid to simulate another devices.

It is a long way from an idea to a working device but we hope to make a useful contribution to wave energy in the future. It's got to be easier than splitting the atom.

Clive Mingham, Reader in Hydroinformatics,  
Manchester Metropolitan University.  
e-mail: c.mingham@mmu.ac.uk



# If you have...

...5 minutes Call the recycling team at Manchester City Council and find out about public recycling facilities and community recycling schemes in your area 0161-953 2421

...15 minutes Making your own lunch instead of buying from a sandwich shop saves on packaging, and could also save you more than £4 a day or about £1,000 a year

...a while longer Our new Doorstep Recycling Survey has shown that Manchester City Council is not compliant with the new Household Waste Recycling Act - Take a few minutes to write a letter (Addressed to the Waste Department) and urge them to comply now rather than delay. For more information go to <http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/waste>



**Friends of the Earth  
Manchester**

# Take action!

Tue 4 May Manchester Friends of the Earth (FoE) Planning Meeting 7pm, venue TBC

Sat 8 May Vegan Festival 10:30-5pm, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street. Info: Realfood (0845 458 0146, [nwfw@realfood.org.uk](mailto:nwfw@realfood.org.uk))

Tue 11 May Manchester FoE Campaigns Meeting 7pm Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2

Sat 15 May Kyoto March in London

Wed 26 May Manchester FoE Campaigns Meeting 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2

Tue 1 Jun Manchester FoE Planning Meeting 7pm, venue TBC

Sat 5 Jun National FoE Waste Day of Action

Tue 8 Jun Manchester FoE Campaigns Meeting 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2

Sat 12 Jun National Bike Week and Bike Carnival

Wed 23 June Manchester FoE Campaigns Meeting 7pm, Friends Meeting House Mount Street M2

Tue 6 Jul Manchester FoE Planning Meeting 7pm, venue TBC

Tue 13 Jul Manchester FoE Campaigns Meeting 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2

Wed 28 Jul Manchester FoE Campaigns Meeting 7pm, Friends Meeting House Mount Street M2

Tue 3 Aug Manchester FoE Planning Meeting 7pm, venue TBC

Tue 10 Aug Manchester FoE Campaigns Meeting 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2

Wed 25 Aug Manchester FoE Campaigns Meeting 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2

Tue 7 Sep Manchester FoE Planning Meeting 7pm, venue TBC

Tue 14 Sep Manchester FoE Campaigns Meeting 7pm, Friends Meeting House Mount Street M2

Thanks to Networking Newsletter ([www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk](http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk)) for calendar information!

## 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 (make sure you delete accordingly!). Standing orders mean that we can predict how much money is coming in and plan better. To take out a standing order, complete the details below, sign it and return to us at the above address. ONLY complete the information on the right if you wish to take out a standing order, and then return direct to us. We'll deal with your bank for you. Please note that the information on the right determines how much you pay irrespective of which box you tick on the left. Thank you for your support.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick an appropriate rate:

£3 unwaged  £6 low waged  £12 waged

£20 groups

I enclose an additional donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Only complete this for standing orders:

The name on the account: \_\_\_\_\_

Your bank account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch sort code: \_\_\_\_\_

Your branch name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 Girobank, 62 Hagley Road B16 8PE.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_