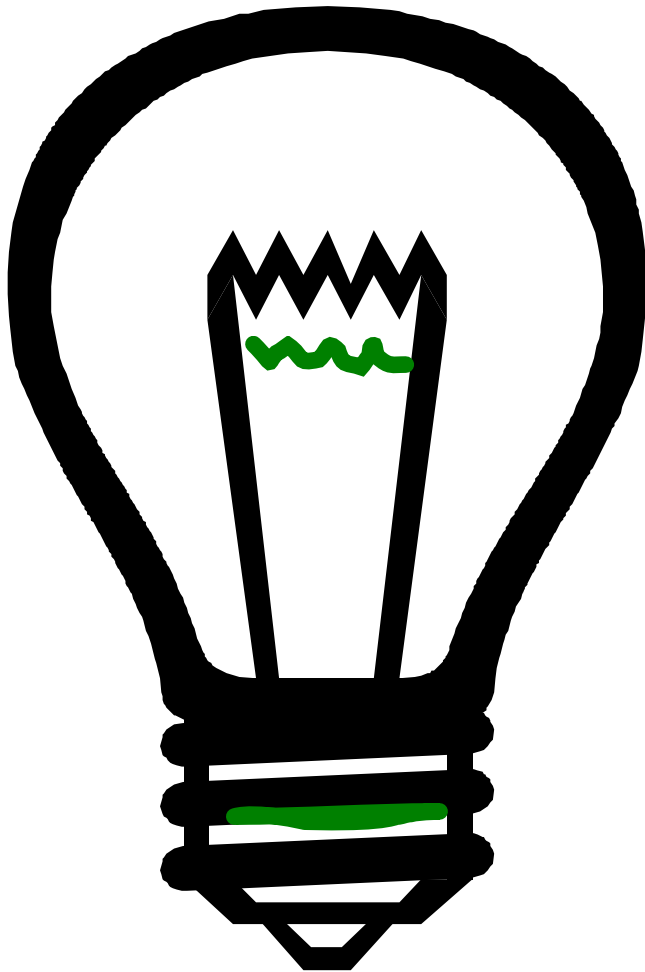


# Act! On

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



How many  
**lightbulbs**  
does it take  
to **change**  
the **climate?**

Make the big  
**switch!** page 6

As our emissions of greenhouse gases continue to grow, the UK desperately needs to increase its capacity to generate electricity from renewable sources and onshore wind farms are a vital part of this.

[Read more on page 7](#)

Manchester FoE has set up a waste campaign with the aim of increasing household and commercial recycling rates, with particular focus on the Manchester area.

[Read more on page 2](#)



**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.

## A friend of FoE

**Name** Colette Humphrey

**Age** 29

**Profession** Human Resources Administrator



**How long have you been involved?** About 10 months

**What is your number one environmental concern?** Waste minimisation and recycling is my main area of interest but I am increasingly concerned about climate change, an area where we desperately need to take action to save our planet for future generations.

**What keeps you motivated?** Hearing stories and seeing pictures of the devastating effects that climate change is currently having worldwide, and knowing that we can all do our bit to help.



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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% of 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 Station Cafe in Hale

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



**contributors to this issue:** Ali Abbas, Michael Bane, Dave Coleman, Colette Humphrey, Kerstin Moritz (editor), Graeme Sherriff (editor), Linda Vettanen (Layout)



# New Work on Waste

Manchester Friends of the Earth has set up a new waste campaign with the aim of increasing household and commercial recycling rates, particularly in the Manchester area. Recycling right across the North-West region is very poor compared with the rest of the UK and within the North-West, Manchester is the third worst performing council. The Household Waste Recycling Act states that all councils must offer doorstep collections of a minimum of two recyclable materials to all households by 2010. Many councils are already performing above this standard, however we want to encourage Manchester City Council to achieve more than these minimum targets, much earlier than 2010. If you would like to get involved please contact Colette (see below).

## Have you got the bottle?

On Saturday June 5th we held a waste day of action in St Ann's Square in Manchester city centre. The aim of the day was to gain public support for our campaign to improve the doorstep recycling service in the Greater Manchester area. We had composed a survey and letter of petition addressed to the city council, which reported people's real experience with recycling and requested specific improvements in the service currently available. We then asked members of the public to sign the letters and stick them onto recyclable containers for presentation to the Council. Analysis is currently being conducted on the information received and feedback will be provided to the City Council Recycling Team.

Following recent improvements some people were reasonably happy with the service offered, but all were interested in further improvement, particularly the ability to recycle plastic bottles in addition to paper, can and glass recycling. Many people living in flats complained that they don't have recycling facilities but would use them if they did. We gained good public support on the day and will continue with the campaign to improve the doorstep recycling service in Manchester.

## Has the council?

Over the last 12 months Manchester City Council has introduced the "Kerbit" doorstep recycling scheme. 55,000 households in North and Central Manchester and 40,000 households in East Manchester are now reported to have a fortnightly doorstep collection of paper, glass, cans and textiles. If you live in one of these areas you should have received a black box for glass and cans and a bag for paper. All textiles should be placed in a separate bag to keep them dry. 60,000

households in South Manchester are now reported to have a 4-weekly doorstep collection of paper, glass and cans. If you live in this area you should have received a blue wheelie bin for paper, a brown wheelie bin for glass and a sack for cans. Should you have any queries regarding the service, Manchester City Council recycling Team can be contacted on 0161 954 9000. Call them for details of Recycling banks nearest to you or visit the waste page of our Manchester Friends of the Earth website. *Colette*



Kerstin at the recycling action day

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



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.

## Is it really quicker to fly?

Most scientists now agree that the more greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) we put in the air, the closer we bring catastrophic climate change. Planes are a major contributor to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and because planes fly high in the atmosphere the CO<sub>2</sub> has greater effect. Many people will have travelled abroad over the summer. This year travel agencies claim that the bad weather led to a boom in flights abroad. Isn't it a vicious circle? Trying to escape rainy summers, that are thought likely to be a feature of climate change, and by doing that making it worse? Not all planes are to overseas destinations. Every week 489 planes take off from Manchester Airport to fly to other UK airports! More than half of these flights are going to London. Do these flights, i.e. domestic flights, make sense, especially in such large numbers? Probably not, as our comparison of plane and train shows\*:

### Flying

Manchester Piccadilly to Manchester Airport		
Check-in time	30mins	
Fly to London City Airport	£50.20	60mins
Shuttle bus to Liverpool Street	£06.00	30mins
Total	£58.65	2h 20mins

### Train

Virgin Train direct service from Manchester Piccadilly to London Euston	£53.00	2h 27mins
Total	£53.00	2h 27mins

\* Journey day: Monday 27/09/04, departing 8.45am by train and 9.30am by plane. Times and fares @ 31/08/04.

High-speed trains account for 6 to 8 times less CO<sub>2</sub> per passenger than domestic air journeys according to the Commission for Integrated Transport (CfIT). Hence, reducing the number of unnecessary domestic flights, e.g. by 50%, could reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions significantly. *Kerstin*

**Transport campaign co-ordinator:**  
**Graeme Sherriff**  
[graeme@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:graeme@manchesterfoe.org.uk)



## Joined up thinking?

On the morning of 6th of July this year, Tony Blair warned the House of Commons Liaison Committee that "Climate Change is the biggest problem facing the world". Astonishingly on the afternoon of the same day, Secretary of State for Transport Alistair Darling announced a scheme to spend approximately £2000 million on a 52 mile "toll motorway" to run alongside the M6. Then, only two weeks later, he withdrew £520 million of funding that was promised for Manchester's Metrolink extension.

Government transport policy should be making things better for the UK, but despite fine words, at the moment the Secretary of State for Transport is simply making things worse.

If we are to combat Climate Change, we as individuals and the communities we live in need to have a genuine choice between dependence on cars and having an efficient public transport system provided by rail, by bus and by Metro. Equally, business needs a genuine economic choice between moving goods and raw materials by road and plane and having a cost effective and efficient rail and maritime infrastructure to choose from.

The changes required are so large that this cannot be delivered without the support of central government policy, but currently Alistair Darling's policies are literally driving us in the wrong direction. *Dave*



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.

## Can you guess what it is yet?

As part of the People's History Museum 'Butties to Bhajis' exhibition, we ran an event to promote our Real Food Guide and to raise awareness about the connections between food and the environment.

Our competitions went down well, with people struggling to guess the origin of various fruits and vegetables. The chocolate contest was popular for some reason. Maybe because of the free chocolate. Winners Sarah and Jadie demonstrated skill in being able to recognise the fair trade credentials of ten different types of chocolates - without seeing the wrapper! The online Real Food Guide was close at hand, and visitors made use of it to locate real food shops near them.

**real food campaign co-ordinator**  
**Kirsty Ogle**  
 kirsty\_ogle@hotmail.com



Ali with Annette Cobley of the People's Museum

## Obituary

We were saddened to learn recently of the passing of Rob Allen. Rob was a very active member of the group particularly during the campaign against the building of the second runway at Manchester Airport and had remained a member for many years. He was also active with other local groups, including Manchester Wildlife. We extend our deepest sympathies to all of Rob's family and friends.

## 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 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.

## The Big Switch

As you are no doubt aware, climate change is one of the gravest threats facing our planet at the start of the 21st century. It may seem unlikely that anything can be done at a personal level to influence such a global problem. However, you can make a difference simply by cutting down on the amount of carbon dioxide that you are responsible for producing.

One of the easiest and cheapest ways to do this is to switch to a green electricity supplier. These suppliers guarantee that all the electricity you take out of the national grid will be replaced by energy from renewable sources such as wind, wave and hydroelectric power. And unlike coal- and gas-burning power stations, no carbon dioxide is released when renewable energy is produced, which means you will no longer be contributing towards climate change when you switch on the TV or make a cup of tea.

Research by Friends of the Earth has identified the four electricity suppliers that are the most environmentally sound: Ecotricity, Good Energy, Green Energy and RSPB Energy. Switching is simple: just tell your chosen supplier that you want to switch, fill in an application form, and in around six weeks the transfer will be complete. And as well as doing your bit to combat climate change, you could also end up saving some money – one of our recommended tariffs works out cheaper than Powergen, one of the biggest electricity suppliers in the country!

To find out more about green electricity and how to switch, please see the enclosed leaflet, or visit our website at [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/climate/thebigswitch.htm](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/climate/thebigswitch.htm). *Dave*

## Being Green in Berlin

This year I was lucky enough to spend four months in Berlin as part of research I am doing. I spend some time campaigning with B.U.N.D (the equivalent of FoE and part of FoE international) and, ahem, another international environmental organisation. Both were big, well organised concerns with frequent meetings and big offices (relative to Manchester FoE's cubby hole) but then Berlin is the capital city. I made presentations about what Manchester FoE are doing and they seemed impressed. Berlin B.U.N.D are interested in working more closely together - exchange visits, maybe?!

I was impressed by how many people turned out to events, particularly the 'Sternfahrt' (star journey), when 125,000 cyclists descended on the centre from various starting points in Berlin just in time for a massive environment festival. Part of the motorway was closed off for the cyclists.

I cycled a lot and found it a much more pleasant experience than in Manchester.



Organised mass cycle ride in Berlin

Almost everywhere there is a network cycle paths - but there are also roads where it feels dangerous. Roads are huge but there are more bikes on the roads and this made me feel safer. On the whole pedestrians respect the cycle paths. There feels like there is more of a cycling culture. That said, there is very heavy car traffic in Berlin and the

Germans clearly like their cars. The other striking thing is the attitude to waste. There is virtually zero litter on the streets and there are lots of segregated bins for recycling. A lot of bottled drinks have a deposit and you can bring it back and get ten cents or so back, therefore encouraging reuse. My lawyers asked me to point out that it is hard to make a conclusive comparison within 4 months, so I won't. *Graeme*

# Windfarms in the North West

Around the North-West planning enquiries into the development of renewable electricity generation from wind farms continue. The closest to us in Manchester are those proposed at Scout Moor near Rochdale and Denshaw near Saddleworth, the latter becoming the focus of some attention early in the summer as the location for a rally of wind-farm objectors from various parts of the UK. The "anti-wind farm" lobby is both noisy and well funded, enjoying close links with both the Countryside Alliance and the nuclear power industry. It is important to remember, however, that it remains very much a marginal group. Whenever independent public polls (such as the two MORI polls in Rochdale) are held, they report the majority of the public continuing to strongly support wind power, particularly when they consider the alternative: resurrection of the morbid nuclear industry and new nuclear power stations and waste facilities. Unopposed, the rhetoric and myths put forward by the "Anti" lobby begin to sound credible and can and do influence enquiries. Making your voice heard is critical if we are to continue to win not just the arguments but the planning applications.

## Your Letters

I was most disappointed to receive last year a laminated membership card. Is this not an example of the very unnecessary waste of materials FOE campaign against? I send my modest donation in support of such campaigns. I expect FOE to set an example. I try to set an example to others and hope that other supporters would see the same contradiction in this matter. I return the card for reuse/recycling as you probably would urge in other cases. Good luck in your work but remember each little act contributes to the overall aim of a better, less wasteful world. *G. P. Scholefield*

**MFoE Responds** We are very grateful that Mr Scholefield's told us about his concerns. When we decided to introduce the membership card, some of the group felt that if not laminated, the cards would soon become tatty and not accepted by the participating shops. However we appreciate Mr Scholefield's point. We need to set an example. We will issue membership cards unlined for the moment, and would like to here the views of the members. *Kerstin*

## News on the Net

Readers may be interested in the "Networking Newsletter" which provides comprehensive coverage of local issues, concerned with the environment and also with human rights, animal rights, peace and other areas of social justice. The newsletter provides events listings for various groups including Manchester FoE, Greater Manchester & District Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Red Pepper. But it's more than campaign dates. Each issue also has the latest news and views, and a list of useful resources. The newsletter is printed each month, available from local libraries, the Friends Meeting House where MFoE meets, and selected health foodshops, among other places. There is also a substantial web site at [www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk](http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk) - well worth making your browser's homepage!  
*Michael*

[michael@networkingnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:michael@networkingnewsletter.org.uk)

Manchester Friends of the Earth ACT!ON September 2004



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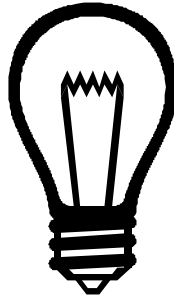
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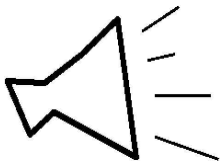
# If you have...

## ...5 minutes

Switch your electricity supplier to a renewables supplier (see page 6)



## ...15 minutes



Survey the light bulbs in your house and replace as many as possible with low energy light bulbs. Each light bulb will last approximately 10 years and save you £20 worth of electricity bills over its life.

## ...1 hour

Contact the South Manchester Energy Efficiency Centre for a free Home Energy Check. They will send you a questionnaire for you to fill in, for which you will receive a customised home energy report, suggesting ways you can save energy and money in your household. Their telephone number is 0800 512012

# Take Action

**Thu 16 Sep** Back on Track Metrolink rally in Albert Square 12.30pm - 2pm

**Sat 18 Sep** Bury Car Free Day 10am -4pm  
Bury Market Place:

**Wed 22 Sept** MFOE Campaigns Meeting  
7pm Friends Meeting House  
+ In Town Without My Car Day

**Fri 24 Sept** 7pm MMU, Geoffrey Manton Bldg. Clare Short on Poverty and Inequality.

**Sat 25 Sep** Bury Environmental Fair Bury  
Foe Stall

**Sun 26 Sept** Trade Justice Movement Event,  
Brighton

**Sat 2 Oct** Stockport Environment Fair

**Wed 6 Oct** Climate Change Public Meeting,  
Ramsbottom

**Tue 12 Oct** MFOE Campaigns Meeting 7pm  
Friends Meeting House

**Wed 27 Oct** MFOE Campaigns Meeting 7pm  
Friends Meeting House

**Tue 9 Nov** MFOE Campaigns Meeting 7pm  
Friends Meeting House

**Wed 24 Nov** MFOE Campaigns Meeting 7pm  
Friends Meeting House

**Tue 7Dec** MFOE Annual General Meeting 7pm  
Friends Meeting House

## 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 groups \_\_\_ 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