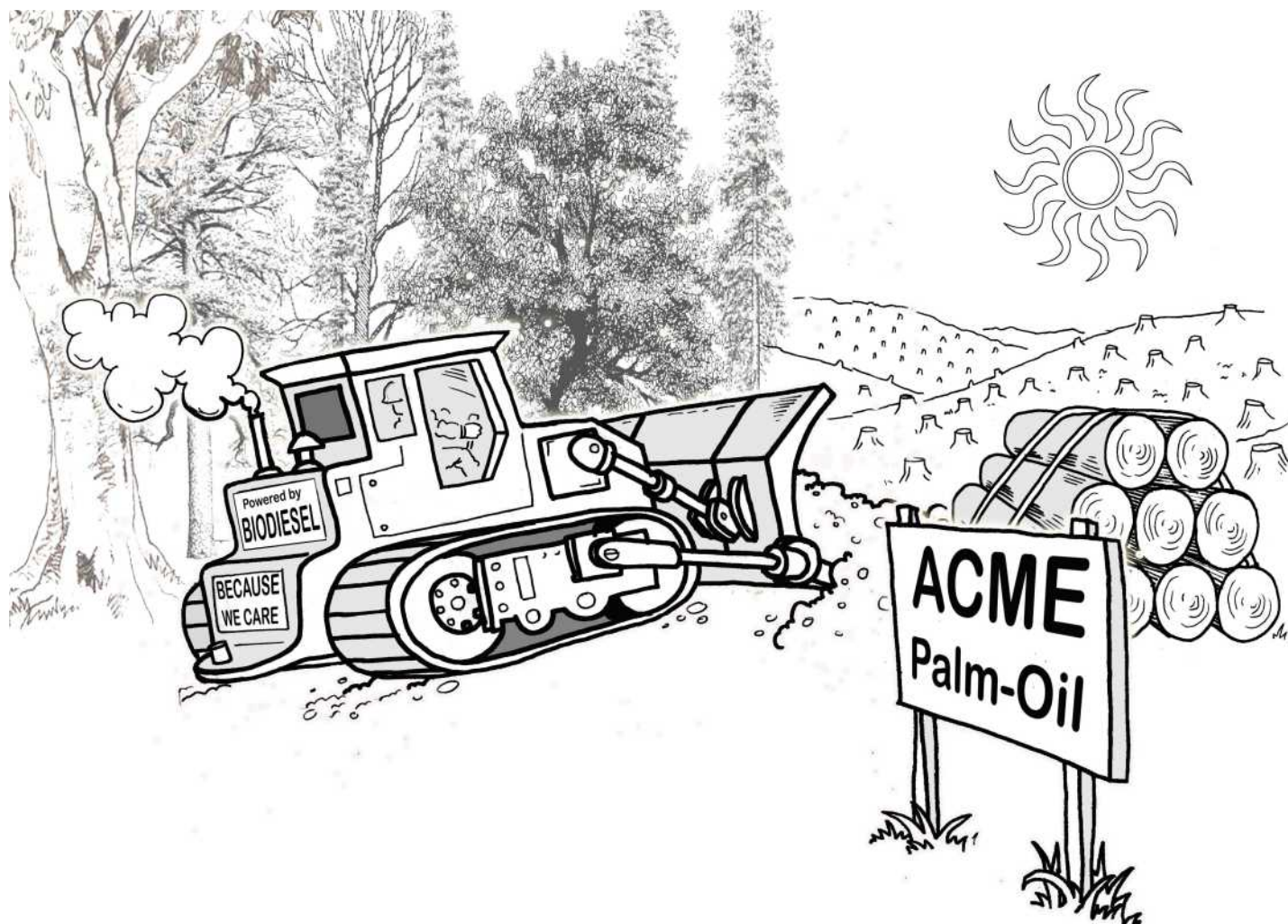


Manchester Friends of the Earth

# Act!on

Summer 2007

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



**The Big Answer** p3  
but is it big enough?

**Palm Oil** p4  
part two of a trip to the rainforests

**Cracking Up** p7  
laughter saves the Earth

**Stepping Up a Gear** p8  
Love Your Bike one year on



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Manchester**

## in this issue

- 3 climate bill
- 4 the village without land
- 5 action on palm oil
- developments in transport
- 6 cracking up
- 7 tesco in chorlton
- counting carbs
- 8 love your bike
- 9 cutting climate confusion
- 10 big asks pub quiz

## reminders

if you do three things...

### Palm Oil

Billed as the solution to climate change and oil dependency, it is wreaking havoc with our ecosystems and pushing up the price of food. Take action on page 5.

### Every Little Helps

Join the campaign to tell Tesco it ain't welcome in Chorlton. More on page 7.

### Congestion Charging

A deal that could bring quiet to the streets of Manchester and a massively improved public transport system. Some people, would you believe it, are against it. Don't let them kick it out - see page 5.

## About Manchester FoE

Manchester Friends of the Earth is an award-winning campaign group working on issues 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 climate change, corporate responsibility, real food, trade justice, sustainable transport & aviation, and waste & recycling.

Find out more at [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk).

Cover illustration by Marc Roberts at <http://www.throbgoblins.blogspot.com/>

## Friend of the Earth

For each issue, a different active member talks about their involvement in the group.

**How long have you been involved?** 18 months or so, since September 2005.

**What are the main things you've been involved in?**

Little bits of everything! I help out on stalls mainly, and some anti-4x4 things raising awareness of the environmental destruction of 4x4s to their drivers doing school runs. It's all great fun!

**What environmental issue are you most concerned about?** Climate change: it's a huge issue by itself, but its implications for other things like food, trade, transport and biodiversity make it even more concerning. But we can help stop it!



Justine Hall

## How can I become a member?

You can download a membership form from our website or phone our office to be sent one. One year's membership is only £4 if you're unwaged, £8 low-waged, £12 waged, and £30 for a household.

## Enjoy discounts as a member

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

4 free issues of "Earthmatters", the magazine from national Friends of the Earth (new members only)

25% off a meal at Earth Cafe

10% off selected purchases at Harry Hall Cycles

10% off food and drink at Misty's Cafe

5% off decorating and floor-sanding jobs at Eco-Interiors

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

10% off selected purchases at Ken Foster's Cycle Logic

10% off main meals and hot drinks at Titchy Coffee Co.

10% off all orders over £10 at Fetish for Food in Prestwich



For the latest details about our membership discounts, visit:

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

## Get active!

All are welcome to our meetings. See the back page for a calendar and just come along!

# Climate Bill: at last

A world first from the UK Government. Ali tells us what we need to know.

On Tuesday 13th March, as a direct consequence of the pressure that people all round the country have exerted as part of Friends of the Earth's Big Ask campaign, the Government published a draft Climate Change Bill, the first of its kind in the world.

## What's in the draft Bill?

The draft Bill enshrines targets of a 26-32% cut in carbon dioxide emissions from 1990 levels by 2030 and a 60% cut by 2050 into statute, which makes the Government legally accountable for meeting these targets. It also requires the Government to define a series of 5-year carbon budgets, which will set a limit on the amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted over that period.

To help the Government achieve these cuts, the Bill proposes the establishment of an independent body, the "Committee on Climate Change", made up of scientific and economic experts. This committee will advise the Government on the best pathway towards the long-term targets, the level at which the carbon budgets should be set, and how much each sector is expected to contribute to meet these budgets.

The committee will also be responsible for producing annual reports on the Government's progress towards its emissions reduction targets. The Government is then required to produce a response to each progress report and lay it before Parliament.

## So is it any good?

This draft Bill is the first of its kind in the world, and the Government should be applauded for taking the lead in setting a legally binding framework for reducing emissions. However, there are a number of key areas in which the Bill needs tightening up to make it sure it delivers the cuts we need to do our fair share to tackle climate change.

## Unambitious

First of all, the long-term target of a 60% cut in emissions by 2050

---

That makes about as much sense as going on a calorie-controlled diet and deciding not to count chocolate!

---

simply isn't ambitious enough. Our understanding of climate change has moved on since this target was set in 2000, and the science tells us we now need cuts of at least 80% by 2050, so the Bill should reflect this.

## Planes and Boats and Trains

Secondly, for the Bill to be effective, the targets must include all of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions. However, the draft Bill doesn't include emissions from the two fastest growing sources of carbon dioxide, international aviation and shipping. That makes about as much sense as going on a calorie-controlled diet and deciding not to count calories from chocolate!

## Five Years

And thirdly, while carbon budgets are a sensible approach, the five-year timeframe means that a general election will fall within each budget period, which will see Governments avoiding difficult decisions before elections, and blaming the previous Governments

for missing targets. The Government in power should therefore be required to set annual targets to ensure that we can measure progress and clearly hold it accountable for its actions.

## Over to you!

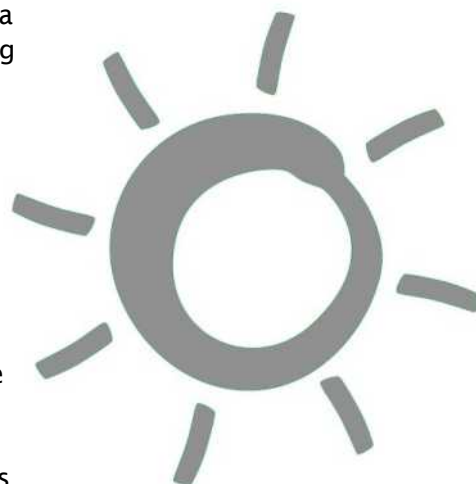
This is where you come in. There is a consultation on the draft Climate Change Bill, which runs until Tuesday 12th June. If you haven't already done so, please do send in a response - there are details of how you can do this, either by email or by post, at:

<http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/climate/consultation.htm>

Once the consultation is over, the Government will consider the responses and publish a revised Bill, which will probably be debated in Parliament in the autumn and eventually become law in Spring 2008. To make sure we end up with a Climate Change Act that's tough enough to do the job, we will need to get the support of MPs to vote in favour of the changes we're proposing.

If you'd like to help but haven't got time to come along to one of our meetings, why not sign up to become a Climate Campaign Champion? As a Campaign Champion, Friends of the Earth will ask for your help at crucial moments over the next twelve months - for more information and to sign up, visit:

<http://www.foe.co.uk/campaignchampions>.





# THE VILLAGE WITHOUT LAND

In the second and final part of her travel diary, Sam visits 'degraded land' and finds it far from lifeless.

After the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) meeting, I travelled for two days to reach one of the communities living in forest that the companies label as "degraded land". It is not virgin rainforest so the government, and many companies, consider it suitable for conversion to palm oil plantations. This "degraded land", to the untrained eye, looks like forest and it's full of people; people who have been living there for hundreds of years.

Taking a boat along the river to visit one village, you pass countless others – people fishing or washing in the river, kids pushing each other in. In some areas, where there is no plantation and the forest is still intact, the water is crystal clear. In others, where the removal of the forest has caused massive soil erosion, the water is the colour of a milky cup of tea due to all the soil and

palm oil effluent in it. This makes the river unsuitable for washing, drinking and fishing by the people who still live on it. Much of this land is earmarked for development into oil palm plantations; irrespective of what the people living there want.

The people there also have an astounding knowledge of the forest. They can identify thousands of species of tree just by the feel and smell of the bark, where modern science has only identified hundreds. They also know countless remedies based on plants in the forest. This knowledge can be lost in a generation as it is passed on orally

---

This "degraded land", to the untrained eye, looks like forest and it's full of people; people who have been living there for hundreds of years.

---

and is not written down anywhere. If expansion of the palm oil industry destroys their culture, their knowledge will be lost along with it.

Before travelling through the rain

forest, I met with John Bamba, the Director of Institut Dayakologi, a group that works with the Dayak people who live in the forests of Borneo. He said it's important for development in Indonesia to respect the rights of the indigenous peoples to the land they've lived on for generations. They need to have the information to make informed choices about how they want to develop. Their current ways of life involve a variety of sources of income in addition to being able to grow and harvest enough from the forest to feed themselves. They grow rice and pepper, tap rubber and keep livestock. This gives them independence and freedom to make choices.

When oil palm companies come to develop the land they use a variety of methods to gain access to it, from military involvement to making promises about land and schools and roads that never materialise. "The village without land" is typical of what is happening all over Indonesian Borneo. John Bamba believes that if these issues are not addressed soon the people may become so unhappy and frustrated at not being given anything in return for having their land taken from them, that it may destabilise the country.



# Action on Palm Oil

John Bamba, interviewed on the previous page, advises the following actions to stop the destruction of forests and communities for palm oil.

1. Congratulate supermarkets, food and cosmetics manufacturers that have joined the RSPO (see [www.rspo.org](http://www.rspo.org) for a list of members) but ask them to ensure that they insist their suppliers work towards the RSPO standards as quickly as possible. If your favourite brand is not already a member, encourage them to join.
2. Write to the Department for Transport to say that palm oil should not be used as a biofuel because this would create a massive expansion in the industry and destruction of ancient and living culture as well as remaining rainforests, which will in turn contribute to climate change. RTFO Consultation, Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DR
3. Write to the Indonesian embassy to request that they respect the customary land rights of indigenous peoples and don't convert any national parks for oil palm plantation, and to support the adoption of the Draft Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights at the next UN General Assembly. Indonesian Embassy, London, United Kingdom: +44 (0)20 7499 7661

! Sam, in her day job, has written a report for the Co-operative Insurance Society entitled Risks and Opportunities of an Emerging Industry. The report can be downloaded from [www.cis.co.uk/policyinpractice](http://www.cis.co.uk/policyinpractice).

Some selected quotes from the CIS report:

*The Worldwatch Institute estimates that it would take 9% of the world's agricultural land to produce only 10% of the world's transport fuels.*

*At present, world bioethanol production is only 2.95% of gasoline consumption and global biodiesel production is only 0.32% of diesel consumption.*

*With effective management and global compliance, the biofuels industry could help to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from transport, alongside increased fuel efficiency and public transport improvements.*

*Demand for palm oil from both the food and biofuel industries has led to massive expansion of oil palm tree plantations... land cleared for these plantations is often rainforest. Natural habitats are lost and our Earth's biodiversity, including the highly endangered orang-utan, is threatened.*

# Congestion on the Bill

Two new developments to change the way we travel.

In the last week of May there were two important developments for local transport: the national Local Transport Bill was published for consultation and AGMA, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities, announced bold steps to introduce congestion charging in Greater Manchester.

The Local Transport Bill sets out new powers for Passenger Transport Executives to regulate buses. It's not proposing a full renationalisation back to pre-1980s, but it is trying to give the PTEs more teeth. It also gives local areas powers to introduce road charging schemes.

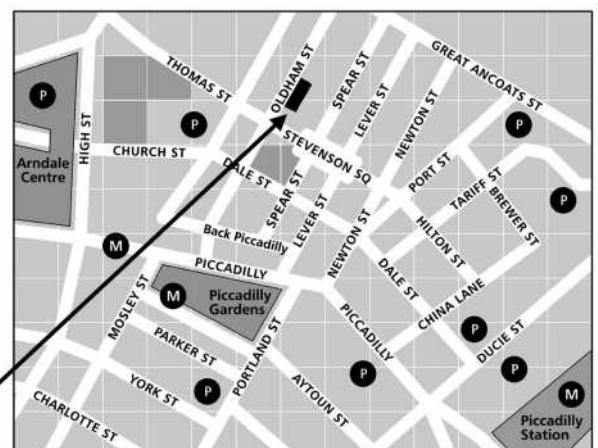
Greater Manchester's plans are still rather vague, but basically consist of charging for entry into Manchester along specific corridors, those with the best public transport. Charging will not start until there has been a massive improvement in public transport, which will be funded partly by the Transport Innovation Fund. We are assured that there will now be a thorough consultation on these proposals and AGMA will decide in July whether to submit the proposals to national Government. We believe that AGMA should stand by these proposals, but that there is still a lot of detail to be worked out.

! Please keep an eye on [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/transport](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/transport) to see our responses to these two proposals and get involved in the debate.

## New Office

It may seem like only a short time since the last move, but Manchester FoE are moving offices again. This time the move is to the Green Fish Resource Centre on Oldham Street, where we'll be sharing space with other voluntary sector organisations. And there's a bigger meeting space, so there will be plenty of room for you all at our meetings! Our new address and contact details are on the back cover. Here's a map to help you find it.

Thanks to Voluntary Action Manchester for the use of their map.





# cracking up

On a wet and windy evening at the end of April, we held a comedy night to raise some funds for the group. Justine reports.

The fantastic Toby Hadoke was compèring, and asked the audience what their guilty environmental secret is. One of our co-ordinators, Paul, said that he buys Sylvester McCoy Doctor Who DVDs, to which a disgusted Toby (McCoy is his least favourite Doctor) said that he should burn them, but burning would release toxic chemicals, so you couldn't do that, and so maybe he should just bury them out of sight somewhere!

The first comic on was newcomer Katie Mulgrew. Despite suffering from the flu, she delighted the audience with some daft observational bits and bobs, with prompts from the writing on her hand!

Second up was Sean Moran, an excellent comedian despite his lack of experience. One joke he told didn't get much of a laugh, so when Toby returned he said that we should tell Sean that we liked the joke, so that it wouldn't be wasted and would be recycled!

Third up was Lee Fenwick, as character Mick Sergeant. Mick is an ex-shipworker going through a divorce - sounds grim, but is actually very, very funny! Fourth up was Roland Gent, doing a general ramble. He thinks the worst job must be answering the phone at the Isle of Man Cheese company. Think about it!

Headlining the night was John Cooper (not Nigel from East Enders, despite the terrible shirt!). A funny and mad act, his speed-dating experiences must be heard to be believed!!

We got lots of Big Ask postcards signed, distributed a few newsletters and raised the profile of our campaigns. And raised over £100 for the group! Who knows, it may become a regular event - watch this space...

Photos: clockwise - Rachel, Toby Hadoke, Mick Sargent, Sean Moran, John Cooper, Katie Mulgrew.



# Do we want Tesco in Chorlton?

## Time to stop the spread of Tesco

Pre-empted by Tesco's application to open a Tesco Express in the hitherto Tesco-free Chorlton, a public meeting held last week drew together over 120 residents, business people and councillors determined to keep the supermarket giant out of the area.

Speakers from Unicorn Grocery, Manchester FoE, and Women Working Worldwide highlighted many of the negative impacts of supermarkets both here and overseas, including their murky labour practices in developing countries and their contribution as the deliverers of globalised low wages, low prices and low skills. The meeting went on to look at how people can oppose the local Tesco application, which contributes to one of the most aggressive expansion schemes of all the UK supermarkets.

It was hugely encouraging and very exciting to see the strength of feeling from so many local people. The Chorlton case comes close to marking the 100th

local anti-supermarket campaign in the UK, and it's clear that as people become increasingly aware that supermarkets are not all that super, the days of the retail giants' aggressive infiltration of every high street simply passing by with barely a whisper from anyone, are well and truly over.

Taking on Tesco isn't an easy task, but evidently the community is prepared to do it. It seems unfair, perhaps, that the system should work this way around. Why should we have to fight for what is so evident - that no-one in Chorlton wants Tesco, instead of Tesco having to prove that they do?

With the planning system currently in danger of being seriously weakened, it's more important than ever that local people show they are prepared to engage with planning decisions that will affect both themselves and the wider world.

Hopefully, May's meeting was only the beginning of a campaign that will bring together all who want to protect Chorlton's vitality and uniqueness, and voice opposition to a corporation that shows scant respect for workers, communities or the planet.



For more information, or to get on the mailing list, email [sayyestolocalshops@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sayyestolocalshops@hotmail.co.uk)

## Counting Carbs

### Justine takes latest lifestyle guide for a, er, test drive.

This little book starts by comparing counting carbon with counting calories, but where the health of the entire planet, not just one person, is at risk. The book shows you how to calculate your carbon footprint and gives advice on how to significantly reduce it. It starts by exploring how and why climate change is happening, looking at scientific data, graphs and tables. It's all presented really clearly, including a section on the myths people still believe and how to respond to difficult questions about climate change when you're in the pub!

Then it gets down to the nitty gritty of calculating your footprint, by looking at energy bills, distance and means of travel and consumption habits. It's a little hard going and you do need a calculator, pen and paper - but it's worth it!

The book has a wealth of suggestions to decrease our carbon emissions, with hints, tips and useful contact information. For the home, different forms of insulation are compared, green energy suppliers/tariffs compared, even fridges, dishwashers, washing machines and tumble driers analysed to find the most energy efficient! For transport, different kinds of car and motorbike are compared for carbon

emissions, different forms of transport are rated, and again ways to decrease your emissions and travel more safely and efficiently are reviewed.

Consumption habits are very difficult to calculate, but the book gives a general idea of emissions caused by various buying habits, and again offers detailed advice to reduce these. Finally, the book gives a vision for a sustainable future, with everyone having become much more energy efficient and energy generation becoming more localised. It also includes pages to record your own reductions in carbon emissions over the next few years! The appendix includes a 'ready reckoner' of carbon emissions for trips between major cities by car, train and plane.

This book is an excellent read, for both the Big Ask novice and the seasoned campaigner. It's great, if a little scary, to be able to calculate your carbon emissions, but it has great practical advice to reduce them. Highly recommended, 9 out of 10!

For the record, my carbon emissions for the past year were around 3,300kg - the UK average is 9,400kg, so I feel pretty good! But then I'm a poor student who cycles everywhere, can't afford to go away, shops in charity shops and lives with 3 other poor students so we can't afford to turn our heating up too much!



Carbon Counter, by Mark Lynas, is available from Collins Gem for £4.99

At the end of March it was one year since the launch of our award-winning Love Your Bike campaign, with its 'Fast Lane: Fat Lane' billboards. What better way to celebrate than to produce a report telling the council and other influential bodies everything that we've learnt over the last year from cyclists and would-be cyclists.

I'm sure no one will be surprised to learn that not everyone responded to our advertising campaign with 'oh yeah, sure, I'll cycle then', and many people commented that they would not cycle because they didn't feel safe or pointed out specific spots on the road network that they avoid because of fears of safety. We felt that the message we now had a responsibility to take back to the council was simple but vital:

Many more people want to cycle, but are looking to the Council to take a lead in making conditions more cycle-friendly.

We presented summaries of the comments we had received and presented them as a series of challenges (see box) to the council and other bodies - for example, we feel that the Police should be

involved in reducing cycle crime.

We presented the report, which is now available on [www.loveyourbike.org](http://www.loveyourbike.org), to Councillor Neil Swannick on the morning of the 30th March, joined by a special critical commute and covered by Manchester Evening News, Channel M and ALL FM's On The Move show. Cyclists told the media about their enthusiasm for cycling whilst insisting that the Council has to do much more to make cycling the mode of choice for everyone. Many made comparisons with their home cities, including London, Berlin, Warsaw, Cologne and Tokyo.

We are now sending copies of the report to key organisations such as the council, GMPTE, the Police and to Councillors, MPs and other influential people to start dialogue on how Manchester, which aims to become the UK's Greenest City, needs to embrace cycling or be forever in the fat lane.



You can download the full report at [www.loveyourbike.org](http://www.loveyourbike.org).

## stepping up a gear

Love Your Bike marks one year with a powerful report.



Graeme and Dave present the report to Cllr Neil Swannick (left) along with 50 or so cyclists at the end of the Critical Commute (and take the opportunity to audition for the next Spiderman film).

### The Challenges

The report made five challenges to the council, which it must meet if it is to be the greenest city.

1. Materially improve and expand the cycle lane network in Manchester so cyclists feel confident on the City's roads.
2. Design junctions so that the safety of cyclists is preserved and the flow of their journey not interrupted.
3. Act to inform, make aware and where necessary enforce the law so that other road users are aware of the needs of cyclists.
4. Provide quality cycle parking and, with the police, ensure that cycle crime is reduced and the fear of cycle crime reduced further.
5. Improve access to stations, secure storage, and the carriage of bikes on public transport, to give cyclists the confidence that they can use their bikes as one part of more complex journeys.
6. Work within the Council's powers to achieve the twin aims of reducing traffic and increasing cycling.



# Love Your Bike

Quotes from the report (see page 8) show that cycling in Manchester is a mixed experience.

I love my bike because cycling gives me healthy exercise without taking any time out of my day.

Last year I planned to cycle to work, but found (after nearly being knocked off my bike) cars and lorries showed a total disregard for cyclists.

I love my bike because it is the one thing in my life that saves me time and pays for itself.

Oncoming traffic turning right ignores cyclists who have a green light.

The design of most cycle lanes is appalling when they just fade away.

I love my bike because it gives me freedom exercise and fun.

Tracking down the information on where I can safely and securely park my bike during the day is proving to be bloody difficult.



## Critical Commute

Critical Commute takes place on the morning of the last Friday of every month, except in December, come rain, shine, sleet or snow. The idea is to meet at various points around Manchester, cycle in in groups and all meet together at Albert Square to do some kind of action: so far this has involved giving out Love Your Bike postcards to four-wheeled commuters. All our welcome, and this is a good way for people who haven't cycled for a while to get back into it with some friendly support. Currently, the meeting points are:

Withington Library 8am

Chorlton Green (Horse and Jockey) 8am

Levenshulme Train Station 8am

but please do check on the [loveyourbike.org](http://loveyourbike.org) website and let us know if you'd like to start a route from the area in which you live!

# Cutting Climate Confusion

A local climate campaigner, Michael, recently sent the following to the letters page of the Environment Agency's magazine "Your Environment".

As noted in recent issues (of the magazine), it's currently often impossible for shoppers to compare the carbon footprint of sources of the food they're buying. As others have noted it's not just whether, say, apples are from Spain or New Zealand, it's also whether they've been flown or shipped over. Even determining the country of origin takes time - it may be on the label but it's often hidden away - and there's no information at all about the transportation used.

Why doesn't the Government introduce a "carbon footprint" labelling scheme? Each supplier and outlet would have to give a green (low carbon footprint) to a red (high carbon footprint) marker for each food product sold. Whilst it may be too expensive, in time and money, to introduce an exact scheme it should be feasible to come up with something that gives shoppers a quick indication of which food is better for the planet.

The energy efficiency labelling scheme works well so why not extend this to food?

Yours,

Michael

The Environment Agency hope to publish the letter in their next edition of Your Environment and Mark Funnell of the Agency pointed out that Walkers Crisps now have a carbon footprint label. Mark added,

This is a very complex area. Manufacturers and regulators need to consider how the food was produced in determining its carbon footprint, not just transport impacts. And it doesn't end there. If, for example, the food is packaged, what was the carbon footprint of producing the packaging?

Carbon footprint labelling is a very good idea, but only if it's giving us a 'true' picture."



"Your Environment" is full of news, views, reviews and useful environmental information. Recent copies can be found online at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/275292/668256> or email [your.environment@mmgroup.co.uk](mailto:your.environment@mmgroup.co.uk) to receive a paper copy of each issue.



0161 834 5432

**ECOSHOP**

NATURAL ORGANIC AND ETHICAL LIVING

MATTRESSES & FUTONS  
SUSTAINABLE TIMBER BEDFRAMES  
MATS & SUPPORT FOR SHIATSU & MEDITATION  
PILLOWS & BOLSTERS  
CUSHIONS IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES  
\*MADE WITH CARE FROM ORGANIC, NATURAL  
AND RECYCLED MATERIALS IN OUR MANCHESTER  
WORKSHOP.  
ORGANIC DUVETS & PILLOWS  
FAIRLY TRADED FABRICS  
ECO DYED TOWELS  
ORGANIC BED LINEN & BLANKETS  
NATURAL PAINTS  
GREEN GARDENING  
FAIR TRADE TOYS  
UNIQUE & ETHICALLY PRODUCED GIFTS



**DOJO ECOSHOP**

38 MASON STREET  
MANCHESTER M4 5EZ  
[www.dojoe.co.uk](http://www.dojoe.co.uk)

SHOP: 10-5 THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
WORKSHOP: TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY RING FIRST  
5 MINUTES WALK FROM THE CRAFT CENTRE



**COFFEE WITH A CONSCIENCE**

**A range of hot and cold  
beverages, snacks and light  
meals including great tasting  
home-made soups, jacket  
potatoes, sandwiches and  
paninis.**

All tea and coffee is Fair Trade

All ingredients are ethically sourced  
from small local companies.

No GM food, no additives.

Lower ground floor of the Triangle  
(the old Corn Exchange) on  
Exchange Square, Corporation  
Street, M14 3TR.

**10% discount on hot drinks and main  
meals for MFoE members.**



Ethical Financial Planning

**Independent  
Financial  
Advice  
with an Ethical  
Focus**

With ethical investment you can look after your  
financial future while using companies that are  
ethically and environmentally sound.

*Contact us today for advice on ISAs, Bonds,  
Pensions, Inheritance Tax Planning, and  
Ethical Stockbroking Portfolio Services.*

**Financial and Ethical Specialists for over 15 years**

The GÆIA Partnership, 1 The Arcade,  
829 Wilmslow Rd, Manchester, M20 5WD

**Tel: 0161 434 4681 Fax: 0161 445 8421**  
**[enquiry@gaeia.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@gaeia.co.uk) [www.gaeia.co.uk](http://www.gaeia.co.uk)**

The GÆIA Partnership is authorised and regulated by The Financial  
Services Authority. The Financial Services Authority does not regulate tax  
advice and mortgages.

## 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**

## the pub quiz with climate on the bill - Rachel reports

# Big ASKS

On April 1st, Manchester FoE visited The Tudor House Hotel in Wigan to host a pub quiz with an environmental theme, with entry fees going to MFoE. Such events are a new way of promoting the ongoing Big Ask campaign, helping us reach new audiences and get more people to support the campaign by contacting their MPs asking them to ensure the Climate Bill is strong and worthwhile!

After convincing one or two punters that, despite falling on April 1st, no it was not a joke, the quiz was a great success with many teams competing for the wondrous first prize of hampers containing ladybird houses, can crushers and other exciting goodies. MFoE's fundraising officer Rachel co-compered the event with the Tudor's own Russ (jnr) to test the crowd's knowledge of environmental trivia to the max with some good old sports, music and film rounds thrown in for good measure.

The teams did pretty well, despite the odd grumble that some of the Q's were too difficult (do you know who the Secretary of State for the Environment is? Or how many homes can be powered from one 2MW wind turbine?). It was of course meant to highlight the point that perhaps people don't pay quite as much attention as they should to environmental issues: if everyone knew all the answers we wouldn't need to be there!

There were many reasons we chose the Tudor House as venue for our pilot Big Ask pub quiz. For starters, MFoE's Rachel used to be a regular there and is still in contact with staff and regulars. It also allowed us to reach an audience further afield than usual, and in an area where we really needed some input towards the local MPs. But mostly it's a great venue, with a decent crowd who we knew would be up for the challenge of a Friends of the Earth quiz, and most importantly it is a pub with a sound environmental ethos.

This was the first pub quiz to be hosted by MFoE - hopefully more will follow over the coming months before the Climate Bill is finalised, so look out for events near you.

photo: the quiz winners



Mr and Mrs Miller (Russ and Frances to friends and regulars), resident landlord & lady, told Rachel how and why they run such an eco-friendly business:

**Rach:** Tell us what you do around the place to minimise your environmental impact?

**The Millers:** We recycle everything we can: glass, paper, plastics, cans, and all food waste is composted. Water is never wasted: we re-use water from the ice buckets for our glass-washer and other waste water used for the gardens. We also collect rainwater. The staff know not to go throwing water down the sink! Of course, we use energy saving lightbulbs too - there's no reason not to do things like that.

**Rach:** Some pubs and bars have said it would be too much trouble storing all the different materials for recycling. How do you find it?

**The Millers:** No problem at all - we still have the same amount of waste, it's just stored in smaller, separate containers rather than larger general waste bins. It's much tidier and cleaner too. The compost bin is 150L and is less than ¼ full after over 1 year's worth of waste.

**Rach:** Why do you go to such efforts to make sure waste is properly managed?

**The Millers:** Because there's no reason not to - it's so easy to do! I [Frances] can't imagine why everyone is not doing this already, there's just no need to throw things away. Also, it's very good for the staff and regulars to get into the habit; hopefully they will do the same at home.

And do they? Long-standing barmaid Katie admits that though not to the extent as at the pub, she has got into the recycling habit at home too (I should think so too!). So, good work Mr and Mrs M; MFoE commend you and hope to work with you at Tudor House again in the future!



To find out more about the venue events, food and drink (real ales and home-cooked food, yummy yummy) or for contact details, visit the pub's website at: [www.thetudorhouse.co.uk](http://www.thetudorhouse.co.uk)



## June 2007

Saturday 9th, 11am - 5pm: "How to Spread the Big Ask Word", a special training day - call Neil on 0113 389 9952

Saturday 9th, 11am - 3pm: Stall at Didsbury Festival, Didsbury Park

Saturday 9th, 11am - 1pm: Free screening of An Inconvenient Truth, Cornerhouse - to book a place, call 246 2213/2226.

Tuesday 12th, 7pm: MFoE Full Group meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre

Thursday 14th, 7.30pm: "Are You As Green As God?" debate, Albert Halls, Victoria Square, Bolton - more info at [www.theriddleoflife.org](http://www.theriddleoflife.org)

Sunday 24th, Noon - 5pm: Stall at Sale Festival, Worthington Park

Saturday 30th, from 1pm: Climate Change Carnival, Peace Gardens

## July 2007

Sunday 1st, Noon - 6pm: Stall at Beech Road Festival, Chorlton Green

Saturday 7th, 10am - 5pm: Stall at the Fairly Traded market, Piccadilly Gardens

Tuesday 10th, 7pm: MFoE Full Group meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre

## August 2007

Saturday 4th, 10am - 5pm: Stall at the Fairly Traded market, Piccadilly Gardens

Tuesday 14th, 7pm: MFoE Full Group meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre

## September 2007

Saturday 1st, 10am - 5pm: Stall at the Fairly Traded market, Piccadilly Gardens

Friday 7th - Sunday 9th: Local Groups Conference, Reading University

Tuesday 12th, 7pm: MFoE Full Group meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre

## and every month...

As well as full group meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, we also hold monthly campaign sub-group meetings at 7pm in the Green Fish Resource Centre:

3rd Tuesday: Climate

3rd Wednesday: Transport & aviation

3rd Thursday: Corporates, trade & food

4th Tuesday: Waste & recycling

Please check our website for the latest details: [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk).

# coverage



Manchester

FoE

Media

in the

"We sent out specifically targetted press releases to different local newspapers, featuring real local cyclists. That definitely helped to get our campaign in the press."

**Graeme Sherriff in the Ecologist magazine, May 2007, talking about the Love Your Bike campaign, which they featured as an example of working with the media.**



"We're especially concerned about the impact that Tesco might have on local communities in terms of how it would affect small traders."

**Paul D'Ambra in the Manchester Evening News, 10th May 2007 on plans for a Tesco Express in Chorlton.**

"...rather than debating whether mankind is part of the problem, which the scientific consensus now agrees is beyond reasonable doubt, perhaps our time would be better spent debating how we can become part of the solution?"

**Ali Abbas writing into the Manchester Metro News, printed Friday 11th May 2007.**

## Get Active!

We hold full group meetings at 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Green Fish Resource Centre. We also hold campaign sub-group meetings throughout the month - please check our website for details.

Address: Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham Street, Manchester M4 1LE

Telephone: 0161 234 2974

Please see inside front cover for details of membership.