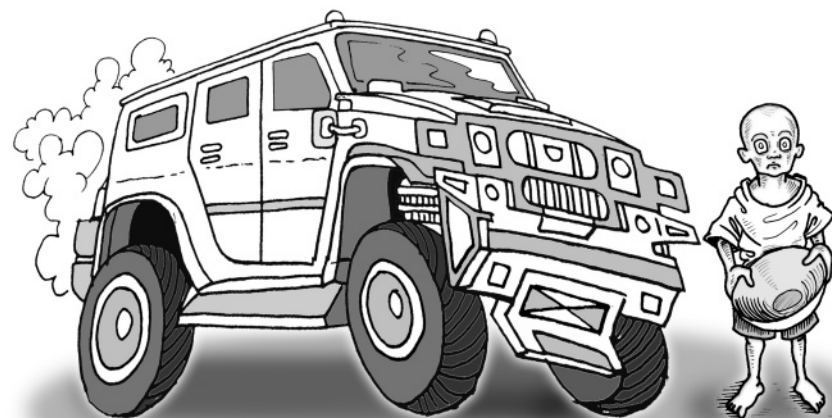


# Act!on

Manchester Friends of the Earth  
Summer 2008

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



1 meal

365 meals

**Which should we feed?**

**If you do one thing with  
this issue...**

turn to page 5 and read about  
the EU's misguided plans to  
increase the percentage of  
biofuels to 10% by 2020.

Take Action at  
<http://www.foe.co.uk/biofuels>  
cover image:  
[throboblins.blogspot.com](http://throboblins.blogspot.com)

Manchester Friends of the Earth, Green Fish  
Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham Street,  
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Website: [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk)  
cover image: [throboblins.blogspot.com](http://throboblins.blogspot.com)

## **Biofuels - Cool Fuels?**

lobbying at European level

## **A FoE Marriage**

Jonathan and Liz tie the knot

## **Transport Innovation**

latest on congestion charge  
and improvements package

## **Bikes on Trams**

we show that they fit

Campaign Updates	3	
Biofuels	5	
Northern Gathering	6	
Climate Book Review	8	Action is a quarterly publication from Manchester Friends of the Earth.
Beyond Copenhagen	9	
A FoE Wedding	12	
Transport Innovation	14	Also available to download from <a href="http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk">www.manchesterfoe.org.uk</a> .
Getting Sign	16	
Bikes on Trams	17	

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, environmental justice, sustainable transport and aviation, and waste and recycling. Find out more at [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk).

**How long have you been in MFoE?**  
3 or 4 months. I joined back in March.

**What campaigns have you been involved in and what sort of things have you done?**

So far, I've concentrated on the Transport arm of things, though I have also spent some time on stalls dressed as an orang-utan to raise awareness of biofuels(!). Achievements include the 'How would you spend £3bn?' night at Nexus Art Café in May, the successful TIF bid, and making cardboard bikes for the 'bikes on trams' campaign - surprisingly involved and rewarding!

**Which environmental issues are you most concerned about?**

What aren't I? Locally, I suppose my key 'short term' goal is improvement in green transport around Manchester... I am keen to more thoroughly understand just how much we, and Europe as a whole, can do to alleviate the suffering that is going on around us right now.



# updates

Manchester Friends of the Earth structures its activities into campaign sub-groups, all of which have been busy since our last newsletter...

## Waste

Over the past two months the waste group have been working on their battery action and helping out at the clothing swap event held regularly in town. The battery action aims to improve the public's awareness of the benefits of recycling batteries and using rechargeable alternatives where possible. Over the summer we hope to promote these ideas at stalls and through the media. The subgroup is currently finalising our leaflet and putting together posters and props - including a costume of a giant battery. We're also involved in the clothing swap, which is held every six to eight weeks at the 8th Day cafe on Oxford Road. The waste subgroup help with the organisation and running of the event.

## Climate Change

Climate change has been a major part of the group's campaigning activities over the past few months, and this update contains a brief overview of our current and upcoming campaigns in this area. We are nearing the end of our Big Ask campaign, which has been a focus of the group for over two years as we lobbied MPs and collected postcards signed by members of the public to force the government to put forward a bill to set targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions across the UK. The good news is that we will definitely be getting the world's first piece of national legislation specifically aimed at tackling climate change, so congratulations and celebratory drinks all round are in order. However, there's still a short way to go, as the government is still wavering on whether to include emissions from international aviation and shipping within the Bill. As a result, we will be keeping up the pressure by lobbying key MPs over the summer to try and make the Bill as strong as possible when it finally becomes law.

The European Union is currently proposing a target of 20% of all energy (electricity, heating and transportation) across the member countries to be generated from renewable energy sources by 2020, with the UK having to reach 15%. In order to get the government to take action on this issue and prevent them from watering down the targets and/or building a new generation of nuclear power plants, we will be running a campaign on renewable energy in the autumn.

## Friend of the Earth

*Each issue we feature one of our volunteers.*

*This time Maff Linley is up.*

This summer, the Trade and Corporates group is working on trying to stop the potentially devastating European targets for biofuels. We're working with other Friends of the Earth groups from all across the North West to lobby our MEPs (Members of European Parliament - these are the people who get a say in what happens in Europe that affects us) to try to persuade them to vote against the target for 10% of all fuel to be biofuels by 2020. We've already got over 1,000 postcards signed at various festivals and will be asking lots more people to sign postcards throughout the summer so that we can present them to MEPs to show them that the people of the North West don't want biofuels that will push up food prices, destroy the rainforest and potentially make climate change worse. See page 5 of this newsletter for more information.

In the last issue of Act!on we revealed that Manchester City Council had applied for funding to be a Cycling Demonstration City. Sadly, this application was not successful. The money will go instead to Bristol, and we hope that they are able to set an example for other cities to follow. Putting the bid together brought together a lot of organisations, including Manchester FoE, with an interest in improving conditions for cycling, and we hope they will continue working together.

We took part in the Council's bike week celebration event, with a Love Your Bike campaign stall. We also took this to Manchester University's Bike to Work day. At both events we got people to write their personalised messages to GMPTE to ask them to allow bikes on the Metrolink. More on this on page 17.

The campaign to support the TIF bid, with combined public transport improvements and peak-time congestion charging, goes on. We were pleased when the Government announced in June that Greater Manchester has been awarded £1.5 billion (plus permission to borrow £1.2 bn) to implement a package to bring more buses, trains and trams to the area. More about this on pages 14 and 15.

Critical Commute still takes place on the last Friday of every month. Please see [www.loveyourbike.org](http://www.loveyourbike.org) to find out more and come and join us.

## Biofuels = cool fuels?

*Sarah takes a  
close look at  
Biofuels.*

Over the next couple of months, Friends of the Earth will be campaigning to stop compulsory EU targets that will insist on increasing the use of biofuels.

Biofuels, unlike fossil fuels, are a renewable energy source, derived from recently living organisms. The raw materials are grown all over the world and include corn, soybeans, palm oil, rapeseed oil, sugar cane and jatropha. In theory they're cleaner than petrol and diesel because the crops absorb carbon dioxide as they grow. However, detailed study of the impact of Biofuel production shows that this is not generally the case. Often greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the fuel are not lower compared with fossil fuels.

Vast areas of land, often rainforest, is cleared to farm biofuel crops.

Rainforest takes carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and reduces climate change.

Farming methods used to grow biofuels create greenhouse gases.

The land grab for farming biofuels is destroying natural habitats and pushing species of animals to extinction - notably the highly endangered orang-utan.

Indigenous communities are uprooted from their homes to make way for biofuel production.

The grain required to till the tank of a 25-gallon SUV with ethanol would feed one person for a year (Earth Policy Institute)

The demand for this alternative is causing more harm than good because it promotes powering our cars with food, pushing the prices of basic food stuffs up all over the world and encouraging the clearing of wildlife-rich forests to grow fuel for our cars.

The European Union wants to set a binding target to increase the use of biofuels to 10% of transport fuel by 2020. Even with rules in place to ensure that this is derived from sustainable sources, the sheer scale of this planned increase makes it unsustainable.

Friends of the Earth will be gathering support to stop these EU targets over the next few months by asking people to sign postcards to their MEP asking them to put transport on the right track and make car manufacturers double the fuel efficiency of new vehicles instead.

Biofuels are a false solution to climate change! If you want to "Say NO to EU targets!" go to: [www.foe.co.uk/biofuels](http://www.foe.co.uk/biofuels)



For the last two years, Friends of the Earth has run a 'Northern Gathering', in which all groups from the North of England get together for a residential weekend, where we discuss campaigns and of course get to know one another at the evening socials. Previous years have seen groups descend upon the Lake District and York, and this time the chosen venue was a Youth Hostel in the second capital of England... Manchester.

The event was opened with a speech from Tony Juniper, executive director of Friends of the Earth, in what was billed as his last appearance in the North in his current position [insert momentary pause to allow all the swooning ladies to regain their composure]. As always, Tony delivered an excellent speech, which got everyone fired up and ready to go with the big climate action later in the afternoon.

The Climate Action Challenge was centred around a record breaking attempt outside the Town Hall, in which we attempted to get as many pledges signed as possible, based around a sporting theme which involved campaigners dressed up as boxers and joggers. Altogether, over 500 pledges were made by local group members and passing members of the public, in only sixty minutes! John Leech, one of our local MPs, also made an appearance, and was even brave enough to attempt the World Development Movement challenge, which involved running as far as possible across the square whilst tied to a bungee cord.

Of course, those of you who have been to Friends of the Earth weekend events before will know that they wouldn't be complete without some form of social on the Saturday night - and the Northern Gathering was no exception. The night was spent in a



relaxed atmosphere with a bar containing some excellent local beers - several bottles of which led to some local campaigners (names removed to protect the guilty) deciding to use the Internet access to email some late night questions to Tony Juniper. The festivities continued long into the night, and indeed the morning - the sun was almost back on the horizon by the time the last few campaigners made it to bed.

Sunday morning involved an early start, despite the late night before - no one can accuse us of not being committed to saving the planet! By 9:30 we were already diving into our first workshop of the day, covering planning, food, biofuels or renewable energy. This was followed up by the Big Debate - a mock House of Commons chamber tackling the question of whether we should focus all our efforts on climate change and leave other green issues for later. Speeches were delivered, choruses of cheers and boos echoed around the hall, and in the midst of all this some well thought out points were made. An appalling showing by the party whips resulted in the finale being topped off by a round of defections from both sides (including the Leader of the Opposition, who decided that joining the Cabinet was a sensible career move), and a splinter group forming their own party. The poor Prime Minister (yours truly) was left with a party a shadow of its former self as a result, but I shall refrain from drawing any direct comparisons with the current government...

The afternoon consisted of a further workshop, followed by a visual review of all the fantastic campaigns run by northern groups in the last year. This ended the day on a high note, and everyone went home fired up, enthused and ready to launch straight into our main campaign for the summer, on the topic of biofuels.

If this sounds like great fun but you missed out this time, do not despair, as the Northern Gathering will be back next year (venue to be announced).



*'Altogether over 500 pledges were made by local group members and passing members of the public, in only sixty minutes.'*

*"should we focus our efforts on climate change and leave other green issues for later?"*

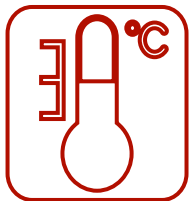
photos

this page:  
campaigners and  
the public express  
their concerns

previous page: over  
one hundred North  
West campaigners  
get active

## A Marathon not to be Snickered at

*Paul on a  
weekend of  
discussion and  
action, when  
FoE groups  
from around the  
North of  
England met up  
in Manchester.*



## How Can I Stop Climate Change?

Dave reviews  
a brand new  
FoE book.

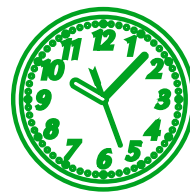
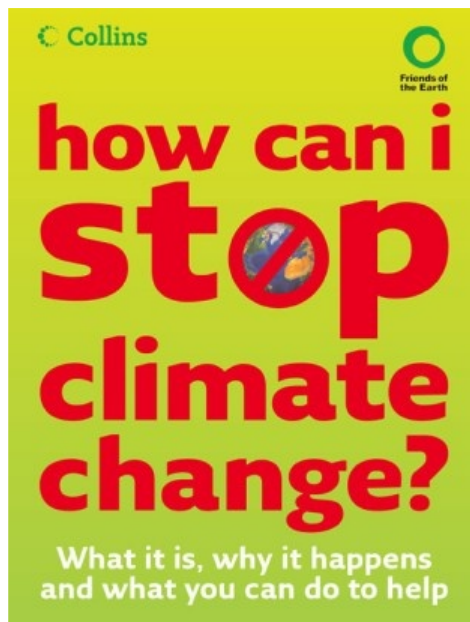
**F**riends of the Earth have published many books over the years. This is simply the best yet. Structured in logical sections, the book starts with a concise explanation of the key issues that lie behind climate change; the science and the evidence, the growing day to day experience, the potential consequences and the scale of the challenge we face.

However rather than simply rehearsing the arguments one more time, the book then develops into a practical handbook guiding the reader through each key area.

The bookshops are crammed with books urging us to “change our lightbulbs”. However in tackling energy issues from generation to efficiency, looking at the level of change we need, and then looking at practical steps we can all take in the home, out and about, and in our workplace or school, *How Can I Stop Climate Change?* systematically covers each area with working examples from all over the UK. In laying out the steps we can all take as individuals, as a society and as governments and nations, it shows both the opportunities and the possibilities that taking practical action offers.

Colourful and entertaining throughout, with eye-catching photography, packed with key facts and statistics, and with a hugely comprehensive resources section as an appendix, this is a handbook to live by. It is a stunning resource for those new to the issues, yet still packed with well structured evidence and enough cogently argued “pub ammo” to keep even the most jaded of tree-huggers entertained. With plenty to inform and inspire readers from eco-warriors to eco-warriors this truly is a practical answer to the question “How Do I Stop Climate Change?”, and an essential resource for us all.

*How Can I Stop Climate Change?* is available from Collins, Paperback, £14.99 or £12.50 via MFOE.



## Beyond Copenhagen

*Climate Activist Marc Hudson gives his views on the direction of climate policy.*

**T**here's a play by Michael Frayn called *Copenhagen*. Its major themes include radical scientific uncertainty and a terrible destructive power being unleashed that could destroy quite a lot of human civilisation.

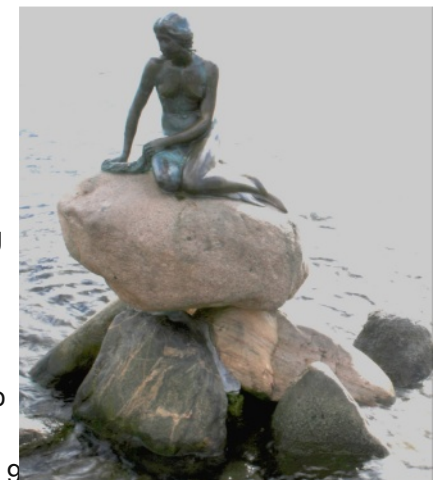
It wasn't about the climate negotiations in December 2009 that are the current focus of attention of the world's climateriat, but maybe someone should write a play about them. I suggest a tragedy, then a farce.

As the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting at Copenhagen draws closer, more and more attention will be paid to it, both by its advocates and critics. I suspect both groupings will be in danger of thinking of it as the ball at which Cinderella (the solutions) will turn up incognito and have Prince Charming fall in love with her. Throw in a fairy godmother (I believe the technical term is “*deus ex machina*”) and business gets the long loud signal that it's been asking for. Governments get to brandish their problem-solving credentials. The poor get the development aid and atmospheric pollution rights they are entitled to. And a squadron of the Danish Air Force's Red Pigs will do a fly-past in salute.

Sure, maybe the whole circus will have to sit in semi-permanent session, or the thousands of negotiators and lobbyists and hacks will schlep off to Bonn, but there is almost certainly going to be a Deal. Even with a new American President, a new UK government (mebbe), and a new EU president, a Deal Will Be Made. There'll be too many eyes on the game for anyone to want to be labelled as the wrecker.

But in those circumstances, the Deal will probably be weak. LCD won't just stand for lowest common denominator, it'll also stand for lousy climate deal.

No matter what, it will become harder to push the kind of radical emissions reductions/sink protections on climate change, because the Deal will be the only show in town with anything approaching democratic legitimacy. The world's denialists, coal lobbies, knuckle-draggers, knuckle-heads, volcano-nutters and China-baiters will all be trying to stop their own countries'





legislatures signing it. Greens will be wanting to criticise the Deal as too weak but still wanting it to be ratified. That's where the NGO energy will go, because it offers the best chance of lobbying ministers and appearing important to NGOs' core constituency. Kyoto the Sequel, anyone?

And if the recent Nature article predicting a temporary decrease in global average temperature due to ocean currents is correct, then energy will also be diverted to convincing people that Dangerous Anthropogenic Interference is even happening. What interesting times we live in.

#### Further Reading

Copenhagen by Michael Frayn

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copenhagen\\_\(play\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copenhagen_(play))

Advancing Decadal-Scale Climate Prediction in the North Atlantic Sector: Nature, 453, 84-88.

Keenlyside, N.S., M. Latif, J. Jungclaus, L. Kornblueh, and E. Roeckner (2008)

<http://www.nature.com/climate/2008/0805/full/453043a.html#B2>

Copenhagen Climate Council

<http://copenhagenclimatecouncil.com/>



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

## I know it's a Big Ask... but will you marry me?

*Act!on reports on Manchester FoE's happy couple of the year, and a star-studded eco-wedding..*

Liz and Jonathan met at a Manchester FoE Big Ask campaign stall in Heaton Park. Liz, already involved with the group, was getting people to sign postcards for the Big Ask campaign. Jonathan decided that joining the campaign would be a good idea, and started coming to meetings and getting fully involved, being an active member of the transport campaign and also membership secretary.



This June, they returned to Heaton Park, this time to get married. Blessed with beautiful weather in the inspiring surroundings of the park, many members of Manchester FoE joined them in celebrating their happy day.

But of course, you wouldn't expect a wedding of two Manchester FoE luminaries to be like just any other would you? And you'd be right. Liz and Jonathan went to town on making sure the wedding was environment and people friendly. Here they describe how.

### An Ethical Wedding

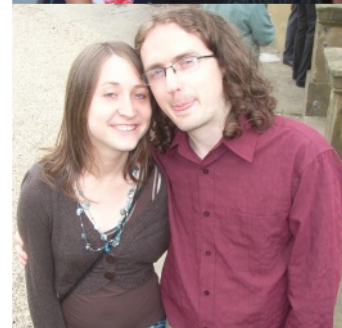
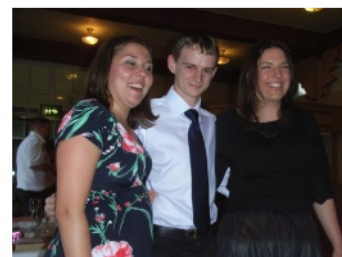
When we decided to get married at the end of 2007, we took on the challenge of making it as ethical as possible. We tried to minimise the negative environmental and social impacts of the day's activities, by ensuring that the materials we used were from local sources, organic, re-used, recycled or fairly traded wherever possible.

We made our own invitations and placename cards from fairly-traded and recycled card containing elephant dung, charmingly known as "Ellie Poo" card. To save paper we sent some invitations by email and created a website with the details of our wedding, including detailed instructions for getting there by public transport. Instead of a wedding list for presents, we asked our guests to donate to one of four charities.

Liz's dress was made from re-used sari material, commissioned from Ketchup Clothes in Leeds, and was complemented by a fairly traded shawl from Justicia, the Fair World shop in Bolton. Jonathan looked in vain for a suit in the second-hand clothing shops, so instead he re-used a suit he already owned, which was just right and fitted perfectly!

Our wedding rings both come from previous generations of the family. Jonathan's is believed to have belonged to his great-grandmother, and Liz's has been re-fashioned from a signet ring belonging to her grandad.

We picked a local venue for the wedding ceremony and reception, which is easy to get to by public transport, and we ourselves walked to the wedding from home. Unfortunately the venue (the Orangery at Heaton Hall) couldn't serve organic food, but Manchester Fayre, the venue's caterers, are Fairtrade Friendly and source their vegetables locally. We chose only vegetarian and vegan food for the meals because it has a lower environmental impact than meat.



The wine posed a dilemma: should it be local or Fairtrade? In the end we chose vegan organic Fairtrade wine from South Africa, bought from Taylor's Deli, our local organic food shop in Prestwich. All the drinks and after dinner mints were Fairtrade or organic. We got our mums to make the wedding cakes from organic and Fairtrade ingredients, with one tier suitable for vegans.

We decided we didn't need flowers as there would be plenty already on display in the park. For table decorations we bought tea-light candle holders from local second hand charity shops, and will return them there so they can be used again!

*'We decided we didn't need flowers as there would be plenty already on display in the park.'*

*'The wine posed a dilemma: should it be local or Fairtrade?'*

photos

this page:  
Manchester FoE  
celebs spotted at the  
wedding of the year:  
Leanne, Paul and  
Cat; Graeme seen  
with Oxfam's Julie;  
and current  
coordinator Paul  
waiting on former  
coordinator Ali.

previous page: the  
happy couple in  
Heaton Park



In June this year it was announced that the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities' (AGMA) bid to central Government for money to improve the area's transport system was successful. On the table is a £1.5 billion grant and a further £1.2 billion loan. Neither of these monies are available unless Greater Manchester introduces a congestion charge. The proposal is to introduce a weekday peak-time only congestion charge, the purpose of which is both to limit the growth of traffic on the area's road and to generate revenue with which to pay back the £1.2 billion loan. Also in the package is something that we have long been arguing for: reform of the way public transport is managed.

### on the ground

All households in Greater Manchester are receiving a consultation document through their letter boxes and an invitation to express their views on these proposals. There is also a website, [www.gmfuturetransport.com](http://www.gmfuturetransport.com), through which you can respond. There is a wide-ranging package of public transport improvements, and there is only space to list some of them here.

additional bus services - with the aim that 90% of people will be within a five minute walk of a service

more bus priority, resulting in faster journeys

real time information at bus stops

additional carriages on trains, and new and improved interchanges

extensions to Metrolink including East Didsbury, Wythenshawe, Ashton and Trafford Park

better integrated ticketing, including an 'Oyster'-style card

lots more yellow school buses

an expanded network of cycle routes, and more secure cycle parking

improving the pedestrian experience, including widening and improving pavements

The congestion charge will operate at weekday peak-times only, and only in the direction of peak traffic. A peak time car-commute would cost a maximum of £3 in the morning and £2 in the evening if you live outside the M60.

Unlike London, there is no 'zone' and a charge is only incurred for travelling across either or both of the rings, not driving in the area between them. It is estimated that only 20% of peak-time car journeys will incur a charge. There are some plans for exemptions and reductions - see the website for more details.

### sustainability

The consultation document contains some projections for improvements to our environment that would result from this package of proposals. Air pollution, it is claimed, will be reduced by up to 10% compared to business as usual (i.e. not going ahead with the package) in areas where air quality is currently worst. Additionally, carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by 6%, again compared to business as usual. Social benefits include making it easier for the most deprived and vulnerable to access employment (by having a public transport system that is further-reaching and more accessible). Health benefits include increased activity levels as a result of better walking and cycling provision, and improvements in air quality.

### our view

We welcome the TIF package. Broadly speaking, it begins to address many of the issues on which we have been campaigning, including air pollution, climate change and social exclusion. We believe that the principle of carrot (public transport improvements) and stick (a congestion charge) is the right way ahead for Greater Manchester. We do not see the congestion charge as simply a bribe (as some have described it) to get more Metrolink. We believe that it is part of an integrated transport system. What is the point of having quality public transport if it is stuck on gridlocked streets? The need to tackle the growth of private car use and move towards more sustainable travel patterns is one that we have long supported, and the congestion charge is a tool for achieving that.

However, we do feel that the plans could be more ambitious in terms of environmental goals. A 6% cut in CO<sub>2</sub> by 2016 is good, but could be much greater, especially with climate change being such an urgent global challenge. We believe that significantly more of the budget should be put into walking and cycling, as these are the truly green modes of transport.

We will be putting together our response to the consultation over the coming months. We are a member of the Clean Air Now coalition, and will be campaigning as part of them. For more information see [www.cleanairnow.co.uk](http://www.cleanairnow.co.uk). Please take time to make your views heard in this consultation.

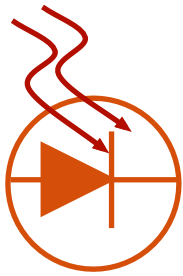
*'We believe that the principle of carrot (public transport improvements) and stick (a congestion charge) is the right way ahead for Greater Manchester.'*

*'Carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by 6%.'*

## Transport Innovation

*Graeme updates readers on progress with Manchester's biggest ever investment in transport.*





Since the launch of THE BIG ASK campaign, Thom Yorke from Radiohead has worked with Friends of the Earth in the UK, taking the message to a wider audience.

*"This seems to be the first sane, reasoned way out of what is basically an international emergency. Any person out there who has any concern about global warming in this country, who feels powerless like I did, should think about getting involved in the Big Ask."*  
 Thom Yorke, Radiohead

Radiohead have given Friends of the Earth spaces at all of their concerts on this European tour: that's 12 concerts and 3 festivals across 8 different countries!

On the 29th June Radiohead came to Manchester, and played to a busy Old Trafford cricket ground. The sun was shining, the atmosphere was electrifying, the music fantastic and the day was a huge success: we spoke to lots of people and got over 1200 postcards signed! Ali Abbas organised media coverage for the event with the BBC, who invited him in for a radio interview and filmed a feature for the evening news!

Check out what Hannah Wylie (Friends of the Earth tour co-ordinator) said about the Manchester too:

*"And thanks to Ali for getting a really nice bunch of volunteers together, they were so enthusiastic and didn't stop till every one of their cards were signed. This added to the numbers signed in London lobbying Hilary Benn. Wore me out just watching them...."*

So success all round! If you would like to read more about Friends of the Earth and the Radiohead tour across Europe, please visit <http://www.thebigask.eu/there-and-back-again>, or if you would like to take action to strengthen the UK's Climate Change Bill is going, check out <http://www.thebigask.com>.



## Getting Signed

*Manchester  
FoE bring the  
climate  
message to the  
Radiohead Gig  
at Old  
Trafford.  
Sarah reports.*



In 2002 the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority (GMPTA) unanimously agreed "to the principle of allowing bikes on trams during non-peak hours" but added that this would be "subject to the resolution of a number of very important issues." With the Metrolink expansion and increased network that the TIF bid would bring, it is time to make them honour that pledge.

Without such provision for bicycles on trams the current service will be reduced because the existing trains to Oldham and Rochdale, which allow bikes, are due to be replaced by trams.

So on 18th June, during National Bike Week and on Manchester Council's 'Bring your Bike to work day', FoE Love Your Bike campaigners carried full-size cardboard bikes onto off-peak trams to highlight the inconsistencies of Metrolink cycle policy.

The demands on the GMPTA were that: up to two standard bicycles per tram entrance are allowed on current tram rolling stock during off peak hours; all new rolling stock ordered is, similarly to current commuter trains, purposely designed to carry bicycles and wheelchair users in comfort at all times of day.

Manchester FoE believe that the benefits of introducing cycle carriage would extend well beyond existing cyclists and that Metrolink would become an even more attractive alternative to the car and more people would be encouraged to cycle. The actions received a lot of media coverage in the MEN, Channel M, BBC Radio and BBC news website. The official response has been muted. With the 14 week public consultation on the TIF bid - and with bikes on trams back on the agenda - now is the time to get writing to your councillor, MP and the GM Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTX) asking if they will support the carriage of bicycles. So please get writing.....

## All Aboard? Not quite yet...

*Pete reports  
on an action  
that caught the  
imagination  
with some  
creative use of  
props..*

Photos (Pete) -  
Three easy steps  
to carrying your  
cardboard bike  
on a tram.



## Fuel for Thought

*Diana  
reviews  
Withington's  
vegetarian  
cafe.*

'Fuel' is a unique vegetarian cafe/bar situated in the centre of Withington (Wilmslow Road) which serves not only as an eatery but also as an internet cafe with the upstairs hosting live music at night.

The atmosphere is welcoming and relaxed, the eclectic collection of art displayed on the walls adding to the quirky appeal of the cafe.

On offer is a wide range of cosmopolitan vegetarian food served from morning until night. I visited in the evening and whilst burritos, falafels and paninis were all featured on the menu, I opted for a vegetable quorn fajita (£6.00 including nachos) plus halloumi salad (£4.95). Both dishes were fresh, tasty and wholesome. The portion sizes were very generous - I had too much food but somehow I managed!

Overall, the good quality, unpretentious food, friendly service and individual approach of 'Fuel' makes for a vegetarian culinary experience definitely to be recommended.

## join us!

*We couldn't do  
everything we  
do without  
your help*

### become a member...

You can download a membership form from our website or leave a message on 0161 234 2974 to be sent one. One year's membership is only £4 if you're unwaged, £8 low-waged, £18 waged and £30 for a household.

### enjoy discounts...

As a member you'll get this newsletter each quarter, 4 free issues of 'Earthmatters', the national magazine of Friends of the Earth, and a range of discounts from local shops and services (see our website for more details).

### special offer...

We are currently offering a free 1-hour battery charger with four rechargeable batteries (worth over 30 pounds) to anyone who joins Manchester Friends of the Earth for the first time (or to existing members who renew their membership) if you help us budget more effectively and reduce our admin overhead by paying by standing order. Be quick - offer only available while stocks last! Download a membership form today at:

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

## calendar

*A round-up of  
forthcoming  
events*

### Thursday 31st July, 7.30pm: Manchester Climate Forum Debate, Friends Meeting House, Mount St

'That £3 billion pound question, the transport bid, congestion charging and climate change'. With speakers for and against the TIF bid. More information at [www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk](http://www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk).

### Sunday 3rd - Monday 11th August: Camp for Climate Action, Kingsnorth, Kent

(not a Friends of the Earth event)

More information at [www.climatecamp.org.uk](http://www.climatecamp.org.uk).

### Thursday 7th - Sunday 10th August: Northern Green Gathering, Lime Tree Farm, near Ripon

(not a Friends of the Earth event)

More information at [www.nggonline.org.uk](http://www.nggonline.org.uk).

### Friday 12th - Sunday 14th September: FOE Local Groups Conference, Loughborough University

A great opportunity to meet other campaigners and learn more about Friends of the Earth's forthcoming campaigns. For more information or to book a place, visit <http://community.foe.co.uk/conference>.

## regulars

Our regular group meetings take place at the Green Fish Resource Centre on Oldham Street, between Hilton Chambers and Mint Lounge:

**2nd Tuesday, 6.45pm for 7.15pm - 9pm: Full group meeting**

**4th Wednesday, 6.45pm for 7pm - 9pm: Campaigns meeting (covering food, trade & corporates, transport and waste)**

**Last Friday, from 8am: Critical Commute!**

On the last Friday of every month, we meet at 4 locations in Manchester to cycle into the city centre. Starting points are at 8am at: Chorlton Green (by Horse and Jockey); Withington Library; Levenshulme Station; Bury New Road in Prestwich (outside Pizza Express, junction with Scholes Lane / Hilton Lane); or meet us in Albert Square at 8.30am and join us for a coffee.