

# Act! on

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



**If you do one thing after  
reading this issue...**

**VOTE YES** in the Transport  
Innovation Fund referendum.  
Postal voting forms will be sent  
to all Greater Manchester  
residents, and vote well before  
the deadline of 11th December.  
If you'd like more information  
about the proposals or would like  
to get involved in campaigning  
on this issue, please see page 5  
or [www.cleannairnow.co.uk](http://www.cleannairnow.co.uk).

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**Vote YES to the  
Transport Innovation  
Fund this December,  
see page 5.**

**Old King Coal**  
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Act!on is a publication  
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Also available to  
download from  
[www.manchesterfoe.org.uk](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk).

Manchester Friends of the Earth is an award-winning campaign group working on issues relating to the environment and 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 and aviation, and waste and recycling.

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

## Friend of the Earth

How long have you been  
involved?

Just over six years.

What sort of activities have you  
been involved with?

My first project was the Real Food Guide website. Since then, I've done a whole range of things, from the serious (media interviews and speaking at public meetings) to the fun (running stalls and dressing up as a pilot, polar bear, orangutan and carrot!). Nothing beats a spot of MP lobbying though!

What environmental issues concern you most?

Globally, climate change. Locally, the upcoming transport referendum. A No vote would not only deny us the much-needed investment here in Greater Manchester, but also risk undermining the political will needed to tackle the continuing rise in transport emissions across the UK.



*This month it's  
Ali Abbas,  
pictured here in  
his natural  
habitat, the  
fancy dress  
radio interview.*

# updates

Manchester Friends of the Earth structures its activities into campaign sub-groups. All have had a busy year in 2008.

## Climate

We've done it! Three years on from the launch of the Big Ask campaign, the Climate Change Bill will complete its passage through Parliament this autumn. And the great news is the Government finally bowed to the pressure we've been putting on it, and conceded the need not only for annual milestones, but also a higher long-term target of 80% by 2050, and even the inclusion of emissions from international aviation and shipping. Congratulations and a big thank you to everyone who helped out with the Big Ask campaign over the last three years!

The next target for the climate campaign will be the EU's Renewables Directive. Or not so much the directive itself, but the UK Government's shameful attempts to water it down, even though the proportion of energy currently generated from renewable sources in the UK is pitifully small, and the UK has the largest potential for renewable energy in Europe.

Over the autumn we'll be putting pressure on the Government to stop trying to wriggle out of its renewables targets and start delivering a green energy revolution. The campaign started on 25th October with our renewables day action, see page 6.

## Waste

The waste group has had a relatively quiet year. However, it has not been all doom and gloom! We have started work with Emerge recycling with regard to our battery chargers. Emerge run a schools education program and are keen to have our views on their battery education module and to develop a joint plan where they would be able to encourage schools to participate in some of our campaigns and perhaps join the group in exchange for battery chargers.

The clothing swap shop continues with the most recent event held in mid October. The event continues to attract a lot of people keen to recycle their unwanted clothes and update their wardrobe. See the article and pictures on page 14 of the newsletter.

The group is working with the trade & corporates and food sub-groups over the Festive season to promote a greener Christmas

and Manchester FoE's two websites - the Ethical Shopping Guide and Real Food Guide. From issues of food waste and Christmas tree recycling to minimising wrapping and packaging, we will be providing Manchester shoppers with ideas for a more sustainable Christmas.

In the New Year we have lots of ideas that we hope to get stuck into. For example, National FoE has released a report outlining research they commissioned about residual waste and have developed an action pack for local government. We hope to look at discussing this with the local council.

However, as ever, campaigns are only limited by the time and interests of group members. So if anybody has a desire to take up a waste issue, whether it be to increase on-street recycling facilities, ensure the use of recyclable drinking vessels at festivals or a million other ideas, come along to our next campaigns meeting and join in!

## Trade

The summer was a really busy time for our campaigning on Trade and Corporates. We took part in a huge Europe-wide campaign against the damaging targets the EU had set for biofuels. We got out on the streets to ask people to sign postcards and spent time talking to MEPs (like MPs but representing our views in the European Parliament instead of at Westminster) to explain to them why chopping down rainforests to grow biofuels was not going to save the planet - we thought it was pretty obvious but...

The good news is that, after an intensive summer of lobbying alongside 119 other local groups all over the UK, some really significant changes have been proposed by the European Parliament. These are not confirmed yet as they still have to be agreed by the European Council but it's a really good sign that our voices were heard and that politicians with the power to change law that affects all countries in Europe, are realising that using food for fuel, especially when it contributes to habitat destruction, is not the way to save the planet.

## Food

Our Food campaigners have been working hard to re-design our Real Food Guide since we felt it needed a bit of a facelift. After lots of hard work, it's finally ready and can be visited at [www.realfoodguide.org.uk](http://www.realfoodguide.org.uk). We were out and about during Manchester's Food and Drink festival telling people about the new website which tells you where in Manchester you can find local, organic, Fairtrade and vegetarian food.

In the run up to Christmas, we will be running a double promotion of the Real Food Guide and the Ethical Shopping Guide, encouraging people to think about the planet during the festive season.

The Transport campaign have one message for you this winter.

## Transport

### Vote Yes!

Towards the end of November you will receive your ballot paper for the Transport Innovation Fund referendum. Up to £3 billion of investment is on offer: the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF). Half of this would be a loan, paid through a peak-time only, limited congestion charge. We have been campaigning in support of these proposals from the moment they were announced. This is your chance to get a world-class transport system for Greater Manchester and send a message to our leaders that we are serious about tackling climate change.

There will be a postal vote. When you receive your papers all you have to do is vote YES by 11th December. More information at [www.cleanairnow.co.uk](http://www.cleanairnow.co.uk) (of which Manchester FoE is a member).

What's on offer in the TIF funding? (just some examples)

**better facilities for cycling** Investment will take place in both on-road and off-road cycle routes, to improve some of the busiest and most direct routes in/out of the city centre.

**more choice** More buses, double-length trams and extra rail carriages mean more chance of a seat for you, double the park & ride spaces, more cycle routes, a cycle hire scheme and 180 more Yellow School Buses to get your kids to school.

**more convenience** More frequent services not only at peak times, but also in the evenings and at weekends, more real-time information, and a smartcard ticket that lets you switch between buses, trams and train without having to buy different tickets.

**more reliable journeys** More bus lanes and segregated busways, a second Metrolink city centre crossing, and less congestion on the roads will make your journey to work quicker and more predictable.

**more action on climate change and air pollution** We urgently need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and clean up our air, and investment in walking, cycling & public transport is a vital step. 5



## Old King Coal Had a Climate Change Goal

*Young eco-superhero takes on Old King Coal in street Pantomime.*

On Saturday 25th October volunteers from Manchester FoE joined forces with members from Liverpool, Bury and Warrington FoE and took a devised eco pantomime to the streets of Greater Manchester. The 'all singing all dancing' show began at 11am with Old King Coal's procession through St Ann's Square and on Market Street, where they greeted the city's Saturday shoppers. His loyal workers continued to do his increasingly manic bidding before a nail-biting stand-off when a dashing young superhero rushes in to win our hearts, offer a solution to all of the pollution, and help save the planet.

The show toured around the Greater Manchester area, starting in Manchester, before travelling on to Cheadle, then Stockport before we ended the day in Warrington.

The cast and crew consisted of 12 volunteers and travelled around by public transport, making it a low carbon performance. We were met in each area by members of other local groups meaning lots of people participated in this event which was fantastic.

This street theatre was part of a national Friends of the Earth day of action. This saw activists on the streets up and down the nation campaigning to win support for more wind, tidal and solar power.

The aim of the street theatre was to engage the audience in a fun and unusual way, bringing the message of the campaign alive whilst provoking thought and action. After the performance finished, our fabulous crew were ready to ask the audience to sign postcards to send to their MPs.

In 2007, the Government promised to boost renewable energy and signed a Europe-wide agreement to get 20 per



cent of all energy (not just electricity but heat and transport fuel too) from renewable sources by 2020. The UK's share of this target is to get 15 per cent of our energy from green sources such as sun, wind, waves and tides by 2020. In 2006, less than 2 per cent of the UK's energy came from renewables – one of the lowest figures in Europe.

Despite the huge potential for renewable energy in the UK (the Government has calculated that off-shore wind alone could supply ten times more electricity than we currently need), the Government is trying to wriggle out of its promises by increasing the flexibility in the EU Directive. So far their proposals have included:

- ignoring energy consumed by aviation;
- removing rules affecting renewable energy in new and refurbished buildings;
- granting extra concessions for unfinished large-scale projects;
- buying renewable energy credits from outside the EU;
- counting carbon capture and storage (CCS) from fossil fuel plants in their targets.

Energy is a hot topic right now and with our tour, we aimed to highlight this. And although it was one of the wettest days ever, it was still great fun - watch this space for our next show...

For more information about the renewables campaign, please visit: [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/climate](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/climate)



*'...a young dashing superhero rushes in to win our hearts, offer a solution to all of the pollution, and help save the planet.'*

## Getting Together

*Sarah on the  
FoE local  
groups'  
conference  
2008.*

This year's local group conference saw Manchester FoE head to Loughborough University on the 12th September. As a relatively new member to the group, this was my first conference experience and I was amazed to see how many people attended this event. Over 400 environmental activists joined forces for the weekend including campaigners from other local groups as well as National FoE staff. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet members from other groups, hear about their campaigns and stories, swap ideas and share experiences.

This year's conference was a momentous event as Tony Juniper, who has been the successful executive director of Friends of the Earth for the past 6 years, stepped down, passing the environmental torch to Andy Atkins.

We welcome Andy, former policy and campaigns director of Tearfund as we sadly say farewell to Tony.

*"I have achieved many personal ambitions working as part of a great charity that's made hugely positive changes to the lives of people and their environment, both locally and around the world." - Tony Juniper*

We travelled down to the conference by train. There were twelve of us from Manchester: a fantastic representation for a local group and indicative of how enthusiastically active the group is. And not only were we well represented in numbers, some of our members were particularly active - helping to keep our profile raised.

Sam, for example, along with Neil Kingsworth presented this year's "Earth Movers" awards. The awards and nominations were full of exciting and inspirational ideas and amazing success stories from all around the country. Dave, as a member of the board, chaired a lively motions debate on Sunday afternoon.

On Saturday evening local groups had an opportunity to run their own workshops. Graeme and Paul ran a well (reasonably - Ed) attended workshop on free software.

The Saturday morning was dedicated to workshops and seminars focusing on priority campaign actions over the next few months, the most pressing being the Renewables campaign which began this autumn. This campaign launched with an explosive day of action on the 25th of October. There will be a key focus on collecting signed postcards addressed to MPs calling on the UK Government to commit to strong renewable energy targets and renewable strategy.

Ali facilitated one of these workshops which was extremely well attended and received.

As well as hearing lots of FoE updates and successes over the past year, we also got a preview of upcoming campaigns, a major one being on livestock, which will kick into action next year and focus on the environmental damage that the over-consumption of meat and dairy is causing.

Before that we have the Renewables campaign and the low carbon communities campaign, as well as trying to get the Government to strengthen the Climate Change Bill. This spells a busy time ahead with lots of exciting opportunities to make a difference and get involved, engaging with communities, groups and individuals alike.

The Conference was a fantastic experience and brilliant networking opportunity: if there wasn't enough time during workshops or seminars to mingle then there were always the evenings.

On both the Friday and Saturday nights, there were organised and imaginative social events. On the Friday night we could dance a ceilidh, and the Saturday we could dance away the evening at the somewhat bizarre silent disco... This was the most fun I've ever had wearing a set of headphones! And if this wasn't your bag, it was easy to just chill in the bar chatting with lots of different people over a few pints or sing along under the stars with some acoustic guitarists.

Graeme, one of Manchester's lead campaigners, sums up the weekend:

*'It was great to see the new director of FoE and learn about the new campaign plans. Having been part of the FoE local groups network for 8 years, I always look forward to catching up with friends at conference.'*

Next year the conference will be held in Leeds and information about how to attend will come out nearer the time - so if you missed out this year, keep your eyes peeled for next year's event!

*Not only were we well represented in numbers, some of our members were particularly active - helping to keep to profile raised.*

*The Conference was a fantastic experience and brilliant networking opportunity.*



## Only Planet

*The new book  
on climate  
change.*

A book of articles about Manchester and Climate Change has recently been unleashed upon the world. "Only Planet" is an A4 format book of over 80 articles covering themes as diverse as media, the psychology of climate change, how to organise meetings, food, waste, transport, water, energy, housing, business responses, activist groups, engagement with the council and more.

Put together by the editors of "Manchester Climate Fortnightly" ([www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info](http://www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info)), the book's aim is to increase activists' awareness of the various groups working on climate change across the Greater Manchester area, and give useful and reliable information on what is being done by the council and other bodies.

All the contents are "anti-copyright", and the entire content is also freely available for download via the website, [www.onlyplanet.info](http://www.onlyplanet.info). Hard copies of the book are available for £5.

All are welcome to get involved in making the second edition of Only Planet a reality. We need people who can ask questions, research answers, write articles, proof-read, do layout, web-monkeying etc. To get involved, please send an email to [editor@onlyplanet.info](mailto:editor@onlyplanet.info).

## AGM 2008

This year's AGM is to be held on Friday 12th December at 6:30pm in the Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham Street. Please see our website for location details. All are welcome to come and review the year and elect the officers who will be running the group in 2009. The AGM will be followed by our Christmas social.

## Action is Victim of Climate Change

Next year you'll notice that there will be one less Manchester FoE newsletter. After some thinking, we've decided to reduce the number of newsletters we produce per year from four to three. This enables us spend more of our time on campaigning, and also to save paper. It also reflects the increasing use of electronic methods of communication, including our website and email lists, as a way of keeping our members up-to-date on our activities. And as climate change takes hold, there will be a blurring between the seasons and we therefore feel that a seasonal frequency will become less and less relevant.

We would welcome any feedback on this decision. Please email [graeme@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:graeme@manchesterfoe.org.uk).

## Waiting for Ruth Kelly

*Ali explains  
why we were  
loitering  
with intent.*

Labour Party conference came to Manchester in September, and we seized on the opportunity to try to lobby Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly regarding her inexplicable support for the exclusion of emissions from international aviation from the Climate Change Bill.

We knew that Ruth Kelly was due to speak at a fringe event on Sunday 21st, so we turned up at the venue, two of us dressed as a pilot and an air hostess, armed with a cardboard cut-out plane covered in postcards from her constituents. Unfortunately she had already arrived at the venue, and managed to escape us on the way out by sneaking out of the back entrance.

Undaunted, we turned up at another fringe event on Monday 22nd. This time we had a bit more luck and managed to intercept her as she arrived, though she barely broke her stride as we presented her with the aeroplane. And the announcement of her shock resignation from the Cabinet the next day was surely just a coincidence...



With so many things to consider over the festive period from what to wear to where to go, will your carbon footprint be top of your agenda this year? Below are some simple tips to help you have a green Christmas that won't cost the earth! They might save you money as well.

## food

Buy Christmas dinner as local as possible - turkey (organic where possible, if you're having one) from a local farm, vegetables from a local market. An imported meal travels on average 24,000 miles: once around the world! A wholly British meal travels just 376 miles.

Opt for seasonal food.

Buy loose rather than pre-packed vegetables - it will help cut down on waste packaging

Save some money by planning your festive menus - the average family wastes around a third of the food they buy.

Go for organic or Fairtrade wine, cocoa and chocolate.

Try to eat less meat over Christmas. The overall carbon footprint of some meat is as big as transport - from the land used to farm the crops to feed the livestock, to the pollution caused in processing the meat, to the air miles it travels to end up on your plate. Consider some vegetarian additions or alternatives to your menu.

Visit [www.realfoodguide.org.uk](http://www.realfoodguide.org.uk) for more ideas for food over the festive period.

## shopping

Buy ethical presents - Oxfam unwrapped, adopt an animal scheme.

Buy recycled gifts - try eBay and charity shops for second hand items.

Buy an experience like gig or theatre tickets, health spa vouchers etc.

Try an IOU card - "instead of buying you X this year, I will...." Then choose something like: fix something, give you a massage, cook a meal, do your ironing, take you out for the day, etc.

Try flea markets or antique jewellery and vintage clothing shops for gifts - a unique present whilst recycling at the same time!

Buy a local, organic hamper made up from the local farmers market or give locally brewed beer or organic wine.

You could make your own gifts - if you're talented in the kitchen you could make chutneys, cakes or chocolate. If you're creative, you could paint someone a picture, write a song or a poem.

If you've a group of people to buy for, organise a "Secret Santa". Agree a gift budget which everyone sticks to - pick one name out of a hat then everyone has to buy just one present.

Instead of driving to an out-of-town "shopping mall", walk into your local town or take public transport into the city and make a day of it!

Try our Ethical Shopping Guide ([www.ethicalshoppingguide.org](http://www.ethicalshoppingguide.org)).

## trees, decorations, cards and glitz

Buy an artificial tree that can be used year-on-year (or if you have a conifer in the garden, prune off a couple of branches and decorate them instead of a tree).

We use enough wrapping paper to wrap the Island of Guernsey. Buy recycled wrapping paper or use a reusable bag, or a scarf/shawl for gifts.

Use a stocking to put gifts in.

Use last year's cards to make gift tags.

Wrap presents in collected newspapers/magazines and decorate with funky flowers made from plastic bags or snowflakes made from paper.

Send an E-card - a Google search brings up plenty of sites offering animated cards, funny cartoons, cute pictures or winter landscapes (or try [www.foe.co.uk/cards](http://www.foe.co.uk/cards)).

Make your own Christmas cards (dried leaves, petals and rubbish make great decorations!).

Buy recycled Christmas cards.

## waste

We will produce 3 million extra tonnes of rubbish this Christmas, enough to fill 400,000 double decker buses and recycle only 12% of it.

Reduce the amount of rubbish you produce.

Recycle as much waste as possible over Christmas.

Take Christmas cards to Tesco, WH Smith or TK Maxx who take cards to recycle from 2nd Jan and make a donation to the Woodland Trust.

Recycle all glass bottles and aluminium cans after the party season.

Freeze leftovers instead of binning them.

Compost kitchen waste.

More than 10 million turkeys are bought and 4,200 tonnes of aluminium foil are thrown away in the UK each Christmas - if you can't re-use it for cooking, make sure you put it in the recycling.

Check with your local authority where to recycle your Christmas tree. Many local authorities will grind them into wood chips and use them to mulch gardens or parks instead of dumping them in landfills.

Re-use or recycle any gift wrap, bags etc. that you receive.

Batteries - so many gadgets and toys are reliant on batteries. Get a battery charger!

Recycle unwanted Christmas presents - give to a hospice or hospital or charity.

Take your own re-usable shopping bags with you to save getting more plastic bags.

If you're having a party, don't use disposable plates and glasses - borrow extra crockery from friends, neighbours and guests.

## A Green Xmas

*Sarah provides some ideas for a greener festive season.*

## Swap Clothing to Save the Planet

*Cat reports  
on a craze  
sweeping  
Manchester.*

While the pursuit of high fashion and green campaigning may not at first appear to be comfortable partners, a local Manchester collaboration has achieved this match, providing the opportunity for Manchester residents to exchange unwanted clothing in an easy and accessible way.

The SUST Swap Shop, born a year ago, is collaboration between Action for Sustainable Living, Manchester Friends of the Earth and the Make Trade Fair Society at the University of Manchester. The event, hosted by the Eighth Day Café on Oxford Road, takes place on a weekday evening every six to eight weeks.

Each person is asked to bring along at least three clean, wearable items and in exchange they are welcome to take away any items that take their fancy and hopefully fit!

The evening begins with a half hour drop off period to allow volunteers to arrange items in a viewer friendly way and to allow punters to prepare for the scrum. To ensure everybody has an equal chance of discovering the best gems, the 'doors' are opened at a precise moment and after the initial stampede the evening settles into a gentle whirl of chatter and laughter with people passing comment on clothing suitability or not! The great thing is that any overambitious fashion statements can be recycled at the next swap.

From the outset, interest in the project has been keen with a particularly high proportion of students taking the opportunity to update their wardrobes for free.

And for those menfolk who feel that this may be a female-only event, there have been increasing numbers of male apparel available over the months.

As well as providing people with an opportunity to catch up with friends, 'shop' and perhaps have a bite to eat in the café, the evening is often used by the individual campaign groups as a gentle platform to engage people in broader environmental and ethical issues.

And perhaps most importantly, this simple exchange is a small affirmation that we don't need to consume new 'stuff' to be happy, but that the recycling of goods is not only great for the planet but also for our bank balance and style.

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be closed during May.**

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## Energy Future

*Paul on our response earlier this year to the national consultation.*

You might have heard a lot about renewables recently, both at our meetings and from national Friends of the Earth. The reason for this is the proposed EU Renewables Directive, which is due to be voted on in December. At the moment, the Directive proposes a target that requires 20% of EU energy to be generated from renewable resources by 2020, which corresponds to 15% of UK energy from renewables. Although 15% might not sound like much, it's ten times our current level of renewables, so the target is actually extremely ambitious, yet also critical if we are going to stop the tide of climate change.

As part of the lead up to the Directive, the UK Government is currently consulting on its Renewable Energy Strategy, which covers how the UK can meet this target if and when it comes into effect. At 250+ pages, only the most ardent of energy geeks would make it right through to the end, so I've tried to summarise the main points into something which doesn't require an unhealthy obsession with the National Grid to understand.

First of all, the one thing which springs to mind when people talk about renewable energy is the generation of electricity. However, renewable energy includes transport and heat as well, even though there are few solutions available for these two elements compared to the huge range of ways for generating electricity from renewable resources. When you learn that 49% of our energy use and 47% of UK emissions are from heat though, you start to realise that it's just as important for us to tackle this area as it is to look at ways of generating electricity from renewable resources.

Some points of the strategy have also come under fire from environmental groups, including Friends of the Earth. There's an emphasis on "generating heat from waste", which usually means incineration, and the Government wants to be able to count energy generated from renewable projects funded by the UK but located in other countries towards our target. Also, whilst lots of suggestions are put forward for generating electricity from renewable resources, unfortunately the major proposal for transport largely consists of biofuels, some more biofuels, and, you've guessed it, more biofuels.

However, there are some positive points to the strategy as well. A significant amount of emphasis is placed on the need to reduce and control energy demand, which is the most effective way to cut emissions and makes it far more likely that we will meet our renewables target. The number of jobs

which could be created as a result of meeting our target is estimated as 160,000, so there's an economic incentive for the Government to invest heavily in this area. The Government's own projections, which are naturally somewhat conservative, also show that the target is achievable with the right amount of investment.

As a group, we put together a consultation response by brainstorming nine of the fifty questions in a meeting and over email, which will hopefully influence the Government's final strategy, due in spring next year. We praised the current target as being an ambitious and deserving goal, but made several suggestions for serious measures which need to be put into place if we are to come anywhere close to meeting it. From taxing airline fuel to introducing the role of renewables onto the national curriculum, we've given the Government plenty of food for thought.

## Winter Recipe

This may seem to have a long ingredient list, but you don't need to have all of the spices and can experiment with others. And remember not to eat the cinnamon or curry leaf!

A handful of spinach  
One cup of cubed pumpkin  
½ cup of red lentils  
½ cup of brown lentils  
1 crushed clove of garlic  
1 crushed clove or powder  
1 curry leaf  
½ teaspoon of ground cumin  
½ teaspoon of ground coriander  
2 cm stick of cinnamon  
½ teaspoon of turmeric  
1 teaspoon of aniseed  
½ brown onion, finely chopped  
1 teaspoon of grated ginger  
Four cups of water  
Fresh coriander, mint and dill

Heat some oil in a largish pan. Add the onion, pumpkin, lentils and spices, adding the garlic last. Cook to lightly brown for a few minutes. Add the water and spinach, and reduce the heat to simmer for 30-45 minutes or until the pumpkin has cooked well.

Check regularly as you may need to add more water! Just before serving with rice or pittas, add the fresh herbs.



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As a member you'll get this newsletter three times a year, a year's subscription to '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 battery charger with four rechargeable batteries (worth over 30 pounds) to all new and existing members.

To take advantage of this offer, all you need to do is become a member of Manchester Friends of the Earth and pay by standing order. 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 13th November, 7pm:**

**The Big Debate, Parrs Wood High School**

A debate on the Transport Innovation Fund proposals, organised by the South Manchester Reporter.

**Monday 17th November, 5:45pm to 7pm:**

**SUST Swap Shop, Eighth Day Cafe, 111 Oxford Road**

An opportunity to swap items of clothing you no longer want (see page 14 for more details).

**Wednesday 19th November, 7.30pm - 8:30pm:**

**"A TIF too Far?", Manchester Town Hall, Albert Square**

Another debate on the Transport Innovation Fund proposals, organised by SERA.

**Wednesday 26th November, 6.45pm for 7.15pm to 9pm:**

**Campaigns Meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham St**

Our regular monthly campaigns meeting - for more information, contact Paul on 07754 725493 or email [paul@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:paul@manchesterfoe.org.uk).

**Saturday 6th December, Noon:**

**National Climate March, London**

Assemble at noon at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park, and march to Parliament Square. More info at [www.campaigncc.org](http://www.campaigncc.org).

**Thursday 11th December, 10pm:**

**Deadline for Voting in the Transport Innovation Fund Referendum**

Your vote counts. Make sure you send off your postal vote in plenty of time - see page 5 for more details.

**Friday 12th December, 6.30pm:**

**Annual General Meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre**

Enjoy our review of the year, vote for next year's group officers, and then join us for our Xmas social - for more information, contact Paul on 07754 725493 or email [paul@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:paul@manchesterfoe.org.uk).

## regulars

*Events that  
take place  
every month  
(except  
December)*

Our regular group meetings take place at the Green Fish Resource Centre (next to Mint Lounge) on the right side of Oldham St. just after the junction with Hilton St. if you're coming from Piccadilly Gardens:

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

**4th Wednesday, 6.45pm for 7pm - 9pm: Campaigns meeting (covering climate, 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.