

Next meeting

Our first meeting after the summer break is this Wednesday 20th September at 7.30pm in the White Lion, Hebden Bridge.

First of all - twice the newsletter, at the click of a mouse

Those of you who are able to come to our monthly meetings can pick up a paper copy of *Change your World* - Friends of the Earth's magazine for local groups. But now we discover you can download it yourselves, wherever you are! So just go to http://community.foe.co.uk/resource/change_your_world/index.html and you'll find the edition for August.

We're going calling ... about climate change

You'll find on pages 11-13 of August's *Change your World* some more articles about the next stage of our priority campaign for the year. We've done the stalls, and collected the postcards, and now we going to pay a friendly visit to our local MPs to ask them to support our request to push the Friends of the Earth sponsored Climate Change Bill into the Queen's Speech - this makes it part of the government programme, and therefore almost certain to succeed.

So far, our strategy for this campaign has been a fantastic success - we are already a year ahead of schedule; just as well, if you read the latest science about climate change (see below) - and now, all across the country, local groups are going to working together over the next four weeks on this final 'big ask, big month, big lobby'. We've already signed up the leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Democrats parties in support of this push, so now all that we need to do is convince the Labour government.

Bradford doesn't have an Friends of the Earth group just at the moment (it will come along soon), so we in Calderdale Friends of the Earth have volunteered to visit their MPs as well as our two - Christine McCafferty (Calder Valley) and Linda Riordan ((Halifax). And, at this moment, our very determined lobby organiser Sandra Gregory is busy trying to fix up meetings with five MPs (Keighley and Shipley have been dealt with) which leaves Bradford's Terry Rooney (North) Gerry Sutcliffe (South) and Marsha Singh (West).

The difficulty will actually be getting in to see them - no doubt, one or two obstacles may be put in our way - but once we have got a date for a visit either in Calderdale or Bradford then we will let you know. If you would like to join our 'flying lobby' then just contact us and we'll make sure you get a chance to come along.

Four years to make a difference

You may have seen the publicity for the latest report from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, which we commissioned - and sponsored by the Co-op bank. See our press release for the details and to download a summary:

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press_releases/uks_first_climate_road_map_14092006.html on

the basis of the modelling that the government should have done. This demonstrates that we have a short period of around four years to put in place a climate change stabilisation framework. To quote from the report:

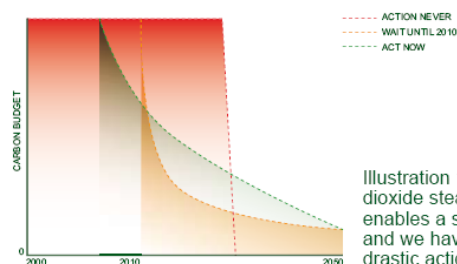


Illustration 1: Cutting carbon dioxide steadily, starting now, enables a smooth transition. Delay and we have to take much more drastic action.

"The key message to policy makers - The real challenge we face is in making the radical shift onto a lowcarbon pathway by 2010-12, and thereafter driving down carbon intensity at an unprecedented 9% per annum, for up to two decades."

and again:

"Urgent and unprecedented – 9 to 13% p.a decarbonisation - Assuming emissions can actually be stabilised by 2010, the mean annual reduction in carbon intensity between 2010 and 2030 is in the region of 9%, with the decade between 2020 and 2030 requiring a drastic 13% reduction in carbon intensity year on year."

These are huge numbers, and from them follow two inescapable facts. Firstly, we must act **NOW** and put in place that stabilisation framework. Abracadabra...the Friends of the Earth Climate Change Bill! And secondly, we must **NOT** promote any emissions sector that is actually increasing, not reducing. Step into the spotlight the aviation industry, which over the period 2000-30 is forecast to increase its emissions so that it has eaten the entire UK carbon allowance.

So, that is two great things Friends of the Earth has done this year - the Climate Change Bill and the Tyndall Centre report. Locally the £100,000 DEFRA funded 'Climate Challenge' communications campaign - put together by CSF project coordinator Anthony Rae - will be launching sometime next month.

Graph: FoE Trust (2006) *The Future Starts Here: The Route to a Low Carbon Economy*, London/Manchester: FoE/The Co-op Bank, to be found at http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/low_carbon_economy.pdf on 17 September 2006

Local Groups Conference: Nottingham 8-10th September

This was one of the best we have had, with a focus of course on climate change, and finding solutions to environmental problems. Anthony Rae (as a Board member) was joined by Sandra Gregory.

Can we have more recycling please?

You will already have had one message (by email) about a great opportunity to give your comments on the waste & recycling strategy that Calderdale Council will adopt shortly and covering the next 2 decades. You will appreciate that this is important: how much emphasis are they going to place on increasing the recycling rate?; when are we going to get additional waste streams collected, like cardboard or plastic?; could there be a hidden incineration option somewhere?; and if we are going to have a new waste management facility (of whatever type) where is it going to be? Come along to make your views known: Tuesday 26th Sept 7pm Halifax Library.

Forest Facts

The Random House Group is the first consumer publishing group which can market its books as being printed Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper. An increasing number of its black-and-white titles will now be printed on paper with the best available certification for well-managed and sustainable forest products.

The Random House Group is the largest general book publishing company in the UK. The group is based in London with subsidiary companies in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The Random House Group is a federation of 31 diverse publishing imprints. Novelists published by the Group include Martin Amis, Jilly Cooper, J M Coetzee, Sebastian Faulks, John Grisham, Robert Harris, Joanne Harris, Ian McEwan, Terry Pratchett, Kathy Reichs, Ruth Rendell, Salman Rushdie, Joanna Trollope and Irvine Welsh

Forest Stewardship Council (2006) *The Random House Group gains FSC-CoC certification* [ONLINE], Bonn: FSC, to be found at http://www.fsc.org/en/whats_new/news/news/56 on 17 September 2006



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