

GLOBAL DIRECTORY 2007/8

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS

BOGGED DOWN IN BIOFUELS

Ask your MEP to oppose EU biofuel targets, says Kenneth Richter of Friends of the Earth

● Recently politicians have jumped on the idea that making fuel from plants could be a solution to climate change. The theory goes that, when the plant-derived biofuel is burned in an engine, the carbon dioxide released is offset by the amount of the gas the plants absorbed when they grew, making them, in principle, carbon neutral.

In reality, the energy needed to plant, tend, harvest, process and transport the finished product makes the equation less favourable. Some biofuels contribute more greenhouse gases over their life cycle than petrol. And the speed at which large-scale production of biofuels is expanding (in countries of the global South, for export to the European market) is causing other concerns:

● Rainforests are being destroyed to make way for palm oil plantations and other crops. To date, 18 million hectares of forests have been cleared in Indonesia for palm oil developments.

● Global food prices will rise and the poor will suffer. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) expects food prices to rise 20-50% over the next decade, as energy cropping on dedicated land comes into competition with food production. The UN warn

that the transition to biofuels will be especially harmful to tenant farmers and the rural and urban poor who are net buyers of food.

● Farming will become more intensive as agricultural land is taken up to grow agro-fuels, causing damage to soil and increased water shortages, and requiring greater use of pesticides.

● Social conflicts over land rights will be exacerbated. The UN estimates that five million people in West Kalimantan (Indonesia) are likely to be displaced by biofuel production.

The gold rush for biofuel expansion is driven by overambitious targets set by the EU, rather than demand on the street. If you do use biofuels, don't be fooled into thinking you're massively reducing your emissions. A 10% biofuel mix in your tank (the proposed EU target for 2020) will save you, at best, 1-5% of CO₂ emissions. At worst (depending on the biofuel you're using) it may actually increase your emissions.

Try to reduce your emissions in other ways. Driving at 56mph instead of 70mph reduces your emissions by 25%. Walking, cycling and using public transport saves even more.

Ffi: Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood St, London N1 7JQ. Tel: 0808 800111, email: info@foe.co.uk, web: www.foe.co.uk

(Spiritual Activist Leadership Training) for leaders/facilitators, eg around climate change. Course leader: 25 years' experience in community development, the arts & MSc Human Ecology. **Contact: David Mowat, 100 Hayward Rd, Barton Hill, Bristol BS5 9QA. Tel: 0117 955 9444 Mob 0780 436 3170 Email: bigbromo@yahoo.co.uk**

GO ZERO Chew Magna project aiming to become a Zero Waste area. Produces a local food guide. **Contact: Ian Roderick, The Old Mill, Tunbridge Rd, Chew Magna, Bristol BS40 8SP. Tel: 01275 333455 Email: info@gozero.org.uk Web: www.gozero.org.uk**

GREENBRISTOLBLOGSPOT Workers' cooperative promoting environmental awareness and community sustainability. Here you can find out about activities, keep up to date with news, and send in your comments. **Web: www.greenbristol.blogspot.com, www.myspace.com/greenbristol**

GREENPEACE (LOCAL GROUPS) Environmental pressure group that acts against abuse of the natural world and threats to endangered species. Local groups support international campaigns with direct action, lobbying, education, petitions, stalls and fundraising. **Bristol Contact: Wilf Mound (chair). Tel: 0117 927 6322 Email: wilfrman.sperk_line@bt.internet.com Web: www.greenpeaceactive.org.uk/bristol East Bristol Contact: Richard Lancaster. Tel: 01275 790538 Email: r.lancaster@blueyonder.co.uk Web: www.greenpeaceactive.org.uk/bristol Bath Contact: Frank Moran. Tel: 0773 667 8586 Email: greenpeacebath@hotmail.com Web: www.greenpeaceactive.org.uk/bath Weston-super-Mare Contact: Monica Rafferty. Tel: 01934 420968 Email: mont@rafbeu.fsnet.co.uk**

HARTCLIFFE HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP (HHEAG) Community development project working on health and environmental issues. **Contact: HHEAG, The Gatehouse Centre, Hareclive Rd, Hartcliffe, Bristol BS13 9JN. Tel: 0117 946 5285 Email: office@hheag.org.uk Web: www.hheag.org.uk**

HFT National charity for adults with a learning disability. Previously known as The Home Farm Trust, HFT provides services for over 1,000 people in supported living, registered care homes, advocacy, supported employment and day services. Also runs a Family Carer Support Service (FCSS) which provides support for family carers of adults with learning disabilities. **Contact: HFT (The Home Farm Trust Ltd), Merchants House, Wapping Rd, Bristol, BS1 4RW. Tel: 0117 930 2600 Email: info@hft.org.uk Web: www.hft.org.uk**

JUBILEE DEBT CAMPAIGN (BRISTOL GROUP) envisions a world in which the people of the poorest countries are liberated from the crushing burden of debt. **Contact: Andrew O'Brien, 90 Abbey Rd, Bristol BS9 3QX. Tel: 0117 962 0471 Email: andy@inwebs.co.uk Web: www.bristolmph.org.uk, www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk**

KEBELE COMMUNITY CO-OPERATIVE in Easton, Bristol, is a space for organising, supporting and campaigning autonomously. Kebele is a community cooperative, run by volunteers on a not-for-profit basis and providing an alternative social space. **Contact: 14 Robertson Rd, Easton, Bristol BS5 6JY. Tel: 0117 939 9469 Email: kebelesocialcentre@riseup.net Web: www.kebelecoop.org**

LEFTISM Monthly clubnight held on third Fri of every month at The Crown, Bathwick St, Bath, 9pm-1am. All proceeds go to political, humanitarian, environmental or other worthwhile causes. **Contact: Mike Harrison, 7 Hanover Terrace, Bath BA1 6LJ. Email: mike@leftism.plus.com Tel: 01225 314375 Web: www.leftism.co.uk**

LOCAL EXCHANGE TRADING SYSTEMS (LETS) are local, non-profit exchange networks in which all kinds of goods and services are traded without the need for money. **Bath LETS Contact: Caroline Frances-King. Tel: 01225 424394/01761 439940 Bristol InterLETS Contact: Steve Heigham. Tel: 0117 923 1039 Email: stevenarrowways@lineone.net Web: www.letslinkuk.net/sv/bristol.htm National: www.letslinkuk.net**



palm oil plantation

PIC: AULIA ERLANGA/FOE

Email: johnusm@fish.co.uk Web: www.somersetfairtrade.org.uk/hsomerset.htm Somerset FT Network Tel: (Dinah Bardgett) 01373 463659/(Elizabeth Perry) 01935 850326 Web: www.somersetfairtrade.org.uk Gloucestershire FT Network Contact: Nigel Graham. Tel: 01242 242617 Email: nigelg@metronet.co.uk Web: www.fairtradenetwork.com South Glos FT Network Tel: 01454 416818 Email: natroz@yahoo.co.uk Web: www.sgftm.co.uk

FASHIONING AN ETHICAL INDUSTRY A Labour Behind the Label project that works with students and tutors on fashion-related courses to give a global overview of the garment industry, raise awareness of current company practices and initiatives to improve conditions, and raise standards for workers in the fashion industry of the future. **Contact: 10-12 Picton St, Montpellier, Bristol BS6 5QA. Tel: 0117 944 1700 Email: info_at_fashioninganethicalindustry.org Web: www.fashioninganethicalindustry.org**

FOR-ETHIOPIA Bristol-based charity providing sustainable development projects to people in Ethiopia. **Email: event@for-ethiopia.com Web: www.for-ethiopia.com/tfe.htm**

FOREST OF AVON is transforming the landscape in

and around Bristol through tree planting, forestry, arts, education and recreation projects, creating a greener and healthier place to be. **Contact: Ashton Court Visitor Centre, Ashton Court Estate, Bristol BS41 9JN. Tel: 0117 953 2141 Fax: 0117 953 2143 Email: info@forestofavon.org.uk Web: www.forestofavon.org**

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH FoE has been running environmental campaigns for over 30 years, focusing on local issues in response to local demand. Groups are independent but linked to the national FoE organisation. **Bristol group Contact: Jane Stevenson, 10-12 Picton St, Montpellier, Bristol BS6 5QA. Tel: 0117 942 0129 Email: info@bristolfoe.org.uk Web: www.bristolfoe.org.uk Bath group Contact: Scott Morrison, 9 Brassmill Enterprise Centre, Brassmill Lane, Bath BA1 3JN. Tel: 01225 463555 Email: info@bath-foe.org.uk Web: www.bath-foe.org.uk Somerset Valley group Contact: David Chalk, 25 Welton Rd, Radstock BA3 3UD. Tel: 01761 436735 Email: jacky@chalk942.fsworld.co.uk Web: www.foe.co.uk (national)**

GLOBAL ISSUES, LOCAL LIVES (GILL) builds community with nature and each other, inspired by indigenous peoples. From Jan 2008 GILL is running a SALT course