

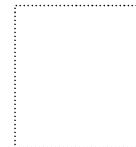


**Friends of
the Earth**

Bromley

July 2008 No. 247 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
email: raywatson@iclway.co.uk;



July Meeting

**Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley**

Public Transport on your doorstep

with

Alan Lucking, business manager SELTRANS

Tuesday 1st July

7.30pm.

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY. Contact details inside front cover.

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Bromley FoE stalls on July 6th (Keston) and July 20th (Foal Farm)

Diary dates:**July 1st (Tues)****Bromley FoE's July meeting;** Public transport on your doorstep, with Alan Lucking, business manager of SELTRANS (postponed from June meeting)**July 6th (Sun)****Keston Countryside Day** – with Bromley FoE stall**July 20th (Sun)****Foal Farm Open Day** – with Bromley FoE stall**August 5th (Tues)****Bromley FoE's August meeting:** speaker is Paul de Zylva from Friends of the Earth**August 23rd (Sat)****Bromley FoE Picnic in the Park** – Churchill Gardens (date to be confirmed)**Sept 12-14****FoE Local Groups Conference**, Loughborough**Sept 13th (Sat)****Bromley FoE stall**, Bromley High St, 12.00-2.00**Raglan School's Green Day**

Annette Rose reports - Raglan Primary School held a successful Green Day on 23rd May. The whole school focussed on a range of eco topics including recycling and waste, water, caring for the environment and energy use. Children made hats out of waste materials for a hat parade and competition in assembly and every-one wore green. Children went on litter picks in the school grounds and did energy surveys to check where we can cut down on the use of electricity. We even had green school dinners! Thank you to Ray for giving a talk to our Year 5 children on water and other environmental issues. And thank you to Sue, John and Sheila for manning the Friends of the Earth stall in the afternoon

Re-User item [2]

**2 Formica top kitchen tables.
£10 each. Contact Joyce Pitt
020-8460-2809**

Re-User Item [1]

**Futon – mustard / brown
£20, half to Bromley FoE.
Contact John Street
020-8460-1078**

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY.**

by post to John Street, 82 Babbacombe Road, Bromley, BR1 3LS

by phone to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: johnstreet@gn.apc.org.

The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions for space, or other, reasons.

Transport info – by Ray Watson, transport campaigner

Crude figuring

Civil Servants and Ministers at the Department of Transport live in another world – and one that is certainly not the real world. It has been revealed that the department's projections underpinning its road policies are based on an oil price of \$65 a barrel in 18 months and \$72 a barrel by 2020.

That, of course, is nonsense. We all know of the sharp rise that has taken place this year and those economists who predict a \$200 price are now listened to seriously. The Government tried the same trick in the White Paper on airport expansion when their passenger growth figures were inflated because they were based on fares being low by using a forecast of oil at \$53 in 2012.

Currently, all airlines are warning that cheap fares are threatened because of the oil price rise. And some have already gone out of business.

On the environmental front, more people using cheap flights are beginning to accept that flying has a severely negative impact on carbon emissions. In a large survey for Eurostar, 37 per cent agreed or strongly agreed that it was socially unacceptable to take short-haul flights and that in the foreseeable future environmental concerns will mean that people will take the train instead of the plane.

Ticket tax win

A simple but useful idea on travel emissions has come from an unusual

source – the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Their suggestion is that all transport tickets should state the carbon emissions released by making the journey. Now that really would bring home to everyone the size of their carbon footprint.

In a similar vein, the Dutch Government won a court fight to impose an environmental tax on all transport tickets – beating off objections from Schiphol Airport and others, who claimed the move was contrary to the European Union treaty. So, from July 1 there will be a tax of 11.25 euros per person on flights up to 2500 kilometres and 45 euros on distances beyond that.

Britain is taking a different route. The Treasury will soon announce its reply to submissions made following the Budget announcement that air passenger duty will be replaced with a per plane tax – one that will also cover freight flights for the first time.

FoE's submission welcomed the proposed change but argued that the tax should be heavy enough to reduce the number of flights and also encourage more efficient use of planes in order cut carbon emissions. It also called for an increase in the tax every year and urged the Government to scrap plans for airport expansion.

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Transport info – continued

Clean skies launch

The EU gets lambasted for all sorts of reasons, but a recent public-private partnership initiative deserves praise.

The Clean Sky Joint Technology Initiative hopes to develop technology that will allow aircraft noise to be cut by half and carbon emissions and nitrous oxide fumes to be slashed by 50% and 80% respectively by 2020. The EU and the aviation industry are each putting 800 million euros into the project.

MP told of airport worries

A deputation from Flight Path, an alliance of residents associations and other groups, including Bromley FoE, has been to see John Horam, MP for Orpington, about concerns over slackening controls over flights at Biggin Hill Airport.

Flight Path told him that there was a danger that Bromley Council would agree to changes in the airport's lease that would mean more flights early in the morning and late at night. The group also believes that re-opening the lease would allow the airport to gain other advantages which would impact on residents.

Flight Path says that changing the lease would mean the end of the protection of the lease granted by the High Court when the airport management company made an unsuccessful bid to have restrictions in the lease declared illegal. The borough's new chief executive, Doug Patterson, has said publicly that he does not believe the protection would be forfeited.

Mr Horam, who has previously opposed expansion at the airport, is to raise these matters with the council.

Meanwhile, the leader of Bromley Council has said that discussions on changing the lease might lead to a reduction in the total number of flights permitted from Biggin Hill. Residents argue that this would be no gain as the current number of flights is well under the permitted total.

Mr Horam has also held talks with the airport management regarding safety matters following the recent crash that killed five people. He raised questions about changing the approach flight path, which crosses heavily populated areas of the borough but was told that prevailing winds and other technical factors prevented this.

Lots of hot air, but...

...no action.

The Commons environmental audit committee heard from the chief executive of the National Housing Federation that last year Britain installed only 270 domestic solar power systems, compared with tens of thousands in Germany. And, as regards wind power, at the present rate it will take the UK more than 40 years to reach the point where Germany is now.

June meeting report – Graham Hemington

The development of Whitehall Recreation Ground by Jason Glen, Chairman of the Friends' Group.

The advertised speaker was unable to be present due to a bereavement but should be present at the July meeting. Many thanks to Jason Glen for stepping in at the last minute.

One hundred and fifty years ago, a few dedicated people thought there was too much urbanisation in Bromley, Hence, they decided to buy fields to make a park, complete with bandstand, fountain and football pitch.

Gradually the park, subsequently known as the Whitehall Recreation Ground, became run-down but a significant improvement about 20 years ago was the separation of the dog area from the rest of the ground.

Since then, a Friends' Group was formed with an initial meeting attended by 70 local residents – about 7 were expected!

With ideas from the residents about what they would like to see in the Ground, Jason told us about the development plans:

- a proposal to re-route the river Ravensbourne (east branch) to create a wetland
- a footpath with an adjacent cycle path running through the Ground between Walpole Road and Bath Road, depending on available funding
- an orchard and picnic area
- relocation of the football pitch
- planting of trees and shrubs
- children's play area, depending on funding
- building a community centre, also dependent on funding

Bromley Council is being helpful and supportive but, at present, with very little financial help. However, with areas of recreational value being high on the Council's agenda, it is hoped that more funding will become available.

Jim Clugston and Ann Garrett at the No Heathrow Expansion demonstration on May 31st with the Bromley FoE banner (see Ann's report on page 6)



Campaigns information – Ann Garrett, campaigns co-ordinator

Campaign Stalls

A reminder that Keston Countryside Day is on July 5th and Foal Farm on July 20th. The September Bromley High Street stall outside Caffè Nero from 12.00 - 2.00 has been changed from Sept 20th to Saturday Sept 13th. Any help will be greatly appreciated at these events.

Heathrow No Expansion March and Rally

Jim Clugston and myself represented our group and held our banner on May 31st and were among an estimated 3,000 campaigners. We marched from Hatton Cross for about 4 miles round Heathrow and then formed part of the big 'NO' in Sipson Village [due to be demolished if a third runway is built] which was visible to passing aircraft and received good publicity on TV.

There were stilt walkers, brass bands and people in fancy dress including walking trees. Although the atmosphere was very carnival -like, a strong message was conveyed to the media, and much support was given to local residents in their campaign to save Sipson. They fear the loss of as many of 4,000 homes if the expansion is approved, and say that over 2 million people will be exposed to greater noise and air pollution.

Hayes and Harlington MP John McDonnell who spoke at the rally stressed the importance of the strength of feeling from residents, community organisations and environmentalists, and Greenpeace executive director John Sauven emphasised the danger of a third runway contributing to global warming.

It was encouraging that many people travelled from across Europe to be part of the demonstration, and included representatives from France and Greece who are opposing airport expansion in their own countries.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams sent the following message: 'Concern for our environment is a clear imperative arising from the respect we owe to creation and each other.' He also warned that environmental damage impacts on the poorest people in the world.

The Society of British Aerospace Companies released a statement saying that aviation only makes up 2 per cent of global man- made CO2 emissions and that flying aids the economy through jobs and opportunity to travel.

Demonstrators I met were optimistic that as a result of the oil shortage, a third runway would be stopped. However, there will be much campaigning to do in the mean time.

Artificial Trees

A new book has just been published 'Fixing Climate' by Robert Kunzig and Wallace Broacher, which suggests that forests of artificial trees could 'scrub CO2' out of the surrounding air and then pump it deep underground. The book includes a scientific study of past climates and suggests that cleaning up CO2 is like cleaning up sewage in the 19th Century. Both authors have a long history of researching climate issues.

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Campaigns info - *continued*

Volcano of Mud caused by Gas Drilling

Campaigners have reported that drilling by an energy firm was responsible for a volcanic eruption in Sidoarjo in Indonesia, resulting in over 50,000 people being made homeless. The company had drilled to more than 3,000 metres and tapped into a water-bearing aquifer that was located beneath a seam of mudstone.

The people have received little help and compensation and say that their government is unwilling to challenge the Lapindo Brantas Company. This is yet another example of poor people suffering and being displaced as a result of the search for oil and gas, to meet the world's high energy demands.

Foreign Countries and Nuclear Power

Britain's nuclear regulator is in talks with its US and French counterparts to speed up the licensing of a new generation of reactor designs to meet the Government's strict build timetable. The move follows concerns that the Government could miss out on its ambition to have the next nuclear power stations operational by the end of the next decade.

Support from other countries like this is bad news for those opposed to nuclear power. It certainly emphasises the fact of how determined the Government is to meet its targets in building a new generation of reactors.

FoE news – from Co-ordinators' Update

FoE's London Network Developer

The big, long awaited news is that we have a new Network Developer for London! Katie Higgins joined us this month to work with groups in London and the South West of England. Katie comes to us from a rich background in activism and campaigning, taking in People and Planet, Amnesty, Fair Trade Foundation and New Internationalist.

Some of you might have previously come across Katie at the huge 'Change in Progress' event last year. We are delighted to have her on board, and she is really looking forward to getting to know the London Network.

Advance Notice: emergency renewables campaign this autumn

Recently it's become clear that the UK Government is trying to water down the EU Renewables Directive to allow countries to buy renewable power credits from other countries, rather than developing renewable power in their own countries.

This autumn we will follow on from The Big Ask by proving to the UK and Europe that the UK can and must go big on renewables. We'll need to inspire the public and make it clear to Gordon Brown that the political costs of trying to wriggle his way out of delivering on renewable energy would be disastrous.

Info from CAAT – BAE AGM and new CAAT office co-ordinator

BAE searches for ethics at AGM

The notoriously controversial BAE Annual General Meeting (AGM) was more contentious than ever this year as the company - marred by allegations of corruption and ridiculed in the media for releasing an 'ethics' report - struggled to respond to growing criticism from protesters and shareholders alike. New CART volunteer Annabelle Williams reports from the AGM.

Ethics report

The AGM took place as usual at the beginning of May. But this time the backdrop was slightly different, as, in 2007, BAE had commissioned a report into the ethics of its company practices. The report was released the day before the AGM. BAE said it hoped to be the 'industry leader in business ethics' and would 'set the pace for ethical business behaviour'. In an apparent bid to change public attitudes towards the company, BAE had the report written by a supposedly independent external body headed by Lord Justice Woolf. However, given that BAE funded the project in its entirety, the neutral status here is questionable.

Unfortunately for BAE, the release of the report was met with a less-than-sympathetic response from much of the press, and in the days leading up to the AGM it became clear that public and media alike were not convinced that BAE was in any way an ethical business. The problem was that many people thought the ethics report had missed the question most central to all morality: is it ever right to kill, or, in the case of BAE, to sell instruments

designed to kill? And even if this is sometimes the right thing to do, is it ever OK to sell weapons to dictators, or gross violators of human rights?

Inside the meeting

Against this setting the BAE AGM went ahead in a smart London conference centre next to the Houses of Parliament. Beginning with an address by the company's Chair, Dick Olver, it was clear from the start that the theme of the meeting would be ethics as Olver admitted the company's reputation had been tarnished of late due to the SFO inquiry.

The floor was opened to questions, and an irate shareholder bemoaned the waste of his money being spent on commissioning 'ethics' reports. Other questioners wanted to know why BAE had worked so hard to have the SFO investigation closed, or exactly which weapons the Chair thought were ethical.

Street theatre

Outside, CAAT and many supporters gathered together to make a public stand against a company that sells large quantities of dangerous things to dangerous and powerful people. The protest attracted a large degree of attention from members of the public, and journalists arrived in time to see CAAT volunteer Todd Higgs, dressed up as a BAE ethics advisor, using a broom to sweep papier mache bombs under a nice, big carpet.

Looking forward

The BAE AGM is, by its very nature, controversial, but this time the
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CAAT info - continued

company itself has further riled anti-arms sentiment by attempting to placate the public with an 'ethical' report that swept over the most basic moral issues at the heart of their business. With our supporters' help, CAAT continues to work towards ending the arms trade and all of the deaths, lies and corruption that go with it.

Message from the new CAAT office co-ordinator

Hello, I'm Claire Brand. I started working part-time for CAAT in March as the new Office Co-ordinator. My role involves running the office, coordinating the support and recruitment of our volunteers, administering personnel procedures, managing the orders and mail-outs of CAAT materials, as well as organising stalls at festivals and events.

Before CAAT I worked in the arts. Over the last ten years or so I've held various administrative and general management positions in dance, theatre and visual arts organisations. My last job was for a charitable arts venue in East London that worked closely with the local community.

However, recently, I have become more interested, and actively involved in, environmental and political issues. I decided a while ago that I wanted to move from the arts sector and work for a campaigning organisation with aims and values that I believe in. So I was obviously over the moon to be offered this post working for CAAT.

I've already met a few of our supporters and look forward to meeting many more of you in the future. Please keep talking about CAAT and supporting us in any way you can.

Goodbye to Beccie

Beccie D'Cunha, who was CAAT's Local Campaigns Coordinator for four years, has left CAM to become a workplace mediator and trainer

Beccie said: 'It has been wonderful to be part of such a dynamic and successful campaign, which in the last year alone has closed DESO, persuaded Reed Elsevier to stop organising arms fairs and won its judicial review!

Thanks to everyone who has made my four years at CAAT so happy and exciting. It has been a real privilege to get to know and work with CAAT supporters, local campaigners and speakers around the UK - your commitment, energy and creativity have been an inspiration to me and have helped to make CAAT the successful organisation it is. I am sad to say goodbye and will miss you all, but I will stay in touch and hope to see some of you at future CAAT events'.

Beccie will be greatly missed and we would like to say a huge 'thank you' to her for all the wonderful work while at CAAT.

FoE regional gathering, May 31st – report from Sheila Brown

General address by Martyn Williams setting out where we are with climate change bill and the push to increase from a 60% to an 80% emissions reduction target and the need to have the Prime Minister reporting progress rather than Defra. EDM 736 sets out the need for the 80% target plus the inclusion of aviation and shipping emissions.

Tom Wright, who has taken over from Alex Phillips, said we need to target back bench labour MPs during the committee stage.

The Biofuels campaign is getting underway – I have leaflets and postcards to sign.

I then went to a workshop on Biofuels which gave a very succinct presentation. For anyone who does not know, the EU wants 10% of autofuels to be biological by 2020 so we need to target our MEPs, and most of us don't know who they are. This campaign is already underway and we need to act now. Growing crops such as palm oil, soy, maize etc to fuel cars rather than feeding people is a disastrous scenario and to reach this 10% target by 2020 would need 300 times the area of Wales.

It's bad

- for the environment (monoculture)
- for people (land grab = displacement)
- it would lead to accelerated rain forest destruction and would impact on the climate.

Thus what originally set out to be a "green" initiative and to benefit the climate turns out to have an adverse effect and would increase CO₂ emissions and would need fertilisers which emit nitrogen oxide which is infinitely more harmful than CO₂.

Are there possible solutions?

- reduce fuel demand
- better town planning
- more use of public transport
- provide cycle facilities
- make cars more fuel efficient

The aims of the campaign are

- to stop the EU including 10% biofuel target into the Renewable Energy Directive
- to get strict EU targets for car efficiency.

MEPs will vote in July and September, so we need to target them without delay. Regional and local media should be a key to the campaign. There's a campaign guide at www.foe.co.uk/biofuels.

Action:

- Initial lobbying meeting with MEPs in June
- Raise awareness and get postcards signed throughout the summer
- Present completed postcards at end of the summer: use handover as media opportunity.

In the afternoon I went to a workshop about websites. Pilot groups wanted.

There was an excellent closing address from Roger Higman, who is a really good speaker.

FoE's Change Your World – What's next with the Big Ask

In the wake of the hugely successful Big Ask Day of Action this spring, Local Activism Co-ordinator; Jenny Thatcher, looks at the job we have left to do before the Climate Change Bill becomes law.

This summer will be a busy one for activism. Hopefully most of you attended your regional gatherings in May and found out about plans for the biofuels summer of action. If you also have a Labour MP in your area who has signed EDM 736 on the Climate Change Bill, then there's important work that we're asking you to consider during the final stages of the Big Ask campaign.

Second reading and committee stage

Our latest information is that the Bill will have its Second Reading in the Commons on or after 9 June, and start Committee stage around the end of June. A cross-party committee of MPs will be looking in detail at the content and amending it. During this time, supportive MPs will be tabling amendments on our behalf, which can be signed by any MP. This will help to demonstrate the level of support for our amendments to the Committee.

We won't know the content of these until we know the content of the draft Bill at Committee stage, but they echo our key asks throughout the campaign: the need to include international aviation and shipping; and an overall target of 80 per cent.

We're confident the Liberal Democrat and Conservative parties support our amendments, but in order to win these

we'll need to mobilise a large number of supportive Labour MPs too. At the time of writing, 165 Labour MPs have signed EDM 736 stating their support our key asks, so we'll be focussing on them as a source of support and votes.

Report stage

Next the Bill will go into Report Stage in the Commons (hopefully before the summer recess in late July, but possibly not until October), where any MP can vote for changes. We'll need those same MPs to vote for the amendments they've signed, and we'll need constituents to visit or telephone their MPs to build up the pressure.

This is a crucial time - party whips will be working hard to ensure that all Labour MPs vote with the Government and even previously supportive MPs may bend under this pressure. MPs must feel more demand from constituents than whips.

The timings of the Bill have been pushed back by the Government, which means there's a chance we won't see it become law until the next Parliamentary session in October. We'll be keeping you updated through your regional email updates and via the Climate Local Campaigners email list.

To sign up for the Climate Local Campaigners list, contact Tom Wright in the Climate team on 020 7566 1673 or tom.wright@foe.co.uk.

FoE's Change Your World – Climate plans for the next year

Head of Campaigns Mike Childs and Head of Capacity Building David Babbs outline FoE's climate plans for the next year

Many of us will have watched the recent local elections results with a sense of awe as Labour was humbled by a pack of angry voters. How did environmentalists vote? We suspect that those who stuck with Labour did so with little enthusiasm about their record on the environment.

Labour has failed on climate change. A detailed report for Friends of the Earth by academics from York University last year said this loud and clear. A more recent report by The Policy Exchange described just how badly the Government had done in missing environmental targets. They found that:

- The Government looks likely to miss over half of the green targets it has set since 1997
- Almost two-thirds of climate change targets look unlikely to be met
- 67 per cent of waste targets (18 out of 27 targets) have been or are likely to be met
- 88 per cent of biodiversity targets have been missed (383 out of 436).

It's not surprising that as campaigners we encounter scepticism from the public about the likelihood of getting the Government to deliver on targets and promises. Our strategy needs to take into account people's growing cynicism with the Government and their desire to see real change on the ground.

The Big Ask campaign for a Climate Change Bill addressed this challenge with a proposition that tackled the problem with most Government targets head on. The targets in the Bill will be measured annually rather than in a decade's time. If they're missed we can take legal action for failure and exert a political price. You probably experienced the persuasive power of highlighting the contrast between our proposed targets and those that people have grown tired of. People saw ours as real, and that inspired them to support us.

As we complete the task of securing climate targets with teeth through the Climate Change Law, our focus needs to shift to make sure carbon reductions happen on the ground. This has already started, for example, with our work supporting local campaigns for wind-farms, and the upcoming Summer of Action when we'll be calling on the EU to deliver more fuel efficient cars rather than promoting unsustainable biofuels.

Renewables emergency: give our communities greener energy

In recent weeks it's become clear that the UK Government is posing a serious threat to a proposed new EU law called the Renewables Directive - this requires all countries to radically boost the use of renewable power, and the EU as a whole to produce 20 per cent of its energy from renewable power by 2020. The UK would be given a binding target of increasing renewable power to 15 per cent by 2020 - up from the current 2 per cent.
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FoE's Climate plans for the next year - *continued*

The UK Government wants to water down the Directive to allow countries to buy renewable power credits from other countries, rather than developing renewable power in their own countries. At a stroke this would destroy any chance of the UK developing a renewable power industry and weaning ourselves off fossil fuels. It could make meeting the targets in the Climate Change Bill impossible in the medium to long-term.

We must prevent what could be the biggest piece of eco-vandalism of the century, and our fellow environmentalists in Europe are looking to us to take action.

This autumn we will follow The Big Ask by proving to the UK and Europe that the UK can and must go big on renewables. We'll need to inspire the public with a positive vision of a renewable energy future, and make it clear to Gordon Brown that the political costs of trying to wriggle his way out of delivery would be disastrous. We will provide you with more information on this campaign over the summer - Conference will be your chance to make final preparations for launching this campaign publicly later in September.

Low Carbon Communities

The Renewables Directive will be a key part of delivering the carbon cuts set out in the Climate Change Law, delivering an infrastructure to provide our communities with greener energy. However it is not the whole story - change needs to happen in those communities as well. We need to see things happening on the ground, e.g.:

Low-carbon homes instead of fuel poverty

Nine million homes still do not have insulated cavity walls and six million do not have loft insulation. Solar panels for hot water and electricity are incredibly rare. We should be completely renovating 600,000 homes a year. We do a tiny fraction of this.

Wind farms given the go-ahead instead of being turned down

Energy produced locally, for example through district heating, rather than in far away coal-fired power stations.

More money spent on walking, cycling and buses instead of on roads

Politicians think of climate change as 'bad politics', costly and unpopular. But low carbon communities are good politics: better homes; safer streets; more jobs; a healthier local economy; and a resilience against rising oil prices.

The campaign will run in two phases. First we need to get local authorities to deliver in practice and pledge to deliver to an excellent standard within a few years. Our work with the Centre for Sustainable Energy has found that there is a lot that councils could be doing to cut emissions, if there was the political will to do so. Secondly we need to pass a new law to make the laggards take action and enable the best to do even better.

Through this campaign we can create hope and inspire action. We can create change. Look out for more details in the coming months.

FoE's Change Your World - Globetrotting

In April Field Director of Friends of the Earth US Josh Hilgart crossed the Atlantic to take some lessons from the Earth EWNI on grassroots campaigning. Here he tells us more.

Traditionally we have not been as grassroots and locally focused as other Friends of the Earth groups." Josh explained. "And that's something we are trying to change. While we don't have local groups, we do have groups we are starting relationships with that are pretty fledgling - they may not be branded as Friends of the Earth, but they share our interests in what we are trying to do on a national level."

But in a country the size of the US, what impact can local activism have? "A great deal," Josh asserted. "Many State regulations dictate national practises because of the size of their markets. For example, if California bans toxic fire retardants in furniture, then furniture makers around the nation will change their materials too because the Californian market is so large that it would not be expedient for them to make different kinds of furniture for other states.

If California regulates certain emission standards for automobiles then auto manufacturers are going to make cars to those standards nationwide. This is why we started out campaigning in California.

"State governments also vary politically from the progressive to regressive. If you go to the progressive states you have the chance to enact model legislation that can be a national

example. While it might not dictate national changes, it demonstrates that a certain policy doesn't bankrupt a state, that it is efficient, cost effective and it can make environmental improvements."

So what are the barriers to Friends of the Earth US developing its grassroots strategy? "One of the challenges is that many of the environmental groups are happy taking a conservative approach. This is partly because it's a conservative government and many advocacy groups have been conditioned to ask for less than is necessary because they are used to banging their heads against brick walls. We found out that if you ask for it you can get it and we're actually pulling a lot of the groups along with us now and are starting to lead the agenda there.

"As we try to grow we want to develop a clear identity that people recognise and identify with. Friends of the Earth EWNI has done a good job of that, so we are working together to find out what skills can be shared and what lessons can be learnt. Ultimately we'd like to develop a co-ordinated campaign across the UK and the US, in which we campaign together with joint branding. We have similar governments, face similar ideological challenges and speak the same language so there are many opportunities for us to develop similar messages and political approaches. Lifestyles in both countries are creating the same problems so we can create a campaign where we work together publicly in both the US and Britain."

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Letters to the Editor

Why not write us a letter if you have a strong opinion on something or just want to share your thoughts. Send them in and perhaps even start a discussion - who knows.

Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Sheila Brown or Ray Watson on the numbers shown above.

Disclaimer

Please note that any opinion expressed in this Newsletter is not necessarily that of Bromley Friends of the Earth or Friends of the Earth.

Reuser Column

Don't throw It away - Reuse It!

If you have any items to sell, or anything that you require, please send details to the Editor. Items will be displayed for three months, the number in brackets after an item indicating for how long it has appeared. Could you please also contact us if an item has been sold/obtained, so that it can be removed from the Newsletter.

Any donations to Bromley FoE generated from this column gratefully received!

Non-members' Section

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth, BFoE, then hello. We are an active local group affiliated to national Friends of the Earth concerned with promoting the understanding of environmental issues. We also campaign on these issues at a local, national and international level.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do please contact either of our co-ordinators, Sheila Brown (01689-851605) or Ann Garrett (020-8460-1295); their email addresses are on the previous page. Alternatively, you can come along to one of our free monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley (that's towards the bottom of the High Street and on the right going south). If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.

Membership Application/Renewal* Form (*please delete as appropriate.)

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2JB; phone 01959-571566, email raywatson@iclway.co.uk.

I wish to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my £8 annual subscription. I also enclose a donation (optional) of To help towards the cost of producing and distributing the monthly Newsletter.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

Do you have any hobbies or interests that may be of use to the group?

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