



March 2014
No. 315

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

email: bromleyfoe@gmail.com, website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

March Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Fairtrade Foundation – “Make Bananas Fair”

Illustrated talk by an activist speaker from Columbia –
Alex Martinez Palacios – on fair and unfair prices in the banana trade.

Tuesday 4th March - 7.30pm

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 16TH MARCH *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Bromley High Street (Mall Precinct) stall
Saturday 22nd March – contact Ann Garrett for details

Diary dates:

Feb 24 – Mar 9

Mar 4th (Tues)

Mar 22nd (Sat)

Apr 1st (Tues)

May 6th (Tues)

May 22nd (Thurs)

Fairtrade Fortnight 2014

Bromley FoE's March meeting: speaker from Fairtrade Foundation, with Fairtrade products on sale. Joint meeting with Sevenoaks FoE)

Bromley FoE High Street stall, 2.30-4.30pm, Mall Precinct

Bromley FoE's April meeting: Alistair Hayes from London Wildlife Trust

Bromley FoE's May meeting

LOCAL AND EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

March Meeting – Make Bananas Fair

This meeting will feature an illustrated talk by an activist speaker from Columbia, Alex Martinez Palacios, on fair and unfair prices in the banana trade. He's a farmer involved in fairtrade and union activities.

There will also be Fairtrade stalls for food and clothing purchases.

Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson (01959-571566) or Sheila Brown (01689-851605).

Wanted - 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.

Editor's Note 1 – If you think there are fewer items about / from the Bromley FoE group this time, that's because there are. If you think that's a problem, why don't you consider contributing something for the newsletter ??

Editor's Note 2 Some of the articles have been edited to fit the space available.

Disclaimer: *Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth*

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by *** **SUNDAY 16TH MARCH** ***:

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

Cycle deaths: Action on the way

With our roads becoming ever—more crowded, partly because of higher car ownership, the spotlight is turning on the problem of a spate of deaths and serious injuries to cyclists. It was gratifying then to hear that stricter road rules are planned by Transport for London.

One of the most serious causes of these accidents is where cyclists are hit by lorries and buses turning left, not realising that a cyclist might be an inside position and unable to be seen. TfL hope to counter this by banning lorries from London roads unless they have special safety equipment fitted.

Every vehicle over 3.5 tonnes will need side guards to prevent cyclists being dragged under its wheels together with enhanced mirrors to give a better view of cyclists and pedestrians on their near-side.

The move is to be welcomed because surveys show that the increase in deaths has put off some people from cycling in the capital, though, overall cycling has steadily increased in recent years, while TfL is already spending several millions of pounds on improving cycling lanes and visibility at busy junctions. The target is to reduce road deaths and serious injuries by 40 per cent by 2020.

A pity then that Barclays is to end its multi-million bike hire scheme, known as Boris Bikes. Ending the scheme would be a major loss to the capital.

Slow down!

Meanwhile, four London boroughs are taking their own measures to combat rising accident figures. Camden, Islington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets will impose a 20 mph limit on all their roads – and soon they will be joined by the City of London.

Something for Bromley to look into?

The right track

A milestone that deserves recognition: the Eurostar rail link last year carried ten million passengers for the first time since its launch in 1994, aided by the Olympics and the Jubilee. However it was not a total celebration because the target was reached 15 years late.

For several years the company was blown off course by various factors including the arrival of cheap airlines, the London bombings – and even the weather. As you would expect, this being Britain!

Wrong stop

TfL wants to end money collecting for fares on buses, arguing that it is expensive to operate and a risk of robbery. Wrong! What about those who do not have an Oyster card because of the advanced financial outlay necessary, or those who board a bus and then find that their card has insufficient funds? Will they be turned off the bus?

Why should passengers pay for a retrograde step?

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London Bridge changes

Plans are being drawn for major works to improve London Bridge station, with millions likely to be spent on engineering works at the crowded junction and on passenger facilities. Much of the station will be closed for months, with some routes diverted to Cannon Street station.

However, passengers can have a say – a public consultation will take place before work begins at the end of the year. More details later.

Editor's note – Here are some important dates in the London Bridge upgrade project

December 2014 to January 2018

Thameslink route services between Bedford and Brighton through central London will not call at London Bridge.

January 2015 to August 2016

Southeastern services to and from Charing Cross will not call at London Bridge. Southeastern services to and from Cannon Street will continue to call at London Bridge. Some diversions will take place between Charing Cross, Cannon Street and Blackfriars.

January 2015 onwards

Southeastern Greenwich line, New Cross and St. John's station services are diverted to Cannon Street from January 2015 onwards.

August 2016 to early 2018

Southeastern services to and from Cannon Street will not call at London Bridge station. Southeastern services to and from Charing Cross will resume calling at London Bridge.

Anne Clark was the reporter: Cath and Toby told us how Sustrans (www.sustrans.org.uk/map), a charity, was now over 30 years old. It started in Bristol in 1977, converting an old rail line to Bath and there are now 13,000 miles of National Cycle Network, making way for more foot, bike & public transport use.

Sustrans aims to (1) make the local environment safer and more attractive; (2) encourage people to use more sustainable ways to travel; (3) influence in consultation via the press and (4) make for clean air, reduce unclean energy sources and improve quality of life through better health.

Funding now comes from several sources including Dit, the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, the Big Lottery Fund, Transport for London, Cycling England, the Welsh Assembly, Bike Hub and public fundraising. Sustrans have helped councils to make cycle routes to try and join them together countrywide, built paths, adopted disused railway lines, and with 500 routes by the mid nineties, but 13,000 by 2010.

Maps are supplied of local routes, roads narrowed where possible to slow larger traffic. Mixed pedestrian ways with cycle & car use as an experiment and cycle / pedestrian sharing on wide footways.

Walking is encouraged including to school, side lanes built around parks and cycle ways in cities. All sorts of projects are ongoing, from teaching

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Bee World @ Tugmutton Common

I had my first visit to our Bee World at Tugmutton this year in February and it is thriving and looking very green. The meadow and the common are pretty water-logged in places, which is not surprising, and the brook was flowing rather quickly.

Our plaque has been scratched again, but it is still readable thankfully. It was also nice to see that the meadow has been opened up to light in that the hawthorn / elder border between it and the Common has been cut back and wattle and daub fencing erected.

The Council also propose to sow more wildflower seeds next to our Bee World, so eventually that side of the meadow should be a profusion of blooms in the summer months.

Bee campaign news

News Update! Just seen a post on the FoE hub that at a meeting organised by Oxford FoE, Defra announced that the public consultation on the National Pollinator Strategy is being opened shortly and will be open for 9 weeks. Hopefully the new cards to sign will therefore be with us next month.

Apparently on 7 February the first Oxford Bee Summit brought together a variety of Oxfordshire groups and was attended by conservationists, beekeepers, farmers, businesses, local authorities, students, community groups and volunteers. This was the first local meeting nationally held to look for a local approach to the Government's National Pollinator Strategy (NPS) and was coordinated by Oxford FoE.

The Summit's priority was to find ways to maximise the involvement of people across Oxfordshire in putting the NPS into practice and some of the places identified to begin working on were garden centres, university colleges, farms, allotments and residential gardens.

It would be good to see this approach rolled out across the country wouldn't it?

February report, *continued*

safety in schools, access at rail stations ,with parking facilities, crossings, lights, walkways etc. "Bike it U can 2" enables parents to cycle to school with their children and to keep the cycle afterwards.

Many underused streets have been cleaned up, such as in Barking and Dagenham where a play area has been set up, a mural painting area in Beacontree, and urban corridors in Peckham Rye.

There are 45 staff in the London office and good network of volunteers and rangers who have maintenance workdays and route mapping sessions.

Much work has been carried out over the years between landowners / managing authorities and the community, making good the signage and wayfinding. Expensive things such as a bridge in Bermondsey, in Mile End park and Westminster, tow paths, pedestrianised and altered traffic ways in Haringey, benches installed, "greenways" made, a Wandle Trail, Faulop Waters, and Bretons Bridge.

Cycling in Bromley – Peter Gandolfi

You may be aware that Transport for London has plans for a central London Bike Grid of cycle-friendly routes.

The London Cycling Campaign – an organization that campaigns for London Cyclists - believes that the proposal needs substantial improvement, and has asked its members in London's Boroughs for input.

On Wednesday, 12th February 2014, Bromley Cyclists held a special meeting at Community House, South Street, in order to confirm the list of local cycling improvements that will be part of the campaign in each of the electoral wards in the Borough.

As a recent member of LCC and interested in improvements in Bromley, I attended the meeting and was impressed with the organizing.

Around the room, there were posters for each of the wards in Bromley with suggested cycling improvements (asks), but with space for all interested parties to add their ideas. Each ward has a Team Member who has responsibility for that ward.

There had been a previous LCC Survey sent out in 2013, which helped shape the 6 policy themes developed by the LCC policy forum:

1. Safer Routes for schoolchildren to cycle to their schools
2. Streets without through motor traffic (closing rat-runs)
3. Protected space for cyclists on main roads/major junctions
4. Safe cycle routes via parks and canals

5. 20mph (or other safer) speed limits
6. Liveable town centres

The meeting consisted of a brief presentation, followed by a Q & A session, together with less formal discussion on local improvements we want to see in our Borough. These will form the basis for the Space4Cycling Campaign across London and will be put forward for implementation, and will shortly be available to see on the LCC web site.

I believe that the Bromley branch of LCC consists of something like 250 members, and seems to be one of the strongest branches of the LCC. It organises regular cycle runs from Bromley for all types of cyclists. Let's hope that its aims are successful.

From this newsletter 10 years ago – 'Bikes for the overweight' plan

Bromley Council and the Government are about to launch an experimental scheme to give free cycles to overweight people in the borough.

Free cycles will also be provided to those aged under 45 provided that they sell their car.

Children are also to be involved.

Pupils aged between seven and 17 will not be permitted to go to school by car and, in return, will receive a free bike with a basket on the front handlebars for their school books.

Campaigns, Climate and Energy – Ann Garrett

Campaigns

Many thanks to those who have already offered their support for the Mall Precinct stall on March 22nd from 2.30 - 4.30 pm. The new materials for the anti-fracking campaign should be arriving soon, and we will have Make it Better and Bee campaign materials as well. Here's hoping for a fine day, although we will be undercover anyway!

It's valuable for us that Roisin Robertson of Greenpeace has set up Bromley Against Fracking with a website and facebook page.

Climate and Energy

Glacier losing ice

A glacier is moving ice into the ocean at record speed, researchers have reported. The Jakobshavn Glacier is shifting the Greenland ice sheet into the sea at 'more than four times what they were in the 1990s' they state. This means the glacier by adding more ice is contributing to the rise in sea levels. From 2000 to 2010 this glacier alone increased the sea level by about 1mm.

Radiation scare at Sellafield

Managers at Sellafield have played down concerns after workers were told to stay away from the nuclear plant on January 31st after a radiation scare. The company launched an inquiry after higher than normal radiation was detected.

The organisation Nuclear Free Authorities, has called for a full and independent inquiry. Their chairman Cllr Hackett is quoted as saying 'This is another example of the on-going

danger of dealing with such sensitive and potentially harmful materials'.

New £10 million fund for DIY energy schemes

Local communities will be offered up to £150,000 each to create their own renewable energy through solar panels and wind turbines and take on the Big Six energy companies. It will be called the Urban Community Development Fund.

The Government hope to see one million homes supplied with home-made electricity generation by 2020. The fund is being announced as part of Britain's first Community Energy Strategy.

Ministers hope communities will be inspired by the success of projects like Brixton Energy Solar where local residents have built solar panels on blocks of council housing and made profit from electricity generation with the money going back into the community.

Initiatives like this are to be welcomed. With the present severe flooding taking up so much of the news perhaps there will be a 'wake-up call'. People are going to have to take more responsibility for themselves, as well as putting more pressure on the Government to help solve the problems facing our environment due to climate change.

FoE Regional e-mail update

Editor's note – Generally speaking, there's more information on all these topics available via the FoE website at www.foe.co.uk but the web addresses are too long to include in the newsletter

Welcome to your smaller February regional news.

You'll have noticed some changes to regional news over the last couple of months, and now we're very close to rolling out our new format. For a sneak preview of what to expect, you can view our final proposal on Campaign Hubs.

At this moment our London staff are gearing up for an exciting office move that will change how we work. Over the coming weeks we'll also be bring you all the information you need on Regional Gatherings and BASECAMP for 2014, as well as all campaign developments throughout the year.

Below you'll find a short round-up of news stories from across Friends of the Earth. For the time being, for regionally specific news please visit here.

Our Activism Department is here to help, with dedicated support through the local group hotline (020 7490 0210) and via email.

A new campaign postcard for the Bee Cause

We now know that the government's consultation on the Bee Action Plan will begin this month and be open for 9 weeks. We'll have a new postcard available soon just for this period, if you'd like some please contact Clare via clare.coatman@foe.co.uk or 020 7566 1618.

Support for the Make It Better Law grows

Support for the campaign has grown in the last few weeks with multinational businesses, a UN expert, a host of amazing organisations and nearly 12,000 of you all asking Vince Cable to back a strong Make It Better law.

Help us design Campaign X

In March there will be many opportunities to help us plan our new campaign. We'll be holding teleconferences and there will also be a chance to come to our new London office and feed-in in person on the evening of the 26 March. Please contact jennifer.rosenberg@foe.co.uk if you are interested in joining any of these events.

Fracking petition

Last month we launched our petition to David Cameron asking him to say 'NO' to fracking. It's a joint petition with Stop Climate Chaos and together we've already passed 100,000 signatures. Can you sign and share it to help us grow it even more??

National roads policy - national disaster!

The Government's new draft National Policy Statement for roads would create space for 40% more car trips, gag campaigners from objecting to new roads on the grounds of climate change and weaken protection for wildlife and landscapes. The Government is currently consulting on this new policy, so please take a moment to have your say.

WDM say - We can bring an end to investment in coal

Last year we revealed that UK banks are investing more money in Indonesian coal than banks from any other country. This means that billions of pounds of our money are funding coal projects that are forcibly displacing the indigenous population and robbing them of their livelihoods.

Tell the UK government that this has to stop. (**)

The UK government has already agreed to stop aid money funding coal power stations. This is a major step in the right direction. But the UK government's investments are dwarfed by the billions of pounds that UK banks continue to invest in overseas coal.

Join our call for the government to impose tough regulation to curb investment in coal.

To bring an end to the financing of destructive coal projects, we need tough regulation. We are calling on Ed Davey, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, and Justine Greening Secretary of State for International Development, to introduce tougher regulation on the financial sector's coal investments.

With your help we can put pressure on the government to act against destructive coal projects and for a sustainable future.

(**) Link to message at <http://tinyurl.com/oh6y6ly> to Ed Davey and Justine Greening, alongside this –

Get the banks out of coal

Open pit coal mines are responsible for vast destruction and forced displacements of whole communities in the developing world. Coal is also a major contributor to climate change.

The problems are exacerbated by the UK financial sector which is funding a coal boom in the global south with investments worth billions of pounds.

The UK government has already announced that it will stop UK aid money from funding coal-fired power stations, apart from in rare circumstances. That is a big step in the right direction, but if we want to stop coal finance, we need to look at the billions of pounds UK banks are investing in coal across the world.

There is an urgent need for tougher regulation on coal finance if we want to stop the on-going devastation of communities and the planet. Please join our call for regulation by emailing Ed Davey, secretary of state for Energy and Climate Change, and Justine Greening, secretary of state for International Development.

Change your energy supplier and save the earth

Friends of the Earth have teamed up with gold-standard green energy suppliers Ecotricity and Good Energy to make switching easy. For every switch, Friends of the Earth will receive a donation of up to £60 and it won't cost you a penny. Visit ecotricity.co.uk/foe or goodenergy.co.uk/friends-of-the-earth to get the process started.

News from Campaign Against Climate Change

In an appeal for money, CACC recently sent this email

The question of environmental damage is at the forefront of all of our minds. The floods in the South-West that have wrecked homes and livelihoods are in part a result of unusual and extreme weather. They have been exacerbated by cuts to flood defence budgets and the money available for dealing with climate change. In addition cuts to services like the Environment Agency and the Fire service will make things worse. It is disgraceful that the government plans to cut hundreds of further jobs at the EA.

The Campaign Against Climate Change has, over the last years, been at the heart of campaigns to demand national and international action over climate change. We have warned of the consequence of inaction, worked with scientists and trade unions to discuss and demand government action that could both mitigate the effects of historic emissions and prevent further global warming.

We have built an impressive network of activists and campaigners and are proud of the work that we have done. Recently CCC members have been at the heart of protests against Fracking in Barton Moss near Manchester, sent protesters to Poland to demonstrate at the 2012 UN Climate Conference, we've worked with unions to demand Climate Jobs hosting the "confronting the climate crisis conference" jointly with leading scientists and trade unionists.

As politicians consistently avoid mentioning climate change, or agreeing to serious action we are committed to fighting to make Climate Change a key part of the political landscape.

In particular we want to:

- Continue to argue for government action on climate change
- Up the solidarity with those fighting fracking and extreme energy
- Put on a national campaign "Time to Act" and help co-ordinate national protests at the time of the UN Conference in Paris in 2015
- Put the alternative argument for renewable energy instead of fossil fuels
- Continue to put the case for One Million Climate Jobs as a solution to climate chaos.

There has never been a more important time for a national climate campaign.

But we need your support - in particular we need money to run our office and produce publicity. XXX, you can help us to Campaign against Climate Change. A monthly payment of £3, the price of a cup of coffee, gives us a guaranteed income that helps with our work. Make a one off donation, however small, to support us. Invite a speaker to your event or group to discuss the current environmental crisis. Ask your group, trade union branch to do a collection or affiliate to the CCC.

What is Campaign Against Arms Trade?

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) in the UK works to end the international arms trade.

The arms business has a devastating impact on human rights and security, and damages economic development. Large scale military procurement and arms exports only reinforce a militaristic approach to international problems.

In seeking to end the arms trade, CAAT's priorities are:

- To stop the procurement or export of arms where they might: exacerbate conflict, support aggression, or increase tension; support an oppressive regime or undermine democracy; threaten social welfare through the level of military spending
- To end all government political and financial support for arms exports
- To promote progressive demilitarisation within arms-producing countries.

CAAT considers that security needs to be seen in much broader terms that are not dominated by military and arms company interests. A wider security policy would have the opportunity to reallocate resources according to actual threats and benefits, including addressing major causes of insecurity such as inequality and climate change.

CAAT values the diversity of opinion amongst its supporters and is committed to nonviolence in all its work.

CAAT was awarded the Right Livelihood Award, the Alternative Nobel Prize, in 2012 for innovative and effective campaigning against the global arms trade.

Commitment to non-violence

Involvement in organising and participation in CAAT's demonstrations and protests is conditional on accepting the need to remain non-violent at all times. This principle is at the core of our guidance for involvement in CAAT actions.

How we are organised

CAAT's ultimate decision-making body is its Steering Committee. It employs a small number of paid staff to oversee the day-to-day running of the campaign. They are supported by a large number of volunteers, without whom the campaign would not be able to function. Volunteers carry out a variety of tasks including helping with mail-outs, research, website maintenance and administration.

How we are funded

Donations from individual and group supporters make up about 80% of CAAT's income and are always gratefully received.

As a campaigning organisation, CAAT is unable to take advantage of many of the benefits open to charities, but makes applications for charitable funding to a small number of trusts and foundations for its research and educational work.

See www.caat.org.uk for more info.

What is 'Coalbed Methane'

This info came from an online campaigning organisation via Sheila Brown. It's an appeal for funds and it has been edited slightly.

Dirty energy company, Dart Energy, is preparing to get the green light for a dangerous new way to extract fossil fuels. They want planning permission to turn Falkirk in the heart of Scotland into a commercial 'coalbed methane field'.

If they get the go-ahead in Falkirk - fracking is one step closer to becoming a commercial reality - and the decision is likely to set a precedent for the rest of the UK. But, if we win, it will be a landmark case in the fight against dirty energy.

But the local community have fought back. They've fought for a pause in the planning application, and they've now secured a public inquiry at which the plans will be put on trial, set to begin in early March. If they win, Dart Energy's planning application will be thrown out and it could stop their dirty gas field for good.

Jamie Mackenzie Hamilton from the local campaign group said:
"It's a real David and Goliath situation. We are in a very strong position right now, and if we can put forward the best possible case, then there's a genuine likelihood we can win this. If we can't afford the representation we really don't stand a chance. Our legal team is working round the clock at rock-bottom rates - it would normally cost much more than this. A lot is at stake for us and the whole of the UK".

This isn't just about protecting Falkirk. It's about more than that. If dirty energy wins it is a disaster for our climate and our clean energy future. But, if the local campaigners are successful it would make it harder for other companies to extract dirty gas from across the UK. And the arguments that are raised in the inquiry can be raised in similar fights all over the UK.

PS: Here's a bit more information from the policy experts at FoE Scotland (<http://www.foe-scotland.org.uk/>), they've been working with the local campaigners in Falkirk.

What is coalbed methane?

Coalbed methane is a form of gas trapped inside coal seams. It's one of a number of sources of 'unconventional gas' that the energy industry are turning to as conventional fossil fuels run out. There is a growing body of evidence from the USA and Australia, where the industry is far more developed, that there are inherent and unacceptably high environmental and health risks associated with coalbed methane extraction.

What's it's relation to fracking?

Unlike shale gas, coalbed methane extraction doesn't always involve fracking – at least not in the early years of a development. Instead, coal seams are de-pressurised by pumping out large volumes of water. But as gas flow starts to decline after a few years, wells are often fracked to increase productivity. In Australia the industry estimates that up to 40% of coalbed methane wells end up being fracked.

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FoE on Ed Davey's "Tory elements are undermining climate action"

Commenting on Ed Davey's claim today that elements of the Conservative party are blocking action on climate change, Friends of the Earth Climate Campaigner Donna Hume said:

"Essential political action on climate change is being undermined, but the blame lies at the heart of Government with ministers like Owen Paterson and George Osborne – and not just at its fringes.

"David Cameron says climate change is linked to more extreme weather, yet he has appointed sceptic ministers and is gung-ho for shale gas.

"But the Lib Dems have played their part in blocking climate action too, by voting against a clean power target, backing shale, and undermining efforts for a new EU renewable energy target.

"With thousands of households struggling to cope in storm-battered Britain, it's time to put tackling climate change at the heart of policy-making."

1. Floods: David Cameron must face down climate scepticism in his own party, writes Friends of the Earth's Executive Director Andy Atkins.

2. UK flood crisis: If we faced a devastating terrorist threat, would our government be responding with such astounding apathy? Of course not, says Friends of the Earth's Policy and Campaigns Director Craig Bennett.

What is 'Coalbed Methane', *cont'd*

However, there are serious environmental problems associated with coalbed methane extraction regardless of whether fracking takes place.

Why is it so bad?

The chemicals used in drilling mud can be just as toxic as those used in fracking fluids, and the same risks of spillages, leakages and mobilisation of naturally occurring chemicals and radioactive substances apply. Communities in Australia are already suffering from symptoms associated with exposure to these chemicals, and a growing body of research points to devastating longer term impacts such as birth defects and cancers.

In fact, because coalbed methane is significantly shallower than shale rock certain risks, such as groundwater contamination, are increased, and fracking simply exacerbates these impacts.

Even if it was safe to extract this gas (and it is increasingly clear that it isn't), if we want to prevent the worst impacts of climate change it isn't safe to burn it. Investing in unconventional gas now will lock us into dangerously high greenhouse gas emissions and make it extremely difficult to meet our legally binding carbon reduction targets in 2050.

FoE press release – Apple comes clean ...

Apple comes clean on use of illegal Bangka tin following Make It Better campaign

Apple's supplier responsibility report published earlier this week reveals for the first time that it sources tin from almost every smelter in the Indonesian province associated with dangerous illegal mining and environmental destruction.

Friends of the Earth campaigner Julian Kirby said:

"After more than a year-and-a-half of saying 'no comment', it's great that Apple has publicly admitted it uses tin from Indonesia's Bangka province, where it's mined at devastating cost to people and the environment.

"Apple has started to recognise that supply chain problems start well before factories – the next step should be extending this scrutiny to other raw materials used in its products and packaging.

Notes to editors

Apple's report includes a list of the 61 smelters from which its suppliers purchase tin, at least 34 of which process tin exclusively from the Bangka province. The Apple roster includes almost every tin smelter operating on the island, according to Bloomberg's Bangka Island correspondent.

To help end problems in production, Friends of the Earth is calling for corporate transparency legislation being finalised in Europe next week to require all large companies to report on their full human and environmental

impacts - including indirect impacts through suppliers, such as accidents, pollution incidents, greenhouse gas emissions and how much of the world's water, land and raw materials they use. More than 12,000 people have signed a petition calling on UK Business Minister Vince Cable to support this.

This would ensure companies better understand where the raw materials they use are from, a vital first step towards achieving greater efficiency and tackling problems. This data can help brands to develop better products, such as by working with suppliers to raise standards, redesigning products for easy repair and reuse, reducing demand.

Last year, Friends of the Earth's Make It Better campaign persuaded leading smartphone makers to admit their phones contain tin linked to the destruction of coral reefs and forests in Indonesia's Bangka islands and to join an industry-wide group committed to ending problems there.

Friends of the Earth's investigation in Bangka found evidence of:

- Dangerous and unregulated tin mining - Police figures show that in 2011 an average of one miner a week died in an accident. Reports of child labour in the unofficial mines are common.
- Coral and sea life threatened - Silt from tin mining is killing coral reefs and seagrass eaten by turtles, driving
- Farmland and forest destroyed - Farmers struggle to grow crops in soil left acidic after the destruction of forests for tin mining.

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Monthly Meeting reporters:

John and Sue Bocock, Anne Clark,
 Graham Hemington, Annette Rose and
 Ray Watson

Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

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 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: may be sent by email to bromleyfoe@gmail.com, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

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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