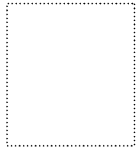


**Friends of the Earth**

**Bromley**

# November 2009 No. 263 Newsletter

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## November Meeting

Friends Meeting House, s  
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

### Not Ours but Ours to Look After

**Tony Pearson**  
Campaign for National Parks

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**  
7.30pm.

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by  
**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.** Contact details inside front cover.

***The Traidcraft stall will be at our November meeting – don't miss it***

**Diary dates:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>November 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tues)</b>  | <b>Bromley FoE's November meeting</b> – Tony Pearson from National Parks campaign, PLUS Traidcraft stall                    |
| <b>November 4<sup>th</sup> (Wed)</b>   | <b>St Mary Cray Country Market:</b> Vernon Hall, High Street, St Mary Cray (and every Wednesday)                            |
| <b>November 7<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>   | <b>"Climate Emergency Copenhagen"</b> – London Public Forum at South Camden Community School, 12 til 6pm                    |
| <b>November 17<sup>th</sup> (Tues)</b> | <b>Age of Stupid</b> – free screening at Amnesty's Human Rights Action Centre, New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA               |
| <b>December 1<sup>st</sup> (Tues)</b>  | <b>Bromley FoE's December meeting</b> – Andy Atkins on the Copenhagen Climate Change talks, followed by our seasonal social |
| <b>December 5<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>   | <b>Climate Change rally, march and The Wave</b> – central London  |
| <b>January 5<sup>th</sup> (Tues)</b>   | <b>Bromley FoE's January meeting and AGM</b>  |

**Traidcraft Stall**

**Fair Trade Christmas Shopping  
at the November meeting**

Buy your Christmas Cards, nuts,  
fair trade sugar and fruit for cakes and puddings.

**Shining a light on bulbs**

A question was asked at the group's October meeting about how to dispose of low-energy light bulbs which contain some mercury. Bromley Council make no special arrangements for collecting these bulbs, nor is there any facility at Waldo Road refuse collection centre.

Bromley Council told the Newsletter: ' The amount of mercury they contain is quite small so we recommend wrapping them in newspaper and putting them in the normal household rubbish'.

**Next Newsletter - copy details:**

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

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

**by phone** to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: [johnstreet@gn.apc.org](mailto:johnstreet@gn.apc.org).

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

## October meeting report, by Sue and John Boccock

Our Speaker was Howard Whitehead, the London Network Developer. His subject was - Earth Mover Awards at this year's FoE Conference.

Disappointingly, and unexpectedly, it proved to be a repeat of Sheila Brown's report already in the October Newsletter.

The second half included a presentation by Jonathan Stanley on his electricity supplier Good Energy.

This is a small independent company based in Chippenham, Wiltshire. It was started nearly ten years ago by a group of people who wanted to address the problem of climate change. The burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity is the largest contributor of CO2 emissions. Good Energy supplies the Nation Grid with 100% renewable energy - wind, wave and solar, no coal gas or nuclear. Good Energy has its own wind farm in Cornwall: in fact most of their electricity comes from wind power.

Water gives them about 13% of their clean, green energy. They buy hydro-electricity from a variety of places such as Glen Lyn Gorge and Sowton Mill in Devon. Modern solar panels can provide large quantities of green energy. Good energy can pay for home solar panels thus rewarding people who are generating their own renewable electricity. Lastly they are sourcing energy from cow poo.

Jonathan told us that for everyone who switches to Good Enemy, the company will give £50 to FoE. Some of their customers include FoE, the ethical food campaigner Hugh

Fearnley-Whittingstall and Innocent, the drinks company which manufactures Smoothies.

"Good Energy = Good Choice  
Good Energy is "fighting hard in a dirty market full of dinosaurs"

Thank you Jonathan for a stimulating and thought provoking end to a rather lack-lustre beginning, of the October meeting.

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### St Mary Cray Country Market

*Sheila Brown writes:* I visited the market, and came away with a lovely pumpkin and other fresh vegetables and free-range eggs. There's also jewellery, home made cakes, preserves and other foods, and tea and coffee are served in a friendly, community environment. The market is held each Wednesday from 9.30 - 11.00 am at the Vernon Hall, High Street, St Mary Cray, BR5 4AX.

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**The Croft Tea Room** is due to open early November at 263 High Street, St Mary Cray in an architecturally designed, energy-efficient Eco-building which has used sustainable building techniques and materials.

It will be open Wednesdays – Sundays 10 am – 4 pm serving home-baked cakes, breads and home-made soups using locally sourced, fresh ingredients. Carole Wells wants the tearoom to have the atmosphere of a Highland 'Croft' – a small, cosy dwelling place where people gather to eat together and chat in a relaxed atmosphere.

## FoE conference report – Peter Gandolfi (continued from last month)

Précis of a Seminar – **What does a low carbon future look like** - given by Professor David Mackay FRS Cambridge, and Neil Crumpton FoE Energy Campaigner.

David Mackay had recently accepted the post of Chief Scientific Advisor of the Department of Energy and Climate Change. He had recently written a book – Sustainable energy without hot air, not with the aim of making money, but to make the data more available to all, and to this end the book was also now available online at: [www.withouthotair.com](http://www.withouthotair.com)

He asked us to visualise the world without fossil fuels, and gave a number of trivial examples of green power, including an arm mounted wind turbine. He said that he had been working on our present forms of energy consumption and accepted green technologies, in a scientific manner “Everyone says getting off fossil fuels is important, and we’re all encouraged to “make a difference,” but many of the things that allegedly make a difference don’t add up.” He mentioned some useless as well as effective examples:

Turning phone chargers off when they are not in use is a feeble gesture, like bailing the Titanic with a teaspoon. The widespread inclusion of switching off phone chargers in things you can do is bad because it distracts attention from the more effective actions that people take. In contrast, turning the thermostat down is the single most effective energy-saving technology available to a typical person. For every degree turned down it will reduce

heating costs by 10%, and heating is likely to be one of the biggest forms of energy consumption.

Likewise, roof-mounted micro-wind turbines are a waste of resources, and never pay for themselves. A typical "600 W" micro-turbine mounted on a typical roof in England generates only 0.04 kWh per day, one twentieth of the power of a light bulb. In contrast, roof-mounted solar water heaters are a no-brainer. They really work, a modest 3-square-metre panel can supply half of a typical family's hot water: about 3.8 kWh per day, on average.

### **Some typical examples of energy requirements**

Food – 3kw/hr/day; Bath - 5kw/hr;  
Kettle - 1kw/hr; Litre of petrol -10kw/hr;  
Production of an aluminium can - 0.6 kw/hr; 100km average car journey – 80kw/hr.

Dividing the area of the UK by the population gave us each with an area of 4000 sq metre, about the size of half a football pitch, with the same area offshore. The average power consumption in the UK – 125kw/hr/day, in the USA – 250 kw/hr/day

Present wind turbine technologies had an efficiency of around 2 watts/sq metre, so if 10% of the whole UK was converted to wind farm it would produce around 20kw/hr/day per person (a little short of the 125kw/hr/day needed). We consume around 17 kw/hr/day of electricity, so it would cover this.

*/continued on next page*

## FoE Conference report – *continued*

(This would be equal to all the wind farms in the world, being in the UK, or 50 times those in Denmark, or 5 times those in Germany.)

Solar PV panels presently produce 5 – 20 watts/sq metre, Plants 0.5 watts/sq metre, Tidal stream 8 watts/sq metre, Concentrated Thermal power in Desert 15 -20 watts/sq m, Rain – Hydro (highlands) 0.24 watts/sq metre, (lowlands) 0.02 watts/sq metre

Petrol engines in cars are around 20% efficient. An electric vehicle uses 21kw/hr, equal to 125mpg was 4 times as efficient, but would use 60kw/hr of today's electricity that would have to be produced somehow. Condensing boilers were now 90% efficient. Heat pumps were 300 – 400 % efficient and could be improved further, and he thought could make an important contribution.

### **Conclusions**

Without lifestyle changes we should expect a 200% increase in energy consumption. To make a difference, renewables have to be country size, and we must get rid of our objections, “not in our backyard” to renewables. He suggested that we cannot get above the figure of 20kw/hr/day per person, using mixed types of renewables, and gave examples of how this could be boosted with other renewables, such as wind/nuclear/solar.

One would involve roughly a hundred-fold increase in wind power and a five-fold increase in nuclear power. The solar power in deserts would require new long-distance cables connecting

us to the Sahara, with a capacity 25 times greater than the existing England-France link. He said he was not pro-wind or pro-nuclear, just pro-arithmetic.

### **Footnote by PG:**

A very thought provoking talk with more content than I could take down. A cursory look at the book shows a vast amount of referenced information, and worthy of a longer look. I was impressed with its level of detail, explanations and easy to understand style, I agree with Tony Juniper's quote: *"For anyone with influence on energy policy, whether in government, business or a campaign group, this book should be compulsory reading."*

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### **Annual Climate Change march – Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>**

This year's aim is to march from Grosvenor Square (noon start) through the West End and then to encircle the Houses of Parliament. As in previous years Bromley FoE will be parading our banner.

Please join the thousands attending because the march comes just prior to the crucial climate change talks in Copenhagen and it is important to send a clear message to the world leaders gathered there. This year's theme is to create a blue wave flowing through the streets of London, so wear something blue.

More information from the group's co-ordinators or secretary - see the inside back page.

## Transport info, from Ray Watson, transport campaigner

### **A giant on our doorstep**

Recent complaints about noise from Biggin Hill Airport – said by the airport management to be ‘legal’ – affect everyday life of Bromley residents. But we should not ignore problems arising from our near-neighbour, Gatwick.

There, the airport has put in a planning application that would extend the north terminal to allow the airport to cope with 40 million passengers annually – a rise of five million on the previous peak, or eight million over the last 12 months.

Whatever figure you choose, it is the sheer scale of such expansion that is frightening. The eight million increase alone is bigger than the total size of either Bristol or East Midlands airports. The five million rise is the same as the total size of Liverpool or Newcastle airports and bigger than Cardiff, Southampton and Bournemouth airports put together.

How could this growth be achieved? By using larger aircraft and increasing the number of flights by 40,000 over the total for the last 12 months.

Needless to say, environmentalists in the Gatwick area are opposing the scheme on the basis that it will bring more noise, more pollution and more traffic. They also quote the transport minister Lord Adonis as saying that he wants to see domestic and short-haul flights largely replaced by high-speed rail over the next 20 years.

### **The cost in CO2**

Of course, there is one other ingredient Gatwick needs if it is to fulfil

its plans (and its profits target). It needs passengers – and, sadly, there seems to be no expectation that people are becoming more reluctant to give up flying.

A new study shows that the public would rather cut energy consumption at home rather than give up a flight. It appears that it is cost and not environmental concerns that deter people from flying. Maybe this month's increase in tax on short-haul air fares, with another next year, will have an impact while, also in 2010, duty on flights over 6000 miles rises from £40 to £60.

Also needed to reduce short-haul flights are reliable alternatives to flying. Back to Lord Adonis...

### **Britain falls behind**

Meanwhile on the roads, our friends in the British motor industry are falling well behind European competitors in producing cars with lower emissions. We are 16<sup>th</sup> out of 25 EU members in a league table of average carbon emissions from cars, with emissions higher than countries like Portugal, Spain and Italy.

Friends of the Earth International knows this only too well from having continually to fight efforts by EU car makers to scupper attempts in Brussels for action to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Make no mistake, car manufacturers spend large sums on lobbying in Brussels -- money that would be better

*/continued on page 8*

## Campaigns info, from Ann Garrett, campaigns co-ordinator

### **Food Chain Stall**

Many thanks to all who helped out on September 28th. There was a good response from the public generally; over 30 cards were signed, and several donations made to our funds. Overall we have sent over 130 cards to MPs via FoE during the Food Chain campaign. The next campaign and stall date was due to be discussed at our next planning meeting on October 28th.

### **South East London FoE Network**

This group has now been set up and will be a campaigning/social group consisting of Croydon, Bromley, Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, and Bexley. We met in a pub at London Bridge and decided that we could possibly join together for The Wave march on December 5th, and produce a joint leaflet as a beginning. Ted Burke from Lewisham will be the co-ordinator, and he will set up a partnership agreement. Any more ideas would be welcome.

### **News from Bob Neill - Bromley and Chislehurst MP**

His first letter in August about GM crops stated that Conservatives believe that no GM crops should be commercially grown in the UK until the science shows that they would be safe for people and for the environment, and until issues of liability and crop segregation are resolved.

The second letter of October 9th about the Food Chain, said that it is important that imports of food, animal feed and feedstocks for biofuel are fully traceable and do not come from areas where their production has led to

damaging environmental and social impacts. However he states that there is no doubt that demand for imported feed crops will continue and that without it our livestock industry would collapse. Given his concern over the latter situation, he will not be signing EDM 845. Disappointing.

### **New Biomass Plant**

A new biomass power station in Port Talbot, which will produce 65% less greenhouse gas emissions than a gas and coal-fired power station, has been given a mixed reception by environmentalists.

It was praised by the Green Party who called for many more biomass initiatives to be given the go-ahead to create new green jobs, but FoE Welsh director Gordon James said that although it was a positive development, the project needed to be made more efficient by capturing the heat from the woodchips more effectively. He suggested that it would be better to have smaller units at various locations in Wales, thus reducing the concentration of pollution in a given area. Good thinking here? Any comments from our readers?

### **Crystal Palace Site Inquiry update**

Many local organisations gave evidence and Richard Comaish, Tamara Gallaway and myself attended several sessions. The inquiry ended at the beginning of September and the results should be available the first week in February 2010.

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## John Horam MP and Minister support Bromley FoE

Orpington MP John Horam has supported Bromley FoE's efforts to influence new Government guidelines to ensure that planning applications to councils are obliged to take into account climate change and environmental issues.

The Department for Communities is currently re-assessing its guidelines to local councils and FoE believes now is the time to ensure that the environment has a high profile in the planning process.

In reply to a letter from the group and a personal one from group member Graham Hemington (see *October Newsletter*), Mr Horam replied: 'I understand your belief that planning policy needs to be centred around both environmental and social considerations and agree with you that local councils should be able to exercise more power over issues such as climate change.

'I feel that if the planning process was more locally led, it would in fact be much easier to reduce the current high level of unsustainable development'.

In our letter we asked Mr Horam to forward our comments to the Dept of Communities and parliamentary under secretary of state Ian Austin replied, saying he was delighted that Bromley FoE recognised the need to update planning policies on climate change and renewable energy.

He went on: 'We must ensure that the places we plan for now will be places we still want to live in 20, 50 or 100 years from now and which are resilient

to the effects of a changing climate we are likely to experience in that time.'

Mr Austin said that Bromley FoE's comments would be passed on to the civil service team now reviewing the guidelines. He also requested that we respond to the consultation document when it is published in the New Year.

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**Transport info** – *cont'd from page 6*  
spent speeding the arrival of more efficient electric cars. For example, BMW – one of the better performing companies – introduced a hybrid electric motor/combustion engine vehicle at the Frankfurt Motor Show that emits 231 grams of CO2 per kilometre – far higher than many conventional cars.

Clearly, car companies have a long way to travel when it comes to being green.

### **...And back to rail**

Network Rail is calling for a new high-speed line from London to Scotland via Heathrow and major English cities, promising London-Glasgow in two hours 16 minutes against the current four hours while Manchester would be served in an hour.

Equally attractive is the suggestion that the service would take 2.8 million passengers away from Heathrow. So, who needs a third runway after all? Especially one that would allow a mind-blowing 220,000 flights a year!



## **Torrs Hydro New Mills Project – from Sheila Brown**

Despite only forming in 2005, High Peak FoE were hugely instrumental in setting up the UK's first community-owned hydro power scheme and were nominated for the Campaign or Project of the Year. The project is located in the town of New Mills on the River Goyt at the site of an old industrial revolution mill weir and employs an Archimedean screw to generate enough electricity for around 70 homes and supplies a local business.

The group galvanised support for the initiative amongst the residents of New Mills, as well as local MPs and councillors. Group members are directors of the project and have ensured that profits from the scheme will be used to support local environmental projects and community schemes through the formation of an industrial and provident society.

The developer and partner in this scheme, Water Power Enterprises (h2oPE) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to developing community renewables projects throughout the UK, particularly harnessing old water power sites of the industrial revolution.

FoE were involved in lobbying local politicians and local meetings to win round those who were not so keen. Public meetings were held, generating overwhelming support for the project from the community, High Peak Borough Council and New Mills Town Council. There was a high profile launch, with all three main parties' parliamentary candidates, and the group worked with local and national media to raise the profile of the scheme and invited then-Environment

Minister David Miliband and his Tory counterpart to visit the site.

Key to the project is a modernised version of a 2000 year old Greek invention, the Archimedean screw – which produces clean, green and effortless energy. However the delivery of this 12 tonne Archimedean screw to a site with no road access posed considerable challenges and many people were holding their breath as it was lowered into place! The scheme itself provides a renewable source of electricity and will continue to do so for its expected 40 year lifetime. Profits from the scheme will be invested in other environmental projects in the local area.

The project is an outstanding example of a community scheme brought about by tireless work and lobbying by a local Friends of the Earth group. Read more about this on High Peak Friends of the Earth's website.

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### **Campaigns info – cont'd from page 7**

There were major concerns by residents about any housing or buildings on green sites in the park, as it would set a precedent for expansion. Another issue of great worry in the LDA's masterplan was the proposal to fell 470 established trees, and plant new ones in rigid rows. In summary, the LDA needs to build houses in order to carry out other regeneration plans, which appears short-sighted and self-defeating. The masterplan contained 11,500 pages! The inquiry lasted for 20 days, and saw some strong debate and challenges.

## Campaign Against Climate Change + Energy Saving Trust

### **Climate Emergency Copenhagen - London Public Forum** (see page 2)

Forum discussing why we need 10% cuts by end 2010, what are our chances of 1million green jobs by end of 2010 and likely outcome of Copenhagen talks in December and much more!

Speakers will include: **Aubrey Meyer** (Global Commons Institute), **Alexis Rowell** (Camden Council), **Oliver Tickell** (author Kyoto 2), **Chris Baugh** (Public and Commercial Services Union), **John Stewart** (HACAN), **Damian Carrington** (Head of Environment, the Guardian), **Johann Hari** (journalist).

### **Age of Stupid Free Screening, with Panel Discussion**

CACC and Amnesty International's Free Age of Stupid screening is at Amnesty's Human Rights Action Centre, New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA on November 17<sup>th</sup>. It's followed by a panel discussion. The event is FREE but optional donation of £5 is requested to cover costs of the screening. Please confirm your place [http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events\\_details.asp?ID=1353](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=1353)

### **Climate Emergency Rally, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>**

12.00 pm Speakers Corner Hyde Park, before the Wave climate change march to Parliament. On the Saturday just before the start of the Copenhagen Climate Talks.

### **Climate Emergency Bike Ride**

Assemble 10.00 am at Lincoln's Inn Fields on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. Finishes at the Climate Emergency Rally.

### **Interested in generating your own energy? Government grants available now**

Here at the Energy Saving Trust we're seeing thousands of people across the UK choosing to generate their own heat or electricity and cut their reliance on traditional fossil fuels. With government grants now available of up to £2,500 for renewable energy technologies, maybe now's the time to join them?

Renewable energy could be ideal if you want to cut your fuel bills in the long term, be more self-sufficient and less affected by fluctuating energy prices. You can even sell your electricity back to energy suppliers.

Thanks to the government's low carbon buildings programme, you could get a grant for solar panels, a wind turbine or wood-burning stove. Or how about money towards a heat pump, a water turbine or wood-fuelled boiler?

Applying for a low carbon buildings grant is easy. Apply online and get an email telling you if you've been successful. But hurry. Grants end soon for electricity-producing technologies. And all grants are awarded on a 'first come, first served' basis. So apply now to have a better chance of success.

Find out more about grants available from the low carbon buildings programme and how to apply via the Energy Saving Trust's website, [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk).

## FoE - Major Economies Forum fails to break climate talks deadlock

Speaking after the conclusion of the Major Economies Forum, hosted by Ed Miliband in London from 18 to 19 October, FoE International Climate Campaigner Asad Rehman said:

"The Major Economies Forum appears to have done little to break the current deadlock on negotiating a strong and fair agreement at Copenhagen.

"The industrialised world must inject real urgency into proceedings by putting serious cash on the table. They must commit to providing at least \$200 billion each year to enable developing countries to grow cleanly and adapt to the effects of climate change and agree to slash their emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020, without carbon offsets.

"Any proposals to channel climate finance for developing countries through the World Bank are totally misguided - this bank is heavily involved in funding fossil fuel projects and, because it is controlled by rich countries, the world's poorest communities will have little say over how the money is spent. The clock is counting down. Genuine international leadership is desperately needed - and it's needed now."

FoE demands that the Government changes its approach to climate change with its Demand Climate Change campaign. The green campaign group is asking everyone to sign its international petition to world leaders for a strong and fair climate deal at [www.demandclimatechange.org](http://www.demandclimatechange.org).

### **Friends of the Earth is calling for:**

- \* The Government to abandon its promotion of carbon offsetting - a con which means avoiding real action at home through dodgy accounting - and pledge to cut emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020 at home;

- \* Rich countries to acknowledge their legal and moral responsibility to provide new money for developing countries, distributed through the UN, so that they can grow cleanly and adapt to the effects of climate change which are already putting millions of lives at risk;

- \* Proposals to be scrapped which would allow rich countries to buy chunks of forest whilst continuing to pump out emissions: an approach which won't solve climate change or halt deforestation.

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### **But also ... Get Serious About CO2**

Friends of the Earth's new campaign - Get Serious About CO2 - calls on local councils to play their part in tackling climate change by pledging to reduce emissions in their area by at least 40 per cent by 2020. The campaign is also calling for a minimum level of action for all councils, set in line with the latest science, and for more money and less hassle so councils can get on with local action to cut CO2. <http://www.getseriousaboutco2.com/>

FoE is part of a coalition of 60 organisations that is currently putting together proposals for new guidance on climate and planning. The Government is due to publish new guidance this Autumn.

## **Green Energy Information from the London Green Homes Concierge Service**

### **What is Green Electricity?**

It is not currently possible to buy 'green' gas; all mains and bottled gas is generated from fossil fuel sources. The latest Ethical Consumer report on green electricity suppliers (Sep/Oct 2008) mentioned the possibility of buying gas from the following:

\* Equipower (part of Scottish & Southern Energy's Ebico) supplies mains gas from fossil fuels but at the same price regardless of who you are and how much you consume - a fair trade rate.

\* Utilita is an independent company which focuses on energy reduction rather than supplying renewable energy. Once signed up Utilita will conduct a survey of your home to ascertain the best ways for you to save energy (nothing new for you there!). The company then allows customers to gain credits with which they can purchase energy saving devices for the home e.g. low energy bulbs or loft insulation, donate money to charity or offset your carbon emissions. You can also opt to spend your credits on sourcing your electricity from renewables. Utilita were a runner up Best Buy in Ethical Consumer (2008).

Green electricity is electricity produced from renewable sources that do not produce pollutants, mainly by using natural energy flows of the Earth like wind, solar, wave, tidal and geothermal sources. These sources, plus small-scale hydro-plants, are sometimes called 'dark green' because no fuels are 'burnt' in the generation process.

Electricity generated from biomass (plants) is also considered green, because even though it does involve combustion, the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that the biomass absorbed during its lifetime is considered to offset the emissions, making it carbon neutral.

Green electricity does not include electricity generated from fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, oil and nuclear fission (so called 'brown' electricity). Contentious sources of 'green' electricity are landfill gas (capturing methane from landfill sites) and waste-to-energy (incineration of domestic and other waste); whilst both make use of or minimise waste going to landfill, Friends of the Earth advise that over 80% of waste going to landfill could be recycled or otherwise removed from the waste stream, cloth nappies and composting being classic examples. It is always better to avoid waste going to landfill in the first place.

### **Why should I pay for a green tariff?**

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions have risen every year since 1900 and account for the largest component of 'trace gases' in the atmosphere. Responsible for 60% of the Enhanced Greenhouse Effect, carbon dioxide is a major contributor to climate change. Whilst other greenhouse gases are more potent, CO<sub>2</sub> is produced in much greater quantities.

Well over a quarter of all CO<sub>2</sub> produced in the UK comes from fuels we use in our homes, more if you include that produced by power

*/continued on next page*

## Green Energy info - *continued*

stations. By both making our homes more energy efficient and by using renewable energy, we can help reduce CO2 production and limit the impact of greenhouse gases.

### **What different types of tariffs are available?**

There are three main types of Green Tariffs available:

The Green Electricity Tariff is a tariff for the electricity that the energy supply company has bought or generates from renewable sources. Whilst the renewable electricity generated is not actually delivered to homes directly, it is fed into the National Grid for general consumption (matching supply and demand). However, suppliers are only contractually expected to buy or generate the equivalent to the renewable electricity that they sell.

The Green Fund Tariff is a tariff whereby the energy supplier invests the premium that you pay into renewable energy projects (usually community-based ones), and sometimes other environmental projects. Some of these investments are also made by suppliers as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligation or policy.

The Carbon Offset Tariff is a tariff whereby the energy supplier offsets the CO2 created through the consumer's use of gas and electricity. This can be done by planting trees or by investing in renewable energy projects in the UK or in developing countries.

### **How do I choose a green electricity provider?**

At present there are no independent accreditation schemes to verify suppliers' claims about the energy they supply. Few consumers are aware that the government's Renewables Obligation requires supply companies to deliver 9.1% renewable electricity by 2008/9 (rising to 15.4% by 2015/16) and some supply companies use the electricity they sell for a green tariff as part of their Renewables Obligation. So companies generating a higher percentage than is obligatory tend to be the greener options.

### **Suppliers of 100% renewable energy:**

Good Energy is the only electricity supplier in the UK that derives all its electricity from renewable sources. Good Energy is recommended by the NEF, only supplies electricity and came out as overall Best Buy in Ethical Consumer (2008).

Ecotricity only supply electricity, but have a light green and a dark green tariff: New Energy Plus supplies 100% green electricity; New Energy is currently 24% green electricity (and rising). Ecotricity is recommended by the Soil Association and WWF and its New Energy Plus tariff was one of the 3 runners-up to Ethical Consumer's Best Buy, along with Green Energy's Dark Green Electricity and Utilita's Planetsaver 1.

Go to [www.greenhomeslondon.co.uk](http://www.greenhomeslondon.co.uk) for more info about the London Green Homes Concierge Service.

## CAAT News - UKTI: Armed and Dangerous - the next steps

We're almost one year into CAAT's UKTI: Armed & Dangerous campaign, calling for an end to Government support for arms exports. UKTI - UK Trade & Investment - is a little-known Government department that exists to support all UK exports. It helps companies promote arms sales through its Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO).

During the DSEi arms fair, held in London this September, thousands of arms dealers descended on London's Docklands to browse the displays of hundreds of companies exhibiting everything from small arms to battleships. UKTI DSO co-organised the fair, providing financial assistance (ultimately coming from taxpayers' pockets), and logistical and political support.

CAAT was particularly active during DSEi, bringing the arms fair to UKTI's door and bringing UKTI DSO's work out into the open. We also handed in thousands more petitions demonstrating public opposition to UKTI's support for the arms trade.

### **Parliamentary support**

Now we need to focus on building parliamentary support. The general election may seem a way off, but the arms industry has already launched a major PR campaign in a bid to maintain Government aid.

The current Government already gives arms exports totally disproportionate support. UKTI has more staff working on military exports than those engaged in all of the organisation's other industry-specific trade promotion.

### **A step back in time?**

Worryingly, the Conservative Party seems set to do the industry's bidding. In a speech at the UK Defence Conference, Liam Fox, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence, appeared to unquestioningly accept the industry's claims that arms exports are needed to protect jobs in the UK.

Fox also announced that the Conservatives would return UKTI DSO's functions to the Ministry of Defence (MoD). CAAT campaigned for many years to close UKTI DSO's predecessor in the MoD, the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO). DESO existed solely to promote arms exports - but it also gave the arms industry an extraordinary level of influence over public policy.

**Please write to Conservative Party leader David Cameron** at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA to say that we need new policies for future peace and security, not the failed politics of the past.

### **Ask the Conservative Party to commit to:**

- Ending the disproportionate government support given to arms exports, and stopping the corporate influence over the UK's foreign policy agenda
- Promoting real security solutions such as investment in green energy to prevent dangerous climate change, secure our energy supply and create green jobs.

**Or send an email via**  
<http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/ukti/emailcameron/>

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

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Peter Gandolfi  
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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 Ray Watson or Sheila Brown 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 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!

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**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.

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**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](mailto: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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