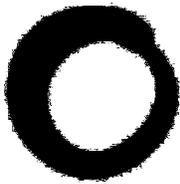


Number 76

February
2007

Welcome to Nottingham Friends of the Earth. We are one of around 250 local Friends of the Earth groups campaigning for a better environment locally as well as nationally and internationally. **Friends of the Earth** has a reputation for effective campaigns backed up by authoritative research.



Nottingham
Friends of
the Earth

NOTTINGHAM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
Down to Earth

Climate Action Network Nottinghamshire

Climate Action Network Nottinghamshire (CANN) was formed last year to encourage individuals and decision makers to do more to take effective action on climate change.

It is a coalition of local organisations including Transport 2000, World Development Movement and many more. It broadly endorses the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, which organised a large demonstration in London in November last year.



For more information see their website at www.climatenotts.org.uk

Dates for your diary

**Tuesday 6 March, 7.30pm ICC:
Nottingham Friends of the Earth AGM**

Louise Hazan, Friends of the Earth, will lead a discussion on Campaigning for an effective Climate Change Bill in 2007.

Saturday 17 March, 3.30pm
Climate Action Network Nottinghamshire social - venue to be announced.

Monday 19 March, 7.30pm
Climate Change and Campaigning to Eradicate Global Poverty.
Benedict Southworth, Director of World Development Movement.
Central Methodist Hall, Parliament St (opposite Boots).

Climate Change Lectures
Nottingham City Council has agreed to support a series of public lectures on climate change during 2007. Details not available at time of going to press. (Phone Nigel 0115 978 8059 for information.)

Contacts

Co-ordinator:

Jeremy Jago (address as below)

Membership Officer:

Wendy Johnson, 0115 929 9672

Newsletter Editor:

Chris Cann, 0115 9559498

Website Editor:

Nigel Lee, 0115 9788059

Green Partnership:

Richard Barlow, 0115 987 5230

Campaigns:

Real Food:

Jill Gross 0115 953 8843

Waste & Resources:

Nigel Lee 0115 9788059

For general information, please write with an SAE to Nottingham Friends of the Earth, c/o Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham NG7 6HX. For information about joining the group, please mark the envelope "Membership".

Our website is

<http://nottfoe.gn.apc.org/>
National Friends of the Earth is at 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ (020 7490 1555), or email info@foe.co.uk
See national website www.foe.co.uk for easy online actions – or link from <http://nottfoe.gn.apc.org/diary.htm>.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. Please come and join us. You would be very welcome. (Please confirm first, as we hope to move back to Friends' Meeting House soon.)

Printed on recycled paper.

If you would like to receive future editions of this newsletter electronically to save paper, please let us know your email address. You can contact us: notttinghamfoe@hotmail.com. Please note that the file size can be over 1.2MB, or you could choose to receive a text-only file.

The Future of the East Midlands – safe as houses?

In the next few months the development plan for the East Midlands will be updated by the East Midlands Regional Assembly. The role of the plan - also known as the Regional Spatial Strategy - is to guide the way the region develops over the next 15-20 years. This includes key issues such as:

- Housing - how much and where it should be built
- Environment - dealing with climate change, protection of the countryside, waste and quarrying issues
- Transport - what types of transport should be provided
- And lots more besides including the region's economy and the future of agriculture.

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) has ambitions to encourage genuinely sustainable development in the region e.g. by setting renewable energy targets and promoting sustainable design. However the good intentions are not reflected in all policies. Those policies which promote rapid growth in housing and those which set transport priorities including more damaging road schemes, are examples of some policies which we consider to be inconsistent with the aim to develop our region in a sustainable way.

Similarly, some of the policies put forward add to climate change by increasing the region's 'carbon footprint', such as the 40% increase in house building rates above those in the current RSS, and the support for climate damaging growth of regional airports.

East Midlands Friends of the Earth believes that much of the damaging development proposed in the Regional Plan has been driven by an unsustainable dash for housing, a policy being vigorously promoted by national government, and encouraged at a regional level.

We have raised serious concerns about a number of issues which have not been adequately addressed with regard to sustainable development, including:

- water supply and water treatment;
- public transport
- correlation between projected housing and employment figures
- increases in greenhouse gases.

We have challenged the push for unsustainable growth and hope that the Independent Panel of Planning Inspectors, who will consider the Plan in detail, will recommend that the growth planned is restricted to that within environmental limits, and that they will consider that including a carbon reduction policy within the Plan is vital for the sustainable development of our region.

Callie Lister

Embodied Energy

This current buzz-phrase means the total energy used in making something. Concrete, for example, embodies the fuel energy of the cement-manufacturing kiln, mining the mineral ingredients, quarrying and transporting the sand etc. Most embodied energy implies an atmospheric cost in carbon dioxide emission.

Embodied energies of different products, services and materials vary widely. Consumer electronic goods have high figures. The junking of good, working TV sets has now rocketed as they are replaced by new models - in the false belief that this is the only way to receive digital channels. The retail trade does little to dispel this misconception! I know of several householders having even been persuaded to replace the set to 'allow' a DVD player to be used. For an alternative procedure, see the previous issue or contact Jeremy. In the meantime - if your existing telly works, keep it.

Embodied energy - don't chuck it.

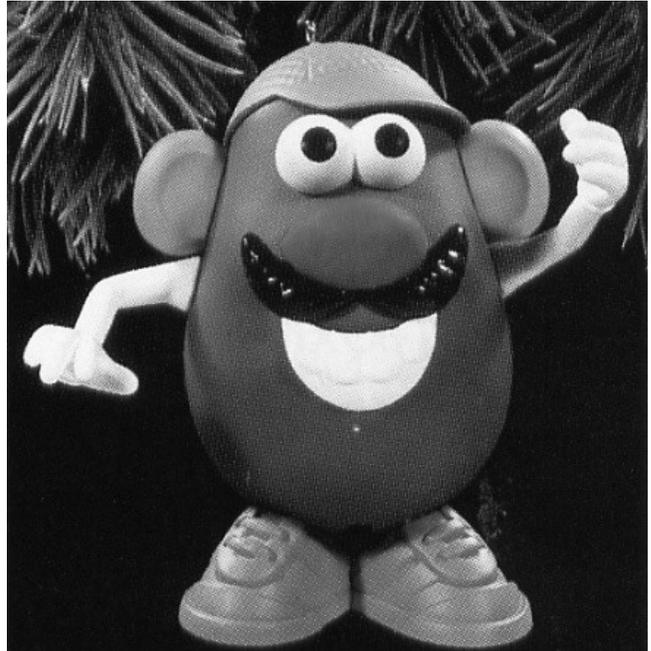
Jeremy Jago

Where will the potatoes go next?

In May 2006, the world's largest chemicals company BASF admitted defeat in its attempt to run a GM potato experiment in County Meath, Ireland. There had been considerable opposition to the trials across the country and the Environmental Protection Agency had imposed tough conditions on the provisional consent it gave.

In August 2006, BASF applied for permission to run trials in Derbyshire

and Cambridgeshire to run between April and October 2007.



BASF wants to continue its research on blight resistant potatoes and admits that these trials actually need to run over several years in order to assess safety and quality. There are many concerns about growing these potatoes, including:

- There are already a number of naturally blight resistant potato varieties available.

- The measures proposed to prevent contamination in these trials are inadequate and there are real risks that cross-pollination could result in GM potatoes growing outside the trial area.

- There is little or no demand for GM potatoes as supermarkets and food companies recognise calls for the right to choose GM-free food.

In December, as we were preparing to campaign against the trials in Borrowash, we heard that the farmer involved in the trial had decided to pull out. We welcome that decision whatever the reasons behind it. Will BASF decide to abandon these experiments altogether or move on to threaten the environment in another area?

Jill Gross

Campaign against Eastcroft Incinerator goes on

Last year we succeeded in persuading the City Council's Development Control Committee to turn down planning permission for expansion of the Eastcroft Incinerator.

That was after a vigorous campaign by Nottingham Against Incineration and Landfill (NAIL). (As reported in DTE Nos 74 and 75.)

Now the incinerator operators, WRG, have appealed. An inquiry will be held, probably late summer 2007.

The City Council's main argument is that it conflicts with plans to regenerate the Waterside area between the railway and the river. Artists' drawings of prestige offices and flats don't include a smelly old chimney and an endless procession of garbage vehicles.

WRG are arguing that if they are allowed to expand they will smarten up the outside appearance of the incinerator – so it will be an asset for the regeneration area! If planning permission isn't granted they will keep the nasty old appearance just to spite the Council.

WRG have also made it clear they want to incinerate large quantities of commercial and industrial waste. And they want to bring in waste from large parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire.

If you would like to help the campaign for less incineration and better recycling and composting in Nottingham, you can

- Make a donation to NAIL to help fight WRG at the planning inquiry. Cheques should be made out to 'Nottingham Friends of the Earth' and sent c/o Nigel Lee, 74 Ash View, Nottingham NG7 3BY (marked for NAIL).
- Support NAIL by sending a message 'subscribe' to mail@nail.uk.net or via their website www.nail.uk.net

At the same time Nottinghamshire County Council have contracted with Veolia to build a large incinerator at the former Rufford Colliery near Rainworth. A campaign is growing to stop that. This follows the successful campaign by MAIN (Mansfield Against Incineration) to prevent an incinerator being built in Mansfield.

Nigel Lee

Climate Action Network Nottinghamshire

Want to know what you can do? Here are some ideas.

- I will walk to school/work at least once a week rather than driving
- I will take the bus/tram/train to school/work at least once a week rather than using the car
- I will cycle to the local shops rather than driving to the supermarket
- I will ask my workplace/school to contact the Carbon Trust to help make my school/workplace more energy efficient
- I will ask my classmates/work colleagues to turn off their computers and monitors after they have finished using them
- I will replace at least three of my old light bulbs with energy efficient ones and ask my school/workplace to do the same
- I will turn my heating down by 1 degree centigrade
- I will compost rather than throwing away kitchen scraps
- I will wherever practical take the train to go on long journeys/holidays rather than flying
- I will ask my Member of Parliament to support the climate change bill
- I will buy local food, and food that is in season
- I will ask my school/workplace to set up a recycling scheme
- I will ask my neighbours and friends to form an Ecoteam so that we can reduce the amount of energy we use in our neighbourhood
- I will make sure my home is properly insulated
- I will buy my electricity from a green electricity company (electricity generated from wind/wave/solar power)
- I will ask my local council what they are doing to tackle climate change
- I will not leave my computer, TV or any other electrical equipment on standby
- I will reduce the amount of rubbish I throw away each week by re-using, recycling and composting what I can, and by buying products with little or no packaging
- I will join a local group that is working to combat climate change
- I will set up a car sharing scheme at work
- I will ask my local council to make sure that all new buildings in my area are designed to be carbon neutral and energy efficient