

WARM OUR HOMES NOT THE PLANET!



Friends of the Earth has launched a **new campaign** to eradicate fuel poverty and slash emissions.

Heating our homes, buildings and water by burning fossil fuels is responsible for almost 20% of UK climate emissions.

The rising cost of energy means more and more people can't afford to keep their homes warm, with the latest price hikes leaving an estimated 12 million households struggling to pay their energy bills.





Whether vou're an old-time supporter or new like me. I'd like to wish you a warm welcome

to our autumn 2022 edition of Earthmatters.

We believe that a better, healthier future for everyone is still possible. But the energy and cost-of-living crises mean the final few months of the year are likely to be tough for millions of people.

That's why we're broadening our network of grassroots activists and demanding bolder, more urgent action from those in power.

From our upcoming campaign to make home heating affordable to our victory in the courts on the government's Net Zero Strategy. we'll continue to do all we can to protect people and planet.

Keep an eye out to find out how you can join in on the action.

CLARE LYONS

Director of Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns





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YOURIMPACT

Achievements from across the Friends of the Earth family



Taxing the energy giants

More than 300,000 of you helped secure a windfall tax on the inflated profits of energy giants, to fund emergency support for households struggling to pay their bills. We're now calling on government to roll out a nationwide domestic insulation programme that would lower bills and reduce our reliance on gas.





Filling a glass gap

Planet-loving 8-year-old Eloise was shocked to find her local council didn't recycle glass, so she took it upon herself to start a doorstep domestic glass collection and recycling business with her mum. The profits are split between different eco-friendly charities, including us. Thank you, Eloise! Follow her on Instagram @glass.girls.recycling



Protecting nature and wellbeing in Liverpool

The Save Oglet Shore and Greenbelt campaign has been busy fighting expansion plans at Liverpool John Lennon airport. The plans threaten local green spaces and the health of communities already dealing with dangerous levels of air pollution and traffic. Liverpool City Council (which owns a 10% share in the airport) has said it won't invest any further in the airport, which is a big breakthrough!



Cleaning up in Northern Ireland

After years of campaigning, Northern Ireland finally has a Climate Change Act. Until now, it was the only part of the UK with no climate legislation and no net zero target, which undermined the UK's climate action nationally. This is just the start for a cleaner and more sustainable Northern Ireland.

Victory for campaigners

Frack Free Dee, a network of climate activists including Chester Friends of the Earth, have fought off plans to test for shale gas in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. This is a great win for people and planet, and it's one of the few fracking-related planning inquiries won because of climate objections.



UKNEWS

Round-up of environmental stories



Net zero victory

In June 2022 our legal team took the government to court over its failure to deliver a meaningful Net Zero Strategy – its economy-wide plan for eliminating emissions before 2050. In July we received the exciting news that the judge had ruled in our favour, meaning the government must now revise its strategy and present it to parliament to be scrutinised. The ruling marks a huge victory for climate and government transparency.



Floating wind farms

New green jobs are on the horizon. Wind farms have typically been built into the seabed on fixed foundations, but plans are in place to create floating wind farms off the south Wales coast. These can be used in deeper water, where there's often higher wind – meaning more green electricity.

Greggs opens eco-shop



Greggs has opened its first eco-shop in Northampton,

to test initiatives that reduce the company's impact on the climate and environment. Solutions include ecoovens and solar control glass.

Climate on the curriculum

Children and young people in Northern Ireland can now choose to study a new natural history GCSE.

The curriculum teaches pupils about protecting the planet and climate change, and will include modules on fast fashion, single-use plastics and campaigning.



etty Images: Shutterstock



Leading the movement in workspaces for those who lead the change, with spaces currently available to rent

Visit www.ethicalproperty.co.uk Email sales@ethicalproperty.co.uk or call 01865 207 810 to find out more

WORLDNEWS

The global stories that matter to you



Indigenous groups' victory following strike

In June 2022 indigenous protesters in Ecuador led an 18-day nationwide strike that resulted in securing a "Peace Agreement" that effectively ends plans for massive oil and gas mining in indigenous territories. This is a huge victory for climate justice and shows the power of effective mobilisation and protest.



Getty Images; Shutterstock

Progress in India on single-use plastics

India's partial ban on single-use plastics, including items like plastic cups, straws and ice lolly sticks, has come into force. To help manage the ban, the Indian government has introduced new measures such as special enforcement teams to prevent the illegal manufacture, import, sale and use of banned single-use plastic items. Manufacturers will be responsible for meeting recycling targets for products not covered by the ban.





New giant water lily species

Scientists have discovered a new giant water lily species called *Victoria boliviana*. The plant had been in the archives of Kew Gardens, London, but it had been previously misidentified as another species. This giant water lily has been hidden in plain sight for 177 years.

A world first



A clean, healthy and sustainable environment is now a universal human right,

following the adoption of a historic resolution by the UN General Assembly in July. The move is a hopeful step towards reversing the rapid decline of our natural world.

Colombia pledges to keep fossil fuels in the ground

Colombia's new President, Gustavo Petro, has pledged to end new oil and gas projects, including no new licences for hydrocarbon exploration, fracking projects or offshore fossil fuel developments. This is a powerful demonstration of leadership that takes a climate-first stance.



Can we stop big business from narming e panet?

Across the world, corporations continue to exploit people and damage the planet. We need a new law to hold them accountable

SUPPLY CHAIN: The steps and companies involved in making a product – from sourcing the raw ingredients to manufacturing the finished item

e rely on global supply chains for many of the products we use every day – from the soy used to feed chickens and pigs to the palm oil in our bread, pastries and soap. Those supply chains can be made up of various stages.

For instance, the main raw ingredients in a frozen packet of chicken nuggets may have been sourced from a chicken producer like Moy Park, which farms a staggering 300 million chickens in the UK every year. The wheat for the coating may have been grown in the UK or imported alongside additional coating ingredients by other suppliers. The chicken will likely have been fed on soy grown by farmers in South America, often on behalf of large companies or traders, and sold to traders like Cargill to export to the UK, possibly via the Netherlands.

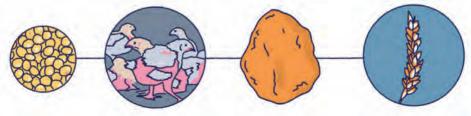
At every stage of the supply chain, businesses hold the power to impact people and planet for better or worse. This could involve where and how they source products and how they treat workers.

While some companies are notorious for chasing profit at any cost, others stand out from the crowd for their ambition to be as ethical as possible.

Take the sustainable fashion pioneer People Tree, which champions organic farming practices in the sourcing of its materials, and is Fairtrade certified throughout its supply chain. As well as minimising its environmental impact, from energy use to water, it supports traditional skills like handweaving in the communities that make its clothes.

At the other end of the scale, increased public demand for a more sustainable approach has also prompted some major high street names to take steps in the right direction. For example, Marks & Spencer has adapted its sustainability programme, "Plan A", to reflect the urgency needed to tackle the climate crisis.

Though neither company is perfect, they're each showing leadership in their respective sectors and setting the standard for others to follow.



The chicken nuggets supply chain can have a detrimental impact on people and the planet

CORPORATIONS

Behind the curve

Sadly, these positive practices are far from the norm. For centuries, the pattern among big companies has been to control and profit from supply chains at the expense of the natural environment and communities in countries like Indonesia and Brazil.

Practices such as land clearance, deforestation and mining have been used again and again to extract raw materials like timber, palm oil and metals, shattering local lives, livelihoods and ecosystems in the process. And it's not just obscure companies committing these atrocities. Household names like Tesco. Nike and



H&M have been linked to deforestation, other environmental damage or human rights abuses. Research by Global Witness found British banks and asset managers are also guilty of investing in exploitative industries, cashing in an estimated £147 million between 2016 and 2020 from deforestation-linked financing.

What's greenwashing?

Greater scrutiny of company ethics has prompted brands to announce how they're "going green". Be warned: while some claims may be genuine, big companies spend millions of dollars to ensure the "right" messages reach the public. Often, ethical and environmental claims cover just one aspect of their business while their core business model remains hugely damaging, something we see a lot of in fast fashion brands that offer a "sustainable" line.



What can we do?

Exploitative and damaging practices will continue so long as there's demand for cheap food, clothes and consumer goods, and a lack of accountability or consequence for companies that don't clean up their acts. We need governance measures to rein in the companies behind this devastation.

We're joining with human rights organisations and unions to campaign for a new UK law that would hold companies, banks and public bodies to account for any socially and environmentally damaging impacts caused by their activities – and ensure they're held liable when harm occurs.

Sign the petition foe.uk/em104-petition











Sustainable and biodegradable plant-based household products

Ecoleaf by Suma is a range of effective yet gentle, environmentally-friendly household cleaning products from natural, biodegradable and sustainable materials.

sensitive skin, plus no-toxicity cling film safe enough to add to your compost heap at home.

www.suma.coop/ecoleaf,

How to prioritise nature

Communities across the UK are losing access to green spaces due to underfunded councils and misjudged policies. But local people are driving change in innovative ways



or many of us, green spaces offer a calming place to break up our daily routines. From meeting friends to going for a quiet walk or taking little ones out to play, our green spaces offer muchneeded escapism at a time when even the most basic activities seem to cost a fortune.

The benefits of time outdoors have been well documented in recent years, particularly when COVID-19 forced millions of us to spend more time indoors than ever before.

Yet a succession of cuts to council budgets, government policies that encourage the privatisation of land and planning policies that favour badly located housing over biodiversity mean that natural green spaces aren't given the attention or care they deserve. The result? Our biodiversity is suffering and thousands of communities across the UK are struggling to access the benefits of

good-quality green space nearby and have more contact with nature.

A major rethink of land use and nature recovery is needed at a national level, which is why our experts are seeking to influence government plans on pesticides, planning policy and the delivery of local strategies for nature's recovery.

What is biodiversity?

From fungi and trees to mammals and bees, biodiversity is the word given to describe the variety of life on Earth. A habitat that's rich in biodiversity can also be good for people, providing vital services like pollination and pest control as well as a boost to our feeling of wellbeing.



Local leadership

Despite challenging times, some local leaders are taking innovative action to expand and improve the quantity and quality of green spaces in their areas.

Burnley Borough Council warned that public parks are facing cuts of over 60% from current council revenues

across the next decade. So it's

shifted the way it cares for its parks to benefit biodiversity, cut carbon emissions and boost community wellbeing. The council opted for a "nature isn't neat" approach, introducing wildflower meadows

and converting annual bedding plants to bee-friendly perennials (great for storing carbon).

It set up a volunteer scheme, where retired residents and young people seeking work experience gained horticultural, woodland and biodiversity management skills. A local mental health charity has also held therapeutic sessions where attendees have health appointments in the park, talking and carrying out minor park maintenance.

The new approach has helped improve biodiversity and contributed to the increased wellbeing of those involved. What's more, the council has saved over £122,000 to date by letting nature lead the way.

Are you missing out on green space?

Despite its well-documented benefits, nearly 10 million people in England live in areas with very limited access to green space. Local authorities can help improve access by following the examples of Burnley and Hackney, which are helping their residents get

closer to nature by introducing street trees and parklets, undertaking major park restoration projects and creating entirely new open spaces.

Visit "Near you" and find out if your local leaders are doing all they can to ensure you and your neighbours can access an easy dose of the outdoors. foe.uk/em104-ny

"Burnley Borough Council has shifted the way it cares for its parks to benefit biodiversity, cut carbon emissions and boost community wellbeing"



Grassroots graft

As you probably know, change is often driven by communities themselves. Some of our grassroots groups have been mucking in and finding creative ways to green their neighbourhoods.



Caerphilly's Tiny Forest

Climate Action Caerphilly roped in help from the local community to plant 600 native saplings and create its own "Tiny Forest" in a local park. The project is based on a Japanese approach to restoring natural vegetation on small plots of land that provide havens for local people and wildlife.



Lockdown Woods in Newbury

Friends of the Earth Newbury gained support from councils and local sponsors to create 3 "Lockdown Woods" in West Berkshire. As well as improving the environment for the local community, the woods will stand as a memorial to those who died from COVID-19.



The climate movement hasn't done enough to centre the needs of disabled people. A more inclusive approach is long overdue ver the past century or so, the success of climate and environmental campaigns has rested on the efforts of a diverse range of groups and communities. From solidarity between miners and the LGBTQI+ community during strikes in the 1980s to collaboration between disability rights groups and climate activists in last decade's fracking campaign, we know that working together with people from different backgrounds can greatly enhance campaigns and lead to long-term benefits.

But access and inclusivity, whether in community groups, events or campaigns, remain a problem within the movement.

Climate breakdown and disability

Disabled people make up a sizable proportion of our society – nearly 1 in 5 people in the UK. According to the United

Nations Human Rights Council, disabled people are the most "adversely affected in an emergency", like wildfires and floods – all set to become more frequent due to climate change.

One such example is when, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit 3 of the US's poorest states: Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, rescue services failed disabled and elderly people in the city as emergency services didn't account for their evacuation needs. The evacuation services didn't have buses with wheelchair lifts, and they didn't employ people who could relay information to people with hearing and sight impairments. This discrimination led to many disabled people losing their lives.

Beyond disaster situations, there are multiple structural barriers in everyday life that exclude and harm disabled people.



setty Image



Take the lack of accessible public toilets in parks, which means some disabled people are excluded from accessing good-quality green spaces. Or the fact that disabled people are more likely to experience fuel poverty because of unavoidable needs like extra heating to help those with mobility issues stay warm, or higher electricity usage to help power assistive technologies.

Problem-solving experts

But as experts in their own lives, disabled people are skilled at problem solving, adapting and overcoming such barriers. Lack of wheelchair access meant Israeli minister Karine Elharrar couldn't attend the first day of COP26

For example, it was disabled people's groups protesting and committing acts of civil disobedience in the 1990s that led to long-overdue changes to buses and tubes to make public transport more accessible. And when COVID-19 hit in 2020, organisations like Buckinghamshire Disability Service and Mad Covid sprang into action to help address the diverse set of barriers faced by disabled people and people with mental health conditions, who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Those key skills of adaptability and problem solving are also crucial to how we tackle the climate crisis.

A lot to learn

Put simply, the climate movement hasn't done enough to remove barriers and include disabled people in climate conversations.

We witnessed a prime example just last year at the UN climate conference

"As someone with cerebral palsy, I want an accessible revolution. It is everyone's future, and that needs to be represented in both climate protest and climate policy"

Physiologist, Paralympian and writer Hannah Dines



LEARNING CORNER

The social model of disability

The social model was developed by disabled people to highlight that society is constructed to meet the needs of some, but not all. It proposes that people are disabled by society, rather than

through impairments or conditions.

The model helps identify barriers that may make life harder for disabled people, such as a lack of accessible toilets in a park or derogatory attitudes. It also teaches the need to

recognise that there's no "one-size-fits-all" approach to disability, and that communication and care are key to removing barriers.

"Access is getting invited to the party, inclusion is being invited to dance."

in Glasgow when Israeli Energy Minister Karine Elharrar couldn't enter the conference because there was no wheelchair access.

The climate movement has a lot to learn from what has been achieved by organisers and campaigners within the disability justice movement. What's more, the climate movement needs to centre disabled people's voices and input if we're

to create a fairer, healthier world that benefits everyone.

Building a better relationship between the climate and disability movements is crucial, and requires us to go beyond seeing accessibility as a tick-box exercise. It's reliant on consulting, caring and constantly evolving our understanding of what each person needs in order to take part in climate action.

CHOSEN BY YOU

Each issue, we feature recommendations from staff and supporters we think may interest you



LIVE MUSIC

The Nest Collective

The collective, set up by folk singer Sam Lee, hosts small gigs in hidden urban green spaces, as well as an autumn festival and one-off events. Its programme is mostly based around London, but over the summer I went to a great gig in Manchester, which was repeated in Bristol, Brighton and Sheffield. Check out the collective's website to see if there's something going on near you.

thenestcollective.co.uk

TOM KING, MANCHESTER



Magpie's Nest Festival

Tackling the energy crisis

Why are energy bills soaring? And what can the government do to make sure everyone can afford to heat their homes? If you want to know the answers to these questions, I'd recommend listening to the New Economics Podcast episode

"Tackling the Energy Crisis", where Dr Joseph Baines of King's College London and Abby Jitendra from Citizens Advice discuss the link between rising energy company profits and our heating bills.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Ogoni: The Struggle for Justice

This book by Simeon B
Kpoturu is a personal
account of the Ogoni
people's struggle against
the Nigerian government
and multinational oil and gas
company Shell. Simeon tells

the story of the Ogoni people, pre- and post-Shell, and shines a light on how oil exploration can wreak lasting damage on local people and the environment.

MILLIE JOHN-PIERRE, LONDON

Ukraine and the global food crisis

What has the war taught us about global food supply?

Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine has ravaged towns and cities and devastated the lives of millions. It's also exposed some key flaws in our globalised economic system, including our food chains. Before the war, Russia and Ukraine were among the world's biggest exporters of crops like wheat and oilseed. The disruption to those supply chains is pushing the already escalating costs of food, fertilisers and energy even higher.

Yet the food crisis is not new. The industrialisation and intensification of agriculture have long been creating an

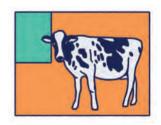
unequal global food system. We are already wasting around a third of the food produced globally. The war in Ukraine has highlighted issues like the huge land demands of intensive livestock farming, as well as the risks of 2.5 billion people relying on just 3 wheat-growing regions.

We want to see a more resilient global food system that involves fewer imports (especially from volatile regions); prioritises diverse and sustainable production; promotes healthy, more plant-based diets; and reduces food waste.

UK

Unlike many countries, the UK's grain supply is not seriously affected by the war – only 2% of its wheat comes from Ukraine and Russia. But the wider problems of spiralling food and energy prices are, of course, impacting many.

Worryingly, some within government and the agriculture sector are responding to the food crisis by calling for the UK's transition towards nature-friendly farming to be delayed, in favour of intensification. We firmly believe, however, that addressing climate change and biodiversity loss must be a priority if we are to make food systems more resilient.



15%

of UK agricultural land is currently used to grow crops for people to eat

Ukraine and Russia

A staggering 11% of calories consumed worldwide are estimated to come from food grown in Ukraine or Russia. With Russia's unjustified invasion of Ukraine, and the farreaching sanctions it now faces, global shortages are occurring in everything from sunflower oil to the fertiliser ingredient potash. It also remains

uncie

unclear whether the
6 million hectares
of wheat sown
in Ukraine this
year will be
harvested or
exported as usual.



60%

of sunflower oil traded globally comes from Ukraine or Russia, as does nearly a third of all wheat and barley exports





20%

of the world's most food-insecure people live in the Middle East and North Africa

Syria and Yemen

The impacts of wheat scarcity are likely to be felt most acutely in the Middle East and North Africa, where wheat is a critical staple food but the climate makes it difficult to grow.



War-torn countries like Syria and Yemen are particularly vulnerable – Yemen sources around 40% of its wheat from Ukraine and Russia, while Syria gets most of its wheat from Russia. The war in Ukraine will exacerbate an already desperate situation for the millions living in food insecurity in the region.

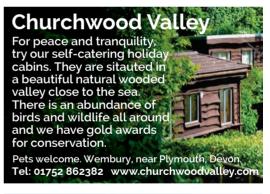
Read Friends of the Earth's reaction to the unjust war in Ukraine and find out where we think focus and support should be directed:

foe.uk/em104-ukraine











Inspired by nature

Corporate Partnerships Officer Leanne McNulty explains how ethical brand Alex Monroe Jewellery supports our charity

ewellery for me is a special occasion sort of gift – something you treasure for a lifetime. But it's a tricky one to get right. Jewellery making has a notoriously complicated history with ethics and sustainability, particularly when it comes to metal and gemstone mining.

But our partner, Alex Monroe Jewellery, has always strived to work ethically and source materials with as little environmental impact as possible. The company has started measuring the carbon footprint of every piece of jewellery it makes, with the aim of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

In 2021 it added to its ethical credentials by becoming a licensee of Fairmined Gold – an assurance label that certifies gold from empowered, responsible artisanal and small-scale mining organisations that meet world-leading standards for responsible practices. The Fairmined Initiative was created by the Alliance for Responsible Mining, a Colombian non-profit



organisation globally recognised as a leader and pioneer of responsible mining.

We partnered with Alex Monroe
Jewellery in 2018 and since then the
company has generously donated £32,000
from the profits of popular designs like
the Penguin and Bee to help power our
campaigns. It is always looking for
additional ways it can lend support and this
year Alex himself is running the Royal Parks
Half Marathon to raise funds for our work.

The pieces Alex produces are inspired by nature and handmade in England. If you're looking to gift something special and ethical, visit **alexmonroe.com**

OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

To create a better world we need allies. That's why Friends of the Earth works with responsible, purpose-led businesses that are committed to making a positive contribution.

"We're using numbers to influence change"

Toby Bridgeman's role as Environmental Data Lead marks a new area of focus for Friends of the Farth

started at Friends of the Earth in January, taking on a new position within the Policy and Insight Team. It's a role that has emerged from an increased focus over the past couple of years on data and how it can be used to help local groups understand local issues.

The main project I've been working on is the Near you tool. This is located on our Take Climate Action website and is aimed at local groups, activists and campaigners who want to understand the key issues in their area. They can use the dashboard to understand how to improve their communities and identify areas where local authorities are making progress.

Previously, Friends of the Earth compiled a spreadsheet of data, but this became quite bulky and difficult to manage. I've got experience handling and analysing large data sets using different software, so I came in and wrote a program that overhauled that work and produced the data set that underpins the Near you tool.



We're trying to ensure that everything the team produces is put out there for anyone to look at and use. We're also putting together an environmental data network. We recognise we're not the only ones doing interesting things with environmental data – there are loads of people working on solutions to tackle the climate and ecological crises, and we can all use that data together.

I find it really satisfying playing with information and telling stories with numbers. And when it results in a message or we're able to show areas that need the most action, that's really rewarding, particularly when people find it useful in driving a national policy or change at a grassroots level.

FIND OUT MORE

Have a look at the Near you tool at takeclimateaction.uk/near-vou



Gain the skills, knowledge and networks to help create a zero carbon world.

Practical academic courses from leading experts in behaviour change, food, ecology, energy, buildings, and architecture.

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MSc Sustainable Food and Natural Resources

MSc Sustainability and Ecology

MArch Sustainable Architecture



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YOURVIEWS

Tell us what you think - we love hearing from you

Message from Aleanna, Supporter Relations Manager

"The thing about climate is that you can either be overwhelmed by the complexity of the problem or fall in love with the creativity of the solutions" MARY HEGLAR

The past few months have been tough for us all. It's so important for us here in the Supporter Relations Team to listen to the things that worry you, such



as the cost-of-living crisis and attacks on our rights. We want to work together and focus on positive solutions, and so I find the above quote from writer and podcaster Mary Heglar very comforting. Our team also has the privilege of speaking daily to our incredible supporters who provide us with oodles of good news. A few of our recent favourites are here. Enjoy!

Disruptive protest

Have just watched *Then Barbara Met Alan* on the BBC. It was about disabled people's civil rights protests. Even then it took lots of work to get the Equality Act. So yes to loud and disruptive protest. Thanks for your work on this.

CHRIS, VIA FACEBOOK

Building better

I'm the chair of a planning committee and we just refused an application for new homes on climate grounds. Every home was to be fitted with a gas boiler, but we can build better, greener houses.

Rising energy costs

My energy bills have increased to threefold recently, and it's not even winter yet... Are you campaigning on this, and how can I take part?

O Aleanna says:

We hear you. My own energy bills are through the roof, and lots of our supporters are getting in touch to share their worries about what's to come. The rising cost of energy means more and more people can't afford to keep their homes warm plus heating our homes, buildings and water by burning fossil fuels is responsible for almost 20% of UK climate emissions. That's why we'll be putting most of our campaigning efforts into demanding solutions to the energy crisis, to reduce both bills and emissions. Will you join us? Take action at:

foe.uk/em104-warmhomes









What we achieve in the next decade will shape our future

"Thanks to support from the players of People's Postcode Lottery, we're growing our network of local groups, supporting them to push for change on causes that matter. Together, we're creating a fairer, more climate-friendly world."

> Miriam Turner Co-Executive Director, Friends of the Earth

By playing, **you** support hundreds of good causes