

Earthmatters

Issue 102 • Autumn 2021

OUR GUIDE
TO THE
GLASGOW
CLIMATE
TALKS



IT'S GETTING
HOT
IN HERE

TAKING ON THE GIANTS

Fighting for the planet
as a global network



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the Earth

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Welcome!



In just a few weeks' time, global leaders will gather in Glasgow for climate talks.

We'll be joining other organisations and mobilising our grassroots network to make the most of the moment and push for much greater climate leadership from our government.

As the largest grassroots environmental network in the world, with over 2 million supporters in 74 countries, we're well aware that the brunt of the climate crisis is felt by the poorest and most vulnerable communities. That's why we'll also be demanding justice and global action for those hit hardest.

There'll be plenty of opportunity to get involved. To find out more, head to our feature on page 18.

RACHEL KENNERLEY

International Climate Campaigner

18

Will the climate talks in Glasgow make a difference?



THIS ISSUE DON'T MISS...



10 BIODIVERSITY

Is nature offsetting a solution or a risky distraction?



14 IN YOUR AREA

Our new data tools can help you make a difference locally



24 NATURE'S HELPERS

Explore the habitats that store carbon



28 DAVID VS GOLIATH

Success stories from across the globe

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YOUR IMPACT

Achievements from across the Friends of the Earth network



Future roads suspended

After decades of campaigning by colleagues and groups in Wales, and thanks to support from people like you, the Welsh government has announced a suspension of all future road building. The decision will avoid unnecessary extra emissions and pave the way for more climate-friendly transport measures.



BUY ONLINE
foe.uk/em102-etsy-birds
£1.75 each
or £6.75 for
a pack of 5

CRAFT FOR THE PLANET

Illustrator Helen Sibson marked our 50th anniversary by designing a postcard showcasing 50 British birds in a countryside scene. The postcards are printed on recycled paper and sales include a donation to Friends of the Earth.

Policing bill

When we saw the proposed Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill we knew we had to act. Combining forces with numerous groups and campaigners, we urged you to join us in saying NO to the bill. Thanks to mass public support, the bill was not rushed through parliament as planned.





Stars of the future

Our faith in future climate leaders has been strengthened after receiving some fab information leaflets from our young supporters at Storrington Primary School. The Year 5 children from Willow and Larch classes produced leaflets on climate-related topics, including clean energy alternatives and the impact of plastic pollution on food chains.

YOUR IMPACT

FROM THE MAYORAL,
COUNCIL AND SENEDD
ELECTIONS IN MAY 2021

80

Climate Action groups were supported by Friends of the Earth to lead local campaigns in the run-up to the elections

36

public hustings with electoral candidates were organised by our grassroots groups in England and Wales

6,000+

Friends of the Earth supporters emailed their candidates urging them to take our Climate Action Pledge

75%

of elected metro mayors took our Climate Action Pledge

SUCCESS IN SHEFFIELD

Thanks to brilliant campaigning from the Sheffield Friends of the Earth Local Group, the council unanimously passed a motion recognising the nature emergency in the city. Along with local parents, faith groups and wildlife organisations, the group formed Nature Recovery Sheffield to campaign for a nature recovery plan, including

a people's declaration. It's now working closely with the council to identify ways to help nature recover.



UKNEWS

Round-up of environmental stories

NEW OIL FIELD THREAT

Oil giant Shell and Siccar Point Energy are seeking permission from the UK government to open a huge new oil field off the west coast of Shetland. The companies want to start by drilling for over 150 million barrels of oil, equal to the annual pollution from 16 coal-fired power stations.

We've teamed up with colleagues in Scotland to petition the government to refuse permission. The petition, signed by over 80,000 of you, was handed in at Downing Street in August 2021.



Hamnavoe, Shetland



Stormont – Northern Ireland's parliament

Climate Bill for Northern Ireland?

A new Climate Bill may be on the cards for Northern Ireland – the only nation in the UK not to have its own climate or environment act – after Friends of the Earth teamed up with academics and campaigners to draft an historic piece of legislation.

The bill has already passed through 2 stages in the Assembly and gained cross-party support, and a public consultation launched in June attracted thousands of positive responses. Watch this space.

Rivers in the spotlight

The state of our rivers has come under renewed scrutiny following reports and court battles over the dumping of sewage by water companies.

But it's not all bad news. Efforts to reintroduce beavers are proving successful after the birth of the first wild kit born on Exmoor in 400 years.



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WORLDNEWS

The global stories that matter to you



Wildfire in Greece

Flooding in Germany



EXTREME WEATHER

This year, records were again broken for the highest temperatures recorded on every continent. Many countries have experienced ravaging forest fires as a result, destroying over 12 million hectares of land (roughly the size of England) so far. Flooding has also wreaked havoc, with

countries like Haiti and Germany particularly impacted.

But while extreme weather events are more likely to hit the news, it's prolonged weather patterns that may prove most fatal. After 4 years without rain, the population of Madagascar is on the brink of "the first climate change-induced famine", according to the UN. Like many poor countries, Madagascar has contributed the least to climate change but is one of the hardest hit, and has limited resources to deal with the impacts.

IPCC report published

In August 2021, the UN released its latest climate report. Unsurprisingly, the report states that we've reached a tipping point and that we'll cause irreversible damage to ourselves and the planet if emissions aren't drastically reduced.

Our Climate Lead Connor Schwartz says: "If the government wants to show they respect the world's leading scientists on climate chaos, they can start by cancelling the Cambo oil field, scrapping the coal mine in Cumbria, and ending UK funding for the mega gas project in Mozambique."



A coal-fired power station

Highland carbon stores

A new study has found that mountainous forests in 12 African countries store around 60% more carbon than estimated. It was thought the trees would be limited in growth, and their capacity to store carbon, due to altitude. However, they store roughly the same amount as lowland forests – an added incentive for governments to conserve mountain forests.



Eloy Terena

Jane de Araujo/Agência Senado

BRAVE MOVES IN BRAZIL

A coalition of Indigenous groups has filed a request for the International Criminal Court to investigate Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro for genocide and crimes against humanity.

Deforestation and attacks on Indigenous groups have rocketed since Bolsonaro took office in 2019, and the coalition's lawyer Eloy Terena says the controversial leader has intentionally pursued an "anti-Indigenous agenda". The case is one of several ongoing campaigns to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and their land.



Bwindi National Park, Uganda



A dangerous distraction

Biodiversity offsetting is no solution to the crisis facing the world's ecosystems



Rich and varied habitats
take time to establish

A few months after the UN climate talks in Glasgow this autumn, a similar gathering will take place in Kunming, China: the 15th UN conference on biological diversity.

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, refers to the variety of plants and animals in any or all habitats. As well as the obvious value of a rich natural world, biodiversity is crucial for the wellbeing of our planet. We need healthy, diverse

ecosystems for nutritious food, protection from flooding and, frankly, for a liveable environment.

Governments use 50 indicators to track the state of biodiversity. Right now, things aren't looking good. In the UK, 20 of the 50 indicators worsened between 2009 and 2019. In Europe, 65% of habitats of ecological importance are in poor condition. And globally in the 20th century, human impact accelerated the rate of species extinction by up to 100 times more than it would have been.

Meanwhile, the methods that governments are adopting to protect nature and ecosystems are dubious at best. For example, "biodiversity offsetting" is the idea that you compensate for destroying biodiversity in one area by increasing biodiversity elsewhere.

With biodiversity offsetting, developers can destroy wildlife-rich areas and then ease their consciences by investing in a completely different wildlife restoration scheme, potentially many miles away.

In North America, Australia and Germany, biodiversity offsetting has been used for decades, but evidence shows it's failed to achieve its objectives. For example, research in New South Wales found it would take at least 146 years to make up for biodiversity lost to development. Here in the UK, Natural England and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

LEARNING CURVE



ran 6 biodiversity offsetting pilots from 2012 to 2014. Although the results were inconclusive and the UK has not formally adopted offsetting as a policy, it's already been used to help greenwash damaging developments, such as Gatwick airport expansion.

There are obvious flaws here. For starters, every local habitat is different

from the next. It's not credible to replace ancient woodland with plantings of new saplings. And there's no way to offset the extinction of individual species, which is a genuine risk when governments and businesses use offsetting as a licence to trash.

The planet's facing a dramatic decline in nature and life-supporting ecosystems. Governments and businesses need to step up and take drastic action to protect wildlife, reduce consumption and fund nature restoration. Instead, they continue to exploit global natural resources to fuel yet more economic growth.

Biodiversity offsetting and its successor, biodiversity net gain, seek to put a price tag on our invaluable ecosystems and wildlife. But that's no solution to the challenges we face. We need to reverse the decline in nature with real investment in proven conservation solutions, such as peatland and river restoration.

READ MORE
foe.uk/em102-bio-offsetting

FAST FACTS

- The UK government's self-assessment shows it failed on 14 out of 20 targets agreed at the 2010 Convention on Biological Diversity in Japan.
- In the past 50 years, 60% of UK species have declined.
- In 2016, the UK was ranked 189 out of 218 countries measured for how intact their nature and biodiversity are.





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Data-driven action

How an online tool can empower you to demand a better, greener future

Have you ever wondered where the pollution in your area comes from? Or been desperate for more local green space but unsure what to do about it? Well, you're in luck. Part of our mission to protect people and planet means empowering people like you to take an active role in local communities and help shape the future.

Empowerment of this kind relies on people feeling confident in their knowledge and having persuasive stats to lobby local leaders. However, with so much data and misinformation available at the click of a button, it can be hard to know where to start and what to believe. Which is why our experts have made things simple for you, with the introduction of new online tools that local groups and individuals can use to learn more about their local area.

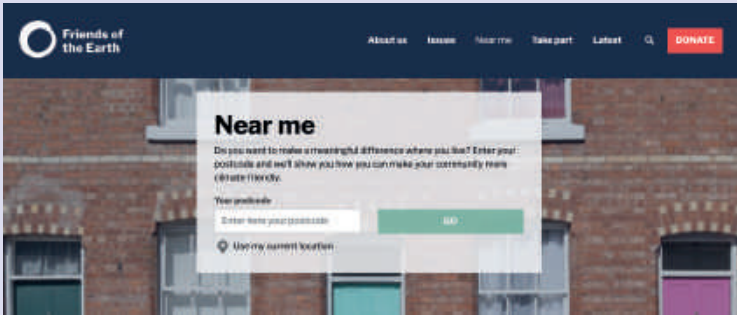
Introducing Near Me, Near You

No, we're not trying to recreate a 70s pop song. After a lot of thought about how best to empower the public and our grassroots network, we decided to create 2 data-driven tools. Both present the data in an easily digestible way and need just one bit of info to get started: your postcode.

The data (and the aim)

We've seen over the past couple of years how important science is for informing decisions. That's why our experts have scrutinised the data to find the most accurate and useful sets to display in the tool. We've also included our methodology, so you can see how the results were calculated.

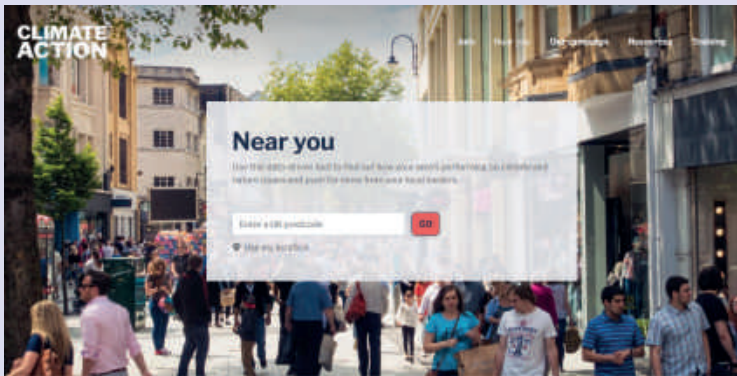
But while it's great to know more about your local area, that's not the



NEAR ME...

...is the simple version for people who are keen to know a bit more about their area. The tool tells you how your area is performing on key climate solutions, such as how much waste is recycled and the proportion of well-insulated homes. It also lists local groups you can join to drive positive change in the area.

foe.uk/em102-near-me



NEAR YOU...

...is aimed at groups and decision-makers already working on climate solutions in their area – but don't let that put you off if you're curious. It just means the tool provides more in-depth information, plus guides showing you how to work with your council on the areas that may interest you.

foe.uk/em102-near-you

“Armed with facts and stats, you can approach local decision-makers with confidence and call for action”

end goal. We want people like you to use the tool to drive change in your community, whether that's joining a local group to lobby for more cycle paths or kick-starting a campaign for better recycling.

Armed with facts and stats, you can approach local decision-makers with confidence and call for action on things that matter to you and your neighbours.

And there's more to come. We'll be adding data sets to help highlight local air pollution hotspots and rewilding opportunities near you, to give you even better insights into topics that need your attention.

TEST THE TOOLS

- foe.uk/em102-near-me
- foe.uk/em102-near-you

THE DATA WHIZZ

“Using the data in our Near You tool, you can pinpoint the issues that most need fixing in your area, from housing insulation to renewable energy, and see how well your area is doing compared to others.”

“ ” USER REVIEWS



Because we only use credible data from official sources, you know you can use the tool and supporting materials with confidence”
Mike Childs,
Head of Science,
Policy and
Research at
Friends of the Earth

HOW IT WORKS

1. Enter your postcode.
2. Explore the bite-sized climate data for your local area.
3. Decide what to focus on.
4. Work with others to transform the local area.



THE LOCAL GROUP

“Friends of the Earth is one of the best providers of accessible tools and information. This was a significant factor in the founding of our Climate Action group”

Bracknell Climate Action Group, Berkshire

THE COUNCILLOR

“I am particularly impressed with the high quality and user-friendly nature of the reports and tools that Friends of the Earth produces and have been using these for some time”

**Andrew Mickleburgh,
Wokingham Council**



Your guide to the UN climate talks in Glasgow

In early November, global leaders will descend on Glasgow for the COP26 climate talks. But what do these conferences achieve and is there a way you can influence them?



SEEKING JUSTICE

Protesters at a previous Global Day of Action

SAVE THE DATE

6 NOVEMBER

**Global Day of Action
for Climate
Justice**

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO COP

The acronym “COP” stands for the rather uninspiring name “Conference of the Parties”. It refers to the annual climate talks hosted by the UN. This year’s conference, which was delayed due to the pandemic, marks the 26th round of climate talks since they began, hence the name “COP26”.

The talks, which last for 2 weeks, are a chance for world leaders to discuss and agree on solutions to the climate crisis.

On paper, getting decision-makers together to tackle a global problem

sounds like a positive thing. Sadly, the opportunity is often squandered by a lack of will and ambition to commit

to the drastic changes needed to tackle climate breakdown.

Sure, there was the 2015 Paris Agreement, where 195 countries pledged to reduce carbon emissions and avoid irreversible damage to the planet. But there’s still no rule book to hold countries accountable for their promises, and there’s not nearly enough financial support for poorer countries that are least to blame for the crisis but often the most affected.

ON THE GROUND

Thankfully it's not all empty pledges and polished speeches. Global focus on the conference means it's a key opportunity for us to highlight pressing issues such as:

- ensuring the UK moves beyond domestic action to be a truly global leader
- reinforcing the need for drastic cuts to emissions from coal, oil and gas
- embedding fairness at the heart of action on climate.

Whether the talks are a success or not, world leaders must be left in no doubt of public opinion on issues like green jobs and clean energy. It's a lot harder to ignore reasonable demands when the world's media are watching.

Which is why we've spent the past few months ensuring we're as prepared as possible, by forging alliances with organisations like the COP26 Coalition, training our groups on grassroots

mobilisation, and teaming up with colleagues in Scotland to fight new plans for oil and gas projects.

All that preparation means there'll be plenty of ways for you to take part, including online events and family-friendly mobilisations in Glasgow, as well as a town or city near you. But the headline act will be the Global Day of Action on 6 November.

WHAT'S THE GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION?

The Global Day of Action is a series of rallies, online gatherings and protests to highlight the human cost of climate breakdown and demand fairness when it comes to adopting solutions.

After all, the crisis is not a great "leveller" – it impacts us all differently. For example, if you're poor, you're less likely to be able to protect yourself or your home from things like floods. Which means the climate crisis

“Getting decision-makers together to tackle a global problem sounds positive, but the opportunity is often squandered by a lack of will and ambition”



COP26 BINGO

Global conferences are rife with buzzwords. Here are some you might hear in Glasgow:

OFFSETTING

Pouring money into “green” schemes to distract from actually cutting emissions.

GREENWASHING

Claiming you’re doing more to protect the environment

or reduce emissions than you actually are.

1.5°C

The most that the average global temperature can rise by if we’re to avoid irreversible damage.

ODD GUESTS

Not really a buzzword, but do look out for questionable participants at the conference. Take the 2018 talks in Poland, which were co-sponsored by coal corporations!

is more than just an environmental problem – it’s also a social and political problem.

Putting fairness at the heart of climate solutions means listening to those most affected, such as communities vulnerable to drought. It means ensuring countries like the UK (the first to industrialise) do their fair share to reduce emissions. And it means adopting measures that not only reduce emissions but create a fairer world in the process, with green jobs and a healthy environment for all.

The Global Day of Action on 6 November will be a chance to communicate all that and more. Our grassroots network will be working with other groups to host COVID-safe actions and gatherings up and down the country. We’d love as many people as possible to get behind the Day of Action, so keep an eye on your inbox for more information on how to take part.

Individually we’re powerful, but together we’re unstoppable.

HOST CITY

Glasgow will host the UN conference this autumn



CHOSEN BY YOU

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



Artist
Ciarán Harper

Trevor Wilson

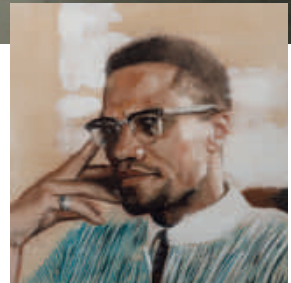
EVENT

Black History Month – October

JACK, BRISTOL

From a Ciarán Harper exhibition in Belfast to a slave trade walk of Bristol, there are plenty of options to choose from to mark Black History Month.

Check out foe.uk/em102-bhm for a calendar of in-person and online events, and make sure you follow local COVID restrictions.



One of Harper's new works on show in Belfast

I LIKE...

To share your recommendations, please contact our Supporter Relations Team – email supportercare@foe.co.uk



FILM

My Octopus Teacher

LOUISE, LONDON

My Octopus Teacher beautifully demonstrates the deep connection between humans and nature. It's the gripping tale of a man who turns to diving in the kelp forests of South Africa to escape his inner demons, and who goes on to form a bond with an octopus.

The film, on Netflix, reveals that as a species we're a part of the natural world, and that nature can play a huge part in our wellbeing. It's simply stunning!

GREEN TIP

Reduce microfibre pollution

CAMILLA, SHEFFIELD

Microfibres are a type of plastic found in some clothes. They seep into our seas during washing, damaging the marine environment. We're pressuring government to take action to reduce this and other types of plastic pollution.

But in the meantime, wash at lower temperatures, avoid synthetics and fast fashion, and try a Guppy Bag or Cora Ball. They can help reduce the quantity of microfibrils that wash into our waterways.



Carbon sinks in the UK

WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

Carbon sinks are the parts of our natural environment that absorb more carbon dioxide (CO₂) than they release. They've been performing this function for millions of years and, in doing so, they help limit global heating. What's more, carbon sinks can reduce flooding and coastal erosion, helping us adapt to the impacts of climate breakdown. That's why our nature experts work hard to protect

these places and campaign against industries and practices that are harmful to them.

But restoring these precious environments isn't the sole solution to global heating. To fight climate breakdown, we need to vastly reduce emissions and pressure the government to ditch fossil fuel exploration and invest in greener energy.

1 Peatlands

These carbon-rich wetlands include fenland and blanket bog, and cover around 10% of the UK's land area. In such damp environments plants don't fully decompose, and so the carbon that might be released as CO₂ is instead "locked in". This makes peatlands a vital carbon

store, capturing around 3 billion tonnes of carbon in the UK. However, when peat is drained and cut for things like compost and domestic fuel, it emits carbon instead of removing it. A staggering 5% of UK emissions come from poorly managed peatland.





2 Woodland

Trees remove CO₂ from the atmosphere so they can grow, storing carbon that's only released when the tree dies and decomposes or is used as firewood. The UK's forests store around 1 billion tonnes of carbon, equivalent to nearly 5% of the country's emissions. Yet just 13% of the UK has tree cover, compared to an EU average of 35%. We believe one of the best solutions to protect our environment and achieve net zero emissions is to double UK tree cover, but government targets currently fall woefully short.

3 Seas, oceans and coastal habitats

Sometimes referred to as blue carbon sinks, these marine ecosystems include saltmarshes, seagrass meadows and kelp forests – which can all be found in the UK – as well as mangrove forests and coral reefs. Although they make up less than 2% of the global ocean surface, these environments have the potential to capture 20 times more carbon per hectare than forests. But they're put at risk by overfishing, trawling, increasing ocean temperatures and rising sea levels.





YOUR OPINION MATTERS TO US

**Join our supporter
panel today**

We've launched an online supporter panel.
You can join other supporters and share
your feedback with us via a series of regular
email surveys.

You can help shape the future of the world's
largest grassroots environmental organisation.

For more information about
joining our supporter panel please
visit: foe.uk/joinourpanel

Fixing the food system

Our Corporate Partnerships Manager Adam Scott on brewer Toast Ale

Every business in every sector must play a role in preventing climate breakdown. That's why we work with like-minded companies across different industries who share our values of fairness and sustainability. One such enterprise is Toast Ale.

Food production is one of the biggest contributors to deforestation and climate breakdown, but Toast was set up to prove things can be done differently. Toast makes great beers by brewing with surplus fresh bread, reducing food waste and demand for land. It proves that more sustainable business models can thrive in a way that doesn't cost the earth.

Ahead of the COP26 climate talks, Toast is running the Rise Up campaign, which calls for the food system to be on the COP26 agenda. Rise Up features a series of limited-edition brews made in collaboration with other ethical



brands. Each beer highlights a different aspect of the ecological crisis and points to the systemic change needed to fix the food system and thus tackle the nature and climate crisis.

Rise Up is encouraging everyone to demand change to our food system by asking their MP to be an advocate for climate and nature, so please visit toastale.com to see a great example of a responsible business playing an active and genuine role in the climate movement. I'd also recommend ordering some beers too if that's your thing – very tasty!

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.



Dutch campaigners
celebrate their win

Taking on the giants

How our international network is taking on governments and climate-wrecking corporations

As you may know, we're part of Friends of the Earth International, a network of environmental justice groups spanning 74 countries. And like us, our colleagues in countries like Malaysia and the Netherlands often face some David and Goliath battles to protect people and planet.

Whether it's fighting corporations or holding governments accountable in court, the success of our international network is only possible through help from lawyers, strong grassroots organising and support from people across the world.

Here's a snapshot of what our global network has achieved in recent months.



THE PEOPLE VS SHELL

Oil giant to reduce emissions

This year's landmark win for people and planet has to go to Friends of the Earth Netherlands (Milieudefensie) for its successful legal victory over one of the world's biggest polluters.

In 2018 Friends of the Earth Netherlands rallied 6 organisations and more than 17,000 Dutch citizens to launch a public lawsuit against oil company Shell.

Friends of the Earth Netherlands' legal team argued that Shell was violating its duty of care and threatening human rights by knowingly undermining the world's chances of staying below 1.5°C heating, the target agreed in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Shell has known about the dangers of oil and gas to the climate since the 1960s. Yet over the decades it's paid millions to lobbying groups that deny the climate crisis, all the while continuing to extract and burn fossil fuels.

So, the goal of the lawsuit wasn't to win compensation for damages but to get Shell

to change how it operates and drastically reduce its contribution to climate breakdown. After a 3-year legal struggle, the oil giant was finally ordered by a court in the Hague to reduce its carbon emissions by 45% within the next 10 years – a target much deeper and a deadline much sooner than the company's own feeble pledge.

The case marks the first time a big oil company has been ordered to comply with the Paris Agreement and sets a powerful precedent. This may well mark the end of the road for polluting companies that have for too long shirked their responsibility for the climate crisis.

“By coming together to demand change we, the people, can win. This is not the beginning, nor will it be the end of the long struggle for dignity for all and climate and social justice,” said Friends of the Earth Netherlands' Director Donald Pols.

WHAT IS BIG OIL?

The 7 largest publicly traded oil and gas companies in the world, including Shell, ExxonMobil, BP and Total. They're responsible for more than 10% of the world's carbon emissions since 1965.

THE PEOPLE VS DEFORESTATION

Fighting for ancestral land rights

Since the 1990s, millions of hectares of forested land in Sarawak, north-west Borneo have been turned into plantations for palm oil and timber.

Unlike forests, plantations are “green deserts” that negatively impact wildlife, soil and climate cycles. When local and transnational companies exploit the land in this way, they also rob Indigenous peoples – who represent the majority of Sarawak’s population – of their livelihoods and their cultural and spiritual links to the land.

Friends of the Earth Malaysia (SAM) supports communities to fight for their rights using GPS to map indigenous land.

These maps can allow communities to define their rights within a legal framework.



SAM members are helping communities

SAM has also helped launch a network so that communities can share and learn from the lessons and struggles of others. Together, they’ve been able to block harmful projects, including dams and plantations, and show that victory is possible.

READ MORE

foe.uk/em102-sam

Amelia Collins/Friends of the Earth International

THE PEOPLE VS UK GOVERNMENT

Taking fossil fuel funders to court

For years, Friends of the Earth Mozambique (JA!) has been campaigning against a mega gas project off Mozambique’s coastline. We’ve been keeping an eye on the UK’s role in the

matter and in April 2021 were granted permission to take the UK government to court for offering up to \$1 billion of public money towards the project.

The development has already proved disastrous for local communities, forcing people from their homes and contributing to increased instability in the region. The UK government’s support of this project undermines its earlier pledge to end all funding of fossil fuels abroad.

Keep an eye on your inbox for updates about our court case, funded thanks to the generosity of our supporters.



Fishing off the coast of Mozambique

ecoleaf
BY SUMA

MORE GREEN HOME CLEANS



ecoleaf
BY SUMA

HOME COMPOSTABLE
CLING FILM

100%
RECYCLED
PLASTIC

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.

Now we've developed fragrance-free options for sensitive skin, plus no-toxicity cling film safe enough to add to your compost heap at home.



www.suma.coop/ecoleaf/

“We want to build coalitions across the world”

Finnian Murtagh’s role as International Activism Officer is particularly important as the UN climate talks approach



I started my own environmental activism as a volunteer with Friends of the Earth, co-ordinating the local group in Camden and setting up the Divest Camden coalition.

After a couple of work placements, I was hired as the organisation’s Network Support Assistant in 2019. The role focused on building relationships across our groups and making sure they had what they needed to campaign in their area.

Local groups are the backbone of our network – some of them have been around as long as Friends of the Earth itself. Our Climate Action groups are a newer initiative, set up 2 years ago to enable people – including those who are new to the movement – to campaign on the climate crisis with their local councils.

I recently moved into a newly created role as International Activism Officer, focusing on solidarity work with

environmental and human rights defenders around the world. We need to make sure we’re doing everything we can to protect people who are fighting important battles against things like logging projects, mines and dams.

The UN climate talks in Glasgow are an ideal opportunity to highlight those battles and build relationships between our network and Friends of the Earth International, particularly environmental and human rights defenders in the world’s poorest countries.

The key focus is the Global Day of Action in November. We hope groups will be able to use the climate talks as an opportunity to build strong coalitions that will last long after the conference is over.

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foe.uk/em102-join-group

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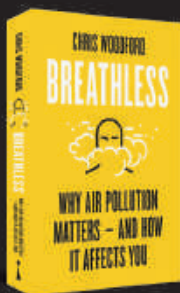
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SHELLING OUT

The Post Office is selling its broadband customers to Shell Energy. I'm distraught about becoming a Shell customer and I've been told I'll have to pay to end my contract.

L. MILTON KEYNES

○ **When this email arrived, we sprang into action and showed our supporter how to argue their case. They replied, saying "Thank you, they caved!" Shell had to acknowledge that contractually the supporter would be ethically disadvantaged and could leave penalty free. Contact us if you want to switch to greener solutions.**

TREE PROTECTION

I'm battling the council over some trees they want to fell. They're home to birds, squirrels and bats. What can I do?

SARAH, LONDON

○ **Trees are vital for safeguarding the climate and wildlife. We need to protect them, especially in towns and cities, where they're threatened by development. But you can save trees in your area. Check our guide to protecting trees: foe.uk/em102-save-trees**

SIGNATURE MOVES

I just signed your petition about the right to protest. Hats off for ensuring we're mindful of the issue and keeping it on the agenda. There's no way we're going to sit by while the powers that be attempt to bring in a 1984-type reality for the UK. Grateful for all your campaigning about this crucial issue.

SANDRA, TYWYN

○ **Thanks so much for your support! The new policing bill threatens our fundamental freedoms. We must make it crystal clear that we expect MPs to protect our rights by challenging this draconian legislation. Together we can ensure our voices are heard by those in power.**



GET IN TOUCH Lanny and our Enquiries Team are here to help. Call 0800 581 051 or visit foe.uk/em102-contact

YOU CAN INVEST IN A FAIRER WORLD

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It remains unclear how developing world communities will cope with the longer-term impact of the pandemic. What we do know, is that some countries are also dealing with the immediate effects of climate change. Floods, droughts and delayed harvests are threatening livelihoods and increasing household food insecurity.

Bukonzo Organic Farmers Co-operative Union (BOCU) is a Fairtrade coffee co-operative in Uganda, which has suffered life-threatening weather conditions along with the impact of the pandemic.

Bukonzo General Manager, Josinta Kabugho said:

“**Following heavy rain, five rivers burst their banks, affecting 1,200 farmers. Most of the properties were swept away. The farmers lost coffee and also food crop fields.**”

Thanks to over 10,000 members in the UK, Newcastle-based Shared Interest has been providing finance to Bukonzo since 2014.

One of the few coffee co-operatives in Africa to be managed by women, Bukonzo donated sugar, maize flour, cooking oil, beans and soap to their local community in response to Covid-19.

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What we achieve in the next decade will shape our future.



“Players of People’s Postcode Lottery have now raised over £12 million during the last 8 years to support Friends of the Earth. As we move through our 50th year of campaigning, this incredible support will help ensure we can make a real difference to the climate and nature crises in 2021 and beyond. Thank you.”

Miriam Turner and Hugh Knowles
Co-Executive Directors, Friends of the Earth

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