

Buy Nothing Day - November 28th

Join in, it's free!

Buy Nothing Day is a worldwide event, organised once a year since 1993. It is an opportunity to stop, think and challenge consumer culture by switching off from shopping for a day.

The reasons for this event

Unsustainable Consumption

Under the blessing of growth theories and free-market global capitalism, what we consume is depleting the Earth's resources, disrupting whole ecosystems and threatening to give way to environmental disasters such as climate change.

Worldwide Exploitation

In an increasingly globalised world economy, the cheap products we buy are often produced in the poorest countries of the world. However, these countries are being exploited for their cheap labour, their lack of regulations concerning working conditions and environmental damage and their lack of power on the international scene. In this way, multinational corporations can keep production costs low and maximize profits.

Corporate Control

The corporations producing what we consume are having a growing influence on our daily lives. They control our space with ubiquitous advertising and sponsoring. They control the news by owning large parts of the media. They create artificial needs and wants. They influence our governments by funding political campaigns and creating corporate-funded think tanks.

Miscellaneous Facts

- 20% of the world's population consume 86% of the world's resources.
- Climate change could drive a quarter of land animals and plants into extinction, meaning that 1 million species could be lost by 2050.
- The hourly base wage is £4.40 in the USA, while it is only £0.10 in India and £0.08 in Bangladesh.
- EU and North American consumers spend \$12bn a year on perfumes, while only \$6bn a year is spent on providing basic education worldwide.
- Of the 100 largest economies in the world, 51 are corporations while only 49 are countries.
- Most recently, on November 24th, over a thousand people protested peacefully in Mehdiaganj (India) against severe water shortages and the pollution of groundwater and soil, directly as a result of Coca-Cola's bottling operations in the area. Their protest was violently suppressed by armed police and over 350 of the marchers were arrested, with close to 100 with injuries, and they were held overnight without being charged.

How you can make a difference

- 1) Celebrate Buy Nothing Day in Cambridge by joining People&Planet's 'Street Party' and taking part in CAN's 'Free Shop', both starting at Kings Parade from 12pm.
- 2) Consume ethically - buy Fairtrade products which guarantee paying a fair price to producers and the use of sustainable farming methods as well as organic products.
- 3) Consumer less - before you buy something, always ask yourself if you really need it or if you can do without it.
- 4) Waste less - recycle your paper, glass, plastics and organic waste.
- 5) Get active - challenge companies to be fair and clean up by joining in local protests and activist groups.

The Cambridge Action Network (CAN) is a local response to corporate globalisation, the destruction of our environment and the raft of other issues concerning individuals and communities today.

Website www.cambridgeaction.net E-mail cambridge@lists.riseup.net