

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Issue 4, August 3 2008

Happy -and determined- Campers

Kingsnorth, Kent, August 3 Despite a police raid during which crayons, board games and sanitation equipment were confiscated, the Camp for Climate Action has arrived within sight of its target- a coal-fired power station in North Kent. Months of meticulous planning by hundreds of unpaid activists are coming to fruition, with several thousand people expected to arrive at what will become a kind of 'temporary university of climate change', with 200 workshops on everything from baking a vegan cake to understanding the science and building mass movements (the workshops programme can be seen at www.climatecamp.org.uk/node/131). The week will culminate in a day of mass action against Kingsnorth on Saturday 9th August (see page 2 for details)

E.ON, the world's largest investor-owned power and gas company, (www.eon-uk.com) owns the site and plans to spend £1.5bn to demolish the existing plant and replace it with one "20% cleaner." This would be the first new coal-fired power station in the UK for decades. Greenpeace claims that the CO2 emissions from this one new plant would equal that of the 30 lowest emitting countries in the world combined. Medway Council has given planning permission. Final approval now lies with the government.

On Friday, energy minister Malcolm Wicks gave what may be an indication of his intentions when he said "the rather boring fact is that the world is going to be burning a lot more coal... whatever people singing songs in the sunshine at summer camps might idealise, the world is going to be using lots of coal in the future."

However, over 225 Members of Parliament, including 70

Labour backbenchers, have called for the Kingsnorth proposal to be referred to a public enquiry. A Parliamentary select committee (a committee made up of

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MEANWHILE, IN OTHER NEWS...

Congestion Charge debated

On July 31, 60 people attended a debate on the Transport Innovation Fund and its carbon reduction implications- such as they are. Panellists included a councillor, reps from Clean Air Now, the Campaign for Free Public Transport, the Conservative Party and United City. The anti-congestion charge business lobby Momentum Group withdrew from the debate, offering no reason. An audio recording was made- www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk

Train Activists to learn fate

20 climate change campaigners, including three from Manchester, will this week find out whether they face trial on charges which could carry life sentences. On 13th June they boarded a train carrying coal to Drax power station in Yorkshire and locked themselves on to prevent the coal from being burnt at the station, Britain's largest single contributor to climate change emissions.

Many of the protesters spent over ten hours on the train. One Manchester man said that "*there were lots of people there from all over the country that I'd not met before. It felt like a very vibrant place to be in terms of an exchange of ideas about how to highlight the fact that something very drastic needs to be done.*"



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a small number of MPS appointed to deal with particular areas or issue) has called for a ban on new coal-fired stations until "carbon capture and storage" technology has been proven to work.

The mass action

E.ON has been granted an injunction protecting the airspace above the plant and also the jetty where coal is landed. Protestors from a number of organisations are planning to converge on Kingsnorth from the land, sea and air on a day of mass action on August 9.

A group within Camp for Climate Action calling themselves the "Great Rebel Raft Regatta", featuring pirate ship rafts and rubber dingies, will attempt to block the jetty. The "Sky Group" have vowed to fly over and into the power station using everything from kites to remotely controlled helicopters.

"Mancs at Climate Camp" Vox Pop

Many people from Manchester have made the journey south. Our on-site reporter asked several why they had come and what they hope to get out of it:

Kirsten It's reassuring to be in a positive environment surrounded by people who are willing to make a stand when the whole world appears to be doing nothing about climate change.

Claire I came last year and I found lots of people with a similar perspective to me. This year I'm excited to be getting hands on with the construction of the camp.

Andy Lockhart Climate change is happening. It's not going to be stopped. The debate about what comes after must be had. We need to talk about what the just transition means and how we can avoid solutions to the effects of climate change which maintain or further social exclusion.

The next issue of Manchester Climate Fortnightly will report on what Manchester people learnt and did at the Camp, and ask them "where next?"

The Apocalypso Beat

July 31 A Middle East car owner flew his Lamborghini from Qatar to London and back for a service. Friends of the Earth said "the pollution from driving a Lamborghini is bad enough, but flying one thousands of miles for a service is taking climate-wrecking behaviour to new heights." The deep green David Price of Lamborghini Club UK was more reasonable: "If someone owns something and wants to do something with it, what does it matter? If [the owner] wants to hire a plane and service it, it's his business. There are far more serious things to concern ourselves with."

Local and Regional

July 21 Lancaster University is leading a £2.5m UK/Malaysian scientific research project on the biosphere and its interactions with the atmosphere and the Earth's climate.

July 25 AGMA decided that there would indeed be a referendum on the TIF., sometime in December

July 28 Manchester Airport reports its small-scale wind turbine on Terminal Two is a success. It may install more as a way of reducing reliance on the grid.

August 2 50 people demonstrated to save the Woodhead Tunnel

July 31 Reports by the Stockholm Environment Institute reveal that UK greenhouse gas emissions have been in line with economic growth since the 1990s, **not** falling as advertised. One of the reports claims that emissions are 49% higher than reported.

Global

August 1 Scientists at MIT have developed a way to store solar energy, in a technique inspired by photosynthesis.

For a fuller account of the planet's misadventures over the last 2 weeks, see www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Scary Science

July 31 A 3000 year old slab of ice has broken off the Canadian Ward Hunt ice shelf, and is drifting into the Arctic Ocean.

"Nobody is surprised any more", said the head of a global research project on sea ice. "We've been trying to get the word out for the longest time now that things are happening fast and they're going to continue to happen fast."

WHAT'S COMING UP

Only Planet

**Manchester and
Climate Change :
A book of articles**

**YOUR help and ideas
wanted! See the website
for proposed contents etc**

**Planning meeting-
Weds 13th Aug, 7pm
Friends Meeting House
Launch: Sat 6th September**

www.onlyplanet.info

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