

RiseUp!Radio Presents

The Sumac Debates

The Sumac Debates is an opportunity to review and reflect on grassroots approaches to the problem of climate change (in the UK).

We examine the interaction of approaches that prioritise social change and those that appeal to centralised power, and ask: where does the movement for radical social change go from here?

The Sumac Debates invites ideas and discussion on questions such as:

- 'What are the approaches to climate change and can it be productive to distinguish them?'
- 'Where next for experiments in horizontal / non-hierarchical organisation and living?'
- 'Can local communities build independence autonomy and strength and confront global injustice?'

The debates are organised as a series of three. The approaches to social and environmental issues are explored in this way so as to give adequate time, rather than be divisive. These discussions are all important.

State (part i)
Anarchy (part ii)
& Alternatives not Agitation (part iii)

(i) State: 'Work with the Power'

23/09/08 7:30pm

There are a number of ways of framing issues around climate and injustice that seek to reform/change the way people are governed. What are the solutions and who do they work for?

Topics for discussion may include:

Private high technology and the scientific community
Radical reformism (e.g. economic degrowth [Décroissance], hardline liberalism)
The joy, promise and realism of green capitalism
Can capitalism solve climate change? At what cost?
The role of the state in policing and peoples freedom

(ii) Anarchy: 'Prepare for decentralisation'

21-10-08 7:30pm

What is life like without government? How do communities build and how do they resist? How do those who are privileged / offered protection by powerful states learn to reject and resist?

Topics for discussion may include:

Where and what are the politics in the current climate movement?
What do we want and how can we 'win it'? Do we need a blueprint to win it?
Movements of resistance around the world, education, solidarity & the PGA
The dangers of fascism and the far right
Confronting the state and global institutions
Promoting decentralised, local activity

(iii) Alternatives not Agitation?

18.11.08 7:30pm

We look at models and ideas for alternative, cooperative and sustainable living.

Topics for discussion may include:

The Transition Towns model and the 'Rocky Road' debate
The Permaculture movement and urban agriculture
Land based living – land based cooperatives and communities
Addressing food production and consumption e.g. box schemes, LETS etc
Barrios, Neighbourhoods and direct democracy

Open to all – We invite those interested in speaking, listening and learning to these debates. We promote the sharing of knowledge, experience and opinion. The debates **will be recorded** (audio only) to be published by an online community radio project, Riseup! Radio.

Call for speakers – Please help to make our discussions lively and productive. We're calling for anyone interested in speaking briefly on any of the topics indicated for each debate, to contact us. The topics will need an introduction/explanation, which may be followed by a 'position' – an argument or analysis, followed by open discussion.

The format and content is **not rigid**. Please get in touch if you'd like to talk about a topic not mentioned under the three headings, or if you would like to address the questions we intended the debates to explore, in another way.

The Sumac Debates are intended to be open, however it is likely that the range of perspectives, commentary and discussion the debates attract will be from the experiences of British and Western European activists and reflect upon Westerners' desires for social and political change. We will make efforts to welcome and accommodate other perspectives, initially by improving access through translation of publicity. If you can help us with this, please contact us, details below.

Doors will open at 7pm and the debates will start at 7:30pm, finishing by 10:30, with a break.

The Sumac Centre,
245 Gladstone Street,
Nottingham
NG7 6HX

riseupradio@indymedia.org

Tel: 07799 111 385 / 07859 039 185