

NEWS

First the Wave, then the Flood

Tens of thousands of people are expected in London in December for the UK's biggest ever demonstration on climate change. The march is ahead of crucial UN climate talks in Copenhagen and will demand the world's governments deliver strong and fair agreements to tackle global warming – and that they do it fast.

The London event, on 5 December, is called the Wave and will be a carnival-style street procession. Marchers are encouraged to wear blue and bring banners and fabrics to make a human wave through the streets of the capital. It is organised by Stop Climate Chaos, an 11-million strong coalition of groups, of which Friends of the Earth is a founding member.

The following week, 12 December, we'll be part of another demonstration in the Danish capital, where the UN talks are happening. Billed as the Flood, this will culminate in one of the main city squares, where marchers will become a living banner spelling out a message to world leaders. If you wish to go, please see www.foe.co.uk/gettocopenhagen.

"The world mustn't squander this chance to secure a strong and just international agreement to prevent runaway climate change," says Friends of the Earth's Director Andy Atkins.

Friends of the Earth argues that rich countries should commit to deep cuts in emissions of at least 40 per cent at home, not abroad – building clean and prosperous new industries into the bargain. We also want industrialised countries to invest new money to help poorer countries develop in a clean way and cope with the storms, droughts, famine and floods caused by climate change (see story, page 10).

MPs champion our campaigning

As the political parties debate how to deliver emissions cuts required under the Climate Change Act, leading MPs have recognised Friends of the Earth's campaigning impact.

Conservative Shadow Climate Secretary Greg Clark said: "Conservatives were the first party to call for the Climate Change Bill and we worked hard to improve the legislation on its way through Parliament. MPs received over 500,000 pieces of correspondence from the public calling for the Bill – a fantastic example of public campaigning from Friends of the Earth. The Bill is now an Act – the targets are legally binding and our Low Carbon Economy green



Water, water everywhere: Flooding in Key West, Florida, during Hurricane Wilma, 2005. Unpredictable weather is becoming more common around the world

The UK is among many governments supporting a proposal to allow rich countries to buy chunks of forest while still pumping out carbon emissions (see story, page 14). The initiative – Reducing Deforestation in Developing Countries, known as REDD – won't solve climate change. Friends of the Earth in the UK is working to expose REDD and other forms of offsetting as the greatest con trick in history (see below).

Please look out for our Copenhagen appeal, coming in the post in October. Sign our petition to urge governments to do the right thing by the climate and people around the world at www.demandclimatechange.org

The greatest con trick

Dangerous climate change will be unavoidable if the UK, European Union and United States increase the use of carbon offsetting says a new report by Friends of the Earth.

A Dangerous Distraction exposes carbon offsetting as a con that is failing to reduce, and in some cases is even boosting, emissions. New fossil fuel power stations, for example, have

been built using offsetting cash in what Friends of the Earth Director Andy Atkins calls "dodgy accounting".

"Offsetting is doing nothing to combat climate change, is putting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people at risk and is entrenching inequality between rich and developing countries' levels of emissions."

Shadow Climate Secretary Greg Clark has said more offsetting would "rob Britain of moral and industrial leadership, and developing countries of the easy wins they need to achieve their own targets." See the full report at www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing_notes/dangerous_distraction.pdf Offsetting in a nutshell, page 13.

paper outlines the rigour, ambition and urgency of our policies to meet them."

Liberal Democrat Shadow Climate Secretary Simon Hughes said: "The Liberal Democrats are pleased to back Friends of the Earth's call for 42 per cent emissions reductions for the UK by 2020. The Government must be more ambitious if we are to ensure cuts are in line with the scientific evidence. We are committed to 40 per cent of our electricity coming from renewables and making a 30 per cent energy-efficiency saving by 2020. We will work with Liberal Democrat councils to deliver our share locally."

Read the interview with Climate Secretary Ed Miliband, page 8.

