

### Welcome to Brent Friends of the Earth's Autumn newsletter.



This Autumn sees the conclusion of Friends of the Earth's highly influential *Big Ask* campaign: the introduction of the world's first climate change bill. The bill will commit our government to cutting greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80% by 2050.

Cutting greenhouse gases means that we must now find new and greener sources of energy. Biofuels can provide this, but only if they are the right kind. We are now fighting harmful targets for biofuel production – as a solution, we argue for more efficient cars to be produced, using less fuel.

This summer we have also been busy with information stalls and plant sales at local festivals, as well as taking part in the consultation on Brent Council's Climate Change Strategy ([www.brent.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.brent.gov.uk/consultation)).

In the middle of all this, we have found time to celebrate *World Environment Day*, plus Brent FoE members Steffi and Robert made the news with their green wedding.

Finally, as the Brent Cross Development plans gather steam (see developers' website [www.brentcrosscricklewood.com](http://www.brentcrosscricklewood.com) for the long-awaited "transport assessment") we await more details about plans to build an incinerator plant as part of the Development - sure to be a hot topic this autumn...

### Biofuels: cool fuel? We don't think so...



With climate change becoming an increasingly big issue, the race is now on to find ways to fuel our energy-intensive society without the greenhouse gases that we currently produce.

For some time now, biofuels (fuel from plant or waste matter) have been promoted as the answer to this difficult problem. However, this ignores the fact that some biofuels are ok (those produced from waste) whilst others are harmful (those grown on industrial plantations).

European plans to produce 10% of fuel from crops mean that many people around the world will go hungry as farmland is used for fuel crops. Also, many of these "green fuels" actually cause more greenhouse gases than they save. This is because of the huge effort involved in growing, transporting and refining the crops, not to mention the forests which are destroyed to make way for biofuel plantations.

Friends of the Earth believe that the sensible solution is to reduce our fuel use by increasing efficiency. That is why we are campaigning **against** 10% biofuel targets and **for** more efficient car engines.

Write to your Member of the European Parliament (MEP) today via our website: [www.brentfoe.com](http://www.brentfoe.com)

Green  
Tip of  
the day

## Freecycle

Find a good home in your area for unwanted items and save them from the tip. Everything on Freecycle is free: you might even find something great for yourself. [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

## Read and recycle

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. Once you have finished it, please recycle or, better still, give it to a friend.



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### Green Zone project

Lorraine Skinner

Kensal Green Street-Watcher Lorraine Skinner came up with an idea

to turn her street green again after the loss of privately owned trees upset her and other neighbours.

She says; "My idea was to encourage residents to re-use, recycle and compost, as well as improving the energy efficiency of their homes, and to grow flowers, fruit or vegetables in their gardens or window boxes."

Working with the council's StreetCare unit and Brent Friends of the Earth, Lorraine visited 33 houses on her street to talk about these ideas. As a result, 66% of the street now recycle regularly – a jump from just 51% beforehand. And 60% of homes now have three or more energy efficient light bulbs.

Lorraine says, "The Green Zone has made a difference to our street and I've got to know my neighbours as well. More residents have organic bins, many have extra green boxes to cope with all their recyclables and some residents, like me, have smaller rubbish bins because we send so little to landfill. This year, for the first time, our own household also grew potatoes, runner beans, carrots and tomatoes. They taste ten times better than ones from the shops!"

As a reward for becoming a Green Zone residents are offered a free compost bin and a free water butt, but the biggest reward could be seeing your bills shrink!

There are now three Green Zones, and plans for 35 more this year. Anyone who would like to start a Green Zone where they live can contact Chantelle Tuitt via e-mail [chantelle.tuitt@brent.gov.uk](mailto:chantelle.tuitt@brent.gov.uk) or through StreetCare on 020 8937 5050.



### Love and carriage

Viv Stein, Press Officer

Group Co-ordinator Stefanie Schmiedel and Membership

Secretary Robert Gray made the headlines on their wedding day in July, when they travelled to Marylebone registry office by tube together with some of their guests.

Stefanie, a German national, encouraged her family to travel over from Germany by bus or train rather than fly the short distance. The couple's honeymoon was by train in Europe. "If in everyday life we try to be as environmentally friendly as we can, why should we change on our wedding day?" said Stefanie.

Robert added, "Why would we need a stretch limo for our big day when we have got an Oyster card and the tube?"

The happy couple experienced a media scrum at Dollis Hill station, arriving with an ITV film crew in tow, to be met by BBC news plus local and national press photographers for the journey. It raised the profile of the group, the Jubilee line and greener lifestyles.

Thanks to Candice Jones at TfL, staff at Dollis Hill station and the Jubilee line.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7503489.stm>



**Monthly meetings** Brent Friends of the Earth meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Why not come along and get involved? Check [www.brentfoe.com](http://www.brentfoe.com) for details.