

### Update

#### Award finalists

At the Friends of the Earth national conference in September we were finalists in the [Earthmovers' Group of the Year Award](#) for our achievements in 2008.



#### Climate Change

We participated in a public meeting with [Brent Green Party](#) in October and joined them on the national Climate Change demonstration in December. Along with FoE groups across the UK, we lobbied our MPs to ensure the UK became the first place in the world to have a Climate Change Act, reducing CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050.

#### Waste

Group members participated in Brent's workshop for a [West London Waste Plan](#) in October and will respond to the consultation this spring. We welcomed Brent Council's adoption of compulsory recycling, [Green Zones](#) and [Zero Waste Places](#) schemes.

#### Brent Cross/Cricklewood

We joined residents' groups, MP Sarah Teather, and [transport campaigners](#) to campaign on the environmental impacts of Barnet's proposed development (see p. 2).

#### Heathrow

Following the Government's disastrous decision to go ahead with the third runway, we continue to oppose the expansion.

### Green Energy Revolution

Jennifer Rea & Robert Gray



The UK has a target to generate 15% of energy from UK renewable sources by 2020. The Government will publish a Renewable Energy Strategy in March 2009 to show how it will deliver this target.

Solar, wind, and tidal power do not run out like fossil fuels and nuclear fuels.

Renewable energy would massively reduce climate changing emissions and could generate thousands of jobs and billions of pounds' worth of business in the UK.

200 members of the public recently signed our postcards to local MPs asking them to put pressure on the Government to support the 15% renewables target.

We are now working with local businesses and community groups to call on the Government to ensure that the new Renewable Energy Strategy commits to:

- Delivering at least 15% of our energy from UK renewables by 2020;
- Making sure the energy regulator's main job is to cut climate change emissions by prioritising renewables and energy efficiency.

For more information on our campaign see <http://brentfoe.com/renewables.html>

Green  
Tip

Good Energy  
Green Electricity

Good Energy is the only supplier to source 100% of its electricity from renewables. Plus, if you choose it as your supplier, they donate £30 to Friends of the Earth. [www.goodenergy.co.uk](http://www.goodenergy.co.uk)

## Read and recycle

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



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**Read this newsletter on line at [www.brentfoe.com](http://www.brentfoe.com)**

### **Brent says no to Barnet plans**

*Viv Stein, Press Officer*



The huge regeneration of Brent Cross/Cricklewood in neighbouring Barnet has sparked controversy in Brent. We successfully raised concerns about the development's environmental impact, particularly plans for a waste incinerator and transport issues.

Brent Council's planners have now unanimously opposed the scheme for its lack of detail, sharing many of our concerns. In summing up to the Planning Committee, Cllr Cummins quoted from my submission to the Council: *"at this point we do not know whether or not we are spending time fighting a proposal that is actually acceptable, because we are being consulted on 'an idea' rather than a detailed plan."*

We also made sure Brent imposes regular monitoring of the facility. But we still take issue with Brent for allowing the plant to use refuse-derived fuel, which would undermine recycling and conflicts with Brent's Zero Waste status.

Transport campaigners have also won a concession preventing the developer from excluding a more sustainable light rail scheme.

Barnet's Planning Committee meets in May. We encourage residents to send in their objections before then to Nicola Capelli, Barnet Council Planning, at [BXCaplication@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:BXCaplication@barnet.gov.uk). See [www.brentfoe.com/brent\\_cross.html](http://www.brentfoe.com/brent_cross.html) for more details on our campaign.

### **Introducing our Council Liaison Officer**

*Elaine Henderson*



At the December 2008 meeting I was appointed as Brent Friends of the Earth's Council Liaison Officer. My role (along with other members of the group) is to make sure that we are involved in relevant local decision making.

For example, the group has recently taken part in the consultation on Brent's draft Climate Change Strategy. I will also continue to develop contacts within the Council and to provide a link between the Council and the group.

The new [Sustainable Communities Act 2007](#) should provide interesting opportunities for groups like ours to become more involved in local strategy, provided Brent adopts it. Brent has already set up a Sustainability Forum and I am a core group member representing Brent Friends of the Earth.

I also represent our group on the Brent [Green Zones](#) scheme which aims to encourage residents to recycle and make energy savings. For more information about either of these contact me at [elaine@london.com](mailto:elaine@london.com).

It is also worth keeping an eye on [www.brent.gov.uk](http://www.brent.gov.uk) for relevant consultations and local initiatives.

I am very pleased that other members of Brent Friends of the Earth also attend meetings of the Planning Committee and the Consultative Forums as this role provides plenty to do!

**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.