



Update

Food Chain

On November the 12th, the Sustainable Livestock Bill goes before Parliament.

This aims to reduce the environmental impact of our food, particularly breaking the link between livestock farming and deforestation in South America. Over the Summer, more than 100 local people signed postcards asking Brent MPs to support the Bill. This Autumn, we will continue campaigning to make it law.



Image: FoE

Brent Cross Cricklewood

Our fight against this scheme was nominated by FoE as 'Campaign of the Year' in their recent Earthmover awards. Barnet continue to push through plans. At September's Planning Committee, Officers ignored the Waste Authority's significant change in requirements for the waste facility. We are concerned that this outdated scheme's fate has been delegated to a single Planning Officer, not to Committee, despite several irregularities. See <http://brentcrosscoalition.blogspot.com/>.

Recycling Fundraiser

Do you have old mobile phones or used printer cartridges? Why not recycle them and raise money for Brent FoE? We've registered with Recycle4Charity, who will recycle them responsibly and donate to us in return. We can take any phone, plus Dell, Canon, Lexmark and Hewlett-Packard cartridges. If you have any of these please email info@brentfoe.com with your postal address. We'll send you a freepost envelope for you to mail your item. Brent FoE will gain much needed funds and your old devices will be reused instead of going to landfill.

Brent Cuts Green Zones and Jobs

Following news that Brent Council was axing two environment posts and its popular Green Zones scheme, Brent FoE members Steffi Gray, Viv Stein and Elaine Henderson met with Lead Member for Environment, Councillor James Powney, and Council Officer Mike Read, in August.



Photo: Ian Saville

Despite Brent FoE's [email petition](#), Cllr Powney stated the decisions had been taken in the light of wider spending cuts, and they were unable to change them. Around 300 Council jobs are under threat. The environment posts included the one paid Officer who was to oversee Brent's Climate Change Strategy - a new role that was never filled.

Last year Brent Council spent £40,000 on consultants' fees devising the strategy, which is increasingly behind schedule – the Steering group, promised this Spring, is still not set up.

The innovative Green Zones scheme allowed Brent residents to get green rewards for their neighbourhoods if a percentage of people engaged in activities, like recycling and energy efficiency. Steffi and Viv were hoping to reach Green Zone status for their streets when they were informed by email the scheme would be scrapped.

Brent FoE members had previously protested at Brent Town Hall over the job cuts, and addressed the Executive over the false economy of cutting Green Zones in July.

Green Tip: Radiators - Now is a good time to think about keeping warm in the winter months! While your radiators are switched off, put reflective material behind them - this will ensure heat is reflected back into your room and keep you toasty when the weather gets colder. You can buy radiator reflector foil from DIY stores (avoid those made from PVC), or you can make your own by wrapping tinfoil around cardboard.

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 online at www.brentfoe.com

Local Carbon Budgets



Image: FoE

Eighty percent of the UK's carbon emissions occur at local level – in our homes, workplaces and transport. FoE are campaigning for new legislation to introduce [local carbon budgets](#), helping Local Authorities identify and plan action needed in their area, and place a fair cap on emissions.

Brent FoE have sent a letter to Council Leader, Cllr Ann John, urging Brent to sign up to local carbon budgets. Such locally coordinated action to tackle climate change would boost the local economy, slash people's energy bills, and create much needed jobs.

Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne has welcomed a new report showing huge potential for generating green electricity from a Feed-in-Tariffs scheme introduced in August. This provides incentives for Local Authorities to produce and sell renewable energy, and could raise up to £100 million a year for Councils in England and Wales.

This could be watered down, however, in the Government's comprehensive spending review in October.

Forty seven percent of CO2 comes from heating. A Renewable Heat Incentive scheme, where the Government pays homeowners for generating heat from renewable technologies such as solar panels, is planned for April 2011. This could also be delayed by cuts.

Press for renewable heat incentives at http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/renewable_heat_24964.html

FoE Conference and Earthmovers Awards



Picture: Amelia Collins

Brent FoE were nominated for three Earthmovers

Awards at this year's FoE Local Groups Conference, which took place in Reading in September. These were 'Campaign of the Year' for the Brent Cross Coalition, 'In the Media' for coverage of Brent's eco-hustings in the local press, and 'Photo of the Year' for our Halloween Demand Climate Change event in Wembley.

Members Viv Stein, Wystan Palm, and Jennifer Rea attended the conference called "Power & Politics - can we create a different environment?" It featured speeches from ex-London Mayor Ken Livingstone and Director of the Conservative think-tank ResPublica, Phillip Blond, which prompted a lively debate. The theme reflects environmental campaigning at a time when the UK is undergoing great shifts in policy, an uncertain economic climate, and a deepening climate crisis. It is FoE's fortieth anniversary - our vision is for a sustainable future. There needn't be a choice between solving the economic crisis or the climate crisis – they are very much interlinked.

Jennifer said it was inspiring to see what other FoE groups are up to and catch up with friends from across the UK.

Details of all the Earthmover nominations and winners are at http://www.foe.co.uk/events/conference/earthmover_awards_8477.html

For more on the conference, including videos of the speakers, see http://www.foe.co.uk/news/power_politics_24839.html

Monthly meetings Brent Friends of the Earth meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Why not come along and get involved? Visit www.brentfoe.com for details.