



Council Declares Moray GM Free

Moray Council has rejected the growing of GM crops in the area and have agreed to join the European Network of GM-free Regions. At a recent meeting of the Environmental Services Committee, Cllrs unanimously backed a GM-free motion.

This makes Moray the third region in Scotland to adopt such a policy. Highland and West Lothian have already taken this line and Western Isles look set to follow

In just over a fortnight Moray FoE managed to get around 300 signatures to a petition supporting the move. A great big thanks must go to all the members who filled up their petition forms. I'm sure this helped convince the Cllrs that the overwhelming majority of the people in Moray are opposed to GM crops. It was also a great example of how we as a group can work with others who share the same aim. Moray GM Concern have been working on this for many months and linking our efforts together created a momentum which got the issue discussed in the media and debated in the Council chamber.

If you want to continue to be involved in the GM campaign check out www.foe.co.uk/gmfree/ for lists of GM foods and stockists. A campaign is being started to encourage activists to buy the offending goods, then return them asking for a refund because the goods use GM ingredients.

Schools Competition Result

The winner of the schools drawing competition is Joseph Findlay from Millbank Primary School in Buckie. He named our mascot Rufus the recycling bear and took inspiration for the poster from a project his P6 class was doing on pollution and conservation.

It is hoped that we can turn his and a few other designs into a pack of greeting cards as a fundraiser for the group.

Website Launched

George, the MFoE webmaster has launched our very own website. It can be viewed at www.mfoesite.org Thanks to George for all his hard work on this.

Forthcoming Events

Meetings for 2004

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every second month at 7.00pm in the Moray Resource Centre, Maisondieu Road, Elgin.

Dates for 2004 are: **Tue 27 July,**
Tue 28 September, Tue 30 November.

All members are welcome.

Moray Environmental Festival

Moray FoE had an information stall and a "Rubbish Game" for folk to have fun while thinking about recycling and trying to win an organic apple. Thanks to Gayle and Jofi for designing the game as well as setting it up and dismantling it. Thanks also to all the volunteers who spared some time to man the stall and game.



Latest MFoE Walk

On Saturday the 3rd July the 3rd FoE walk took place around Findhorn. Members met at "The Blue Angle" cafe inside the Findhorn Foundation grounds and took a gentle stroll through the Foundations grounds, past their wind turbine and across an interesting and wild landscape to the Findhorn Bay beach. Then along the beach to the village of Findhorn.

Planning Rights

Planning rights effects everything we do, including the quality of our environment. But right now we do not all have equal rights in the planning process.

Developers have more rights than individuals, communities and other groups. Where there is an application for development, every body has a right to object. If the application fails, the developer has a right to appeal. If it is approved you do not.

If this concerns you, you must have your say today. The Executive are considering change now. Although there is a big business lobby against it, extending rights within reform of the process should lead to better decisions – not stifle good development. Log onto www.everyonecan.org and respond to the Executive consultation before the end of July.

Wind Turbine Funding Project

At the last group meeting it was decided that we should fundraise for a share in a proposed wind turbine at Balnamoon Farm, Grange near Keith. It was felt that we should help to support an attempt to generate electricity in a way that attempts to maximise the benefits for the local area.

The minimum investment level is £500 and we are looking for 25 members to pledge £20 to the project. If the project gets the go ahead we will then be in a position to invest in the project with any proceeds from our investment going to the group. If you are interested in helping please drop a line to Rod Lovie (address overleaf). We are also looking to organise a trip to Balnamoon Farm to look at the proposed site and see over a working organic farm. If you are interested please let us know.

Composting Competition

Interested in composting? Would you like a chance to own a easy to use book "Composting for all" by Nicky Scott? This book gives an easy introduction to composting and will keep you on the right track in a simple easy to use format. To win this book all you have to do is answer the following question.

Which of the following should you **not** put in your compost heap?

Sawdust, grass, coal ash or cardboard.

To enter send your answer, along with your name and address to: rod.lovie@virgin.net The winning correct entry will be picked out of the hat on 31 August 2004.