



Incinerator Alert

News has leaked out to the press that The Moray Council have been in discussion with others over the possibility of siting a waste incinerator in Moray. As a 'sweetener' when announcing the RAF cuts, Defence Minister Adam Ingram let slip that there would be Government support to projects in Moray including a 'waste to energy' incinerator.

Throughout Scotland and the world, incinerators are used to dispose of waste to the detriment of local people and a vibrant recycling economy. In a letter to the Northern Scot, local Green MSP Eleanor Scott said *"Quite apart from the pollution they cause, 'energy from waste' schemes create a dependence on waste production, requiring an endless waste stream to feed the generators, competing unfairly with recycling and reuse enterprises, and perpetuating a mindset that waste is inevitable and acceptable."*

Friends of the Earth Scotland and FoE groups round the world have campaigned against this subsidised, wasteful and dangerous technology. Although newer incinerators are safer and frequently incorporate some sort of waste segregation process they are by definition an unreliable way of disposing of waste and a wasteful way of creating electricity.

We have written to The Moray Council and others in an attempt to get more information about the proposals. Once we know more about the scheme we will be in a better position to formulate plans for the group.

A members meeting to discuss the incinerator plans is to be held at the Moray Resource Centre, Maisondieu Road, Elgin on Wed 27 April, 7.00pm.

We hope to be joined by members of Aberdeen FoE who were involved in the recent campaign to stop the siting of an incinerator next to the City. This was thrown out because planners were not convinced it would be a safe option. It is likely that developers have just decided to move it down the road to Moray where there will be less folk to complain about it. If we want to stop it we must act quickly to get ourselves organised and help to educate ourselves and others about the truth of incineration.

Deskford Project

The Deskford Community Association has been successful in its attempts to get funding to start a community recycling project.

They have had their application for a start up grant from The Moray Council approved and hope to open a community run recycle collection site soon. They will operate the site themselves and transport the items to collection points operated by The Moray Council.

Members of Moray FoE have been assisting the Deskford Community Association in planning a community recycling project.

As Deskford is one of the many rural communities which will not be served by the proposed kerbside collection of recyclable materials, the community are interested in operating a community recycling point to collect paper, cardboard, cans and glass.

Forthcoming Events

Incinerator Meeting

There will be a meeting for members to discuss the plans for an incinerator in Moray and our response.

Moray Resource Centre, Maisondieu Road, Elgin on **Wed 27 April**, 7.00pm

Make Poverty History

Vote for Trade Justice event, St Giles Church, Plainstones, Elgin. **Sat 16 April** from 10.00am

G8 Summit Demo, Edinburgh **Sat 2 July**. Please contact if you are interested in attending.

Future Meetings

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

Dates for 2005 are: **Tue 31 May**
Tue 26 July
Tue 27 September
Tue 29 November

All members are welcome.

Annual General Meeting

The March meeting of the group was also the AGM. At it the members attending were given a talk by Graham Mann on recycling and waste issues. This was followed by the election of office bearers. The office bearers elected for 2005-06 are as follows:

Co-ordinator: *Mike Bowker*
Vice Co-ordinator: *Joffy Hill*
Secretary: *Rod Lovie*
Treasurer: *Morag Smith*

Office bearers contact details are included in the front of the newsletter. Any member who wishes to be on the committee or help out in any way only has to come forward.

Website

We are happy to announce that we have relaunched our website. The updated site has many new features (some of which are still under construction) and can be viewed at:

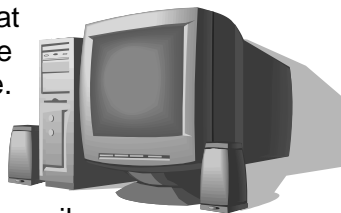
www.morayfoe.org.uk

It is our intention that future newsletters be placed on the website.

Members for whom we have an internet address will get the chance to receive an e-mail

informing them when a newsletter has been published on-line instead of receiving a copy through the post. It will then be up to them to print a copy off if they wish. This will save the group money on printing and postage. Members for whom we do not have an internet address, or who indicate that they would prefer to receive a paper copy, will still receive the newsletter by post.

If you would like to receive the newsletter alerts by e-mail you can let me know your details by emailing me on rod.lovie@virgin.net



Windfarms

Last month saw the Reporter return his decision on the planning proposal for a windfarm at Drummur. He decided that the proposal was in line with planning regulations and we are awaiting the decision on when this is likely to go ahead. This predictable decision has thrown into doubt the obviously untenable decision of The Moray Council to effectively try to prevent any further expansion of wind power in Moray or in neighbouring council areas. The Moray Council have indicated that they are investigating challenging this decision, but as the only option open to them is a judicial review (an expensive legal process looking at the legality of the process rather than the decision) it seems highly likely that they are posturing rather than being profound.

G8 / Make Poverty History

What's all this G8 / Make Poverty History about? Well in 9 words... TRADE JUSTICE. DROP THE DEBT. MORE AND BETTER AID.

The gap between the world's rich and poor has never been wider. Malnutrition, AIDS, conflict and illiteracy are a daily reality for millions. But it isn't chance or bad luck that keeps people trapped in bitter, unrelenting poverty. It is man-made factors like a glaringly unjust global trade system, a debt burden so great that it suffocates any chance of recovery and insufficient and ineffective aid. This year offers a truly exceptional set of opportunities for Scotland to take a lead internationally and say that enough is enough.

As the leaders of the world's richest countries gather in Gleneagles for the G8 summit, join tens of thousands of others in Edinburgh on **Sat 2 July** for a demonstration demanding trade justice, debt cancellation, and more and better aid for the world's poorest countries.

Moray Friends of the Earth intend to work with other local groups in getting a coach to go down to the demo in Edinburgh. If you are interested in booking a seat please let us know and we will get back to you with more details.

There will also be a *Vote for Trade Justice* event on **Sat 16 April** outside the St Giles Church in the Plainstones, Elgin. Members are invited to come along and lend a hand. For more details contact Jenny on jadams@fish.co.uk

For more info: www.makepovertyhistory.org

Annual Subscription

Many of the FoE Scotland Local Groups have an annual membership subscription to their branch in order to raise funds. At a recent meeting it was decided that Moray FoE should not go down this route and that free membership is open to all FoE Scotland members in and around Moray.

However in order for the branch to get some funds we are inviting members to give a voluntary donation to help the group cover some of its administrative expenses. Any donation (no matter how small) can be sent to any of the office bearers. A big thank you to all members who already give regular donations.

Greeting Cards

There are still some of the sets of greeting cards left. We are selling the cards for £3.50 per set. Please contact Mike if you are interested in purchasing a set, either by email on michael.bowker@ntlworld.com or telephone on **01542 886611**.

These cards show the winning entries of our primary school poster competition and are left blank on the inside so they make excellent greeting, thank you cards etc, etc.