



G8 Climate Alarm sounded in Elgin

Members of the Moray Friends of the Earth group joined in a global "climate alarm" on 7 July, during the G8 Summit in Gleneagles, to highlight the injustice of climate change. The group teamed up with members of St. Giles' & St. Columba's South church congregation in Elgin to make as much noise as possible in the centre of Elgin, starting at 13:45hrs. The time was significant, as the G8 countries constitute 13% of the world's population, but emit 45% of global carbon dioxide emissions.

The church bells were rung for 15 minutes, accompanied by a cacophony from campaigners on the church steps - we had piercing whistles, assorted shakers, and a very loud metal tray. Add in a large banner, some posters and assorted people handing out climate change fact sheets and people knew we were there and why!



There was some coverage of the event in the following day's Northern Scot, in their page of G8/Make Poverty History coverage, and there were churches in Keith and Aberlour also ringing their bells as part of the Climate Alarm, which had the support of the Church of Scotland nationwide, so there was broad coverage of the issues.

Climate justice is where the environmental concerns around climate change meet development and human rights concerns. Climate change will have much greater impact on the poorest people of the world in the poorest nations of the world, as they will not have the resources to reduce the impact of more crop failures, more severe weather events, more landslides, water shortages and rising sea levels. It is a global issue of environmental justice, which is the centre of Friends of the Earth Scotland's work.

The G8 nations must take the lead in reducing their emissions, and recognise their historical ecological debt built up from past and present emissions. The G8 countries are responsible for 64% of all the global emissions since 1800. The fact that there is finally some recognition that climate change is happening is a step forward for the USA, but radical changes in policies relating to energy and transport are required urgently by the G8 countries and international institutions if some of the worst case scenarios are to be avoided.

And in Scotland we are not blameless - so far Scotland is trailing the rest of the UK in reductions in greenhouse emissions since 1990 - though Jack McConnell has just announced that we will have more specific targets to aim at. Annual carbon dioxide emissions in Scotland equate to 12 tonnes per person, compared with 1 tonne/person in India and 0.2 tonnes/person in Kenya - so we are well over our fair share and have plenty of work to do at home.

Jenny Adams

Make Poverty History March Saturday 2nd July 2005

At least eight members of Moray FOE marched with thousands of other people from the Meadows in Edinburgh. FOE was there to highlight the need to deliver climate justice which as Meena Raman from FOE international said is essential

if we wish to end poverty. The G8 nations currently produce 45% of greenhouse gases and make up only 13% of the world population!

I started my march from FOE's enormous, ugly carbon dinosaur which was surrounded by green pennant flags and too many FOE supporters to count, from Scotland and beyond. Having managed to secure one of the flags, I set off with the group at 1pm however we didn't manage to leave the Meadows until 2.45!! It was hot, crowded and tiring as the line moved forward a few yards then halted, then another few yards and stopped, nevertheless most people felt as I did, that we had come to march and march we would no matter how long we had to wait!

After been ushered by the police through various pens we swung into the streets of Edinburgh. Everybody in the vicinity of the castle and the route that day seemed to be on the march; as far as the eye could see in front and behind there were swarms of people all holding placards with messages or banners. The sound was unbelievable, whistling, singing, drumming, chanting. There was a carnival atmosphere with purpose, many people dressed in white with their t-shirts littered with messages for the G8 leaders, some people crawling on their hands and knees pursued by a caricature of America's leader with whip in hand, a beautiful red silk Welsh dragon danced its way along and banners lined the railings on Princess Street. Along the way the only

onlookers were the police, blocking off all the roads to either side of the march route. And as the march progressed the FOE pennants and banners no longer created a single green stream but began to mingle with the other colours of flag, banners and messages along the way.

All those people with one common purpose, wanting to make their voice heard.

Cameras seemed to be everywhere. It seemed that this would get some good media coverage; over 200,000 people had made an effort to get to the capital to tell the politicians that poverty is not acceptable. As always the media covers what they deem to be important and the coverage was not as wide as it should have been, but we were heard and seen and more importantly saw each other. So often you hear the retort, *'but I am only one person what difference can I make?'* This march showed how many individuals out there really want to make a difference.

We must press on and not give way to indifference and apathy.

We have to make poverty history.

Gayle Readman

Incinerator News

Correspondence with the Moray Council has shown that an incinerator for the municipal waste produced in the North of Scotland is a realistic proposal. Documents released to Moray FoE under the Freedom of Information Act reveals that in 2004 The Moray Council received funding from the Scottish Executive for a mixed waste centralised composting facility. However later that year The Moray Council decided to exclude the facility from their plans.

This flies in the face with stated council views which highlight three proposals:

1. To develop a facility to treat contaminated soils from all over the North of Scotland;
2. To develop composting centres;
3. To develop a plant producing Heat and Energy from waste (incineration).

With the apparent down grading of proposal 2 this leaves Moray as potentially being reduced to the toxic midden of the North of Scotland.

At present Moray Councillors appear unable or unwilling to comment on any of the proposals. Instead they seem to prefer to wait until firm proposals are put through the planning process. However if we wait this long it may be too late to change any plans. We must make our elected representatives know that incineration of our waste resource is unacceptable.

A document on incineration facts and our views is available on our website. Entitled *'Incineration-A rough guide.'* It is available from:

www.morayfoe.org.uk

Please take the time to write to your Councillor and ask them to prevent an incinerator going ahead.

Windfarms

The progress of the windfarm at Drummuir has been stalled as The Moray Council has asked for a Judicial Review of the case. A final decision on the development is expected by the end of the year. The planning application for a community wind turbine at Grange has been called in to be decided by the Scottish Executive as The Moray Council has refused to look at the application. This too is expected to be decided by the end of the year.

Planning Issues

The Moray Structure Plan and Moray Development Plan are currently out for review. These set the context for planning decisions for the next 15-20 years. At first glance they contain both positive and negative changes. The plan seeks to prevent any more wind turbines being erected in Moray and promotes by-passes as a means or town regeneration.

These documents are very powerful tools in both preventing and allowing environmental degradation. Please consult local newspapers for dates of local consultations. The review ends on **Monday 3 October** and the documents can also be viewed at:

www.moray.org

Moray FoE will also be putting a submission. If you have any comments you would like included please pass them on to any office bearer. Anyone interested in contributing to a meeting on the Moray Development Plan Review on **Thursday 8th September**, will be most welcome. If you cannot attend but would like some particular views expressed, then please email me before the 8th to Mike Bowker.

Forthcoming Events

Meeting to Review the Development Plan

There will be a meeting for members to discuss changes to the Moray Development Plan at Morag Smith's home. If you are planning to come please let an office bearer know.

Rose Cottage, Kirkton of Deskford, Near Cullen
on **Thursday 8th September**, 7.00pm

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 27 September**
Tue 29 November

All members are welcome.