

Campaign update: Clean up the banks

Working with indigenous communities in Alberta, Canada, WDM's campaign work in Scotland this year has highlighted how RBS has been using taxpayers' money to finance projects and companies that are wrecking the climate and abusing human rights around the world. We've now also shown how RBS could become a green investment bank and help the move towards a low carbon economy which would create thousands of new green jobs.

At the end of August people from all walks of life set up the Camp for Climate Action in the grounds of RBS global headquarters in Edinburgh, to ramp up the pressure on RBS to stop its climate wrecking investments. During climate camp activists carried out a range of actions, succeeding in getting an impressive level of press coverage.

As well as focusing on RBS headquarters and branches, some activists targeted Cairn Energy which received £117 million of loans and equity last year from RBS, almost half of which directly enabled oil drilling off the Greenland coast to start. This drilling is particularly controversial because the area hasn't been exploited for oil before and has only been made possible as climate change has caused icebergs in this region to melt. The BP Deepwater oil spill has clearly shown the dangers of offshore drilling and it's argued that Cairn don't have the experience to deal with accidents in the previously pristine and extremely

environmentally sensitive Arctic. A spill in the area would be almost impossible to clean up due to the thick ice.

At the same time, hundreds of WDM supporters wrote to the chancellor George Osborne calling for RBS to become a green investment bank. The previous government let RBS get away with it. We're calling on the new chancellor to put a stop to it and to turn RBS into the Royal Bank of Sustainability.

For more information see

www.wdm.org.uk/scottish-campaigns/cleaning-scotlands-banks

Materials

Make it Happen, a new public-friendly report for stalls on how and why RBS should turn from climate change funders to green economy financiers is available from

iain@wdmscotland.org.uk or you can download it from: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/scottish-campaigns/cleaning-scotlands-banks>

WDM Scotland has produced a new 'cleaning up the banks' campaign postcard, focussing on RBS's dirty investments, aimed at chancellor George Osborne. Contact iain@wdmscotland.org.uk for copies. This postcard goes well with *Make it Happen*. There's also an e-action to the Chancellor at www.wdm.org.uk/scotland-campaign-actions