

Campaign update: Climate justice

Send a pound

In the run up to the next UN climate conference in Cancun groups have been doing some amazing campaigning on the 'send a pound' action. This has ranged from piñata stunts in public places, to lobbying and writing to MPs, to holding street stalls.

DfID have not only refused to accept our donations, but have threatened to send them to "a local charity". They have also confirmed that they will be supporting loans through the World Bank, in spite of Andrew Mitchell's empty words of support for the UN Adaptation Fund.

The government has still not given a single pound to the UN Adaptation Fund but we are not going giving up. Please don't stop sending your pounds in. We need to keep up the pressure at this crucial time in the campaign. In the mean time, we are going to collect the pounds that have been sent back to us by DfID and take them to Cancun. Here we will deliver them directly to the UN Adaptation Fund. We will be letting them know that the pounds have been sent by the UK public because the UK government refuses to pass them on.



A protestor is 'gagged' by Andrew Mitchell outside DfID

WDM targets DfID's offices

On 18 November people from all over the country descended on the Department for International Development (DfID) for our climate debt stunt. We were there to ensure that the secretary of state, Andrew Mitchell, and his department didn't ignore our message against forcing countries into deeper poverty with World Bank loans for climate change. Supporting these loans means breaking both the Conservatives' and Liberal Democrats' pre-election promises of not creating more debt for developing countries.

Members of WDM and Jubilee Debt Campaign turned up outside DfID's office in force. Having already spotted Andrew Mitchell himself enter the building, there was extra incentive to ensure we made as much noise as possible. We had colorful placards and flags and all took part in some loud chanting. Three people dressed as Andrew Mitchell, Nick Clegg and David Cameron proceeded to gag the protestors after having torn up their pre-election promises. This represented DfID having ignored public opinion by sending back our send a pound cards without reading the messages people have written in them.

The security guard commented that it was one of the most colorful and enthusiastic protests he had seen in his time at DfID!

When entering DfID on her way to work, DfID's permanent secretary, Nemat Shafik, confirmed (with a slight grimace) that the department have heard about our campaign. During the action we ensured this by handing out leaflets to DfID staff.

The stunt was also mentioned twice in Andrew Mitchell's speech that day regarding climate finance. We clearly got the minister's attention!

You can watch the video from the stunt here www.youtube.com/user/wdmuk and our photos have been uploaded here www.flickr.com/photos/wdm/.

The Big Climate Connection

WDM groups took part in the Stop Climate Chaos' mass constituency lobby, 'The Big Climate Connection'. In total over 165 MPs were lobbied from the 5-6 November and some meetings are still to take place. Thank you all for your efforts and do send in any feedback or response you've had from MPs.

Cancun Watch

On 29 November the next round of UN climate talks will begin in Cancun, Mexico. This is the 16th meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

WDM will be there, and you can follow our activities and the development of the conference with 'Cancun Watch'. We will keep you updated with a written blog and video diaries. 'Cancun Watch' will also involve urgent actions which you can take in the UK. Climate finance is set to be a critical issue at these talks so it will be a crucial time for our climate debt campaign.

In Cancun, along with other southern partners, we will also be launching the global 'World Bank out of Climate Finance' campaign.

This will take place on the 8 December and may be accompanied by an action in London. This will be organised jointly with other organisations. We will keep London groups updated via email, but if anyone else may be interested in joining us, please let Rosie know by emailing rosie.rogers@wdm.org.uk.

World Bank loans

The first projects under the World Bank's Pilot Programme for Climate resilience have been announced. We have produced a briefing together with Jubilee Debt Campaign which is included with this copy of Think Global.

Climate change march, 4 December

We will be joining in the national climate change march in central London on 4 December. Meet at 12 noon at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park. See the events page for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Rosie at rosie.rogers@wdm.org.uk.

Campaign update: Clean up the banks

Last month we reported the government has committed one billion pounds for the creation of a Green Investment Bank with the sale of some state assets to help finance the bank. Since then we've had more details. Many of the important decisions on what the bank will look like are being made over the next few weeks and the government hope to have staff and office systems in place for the bank by December 2011. With a debate raging in Scotland over whether RBS and Lloyds should be broken up to provide more competition we have some new opportunities to slot social and environmental considerations in to the discussions being had by politicians on reform of the banking sector.

Lobbying Danny Alexander MP

We are keen to get WDM members and activists living in the constituency of Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP, to lobby him. His constituency covers Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey. If you live there, or know someone who does who would be willing to help, please get in touch with Iain at our Edinburgh office on iain@wdmscotland.org.uk or 0131 243 2730.