

Campaign update: Cleaning up the banks

Oil-addicted bankers

Inside the RBS AGM on 19 April members of three Canadian First Nations spoke out against UK public money helping RBS invest in the companies extracting tar sands in Alberta. Meanwhile, WDM, Friends of the Earth Scotland and People & Planet campaigners dressed as oil-addicted bankers staggered around outside drinking from oil cans and calling on the Government to cure RBS of its oil fossil fuel addiction.

The aim was to put pressure on RBS directly and through the media to disinvest from tar sands, and to pressure the Government to use its stake in RBS to promote low carbon investment with taxpayers' money. The Canadians' story and pictures of oil-addicted bankers were covered in the Telegraph, BBC, Independent, Guardian, Daily Mail, STV, Herald and the Scotsman.

The pressure seems to be getting through. During the AGM the RBS board agreed to meet with Jasmine Thomas, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Clayton Thomas-Muller, UK Tar Sands Network and WDM after the AGM.

Head of Scottish campaigns, Liz Murray, who was at the meeting said, 'we learnt that RBS has clearly heard our campaign message, realises that things have to change and may be beginning to shift. We heard that a stronger policy is being developed on these issues, which is progress. Of course only time will tell whether this will be strong enough, but there's no doubt that if we weren't putting on the pressure, it wouldn't even be on the table.'

On the eve of the AGM, the Rainforest Action Network released new research demonstrating that since the 2008 bailout RBS has raised £5.6 billion in corporate financing to companies involved in Alberta's tar sands extraction and pipeline development. The figures show there has been no let up, in the last year alone RBS have provided finance worth £2.2 billion.

We clearly need to see concrete policies on financing tar sands, coal and oil and, crucially, we

need to see evidence that those policies are being implemented and working. We'll be watching closely.



RBS photo petition

The Canadians brought their voices into the RBS AGM but also messages from Scottish campaigners who had completed the RBS photo petition. If you have a camera and a few minutes at your next meeting you can add your photos too. See all the people and submit your group's photos at www.wdm.org.uk/clean-bailed-out-banks/rbs-photo-petition

E-action

Ask your Scottish election candidates to take climate change seriously

Three hundred people took part in the first ever online Climate Day election debate during the Scottish elections where cleaning up RBS was the topic to really cause a stir and get the participants enthused on the live comments board.

This is now the final Stop Climate Chaos Scotland action before the elections. Email you candidates today, ask them to support WDM's ask - a doubling of Scotland's aid budget to support the poorest communities adapt to climate change through grants, not loans: www.stopclimatechaos.org/scottish-elections