

Campaign update: Climate justice

Hunterston

The fight against new coal in Scotland is heating up. Amazingly more than 14,000 people officially objected to the proposal for a new climate-wrecking coal-fired power station at Hunterston in Ayrshire, calling on the Scottish Government to reject the application. WDM ran an e-action on this during July and August, resulting in 150 objections from our campaigners. You can see WDM's formal objection at:

<http://www.wdm.org.uk/news/wdm-objects-new-coal-hunterston>

No New Debt

The UK's position on climate finance has not changed since the new government came into power. The coalition government is still planning to take money from the aid budget for climate finance, and is using these funds to build up new debt for the global south, by providing loans through the undemocratic World Bank. So far, the UK has not given a single grant to the UN adaptation fund.

Climate finance is set to be a key issue ahead of the next round of international climate talks in Cancun which start at the end of November, so now is a crucial time for us to speak out against our government giving new climate loans. By providing funds as capital to the World Bank, the UK government has ensured that money can only be redistributed as loans. This is a policy that is currently only being pushed by the UK, meaning we have an important role to play in changing this. The UK government has also been one of the rich governments central to pushing for the World Bank to be in control of climate finance, so action here in the UK could really help to make a difference both in terms of these funds and also in terms of a solution to the international negotiations that has justice at its heart.

From 10-17 October a Global Week of Action for Climate Justice will take place around the world. This is an important time to demonstrate strong

pressure ahead of the Cancun talks, letting the coalition government know that we won't let them backtrack on their pre-election pledges around grants not loans, and use climate finance as a way to simply lock in existing global inequalities.

We have a whole range of new actions coming up, and it would be great to have as many groups involved as possible to ensure that our calls are heard by MPs across the country and get passed up to development secretary Andrew Mitchell, who will make the decision on how to spend pre-allocated funds for climate finance, and energy and climate change secretary Chris Huhne, who holds responsibility for the international negotiations.

Take action

Send a Pound:

Send a Pound is based on a famous action that happened during the drop the debt campaign. People sent in £1 to Gordon Brown during his time as chancellor, asking him to use this to cancel third world debts. The action was made famous when Gordon Brown's own mother sent him a £1! It also caused quite a stir in the treasury who didn't know what to do with the money.

We are reviving the same action, this time with people sending a pound to development secretary Andrew Mitchell at the department for international development, asking him to use it to support grants through the UN adaptation fund rather than loans through the World Bank. As the UK has not yet given any grants to the UN adaptation fund, it will be really embarrassing for them on the international stage to only pass on the donations from members of the public, without adding any additional grant.

To ensure that this action is as powerful as possible, we have developed a range of ways to bring it to life.

Send a pound yourself

To start, please get everyone in your group to send a pound to Andrew Mitchell. You can do this using one of our pre-prepared action pockets (enclosed with this issue of *Think Global*), but it would be even more powerful to send a hand written letter. Why not have a group letter writing session as part of your meeting? It doesn't have to be a long letter, and really only needs to cover the key points mentioned on the action card, but it is always so much more powerful when people take the time to write a letter themselves.

Mobilising in your community

Please try and get as many people as you can to send a pound: set up a stall, or ask people in your workplace, church, or any other community group that you think may be interested. You could also contact other campaigning groups, such as the local UN association groups which would work really well as this is about supporting a UN fund.

Target your MP

Meeting with your MP and asking them to give a pound to the UN adaptation fund is a great way to start a conversation within the ranks of their party. This is also a great way to get some media coverage for the campaign, and also to raise awareness about your group. We have written a series of draft press releases: there's a version if your MP does give a pound, and then versions if they don't that have been tailored depending on whether your MP is Labour, Liberal Democrat or Conservative.

Spread the word

For the week of action (10-17 October), we have an idea for a stunt for local groups. The concept is to represent the World Bank by using a 'piggy' bank, representing the way the World Bank is set up in the interests of rich countries. We will send groups piñata piggy banks that represent the World (piggy) Bank. These will be filled with gold chocolate coins, representing the pounds that people in your community and around the country will have sent in to Andrew Mitchell to go to the UN adaptation fund. When the piñata is broken, the pounds will fall into a bucket representing the UN adaptation logo.

This could happen wherever you think works best for your area – it could be outside your MP's office, or in the town centre. Also, because this is quite a fun stunt, it will also provide a great opportunity to get more people to sign up to the campaign, so it would be good to run a stall at the same time asking people to add their name to the call for no new debt.

We will be putting together stunt kits for any groups that want to take part in this stunt. As well as props, we will also include information on media advice. **Please let us know as soon as possible if your group would like one of these kits, ideally by 20 September, by emailing Katharine on katharine@wdm.org.uk.** This will give us time to make the kits and send them out to you in time for your stunt during the week of 10 – 17 October. We will also send out advice on getting local press.

Materials

We have enclosed the following to support your climate debt campaigning:

- Climate debt tricky questions
- Article on the World Bank v the UN fund
- Template press releases (four versions depending on whether the MP has given a pound or not and which party they belong to)
- Send a pound action 'pockets'
- Climate debt posters (1 per group)
- Bullet points for writing to MPs (as below)

Letters to coalition government MPs

Thanks to everyone who wrote to Liberal Democrat and Conservative MPs last month asking them to write to Chris Huhne (secretary of state for energy and climate change) and Andrew Mitchell (secretary of state for development) regarding their policies on the World Bank and new debt for climate finance. Please let us know if you hear back from them. If you have not yet written to your MPs on this it would still be really useful to do so. Please see the attached sheet with more information on this – we suggest different talking points for each MP depending on their party's current position in the coalition and also on their pre-election promises.