

Campaign update: Climate justice

Visitor from Bangladesh

In May, Reza Chowdhury from Justice and Equity in Bangladesh will be coming to visit the UK for a few days in between meetings he has in Europe. Reza was one of the people involved in campaigning on the World Bank and loans in Cancun, when we launched the World Bank out of Climate Finance campaign (see www.worldbankoutofclimate.org). You can see him in some of our videos on the climate debt section of the WDM website.

Whilst Reza is here, we will be taking him on a tour of various targets of the climate debt campaign, so he can speak to politicians and staff from the department for international development directly about the injustice caused by the UK's policies around loans for climate change and the World Bank.

We will be organising a talk with Reza in London on Monday 16 July. This will be an informal meeting, and a chance to chat about the issues affecting countries like Bangladesh, and why southern campaigners are opposing the World Bank's involvement in climate finance. It will be held at the offices of One World Action in Angel.

We will also be holding a meeting in Eastleigh, the constituency of Chris Huhne, the climate change and energy secretary of state, who is going to be a key target of the climate debt campaign this year, on Saturday 14 May. Unfortunately, as Reza is only here for a short time he won't be able to make it to other areas, but if anyone would like to attend either of these meetings, please let us know and we can send details. We will be doing an interview with Reza that we will post online for people who are not able to join us. If you have any specific questions you would like to ask Reza, please email kirsty.wright@wdm.org.uk with 'QUESTION FOR REZA' in the subject, and we will ask him for you.

Climate change talks

At the recent WDM Scotland campaigners' convention, Danny Chivers ran a very successful and well attended session on climate change.

Danny has now offered to come to speak to some of our other groups around the country.

Here is some information from Danny describing what he could offer to your group:

I'm a climate change writer, researcher, activist and performance poet.

I've been in the news recently as one of the six people whose trial collapsed in Nottingham in January, following revelations about an undercover cop in Europe's environmental movements. My new book has also just hit the shops - "The No Nonsense Guide to Climate Change", published by New Internationalist:

www.newint.org/books/no-nonsense-guides/climate-change-2011 .

The book is a friendly, jargon-free pocket-sized overview of the whole climate issue, including the latest science, solutions, history, politics, and activism, with a smattering of humour, unusual analogies and bits of verse.

To promote the book, I'm charging around the country doing talks, workshops and poetry performances in as many different places as possible.

Here's a selection of the kind of things I can do - let me know if any of them would be good for your group, or would fit into any other events you're running:

There are three main options for the kind of things I could do. Please do let Katharine know which you think would be most appropriate for your local group (or if you'd like me to combine them in some way):

- Workshop: "Some Good News for a (Climate) Change": A fun interactive session for up to 40 people, looking at the latest climate science and politics but with a focus on the positive. It is still possible to achieve climate justice, and this session will help you to work out what role you can play in making it happen! About 1.5 hours.

- Workshop: “Using verse to reverse the damage”: An activist poetry workshop, looking at the importance of creativity in campaigning. Through a series of examples, games and exercises, participants will be guided through the process of writing and performing some campaign poetry of their very own. Between 1 and 1.5 hours.
- Talk: “Undercover and Over-The Top: How an undercover cop made my trial collapse”. The strange tale of the power station, the court case and the secret policeman, and what it tells us about police repression of eco-protest in the UK. This then segues neatly(ish) into a short presentation about my new book and why it’s so important that we don’t let the police’s shenanigans deter us from climate activism. About 1.5 hours, including time for Q&A.

All three sessions includes a healthy sprinkling of (attempted) humour and a dash of performance poetry. I can also then do an optional performance poetry set at the end for those who want to stick around a bit longer.

You can see some of Danny’s poetry videos here:

“**Shop a Scrounger**”, anti-cuts and corporate tax-dodging poem produced by Pete Speller and Zoe Broughton: <http://vimeo.com/17295443>

“**Lifestyle Choice**” live at the G20 protests in London: <http://tinyurl.com/lifestylechoice>

“**A Modest Proposal**” by Tenner Films, on location at Dungeness nuclear power station: <http://tinyurl.com/dungenessproposal>

“**Consumed**”, live from the 2010 Edinburgh Climate Camp: <http://tinyurl.com/climateconsumed>

If you would like Danny to visit your group please contact Katharine as soon as possible. Danny is available to give talks throughout July at the moment but do get in touch about other dates if July doesn’t work for your group.



Danny performing at climate camp on Blackheath, 2009