



THINK GLOBAL

Act locally with the
World Development Movement

May 2011


**World
Development
Movement**
Justice for the world's poor

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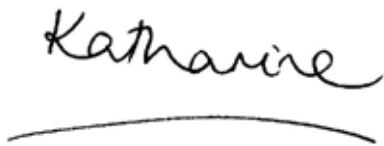
Letter from the network team

Dear friends,

Congratulations to the numerous groups who have been making a splash on the high street over the past month armed with eagle masks, banners and overpriced food! There has been some great press coverage and we rounded up the month with a stunt outside the Barclays AGM in central London.

It's only six weeks now until our national conference in Oxford on 11 June; 'Africa, Exploitation and Resistance.' We're really pleased with the range of speakers we have lined up, the event looks set to be interactive, informative and inspirational so do book your place online and bring group members, family and friends along with you - www.wdm.org.uk/africa-conference

Happy campaigning!



Katharine Talbot
Network development officer

News bites

Climate justice

- Reza Chowdhury from Equity and Justice Working Group in Bangladesh will be visiting the UK in May. We are organising informal meetings in London and Eastleigh, and Reza will also be speaking to politicians and staff from the department for international development.
- Performance poet, writer and activist Danny Chivers, has offered to visit WDM groups to give talks and workshops on climate justice.

Food speculation

- The European Commission have been working on proposals to regulate speculation on food prices. They have not announced a date when these proposals will be published but we are expecting them to be announced within the next couple of months.
- In April, we organised a teach-in for other UK based NGOs to learn about food speculation. It was a successful session with over 20 different NGOs represented.

Cleaning up the banks

- 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.

Action checklist

Groups

Climate debt

- Distribute 'send a pound' cards and order more for stalls and events.
- Decide if you would like Danny Chivers to visit your group to give a talk.

Food

- If you haven't yet run a stunt outside a Barclays branch, it's not too late!

At your next meeting

- Decide if anyone from your group would like to attend the AGM, and national conference in Oxford on 11 June.
- Think about local people you can contact to react to food articles and press through building a network of support.
- Discuss where you could hold stalls over the summer months (green fairs, festivals etc)

Activists

Climate debt

- Post your 'send a pound' card and order more to distribute to friends and family.
- Write to your MP on climate debt if you have not yet done so.

Food

- If you have met with your MP, please send the feedback form back to Sarah.

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

Campaign update: Food

Barclays

Local groups have been busy in the month of April as 20 WDM groups held protests outside local branches of Barclays. There are photographs online www.flickr.com/photos/wdm

Barclays is the UK's top bank speculating on food in financial markets and so we wanted raise public awareness on the campaign by highlighting the role of a British bank in driving up basic food prices. The Ecologist wrote an article about Barclays based on WDM research which has been seen by over 100,000 people!

We have also been in talks with other media outlets about covering this story and we will be informing you if these go ahead so you can look out for them.

Policy update

The European Commission have been working on proposals to regulate speculation on food prices. They have not announced a date when these proposals will be published but we are expecting them to be announced within the next couple of months.

We have been looking at the consultation response that the UK government submitted to the European Commission back in February to try and understand where they stand on our campaign demands. As you may know from our current action card and materials we are calling for regulation of food speculation that:

- Ensures transparency on food futures markets, by requiring all food derivatives deals take place on regulated public exchanges
- Introduces position limits to restrict the amount of food futures contracts that can be held by financial institutions at any given time

Based on analysis of the UK submission, the UK government supports some transparency

initiatives such as requiring financial institutions to disclose the amounts of contracts they hold and they want to move some of the secretive deals to exchanges but not all. They also do not support position limits that we are calling for. So there is some agreement with WDM's position on transparency but we still need to keep up the pressure to push for all secretive deals to be done in the open through exchanges and for position limits to be introduced. Improving transparency will help us to understand what is going on in these markets and make them fairer, but it is only through introducing position limits on financial institutions that we can stop excessive speculation pushing up the price of food.

Food action card

We have been developing a new action card for the food campaign which will be ready by early June so that you use these new cards at summer events and festivals. The new card will replace the current action card with the roulette wheel on the cover and we will be posting these out with the June issue of Think Global.

NGO teach in

In April, we organised a teach-in for other UK based NGOs to learn about food speculation. It was a successful session with over 20 different NGOs represented. Our aim was to get other development organisations to talk about food speculation in their public communications about price rises so that as a sector we can start influencing the wider public debate and build public pressure together.

Please continue to think about key figures in your local area and get them to join our food speculation action googlegroup where we will post opportunities for them to take actions on the issue to influence the media and the public. If you would like more copies of the briefing we sent out in March's Think Global to help you to build your local network then please contact: sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk

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

Events

Madagascar and tar sands

Thousands of lives are under threat from French oil giant Total's plans to mine tar sands in Melaky, one of the poorest regions in Madagascar.

Hear directly from Holly Rakotondralambo about the campaign to stop tar sands in one of the world's poorest counties and greatest biodiversity hotspots, and how we in the UK can help.

- 23 May, 6-8pm: Boyd Orr Building, Glasgow University, free.
- 24 May, 6-8pm: Talk and Petropolis film screening. Augustine United Church Edinburgh EH1 1EL, with Take One Action, Entry by donation for film.
- 25 May, 6-8.30pm: Talk and Petropolis film screening. Malet Suite, University of London Union, entry by donation for film.

P.S. Holly's trip was made possible by our first ever 'crowd-funding' appeal – thank you to everyone who helped, we almost doubled our fundraising target!

Africa: Exploitation & resistance

When: Saturday 11 June, 11am to 6pm

Where: Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, New Inn Hall Road, Oxford OX1 2DH

Our national conference will host an exciting line up of speakers including Njoki Njoroge Njehu (a leading global justice campaigner in Kenya), Yash Tandon (Ugandan author and activist), Jonathan Glennie (Overseas Development Institute) and Firoze Manji (Editor in chief, Pambazuka News), amongst others.

Sessions include:

- Africa beyond aid
- Where now for climate justice?
- Is fairtrade working?
- How Europe underdeveloped Africa

Our conference aims to provide the opportunity for both seasoned WDM campaigners to get their teeth into some interesting debates and those new to WDM to hear from some inspiring speakers. Learn

about struggles and alternatives and find out how to answer some of those difficult questions group members often encounter on stalls...

For a full view of sessions and speakers visit www.wdm.org.uk/africa-conference

Accommodation

Oxford WDM group members are kindly offering beds to fellow group members travelling from far afield, either on Friday or Saturday night, or both. If you would like to take them up on this please contact Katharine on katharine@wdm.org.uk

Travel

Why not arrange for several group members to travel to the event together? Attending our national conference is a great way to get new members of the group involved, and to give them the chance to meet other WDM-ers. You can save money on train tickets through the 'group save' scheme, see <http://tinyurl.com/groupsave>

Annual general meeting

When: Saturday 11 June, 10am to 11am

Where: Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, New Inn Hall Road, Oxford, OX1 2DH

The agenda, minutes of the 2010 AGM and the summary of proposed changes to WDM's articles of association are now available on our website - www.wdm.org.uk/agm-2011

WDM network skillshare

When: Saturday 17 September, 10.30am to 5pm

Where: Nottingham (provisional, to be confirmed)

We are planning a full day gathering for WDM groups. The event will include campaign updates, website and social networking training, in addition to a full afternoon of 'open space'. The afternoon will be facilitated but the agenda will be determined by what group members there on the day are most keen to discuss. It would be great to see someone from each group at the event.

Groups

Groups' roundup

Welwyn & Hatfield WDM, along with Friends of the Earth, CAFOD and Oxfam, questioned the government's green credentials at a meeting with their MP Grant Shapps during Climate Week. The meeting was covered in local media, including a quote from Welwyn & Hatfield WDM member Robert Harvey.

North Kent WDM is running a stall at the annual Sweeps festival in Rochester on 30 April.

South-East London WDM will be running a stall at the annual Nunhead Cemetery Open Day on 21 May. Alongside campaigning activities, the group will be selling copies of the film 'The End of Poverty?'

An impressive number of groups have organised Barclays stunts and stalls during our month of action. To take a look at some excellent photos from the numerous stunts have a look at our flickr page: www.flickr.com/photos/wdm/ If you haven't yet sent us your photos please email them to Katharine.

Oxford WDM is inviting a speaker from the Equity Trust to attend their AGM in May.

Ordering WDM materials

If you are ordering campaign materials by email please use the groups@wdm.org.uk email address from now on, rather than emailing Katharine or Sarah directly. It would also be very helpful if you could put 'Materials order' in the subject line.

Staff update

We are pleased to welcome Beth Smith into the network team, as events & activism intern. Beth will be present at our national conference in Oxford so I'm sure many of you will meet her there. In addition to working part-time in the network team, Sarah will also be working part-time in the climate justice campaign team from 9 May; we are delighted that she will be in the office full-time!

We are also welcoming Amy Horton back to WDM; Amy previously worked as an intern and she will be joining the food campaign team from 3 May. Sadly these changes mean we will be saying goodbye to Rosie and Catherine, both of whom have put huge amounts of energy into their work at WDM and whom I'm sure many of you will have met. We will hope they will stay involved through local group campaigning.

The network team is on Twitter!

Twitter is a social networking website which allows people to communicate short messages (of up to 140 characters) to each other. It's a great way of sharing information about things that are currently happening such as news stories, actions, events and new resources for campaigners.

WDM has its own Twitter account (@wdmuk) which we use to update people on news relating to our campaigns and relevant events. The network team has started using Twitter to report on local group actions and events. If your group is helping to organise an event, or features in your local paper, Twitter can be a great way of spreading the word about it and reaching lots of new people.

Are you on Twitter? Then follow WDM and let us know so we can follow you! Email groups@wdm.org.uk with your Twitter username.

Not on Twitter? If you're not on Twitter but would like to learn about how to use it and other websites such as Facebook, WDM's web officer Pontus would be happy to visit your group and do a short session on using the web for campaigning. Get in touch with Sarah on sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk to organise a social networking workshop.

Top tips

Top tips for May from Brighton, Manchester and Nottingham...

Brighton & Hove WDM have printed up some 'business cards' for their group, detailing their group website, email address and facebook group; group members give these out to interested individuals on stalls and whenever they meet anyone keen to be involved, usually adding a personal mobile number too. On a different note, the group feels that networking with other local groups is one of their biggest strengths, as the WDM group is fairly small but when doing joint activities they can have a big impact, and a wider range of skills is brought to bear on actions.

Manchester WDM succeeded in getting lots of action cards signed on the train to the March for the Alternative. This scenario is ideal for action card campaigning because people are likely to be sympathetic, they have the time and it's warm and dry!

Nottingham WDM have recently started alternating their monthly meeting venue between a pub and a more formal meeting space. This saves the group money as the hire cost of the formal meeting room has recently gone up, and means that group members who have different preferences on where to meet are all catered for.

Publicising local events

We have included a sample promotional plan which we hope will be useful to you when planning local events. This is really a checklist detailing who to contact and how, with an example e-flyer too. If you already use a similar event planning checklist which you would be willing to share with other groups please do send it to Katharine.



Bexhill & Hastings WDM with their overpriced food stall and Barclays eagle

Current materials

Food

- ACTION POSTCARD: Stop betting on hunger
- A2 POSTER: Stop betting on hunger
- CAMPAIGN BOOKLET: Betting on hunger (8 pages, A5)
- BRIEFING: Frequently asked questions
- BRIEFING: Parliamentary guide ****New****
- REPORT: The great hunger lottery (34 pages)
- GAME: Human blackjack (offline version)

Climate justice

- ACTION POSTCARD: No new debt (send a pound)
- ACTION POSTCARD: Climate debt
- A2 POSTER: Climate debt
- BRIEFING: Time to pay climate debt (6 pages)
- REPORT: The climate debt crisis (48 pages)
- BRIEFING: Bullying and bribery in Copenhagen
- VIDEO: Climate debt action outside DfID, available at www.youtube.com/wdmuk

Clean the banks

- ACTION CARD: Clean up the banks
- BRIEFING: Greening the bailed-out banks (2 pages)
- REPORT: A bank for the future
- REPORT: Towards a Royal Bank of Sustainability
- REPORT: Cashing in on Tar Sands

General

- LEAFLET: Impatient for change? (recruitment)
- REPORT: Out of Time: The case for replacing the World Bank and IMF

Groups

- FILM PACK: Cinema for social change
- TALK PACK: Powerpoint presentation and outline of talk for the food and climate debt campaign
- BOOKLET: Fighting the cuts, lessons from around the world. ****new****

Diary dates

23 May: public meeting on Madagascar and tar sands, Glasgow

24 May: public meeting & film screening on Madagascar and tar sands, Edinburgh

25 May: public meeting & film screening on Madagascar and tar sands, London

11 June: WDM's annual general meeting, Oxford

11 June: Africa, Exploitation & Resistance: national conference, Oxford

17 Sept: WDM network skillshare, Nottingham (location tbc)

Partner updates

Jubilee Debt Campaign: End Britain's dodgy deals

The Export Credit Guarantees Department uses taxpayer money to back exports to the developing world, the UK has recently relaxed rules around this – including by making a ban on forced or child labour in ECGD projects 'optional' in some cases. JDC is campaigning to stop these 'dodgy deals', and WDM has recently signed onto this campaign. You can write to Vince Cable online at the JDC website (below) or why not write to your own MP asking them to support the campaign.

www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk