

Think Global

Act locally with the
World Development Movement



G20 protest in Scotland

December 2009

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Letter from the network development officer

Dear friends

I wanted to take the chance to tell you more about our campaign plans for next year...

Cleaning up the banks

We will be continuing with this campaign until May/June next year. As you know, we were not given permission to go ahead with the Judicial Review but we have appealed against this decision; at some point in December we will find out whether the appeal has been successful. However, the Judicial Review is just one of a number of our activities and we will continue with our political demands to the Treasury to ensure that the bailed-out banks do not invest in activities which cause climate change, and lead to human rights abuses.

Trade and commodities speculation

We will not formally continue our European trade campaign beyond 2009. However, we do encourage groups to contact their MEPs in January with regard to the commission hearings (more detail below). This is certainly a worthwhile activity in terms of keeping issues of trade justice high up the agenda in the European Commission. We are delighted to confirm that we will be working with the Fairtrade Foundation again and will be producing a joint action card, to be rolled out during Fairtrade Fortnight (22 Feb – 7 March) and beyond. Around the middle of the year we will launch our new campaign on commodity speculation, demanding that gambling on hunger should be stopped.

Climate debt

Our existing work on climate justice, and climate debt specifically, will continue into 2010. Our initial focus after Copenhagen will be working in solidarity with campaigners in Bangladesh. The UK government has promised climate finance to Bangladesh to assist with adapting to the impacts of climate change; however, the government is currently insisting that this money is administered through the World Bank. Civil society movements are vigorously campaigning against this and we intend to support their demands for the money to go through local community programmes.

We are excited about the broad range of issues we will be working on next year and hope you are too!

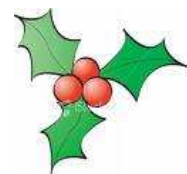
If you have any queries about our plans please do get in touch.

Finally – a HUGE thank you to all of you for your sterling campaigning efforts throughout 2009. Please do take the chance to celebrate success at your social events this coming month, and have a restful winter break!

All the best

Katharine

Katharine Talbot
Network development officer



Action checklist

Groups

Climate change

- Send us any photos you have of your climate debt invoice MP hand-in, or of your group at The Wave marches
- Send us any completed climate debt action cards (asap as these are live only until the Copenhagen talks start)
- Follow WDM's activities in Copenhagen on our website

Trade

- Take our e-action on the WTO and circulate to your contacts
- Send us any photos you have of your WTO stunt
- Start making plans for Fairtrade Fortnight

At your next meeting

- Decide if anyone from your group would like to attend one of our media training days next year
- Discuss approaching local cinemas to show the film *CRUDE*
- Complete the 2009 groups questionnaire
- Decide if you would like to order any t-shirts: **deadline end of December**
- Celebrate our campaign successes of 2009!*

Activists

Climate change

- Sign and send back our climate debt action card (asap as these are live only until the Copenhagen talks start)
- Send us any photos you have from The Wave marches

Trade

- Take our e-action on the WTO and circulate to your contacts

- Decide if you would like to order a t-shirt: **deadline end of December**

Inserts

Group contacts only

Climate debt report
WDM outreach cards
Groups survey
Freepost envelope

Campaign update: Climate justice

WDM declares victory on no new coal (despite disappointing government announcement)

In November Ed Miliband announced a new coal policy for the UK. Disappointingly it saw no improvement on proposals announced in April. Any new coal power stations built in the UK will need to have some (around 25 per cent) carbon capture and storage technology. In the early 2020s, if carbon capture has been shown to work, they will need to become fully carbon capture.

However, the government still failed to say what would happen if carbon capture does not work. And they did nothing to ensure that old coal power stations, such as Drax in Yorkshire, will need to shut down in the future.

The government's own advisors, the Committee on Climate Change, have said *"there can be no role for conventional coal generation in the UK beyond the early 2020s"*. Ed Miliband has not used this opportunity to ensure that this is the case.

However, this should not overshadow **excellent news** on coal in the UK. In October E.ON announced they were putting Kingsnorth on the shelf for at least the next few years. DONG Energy announced they were pulling out of a proposed coal plant at Hunterston in Scotland.

In November, RWE and Peel Energy announced they were pulling out of bidding for government money for carbon capture and storage. This effectively puts the nail in the coffin of new coal plants in Hunterston and Tilbury in Essex. **There are now no new dirty coal power plants on the table in the UK. It is unlikely any will be built.** This should be seen as a massive campaign victory for all those involved in the coal campaign.



Brighton & Hove WDM member Eddy Richardson and WDM director Deborah Doane at the Big If exhibition that was held at the party conferences this year

Matt Philips from the European Climate Foundation has written to WDM saying:

"WDM played a critical role in the campaign to stop unabated coal in the UK. I hope you are reporting with pride to your supporters that the WDM team and all the local campaigners and supporters who took action have secured a result that has international resonance. The UK's outcome is neither perfect nor finalised, but everyone who has been involved in this effort knows that without a popular campaign we would today be seeing the foundations of a new unabated coal plant laid at Kingsnorth, many more coal plants being proposed around the UK and the threat to the world's poorest rising ever higher. The WDM team have been passionate and dedicated and helped form the backbone of a wide collaboration that has shown what can be achieved."

Climate change campaign in Scotland

Shortly after the coal announcement by Ed Miliband, John Swinney MSP (Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth in Scotland) made an announcement that Scotland will follow UK policy on this. This follows Danish energy company DONG pulling out of their partnership with Peel at Hunterston. WDM has written a joint letter, with FoES and RSPB, to Peel to remind them what a bad investment coal in the UK is. WDM also got a large piece in the Sunday Herald showing that, even with the amount of CCS now required by Government policy, a new coal plant at Hunterston would jeopardise Scottish greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets over its lifetime (or mean really huge cuts in other sectors, like transport, to compensate). We plan to hand in the Scottish coal postcards before the end of this year and so will contact Scottish groups direct to let them know plans for this.

Climate debt

In November, WDM also launched the next phase of our campaign - climate debt - with a report, briefing, action and speaker tour across the UK. WDM local groups have been organising actions calling on the UK to repay its climate debt, and calling for action by handing in giant climate debt invoices to their local MPs.

The climate debt crisis report (enclosed- group contacts only) sets out how repaying climate debt is vital to cutting poverty across the world, whilst ensuring a safe climate for all. If you have not received a copy of the report in your mailing and would like one please contact us on 020 7820 4900 or at wdm@wdm.org.uk

The UK and other rich countries are so far failing to repay our climate debt. Of the little money being given to tackle climate change, it is:

- being given to the World Bank, which the rich world controls, rather than more legitimate UN institutions
- being given as loans rather than grants, further increasing the indebtedness of developing countries
- being given out of pre-existing aid budgets, rather than new money as compensation

- reinforcing free-market economic conditions set by the IMF and World Bank.

WDM will be campaigning during and after the Copenhagen summit for climate debt to be repaid. This will mean providing communities in the global south with the resources and technology they need to adapt to climate change and cut poverty in a low carbon way. It will mean resources being accountable to local communities and governed in a fair way, rather than being used by rich countries as another tool to further their own interests. It will mean resources being compensation for the damage our use of fossil fuels has done, rather than being siphoned off the aid budget or loans to further increase indebtedness.

Follow WDM in Copenhagen

WDM will have a small team of people in Copenhagen, including a number of group members. We'll be commenting first hand on the negotiations, meeting with Southern colleagues, and helping to coordinate action both inside and outside the conference venue. If you are planning to come to Copenhagen, but have not told us yet, please let us know by emailing katharine@wdm.org.uk or calling us on 020 7820 4900.

If you want to keep up with us at Copenhagen check out our blogs on the front page of our website or follow us on twitter. Our account name is wdmuk

Climate Justice Now! speaker tour

From 16 to 22 November, we worked with Jubilee Debt Campaign, People & Planet and Friends of the Earth to run a speaker tour around the country. Doha, from the Equity and Justice Working Group in Bangladesh was our main speaker from the global south, and spoke at every event about how climate change is affecting Bangladesh, and about climate justice at Copenhagen and beyond.



Doha speaking at the London event

He was joined by other speakers at some events, including the Bolivian Ambassador to the UK and activists from the Indigenous Environmental Network in North America, who are struggling against the hugely destructive mining of 'tar sands' in their traditional homelands. Attendance highlights included 80 in Brighton (on a Friday night) and 150 in Newcastle. Doha emailed us after he left to say thanks for "the most worthwhile event I've ever participated in internationally." Very many thanks to the groups who were involved in putting on the tour, particularly in Glasgow and Brighton.

Campaign update: Trade justice

Appointment of a new European Commission

Last month we mentioned that there will be a new commission in Brussels, following the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty. Member states have been in discussions to decide who will fill the new posts created from the Lisbon Treaty: European council president and high representative for foreign policy (the latter will also be the vice-present of the European Commission). Belgian prime minister, Herman van Rompuy has been appointed as the EU president while Baroness Ashton (current trade commissioner) has been appointed as the high representative.

The appointment of these two jobs means that Barroso (president of the commission) can now start forming his Commission. He is expected to take until the end of November to match commissioners to portfolios and the hearings for 26 commissioners-designate have been scheduled to take place on the week beginning 11 January. Barroso is expected to announce that Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the current European commissioner for external relations, will replace

Ashton as the trade commissioner. Ferrero-Waldner is a conservative politician from the Austrian Peoples' Party. Prior to this she was Austria's foreign minister (2000-2004) and has also worked for former UN secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

All proposed Commissioners will have to attend a hearing where MEPs are able to scrutinise the candidates and ask questions. This is an important parliamentary process and provides us with a good opportunity to get our MEPs to express their concerns over European trade policy. The Commissioners that are most relevant for the trade campaign are: Trade Commissioner, Development Commissioner and External Relations Commissioner.

We are hoping that the full names of the commissioners-designate will be published by next month and we will provide you with questions in the next mailing so you can contact your MEPs to get them to ask a question on your behalf.

WTO update

On the 10th year anniversary of the Seattle protests which shut down World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations in 1999, WTO Director General Pascal Lamy has convened a Ministerial meeting in Geneva on 30 November – 2 December in an attempt to revitalise the ailing fortunes of an institution that has been the recent spearhead of corporate globalisation.

Expectations for this meeting have been set deliberately low, with WTO officials keen to avoid yet another high-profile ministerial failure. The current 'Doha round' of trade talks will remain on ice, with Lamy more keen on using the meetings to champion the WTO as the saviour of the global economy in a time of recession. This emphasis would be laughable were it not so tragic, given the WTO's role in setting the stage for the financial and economic crises.

Given the lessons of the economic crisis, and the ever-greater threat of global climate change, governments must preserve the policy space necessary to enact real solutions to the problems brought about by corporate globalisation.

Around the world, civil society – including the World Development Movement – will be holding national events and demonstrations in the run-up to the Ministerial meetings focused on holding governments accountable to the interests of their citizens, not their corporations. In addition over 170 trade unionists, farmers, environmentalists, fisher-folk, consumer representatives, and development advocates will travel to Geneva for the 7th Ministerial, to ensure that their governments advocate for their interests.

Campaign update: G20

G20 Finance Ministers come to Scotland

More than 300 people gathered on a cold, bright 7th November morning on St. Andrews beach to make sure the G20 finance ministers (meeting in a nearby hotel) knew that they were being watched,

Many of them will also participate in a mass mobilization in Geneva on 28 November and WDM trade campaigner Heidi Chow will be right there with them. You can get live updates through twitter <http://twitter.com/tradetweeting> as well as read about this event and all the action in Geneva, in Heidi's WTO blog www.wdm.org.uk

We have added some new web pages and an e-action on the WTO www.wdm.org.uk/wto so please feel free to send this link to your contacts. The e-action is similar to the WTO letter that we sent out to activists in the October mailing. If you would like another copy of the letter, please contact Katharine@wdm.org.uk

WTO Stunt

Hopefully by the time you get this, you would have done your WTO stunt. Please send your photos to Katharine@wdm.org.uk or heidi.chow@wdm.org.uk

Fairtrade Fortnight 2010 (22 Feb – 7 March 2010)

Earlier this year, we partnered with the Fairtrade Foundation to produce some joint materials specifically for Fairtrade Fortnight which were well received by supporters of both organisations. Many of you may already be thinking about planning events and activities for the Fortnight and we are pleased to say that we will be working with Fairtrade Foundation again for 2010 and will be producing a joint briefing and an action card for you to use during the Fairtrade Fortnight. We will provide you with more details next month.

and that they would be held accountable for the decisions made in our name. Twenty willing volunteers dressed in suits, with red briefcases, stuck their heads in the sand in order to get the message across that their 'business-as-usual'

approach to the financial and climate crises just wasn't good enough. We were besieged by photographers and television media for over two hours and images of ministers with their heads buried in the sand went around the world on television, online and in newspapers to be read by decision-makers and the general public alike.

After a short march through town parading our banners we arrived at the conference venue for an excellent afternoon of presentations by some

fantastic speakers and workshops on solutions to the current crises. The main hall was packed to capacity with activists of all ages, and many stayed on to watch a special showing of 'Yes Men Fix the World'. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile day supported by development, environment, faith groups and trades unions representing hundreds of thousands of people across Scotland. Well done Put People First Scotland!

News & events

The Wave

The Wave marches in Glasgow and London are almost upon us! And there is still time to arrange your transport if you haven't yet done so.

In London WDM are forming a 'climate justice bloc' with Friends of the Earth and Jubilee Debt Campaign within the protest. This bloc is meeting on North Audley Street (off the north-west corner of Grosvenor Square) and we are suggesting that **WDM members meet on the corner of North Audley Street and Green Street (which runs from Park Lane to North Audley Street) from 11.15am onwards.**

We will be bringing WDM's infamous 'coal monster' that many of you would have seen at the Milli-Band as well as WDM flags and 'climate change kills' placards but if you have any other props and group banners you would like to use please bring them along. There is a blue-themed dress code which people are free to exploit as little or as much as they want (we suggest maybe wearing a blue scarf or hat given it is likely to be cold!) If you would like to have blue painted hands too, there will be stalls with blue paint and brushes in order to create the blue hand WAVE effect at 3pm.

Scottish groups will receive details about where to meet in Glasgow direct from our WDM office in Scotland.

Network training days in 2010

As mentioned in the November issue of Think Global, we are organising a series of training days next year. These are designed for WDM group members and individual activists to improve their skills and therefore increase their capacity to carry out effective grassroots campaigning. So far we have arranged two media workshops (full details below). We will let you know as soon as further workshops are booked in.

Media training day

Saturday 6 March:

Reading International Solidarity Centre, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS

Trainer: Joy Francis from Creative Collective

Media training day

Saturday 24 April: 10.30 to 4.30 approx.

Leeds (venue tbc)

Trainer: Joy Francis from Creative Collective

How to book: Please contact Katharine to book your place. We are aiming to keep numbers at these training days relatively low so ideally we would like one person per group to attend the same session. These training days will be free and we are also able to offer funds to cover travel costs as we want people to be able to attend regardless of distance!

Groups

Recent group activities

Sheffield WDM held a successful stall at the Peace Fair, getting lots of climate debt cards signed. The group also organised a screening of *The Age of Stupid*, using the event as a fundraiser for the group by selling coffee and cakes, and promoting The Wave at the same time.

St Albans WDM took part in a march through their city on Saturday 7 November, to demand a just deal at Copenhagen. Other groups involved in the march included Greenpeace, the Green Party, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, and the St Albans Churches Environmental Group.

Watford WDM held a public meeting on "Climate change: sorting the facts from the myths" with Dr David Gregory, an expert climatologist who previously worked at the Meteorological office.

Many groups have organised meetings with their MPs to present them with our giant "climate debt invoices" and a copy of our new report on climate debt. These groups include **Leicester WDM, Bexhill & Hastings WDM, Horsham WDM, Bradford WDM, South Lakeland WDM, Worthing WDM, South East London WDM, St Albans WDM, Manchester WDM, Bolton WDM, and South West London WDM.** Please send any photos you have to Katharine@wdm.org.uk

Bexhill & Hastings WDM held a second screening of *The Age of Stupid*, promoting the Wave and getting numerous climate debt action cards signed.

Cambridge WDM are supporting the Climate Chains cyclists who are wending their two-wheeled way from Bradford to London for The Wave.

Oxford WDM held a stall at the popular One World Fair at Oxford Town Hall on Saturday 21 November.

New campaigning strength in Reading

We are delighted to announce that the Reading Trade Justice group will now be campaigning as a joint WDM/Trade Justice group! We are launching this new group with a showing of *The Yes Men Fix*

the World at the Reading International Solidarity Centre on Monday 30 November. It is great news that we have now have another group in the East Anglia and Chilterns area and we hope that groups in that region will be able to link up to run joint activities.

Annual groups survey & group membership lists

WDM group contacts will find the annual groups survey enclosed in this mailing – we know completing this takes up time in your meetings but the information is invaluable to us in helping us to improve the support we offer to you. If you have any queries about the survey please contact Katharine on katharine@wdm.org.uk or on 020 7820 4900.

In addition, as suggested earlier this year in the notes on membership we circulated, we would be very grateful if all groups could send us their full membership lists in January.

We will use this information for:

- amending supporter records to indicate they are a member of a particular group
- letting groups know which of their members are not national members so they know who to follow up with about becoming national members
- mailing group members who are not national members to ask them to become national members

This is a really important aspect of our drive to recruit more members to the movement, so we'd very much appreciate your help with this.

WDM outreach cards

WDM group contacts will also find a small stack of credit card sized "WDM outreach cards" enclosed in the mailing. We hope you find these useful when talking to people about WDM, a few suggestions for how they can be used are below:

- Give out with your business card at meetings

- Use instead of a business card
- Give them to friends or family so they can explain what WDM does to those who haven't heard of us
- Pop one in Christmas cards or letters to tell friends or family about your campaigning
- Use on stalls when time is short
- Distribute at stunts or events when chatting to someone

- Type (Mens or Womens)
- Size (XS, S, M, L, XL) – if you are unsure then please provide your chest size and we will convert this to the appropriate size
- Quantity (in each size)

New WDM t-shirts

We are planning on designing and printing a new style of WDM t-shirt which will be ready by the end of January.

We would like to offer these to groups and activists at cost-price (this will depend on overall quantities but will probably be around £8).

If you would like to order t-shirts please let Katharine know by the **end of December**, at katharine@wdm.org.uk or on 020 7820 4900.

We need the following information:

Why not host a fun event and raise some money for WDM at the same time?

We've recently signed up to 'dinner4good' (www.dinner4good.com/wdm) which is a unique online system for organising a fundraising dinner for a good cause. All you have to do is go to the above address, click on 'host a dinner' and create a profile. Once you have chosen your date and created your profile, all you have to do is upload a menu and invite your guests. The website handles transferring payment from your guests to WDM, so it really couldn't be simpler! It's a great way to hold a fun event and benefit WDM at the same time.

We're looking for groups and activists who would be interested in helping us raise funds in this way. If you want more information about hosting a fundraising dinner or any other kind of fundraising events please contact Andrew –

Andrew.taylor@wdm.org.uk

Diary dates

5 December	'The Wave' climate marches in London and Glasgow
7 – 18 December	Copenhagen climate summit
22 Feb – 7 March	Fairtrade fortnight
6 March	Media training day
24 April	Media training day

Current materials

Action cards – live
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean up the banks action card• No new coal card (Scottish version)• Climate debt action card (only live till Copenhagen talks start, please send them to us asap!)
Action cards – no longer live
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be a Trade Hero action card• Stop Kingsnorth• Trade pledge card• Phulbari action card• No new coal card• Stop water wars card• Big If action card
Briefings –live
*** Please refer to full list enclosed in October <i>Think Global</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time to pay climate debt – NEW
Reports – live
*** Please refer to full list enclosed in October <i>Think Global</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Climate Debt Crisis: Why paying our dues is essential- NEW• Towards a Royal Bank of Sustainability – NEW

Contacts

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