



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**



March 2012

for the people | for the planet | for the future

Network News

Network News March 2012

for the people | for the planet | for the future

Dear Friends,

Spring is here and so is the March issue of the FoEE Network News! We have worked our way through the dark winter and new exciting projects are now blossoming.

Esther, our office manager with green fingers, has been busy getting our beautiful terrace ready for spring – meetings on the terrace are coming soon! Inside, Paul's potted sunflowers and tomatoes compete with Sam's British hop plant for the greenest window.

But, of course, it's not all gardening: our finance team have been working hard to close the 2011 accounts, we launched a brand new website (page 10), helped organise a screening of the activist documentary 'Just Do It' (page 7), and campaigns continue their tireless work (page 5), including some impressive media coverage around tar sands, food speculation and energy savings (page 13).

The European network of climate justice campaigners met, alongside European communicators –

setting a precedent for future programme meetings – to discuss upcoming climate justice and energy work, and the new 'community power' campaign.

It has also been a busy period of capacity building within the FoEE office. The office staff improved their facilitation skills with a facilitation training kindly organised by David, Susi and Sophie. We also spent a whole day of intensive training on how to communicate internally, especially around appraisal situations. This fits naturally into our new staff appraisal procedure that has been recently developed by a working group and will soon be implemented.

The preparations for the FoEE Annual General Meeting are under way. The official AGM invitation and registration form have been sent to the network. If you have any questions regarding the AGM, please don't hesitate to contact Stine at stine.nielsen@foeeurope.org.

We hope you enjoy this issue and wish you a pleasant spring.

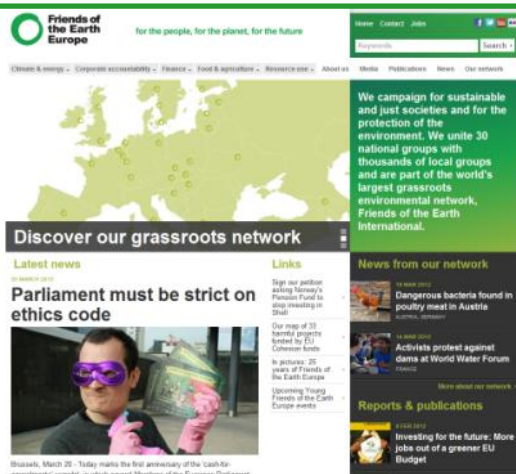
Stine, Francesca Sam and Celia



Friends of the Earth Europe

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Presenting the new Friends of the Earth Europe website! Page 10



Just Do It – a tale of modern day outlaws. Page 7 (photo: Mini Mouse)



Ridiculing the Dutch government's dirty oil habit. Page 13

Office news

New FoEE Insite

The launch of our new external website (see page 10) means we've retired our former internal site, and have migrated all our internal information to the FoEI Insite, which now serves as a one point for information sharing for the entire FoE federation!

All regions are now gathered on the insite of the FoEI, and this information is easy to find since it is divided into all the region specific folders (Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America & the Caribbean, Europe and North America). We invite you to visit the FoEI insite as a lot of changes have happened the past year and you are bound to find useful information there.

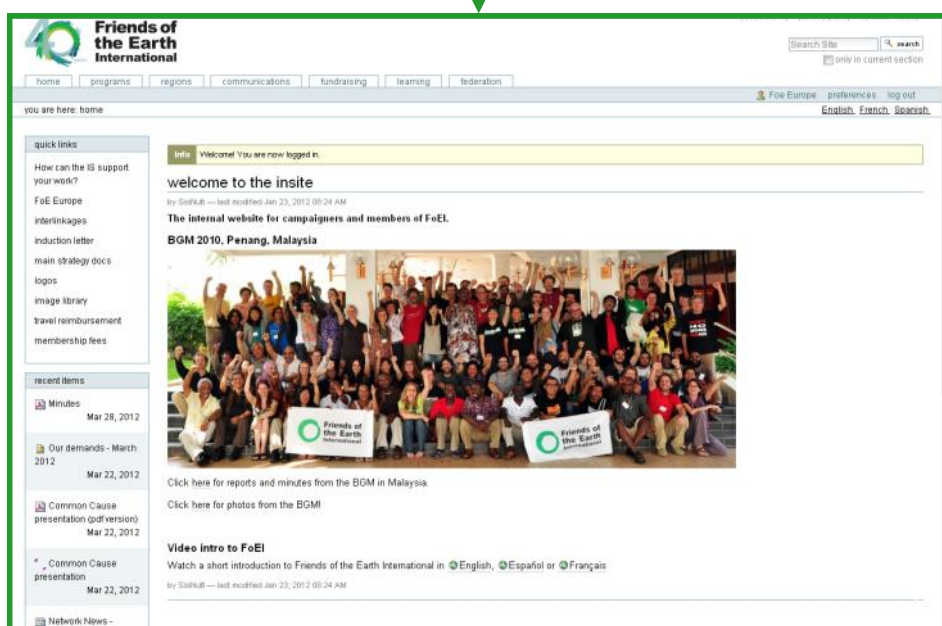
To access the European section of the FoEI insite, please go to: <http://members.foei.org/regions/europe>

If you don't already have a password please contact Joukje at FoEI (joukje@foei.org)

The insite is not static and we have plans to keep it dynamic and useful and for this we need your support. We invite you to send us your ideas on what you would like to find in the European section. Kindly send your ideas and requests to Stine at stine.nielsen@foeeurope.org

These specific areas of the new European section on the insite are specifically relevant to groups:

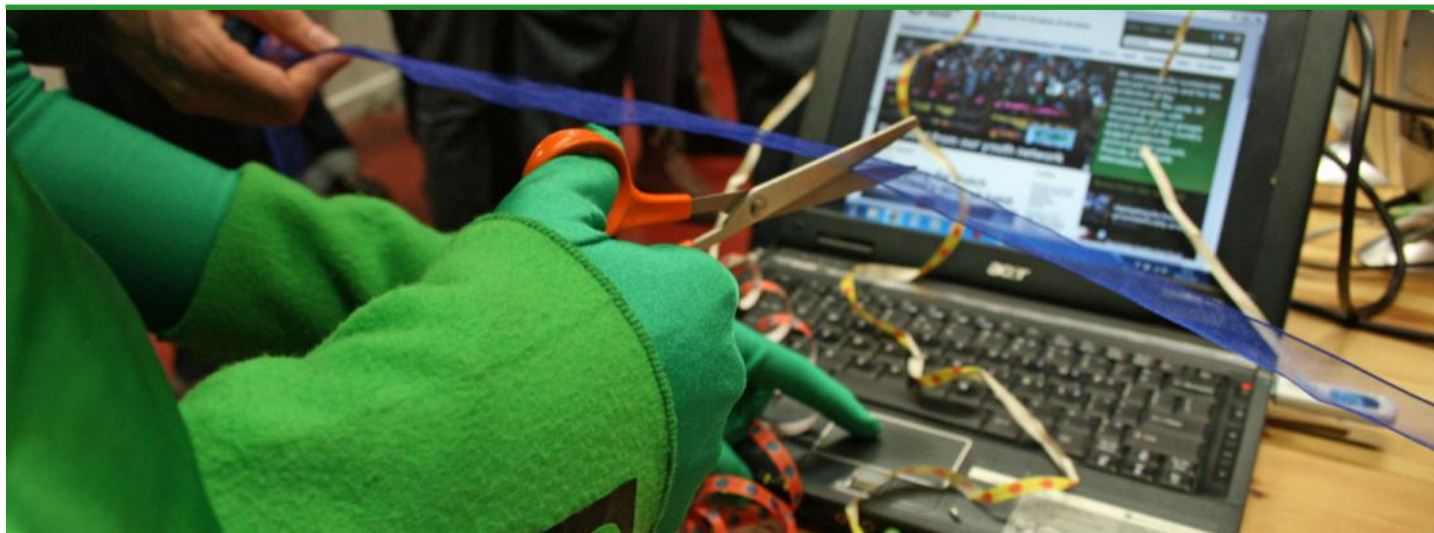
- All information regarding the upcoming AGM in June (12th-15th), will be posted there (and only there) (see AGM 2012 folder under FoEE AGM)
- Each FoEE Programme will have its own folder on the insite - including a subfolder in which pre- and post meeting documents will be stored
- Communications - a selection of important documents relating to communications at European level is stored in the FoEE Communications folder.



Dates for the diary:

- 23-24 April - FoEE ExCom meeting
- 12-15 June: FoEE AGM (registration deadline: 1st of May 2012)

Energy Savings man launches the new FoEE website (pages 10 and 11)



People news

Hellos

Energy savings man

Ka-Boum!! He's the Man in Green. ENERGY SAVINGS MAN! Are you fed up with fat-cat-climate-change-sceptic politicians with a HIDDEN agenda? Think they're in bed with FOSSIL FUEL energy companies planning to spend TRILLIONS of YOUR hard-earned money on oil and gas imports? Want a tough Energy Efficiency Directive to sort them all out once and for all? Then call ENERGY SAVINGS MAN right NOW on 02893 1000 (area code for Planet Directovite: 0032).



Krysia Williams joined the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ) as an intern at the end of January. Over her 6 month stint with the ECCJ, Krysia will be supporting Jerome and Yolaine in their work to mobilise and unite ECCJ members (including FoEE!) campaigning for greater corporate accountability across Europe.

Her focus will be on the current work being carried out in the EU related to access to justice for victims of corporate abuse, as well as the way in which companies report on the environmental and societal impacts of their operations.

Krysia previously worked on various campaigns with the carbon-cutting organisation 10:10, and with local FoE groups in Brussels, Newcastle and Sheffield.

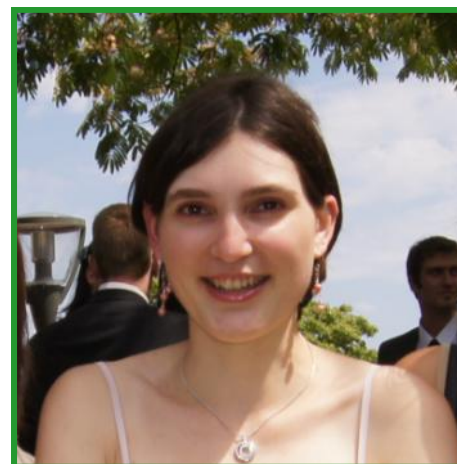
Celia Drummond started working as an intern in the communications team in mid-January. So far she has been helping Fran & Sam with the new website. She'll be working on the network news, (this very newsletter that you're reading!), the annual review, and will be active on social media.

She is from the UK, but was happy to escape to Brussels for a while. She has worked for a number of community organisations and grassroots action groups. Recent experiences

were working on documentation and communications for a youth active citizenship project in rural India and working with climate activism documentary 'Just Do It' (see page 7!)

Marie-Florin is with Friends of the Earth Europe until July as the administrative and finance intern. She studied International Relations in Lyon, France, and has worked both in France and in Belgium, including an internship in the sustainable development area in the organisation ICLEI.

She previously volunteered for *Lions des Neiges* dealing with human rights in Tibet and in the association *L'Observatoire des armements* working on disarmament and nuclear issues.



Campaign and network development news

Civil society petition for better access to documents

Friends of the Earth Europe and ClientEarth, with the support of 19 other civil society organisations including CAN Europe, Corporate Europe Observatory, ECAS, FERN, Greenpeace, Spinwatch, Statewatch and T&E, sent a petition to the European Parliament asking that they ensure the European Commission complies with its legal obligations to provide systematically better access to documents. Access to documents is not only enshrined in law, it is a prerequisite for lobby transparency and full democratic participation.

The petition highlights the repeated failure of the European Commission to comply with its legal obligations on public access to documents under EU law and the UNECE Aarhus convention on access to environmental information.

We are calling on Members of European Parliament to support the right of access to information and to democratic, balanced and equal participation in decision-making, by investigating this matter and pressuring the European Commission over its repeated failure to comply with its legal obligations.

Climate campaigners meeting, March 2012

Climate campaigners from 13 national groups, plus Young FoEE and FoEI, assembled in Brussels on 13th and 14th March for FoEE's climate campaigner meeting, which was held in conjunction with FoEE communications meeting.

Participants contributed to development of the Climate Justice and Energy programme's new campaign on renewables, which will focus on building public acceptance of renewables by



ensuring greater community involvement in renewables and energy efficiency projects, particularly through cooperative ownership. The work would centre around ensuring that legal, financial and technical barriers to establishing community energy projects are removed, and that there are effective financing schemes to incentivise take-up. Presentations from Mike Parr, an expert on electricity grids, and Dirk Vansintjan, the founder of Belgian renewable energy cooperative Ecopower (www.ecopower.be), showed that community-ownership models were both technically and financially feasible.

Also discussed at the meeting were developments in the Big Ask campaign, the progress of UNFCCC negotiations, and opportunities for climate finance from the EU budget for 2014-2020, which is currently being negotiated.

Over the coming months the FoEE team will continue to develop the new community power campaign with interested national groups. If your group is interested in getting involved contact: sonja.meister@foeeurope.org

Network development: affinity groups project off to promising start

Friends of the Earth Europe's new Affinity Groups project got off to a promising start with two phone conferences in January and February in which participants shared stories of the different ways they have engaged individual supporters and how to better involve people in their campaigns.

The Affinity Groups project brings together member groups to support each other on the topics of activism, movement building, mobilisation and involving people. It aims to provide a structured forum in which groups can exchange ideas and skills on these topics, and support each other to solve issues faced.

Examples of successful campaign methods discussed in the phone conferences include FoE Austria's use of free space in a sympathetic newspaper to get 700,000 signatures against nuclear power and FoE EWNI's collection of testimonies from people living in cold houses as part of their Warm Homes energy savings campaign.

The affinity groups are made up of campaigners, communicators and activism people from FoE

groups who have a shared interest, previous partnership, or a common topic to work on. Ten member groups are now participating in the project, which will continue for the next couple of years. More groups are always welcome.

For more information or to get involved, contact:
david.heller@foeeurope.org

EU biofuel targets will cost €126 billion without reducing emissions

New figures, commissioned by Friends of the Earth Europe and ActionAid were released in February, showing that the planned increase in biofuels use could cost European consumers an extra €94 to €126 billion between now and 2020. In addition to the fact that EU biofuel targets have not been shown to reduce emissions.

Robbie Blake, biofuels campaigner for Friends of the Earth Europe, said: *"Europe's squeezed consumers and taxpayers are paying the price for a flawed green policy that delivers no environmental benefits. Motorists and the environment will bear the brunt of these ill-conceived biofuel targets – with higher prices at the pump and higher CO2 emissions."*

For more information:
www.foeeurope.org/EU-biofuel_cost-020212



Above: Cartoon sent to MEPs by Friends of the Earth Europe calling for a genuine green reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

Our long term food security is in your hands!

Alongside seven other environmental organisations, Friends of the Earth Europe called on Members of European Parliament to take a stand for genuine green reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The single biggest threat to European food security arises from widespread unsustainable farming and livestock practices based upon monocultures, over-dependence on pesticides, fertilizers and feed imports, and leading to water overuse and soil degradation.

We sent them a letter and cartoon to highlight our demands.

For more information:
www.foeeurope.org/node/655

YFoEE Annual Network Gathering, Switzerland

Young Friends of the Earth Europe is back from another Annual Network Gathering! This year over 30 people from 19 countries joined us for an inspiring and action packed four days, hosted by our friends from **Pro Natura Jugend** in Switzerland.

The Network Gathering is the annual forum for activists from the YFoEE network to discuss the work and direction of the network and make action plans for the coming year. YFoEE celebrates five year's in 2012, and to mark the anniversary, this year's Network Gathering launched plans for a long term strategic plan, and of course, provided an excuse to eat lot's of delicious vegan birthday cake.

Find out more on YFoEE's new website (page 10) and new facebook page: www.facebook.com/YoungFoEE

Left: Friends of the Earth Europe and Action Aid campaigners outside a biofuel industry meeting in Brussels.





Documenting a culture of resistance

FoEE interview with film-maker Emily James

Absorbing climate-activism-documentary 'Just Do It' opened the Green Movie Days film festival (see page 16) in Brussels this month. Celia Drummond met director Emily James after the screening to talk about the film, her inspiration, the role of documentaries in the environmental struggle, and about meeting people prepared put themselves at risk for what they think is right.

Film-maker Emily James spent much of 2009 embedded in UK-based grassroots direct action groups, such as Plane Stupid and Climate Camp, documenting their secretive activities. The cameras followed the whole story of not just the actions, but the people themselves who are taking on governments and corporations to fight climate change. They storm coal-fired power stations, occupy airport runways and use their bodies to blockade banks, all in the face of arrest.

The result of this labour of love is an audacious, bright film that tells the story of people standing up for what they believe, and is also a testament to the power of the

individual and community in struggle against the injustices of the modern world.

The project also resisted traditional film production models and was made possible through crowd funding and with the help of over 100 volunteers.

'Just Do It' is Emily's feature debut. She has previously won international awards for her experimental and satirical television and documentary work. Emily is currently documenting the story of Polly Higgins, a UK-based lawyer who is working through the UN process to try to get Ecocide recognised as an international crime.

Can you talk about the birth of the idea behind 'Just Do It'?

In 2008 I filmed Plane Stupid going into, occupying, and shutting down the runway at Stansted Airport.

I facilitated the distribution of the tapes to major broadcasters and it was all over the news for 24 hours. Then the mainstream news cycle moved on, and it was gone.

So I suggested to Plane Stupid that if we were to document the run up to an action and the planning and preparation, I would be able to make a film that had much more depth, longevity and took a deeper message to people.

They said absolutely no way; they were quite rightly concerned about their legal safety because potentially the footage could be used against them in court. But I persevered: I went away and did a huge amount of homework and



Girls from Climate Camp in the City, London, 2009 (photo: Kristian Buus)

had discussions with both activists and legal advisors and worked out a way to do it that would be safe for them.

What place do you think documentary and filmmaking has as a tool for social change?

Documentary is very good at opening a window into another world that the audience doesn't necessarily have access to and in doing so it builds empathy with those people.

In the case of 'Just Do It' we were able to give an insight into a community which is quite frequently misrepresented in the news, or presented in a very paper thin way, with no real depth. We could provide a portrait that was much more accurate and nuanced and didn't have the political agenda of attacking the people who were in the film.

In that sense documentary can - by sharing the stories of one group with other groups - cross-

fertilise and inspire and hopefully encourage others to be as bold and as strong as the people in the film.

The film finishes in spring 2010, since then we've seen Occupy, the student protests in the UK, the Indignados in Spain and now the austerity measures that are being rolled out in many countries across Europe. What do you think this new context means for the environment movement?

What's interesting is that Climate Camp used to try very hard to get people to draw connections between the economic system, the capitalist system, and climate change and the environment, and

To meet people who say: "I don't care what the governments are doing, I'm gonna step in here and do what I think is right to do!" That is really exciting.

it was very difficult to engage people in a discussion about the banking industry.

Since the economic meltdown it's become very easy to engage people in the wider picture dialogue, and to get them to see that actually all these issues are very connected to each other and that we can't address one without addressing the bigger picture.

So, while it may look like people aren't campaigning on climate as much as they were a few years ago, for the people involved it's never been a this or that kind of thing, it's always been a coherent struggle to bring systemic change, rather than single issue campaigning.

Do you know of any examples of when people have taken 'Just Do It' inspired actions?

One woman came to a screening to tell me that she was significantly involved in the anti-fracking direct action movement as a direct result of having watched the film, which was



Ethical renovation of Royal Bank of Scotland, 2009 (photo: Mini Mouse)

really gratifying, and quite a few others have told me they've gotten involved in taking action after seeing the film.

I've had quite a lot of people tell me that they used to be involved, and after having gone through a period of disillusionment, then seeing the film, they decided to get re-involved. That is an extra bonus which I'd never really aimed for.

How can Friends of the Earth activists get involved / use your film?

We definitely encourage people to organise screenings of the film to help inspire and engage people, and to start a dialogue about tactics and what they're prepared to do.

The film seems to be incredibly effective in that way and we give a lot of support for that, so we extend that invitation to all of the local groups to host local screenings. Hopefully off the back of that people will rise up and start organising themselves

and taking action.

Have your thoughts about the role of film in the fight against climate change changed after making 'Just Do It'?

I've been engaged in this process of using film as a tool for social justice for quite a long time and I think if anything, it has solidified that and strengthened it for me. I was always a filmmaker first and have gradually used my filmmaking skills more and more towards social purpose ends and it seems to be the most effective thing that I can contribute.

The thing that was really amazing about making this film about really grassroots organisations, is that it has inspired me to encourage individuals to take action and to see the power of

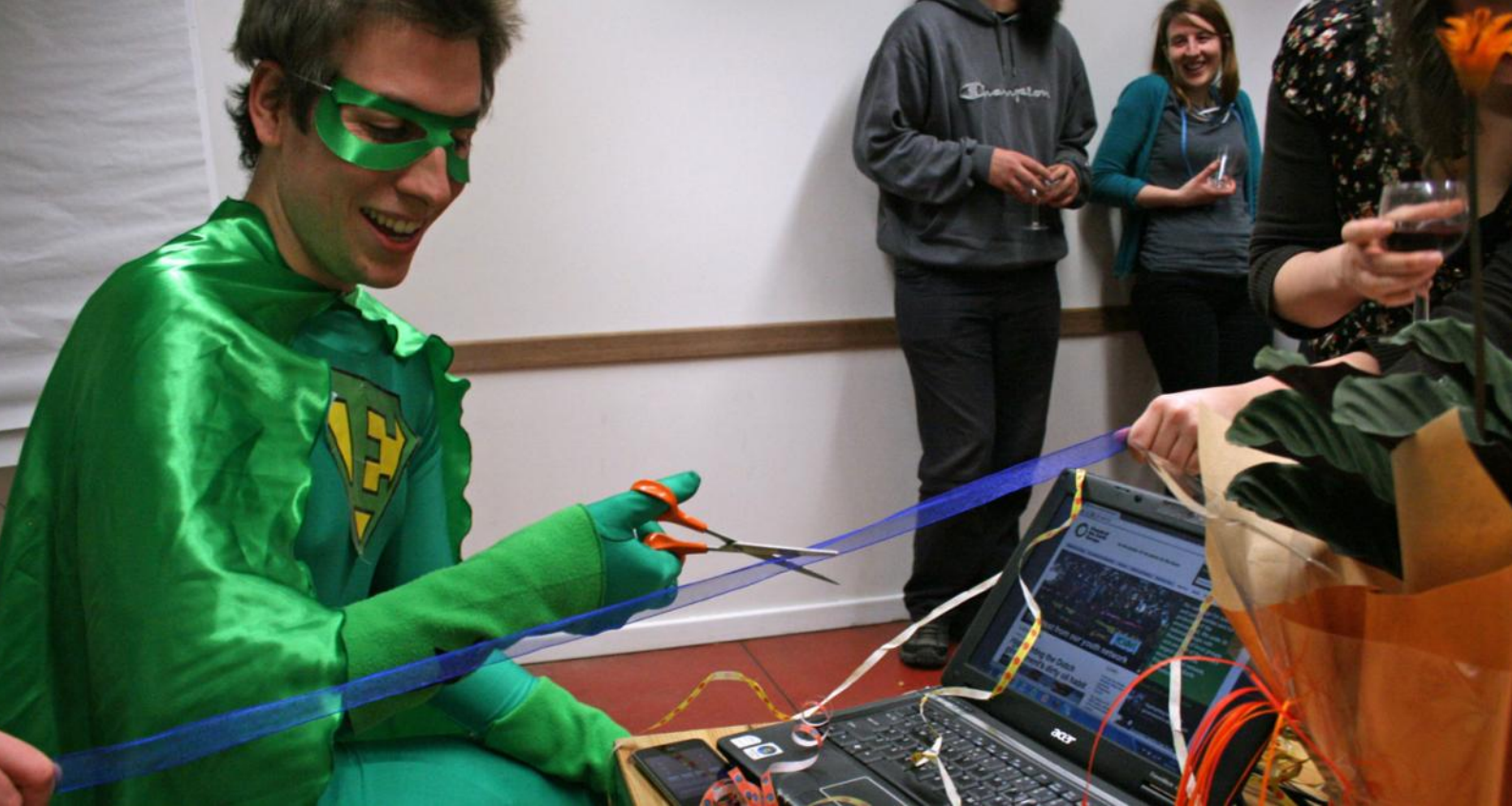
We leave it to the fringes, but we need to move radical ideas into the middle.

individuals, and the power of empowering individuals.

This word 'empowerment' gets thrown around a lot, but when you're looking at the individual in the grassroots, if even 20% of society took up that challenge, we would be in a fundamentally better place than we are now.

We leave it to the fringes, but we need to move radical ideas about the right of each individual to have a voice and a say over what they are doing into the middle. I'd always looked at politics and this kind of action as 'civil disobedience' in terms of how can we lobby the governments to do things differently.

As Paul says in the film, if we want the world to be a different place, we have to prefigure that change in the here and now, and be the change we want to see. To meet people who say: "I don't care what the governments are doing, I'm gonna step in here and do what I think is right to do!" That is really exciting.



Presenting our new website!

We are very happy to present the new FoE Europe website - www.foeeurope.org - launched at the beginning of March.

The website is a place to keep up-to-date with the successes and developments in our campaigns, learn about our positions, access our reports, publications and other resources, and see photos and videos of our actions.

The new site is for and about our whole European network. We think it is a huge improvement, especially because it is much more reflective of the network and demonstrates much better the strength and diversity of our member groups. Our website is visited by around half a million people a year – the new site adds value to our campaigns because it shows much more clearly that we are speaking on behalf of a network of grassroots organisations.

It is a platform where all member groups can share your news and information making it easier to share stories and activities with

the network, people in Brussels, and beyond.

Profile pages

Each member group has its own profile page on the site. This gives contact information and a link to the group's own website, an overview description, the logo and an image. There is also space for news stories. Each profile page displays the two most

Profile page of Friends of the Earth Czech Republic showing 2 most recent news stories

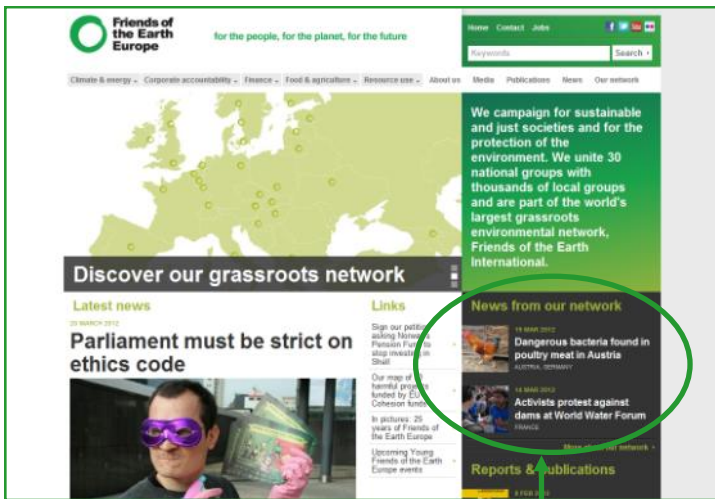
recent news stories from that country.

New stories

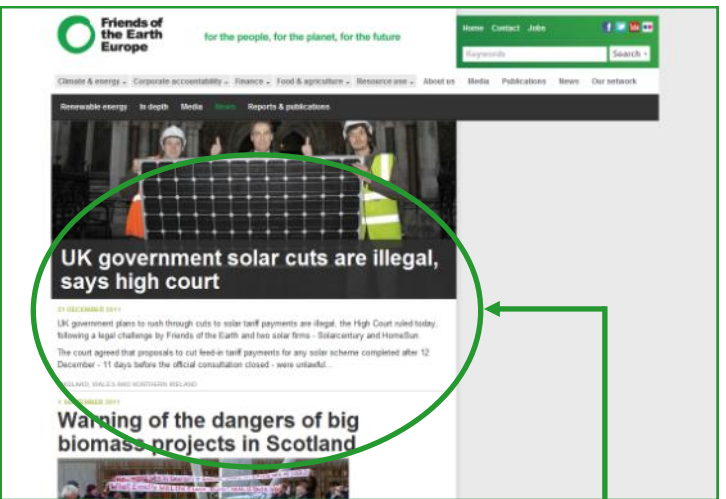
News stories from member groups also appear on the homepage – in the centre column and under 'News from our network' in the right hand column. The two most recent stories from around Europe will always appear on the homepage.

News stories from member groups also appear in the rele-





Homepage showing recent news from Austria and France



The renewable section showing news from EWNI and Scotland

vant section of the website. So successes and updates from every country can also be found under the campaign topic.

You can navigate to all the issues we work on using the big green drop-down menu.

From now on please do think to send news of your successes and campaign developments for us to put on the website – especially if you have great images or videos to go with them! You can send your stories to any of your contacts at the FoEE office or direct to francesca.gater@foeeurope.org

Young FoEE website

Young Friends of the Earth Europe also has a new site: www.youngfoee.org

The new Young FoEE site celebrates much better who Young FoEE are, what they do and why they do it. It also clearly communicates Young FoEE's values, how they are structured and which youth groups are affiliated to the network. The plan is for lots of the content to be written by Young FoEE members around Europe.

Insite

Simultaneously to launching the new FoE Europe website, we

The Young FoEE homepage

have also transferred our internal website to the FoE International insite. All information relevant to the FoEE network can be found in the European Region section of the insite. This means that member groups have one central place to access documents and information related to FoE Europe and FoE International.

The insite can be found at members.foei.org/regions/europe or by clicking the link at the bottom of the new homepage. If you don't already have a password please contact Joukje at FoEI (joukje@foei.org)

Thank you

A group of stakeholder representatives has worked with us to develop the new site, giving advice and input throughout the development. There were representatives for FoEE groups, for FoEE

campaigns, the FoEE office, Young FoEE, and funders.

We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to these people and everyone else who has helped with the new website project, especially Gina in Hungary, Job in Netherlands, Martin in Malta, Marci in Hungary, Chris in the UK, and Phil at FoEI who all gave us fantastic support.

We really hope the network will be pleased with our new websites. If you have any comments or if you spot anything that needs to be changed then please send it to francesca.gater@foeeurope.org

The new site was officially unveiled by a special celebrity guest...you might recognise him from elsewhere in the Network News!



Groups' news

FoE Czech Republic *Political support follows Czech climate ad campaign*

After weeks of negotiations, Friends of the Earth Czech Republic won support from three of the four parties in the Czech Republic's governing coalition. The campaign victory came after wide media coverage surrounding the groups' creative advertisement campaign in the capital Prague.

Large posters were placed at over 130 sites in the busiest public transport hubs in Prague, pressuring politicians to take action for the climate. The posters featured three major Czech politicians including the Prime Minister, Petr Nečas, with their faces aged to how they might look in the year 2030. They have captions such as, "I am sorry that we have not cut our dependence on oil imports" or "I am sorry that we have not cut your energy bills".

The posters direct people to Hnutí DUHA's website where they can write a letter to the Prime Minister asking him to support the climate law. The group received wide media coverage, and were named 'Campaign of the month'.



Snowmen from across Finland gather in February to encourage MPs to support a just and ambitious climate policy.

Friends of the Earth Czech Republic is campaigning for a climate law to cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 2% every year. Support from three of the four governing parties is a strong signal for the bill's eventual passage through parliament, as together with the opposition Social Democrats (who already support a climate bill), one of these parties is likely to form the next Czech government after elections in 2014.

Friends of the Earth Czech Republic remains optimistic that this support will be transformed into real commitment to adopt the bill in 2013.

Friends of the Earth believes legally binding emissions cuts in the form of climate laws are the best way to make sure emissions reductions actually happen.

FoE Finland

Finnish snowmen make a stand against global warming

Snowmen from all across Finland gathered in February to encourage MPs to support a just and ambitious climate policy. The snowmen stood outside the Houses of Parliament in Helsinki and in nine cities around Finland. They were pictured holding signs with two demands: a strong climate law and 40% reductions in

Finland's domestic carbon emissions by 2020.

The action was organised by Friends of the Earth Finland to say this is the least Finland and other industrialized countries should do to prevent the dangerous impacts of global warming. They are calling on their politicians to make bold, ambitious and far-reaching decisions in Finland's climate policy this year.

This is the seventh time the snowmen demonstrations have been organized in Finland as part of the Finnish Big Ask campaign. This year the snowmen gathered in front of the House of Parliament in Helsinki to remind members how important the decisions made in 2012 will be for tackling dangerous global warming in the near future.

See pictures from the Snowmen actions:

<http://goo.gl/xPWEc>

For more information contact: jonas.bistrom@maanystavat.fi

FoE Hungary

Hungary's ninjas highlight benefits of energy savings

The socio-economic benefits of energy savings have been highlighted in the run-up to decisions on the EU Energy Efficiency Directive with a national multi-

media competition organised by Friends of the Earth Hungary.

People across Hungary were invited to submit creative ideas in a variety of media formats to illustrate the exciting, sexy and fun side to energy efficiency. Videos, posters, cartoons and music were created by nearly 80 applications and the winners were announced today.

The winning entry was the video 'Electro-ninjas' by Fábry Balint which features a crack team of energy ninjas who go around turning off appliances, changing light bulbs, and engaging in a range of energy saving measures.

In second place was the song 'Please let me help' by Zsuffa Aba, while third prize went to Fannie Rennesson, Lauren Groves and Magda Sedmikova for a 'spot the difference' poster showing several simple energy saving measures. Prizes included electronics gift cards and solar chargers.

Negotiations on the EU Energy efficiency directive provide a crucial opportunity to highlight the benefits of energy savings. At the end of February the European Parliament's Energy Committee (ITRE) will vote on whether Europe should be legally bound to deliver its target of 20% energy savings by 2020.

This vote will have a significant impact on the future of energy in

Europe including on savings in fuel bills and CO2 emission cuts.

See the winning entries here: <http://goo.gl/tlu5A>

For more information contact: alexa@mtvsz.hu

FoE Netherlands *Highlighting the Dutch government's dirty oil habit*

The Dutch government's friendly relationship with big oil companies, and unwillingness to block polluting tar sands from Europe, was ridiculed by Friends of the Earth Netherlands/Milieudefensie in March.

In a colourful action outside the Shell headquarters in The Hague activists dressed in Dutch national costume had oil poured over them by a 'representative' from Shell. At the same time, an activist playing Joop Atsma, the Dutch secretary of state for infrastructure and the environment, looked on smiling.

The stunt followed the Netherlands' abstention from a crucial EU vote on the Fuel Quality Directive last week. The vote could have helped keep tar sands out of Europe but not enough countries supported the European Commission's proposal. The final decision will now be taken by European environment ministers in June.



Friends of the Earth Netherlands, together with cosmetics chain LUSH, drew attention to the destructive impact tar sands mining and production has on local communities. They called on Atsma to vote against tar sands and highlighted the Dutch government's stake in oil company Shell.

Tar sands oil is the most devastating fuel in commercial production today, producing three to five times more climate changing emissions than conventional fossil fuels. The pollution and deforestation from tar sands does irreversible ecological damage, kills wildlife and threatens indigenous communities.

Below: Spot the difference; How many energy saving measures can you find?





EU Funds Investing for the future: More jobs out of a greener EU Budget

The next European budget (2014-2020) is being decided in troubled times but such difficult timing also constitutes an opportunity. If smartly used, the next budget can help Europe improve its economic stability and create more jobs while at the same time reducing its unsustainable ecological footprint. This study reveals that investing in green sectors brings about positive employment benefits.



Economic justice Farming money: how European banks and private finance profit from food speculation and land grabs

This report analyses the activities of 29 European banks, pension funds and insurance companies, including Deutsche Bank, Barclays, RBS, Allianz, BNP Paribas, AXA, HSBC, Generali, Allianz, Unicredit and Credit Agricole. It reveals the significant involvement of these financial institutions in food speculation, and the direct or indirect financing of land grabbing.

Farming money

How European banks and private finance profit from food speculation and land grabs



Capacity building Bringing the voice of people to EU decision makers

This guide has been written to help Friends of the Earth groups, and other groups working on environmental and social issues, to understand how and when to engage with EU institutions, in order to make campaigning activities more effective.

Understanding how institutions of the European Union work, and which powers they have, is a first step to understanding how you can influence EU decision making. This guide looks at how the main EU institutions function, and the routes that civil society groups have to influence them, as well as looking at the realities of advocacy work in the "Brussels Bubble" - a scene dominated by corporate influence, and informal contacts.

EU Funds EU Funds in Central and Eastern Europe: Roadmap to sustainability or dead-end investments?

This map presents environmentally and socially harmful projects being supported by EU Cohesion Policy Funds. It shows 33 harmful projects in Central and Eastern Europe with total costs of sixteen billion euros. The projects, which include highways passing through protected nature sites, waste incinerators and airports, are being paid for – or being considered for financial support in the future – by Cohesion Policy Funds in the current EU budget.



Young FoEE December newsletter - Durban in Brussels special

Durban in Brussels, 2-9th December 2011 was a European youth convergence for climate justice, organised by Young Friends of the Earth Europe in parallel to the 2011 UN climate talks.

This is what happened at Durban in Brussels, from a participants' perspective
www.durban-in-brussels.org



Communications news

Media round-up

We've had plenty of opportunities to see FoEE's campaigners on film so far in 2012.

A key vote in Brussels on tar sands drew intense media interest, helped by a letter to EU governments signed by eight nobel peace prize-winners urging them to keep highly polluting tar sands out of Europe. FoEE's campaigners were interviewed for **Canada's CBC News** and **Radio Canada**, **Germany's ARD** and Deutsche Welle Radio, and Belgium's RTBF. Highlights of the print coverage on this issue include **The Guardian**, **Chicago Tribune**, **European Voice**, **Le Figaro**, **Le Monde**, and **Huffington Post**.

Another important vote was the European Parliament's energy committee vote on energy savings, and this time it was the European Green party which captured FoEE on camera! **Their video** celebrating the result of the vote which was in favour of binding 20% savings by 2020 shows footage of our action inside the



parliament, and our emblem of energy efficiency; Energy Savings Man! Our verdict on the vote was also reported by **Reuters**.

The other big media hit of early 2012 was our report 'Farming Money' which shows how European banks, pension funds and insurance companies are increasing global hunger and poverty by speculating on food prices. *"Excessive speculation has caused food prices to rise in*

recent years and has increased the frequency and scale of price volatility," our campaigner Daniel Pentzlin told **Bloomberg**, and similar message was also reported by **Huffington Post**, **Free Speech Radio**, **Libre Belgique** and many others.

We continue to display highlights of FoEE in the media on our new website so you can check regularly **www.foeeurope.org** to see where we are making headlines.

FoEE communicators meeting, March 2012

Eleven European member groups, FoE International and FoE Europe, joined the annual two-day meeting for communicators. Twenty-one people gathered to share skills and experiences, and discuss common challenges.

The highlight of the meeting was a workshop with Richard Hawkins from the group 'Common Cause' (**valuesandframes.org**) who gave a fascinating introduction into their research into how people's values influence how they receive messages. In particular we talked about the 'intrinsic' values which FoE wants to reach out to in people. These are found in everyone but to greater and lesser extents – they



can be strengthened and weakened, both deliberately and unintentionally. If we embrace it, the research has far-reaching implications for our work. The group began by looking at the potential in the new European campaign on community renewable.

There was time for sharing skills and learning from each other, with popular topics including Facebook and social media, integrating communications in cam-

paigns, and supporter relations. The trial approach of organising the communications meeting in the same week as the climate campaigners meeting and the network development affinity groups meeting worked well. It was really useful for communicators and campaigners to join forces... although it meant a long, tiring week for some people! Overall the week was a great success with lots of positive feedback and good outcomes.

FoEE Events

Energy efficiency: Energy savings man promotes 'energy heroes'

On 28th February, the European Parliament's Energy Committee (ITRE) voted in favour of binding legislation to deliver Europe's target of 20% energy savings by 2020. Members of the European Parliament from all major parties reached an agreement to strengthen plans to reduce Europe's energy use by supporting a binding 20% target and recommending tougher measures to save energy.

Campaigners from FoEE and CAN-Europe were there to encourage them to be 'energy heroes', with a huge banner depicting the Parliament's rapporteurs on the directive as superheroes, and a special appearance from Energy Savings Man.

Energy efficiency: Putins promote energy efficiency

Friends of the Earth Europe and CAN-Europe have held a number of other actions outside key meetings and departments wearing masks depicting Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. We targeted Council negotiations and the European Commission's energy directorate, handing out flyers explaining how a strong Energy Efficiency Directive could help reduce Europe's reliance on foreign imports of oil and gas, as well as create millions of green jobs and help cut CO2 emissions.

Green Movie Days film festival, 22-24 March

Friends of the Earth Europe hosted the opening screening of the Green Movie Days film festival, which took place in Brussels. The film, 'Just Do It - a tale of modern day outlaws', was premiered to an enthused crowd who left the cinema invigorated by the actions of the daring and funny characters in the film who refuse to sit back and allow the destruction of their planet.

The screening was followed by a discussion with 'Just Do It' director Emily James (interviewed on page 7)



'Just Do It - a tale of modern day outlaws' premiered in Brussels on March 22nd March. photo : Rob Logan

FoEE campaigners dressed as Putin highlight Europe's reliance on foreign energy imports

*Front cover: FoEE's new hero, Energy Savings Man (Page 4)
Back cover: A FoEE campaigner dressed as Putin outside the European Commission*

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