

Friends of the Earth Europe
ANNUAL REVIEW

2013

for the people | for the planet | for the future

Join the
energy revolution!



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**

Who we are • The European arm of Friends of the Earth International, the world's largest grassroots environmental network • The European network's representative at the heart of the European Union campaigning for sustainable solutions to benefit the planet, people and our future, influencing European and EU policy and raising public awareness on environmental issues • The largest grassroots environmental network in Europe uniting 31 national member organisations and thousands of local activist groups across Europe • The people's voice at the heart of the European Union.



Members of the Friends of the Earth Europe network at the 2013 Annual General Meeting in Hungary

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Friends of the Earth Europe Executive Committee 2013-14 Lawrence Sudlow, Friends of the Earth Spain – chair; Bertrand Sansonnens, Friends of the Earth Switzerland – secretary; Gina Gal, Friends of the Earth Hungary – treasurer; Andy Atkins, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland – member; Katie Kiria, Friends of the Earth Georgia – member.

Welcome

2014 will see significant changes for Friends of the Earth Europe – both externally in the Brussels context where much of our work is focused, and internally to our organisation. I believe that over the last year we have laid strong foundations for these challenges.

Elections to the European Parliament are imminent, and the *Barroso II* European Commission is approaching the end of its term. By the end of 2014 the political landscape is likely to look very different to now. What these future politicians decide will affect the everyday lives of all the European Union's citizens, and will have global impacts for our generation as well as those to come.

Regrettably, the undeniable lack of political ambition and the time pressure associated with the end of mandates has too often led to weak compromise deals, rather than bold action in the long-term best interests of people and the planet.

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and his fellow Commissioners will not leave a legacy of climate leadership if they oversee the EU breaching its commitment to limiting global warming to 2°C. This is what the currently proposed *2030 package* of 40% emissions reductions without binding targets for renewables and energy efficiency would equate to. Nor if they push a new era of dirty energy onto Europe – with the arrival of tar sands oil and a dash for shale gas – instead of the renewable, community-owned energy future we need.

There remain some positive achievements that the outgoing administrations can be credited with. For the first time, the EU budget allocates funds for climate and environmental protection, and misguided biofuels policies are finally being rethought.

In spite of this, incoming Members of the European Parliament and European Commission must do a better job. Urgent action is needed more desperately than ever to protect the well-being of our children and grandchildren.

One way they must do this is by resisting a trade deal with the United States which lowers standards democratically agreed to protect citizens and the environment. The deal, which appeared dramatically on the agenda last year, has little to do with free trade and everything to do with corporate power. It represents a huge threat to progress towards an environmentally sustainable and socially just world, here and in the US. (See page 15).

In 2013 we identified the risks posed by an EU-US trade deal and lost no time in making it one of our campaign priorities. We are raising awareness amongst citizens and mobilising opposition to any deal that trades away our chances of a better future.

Last year we adopted a new strategy to guide our Brussels office and the European network for the coming years. It will help us respond to the urgency of the planetary situation, demonstrate the legitimacy and relevance of our work, and build the potential of our amazing grassroots network.

In our long-term strategy we will continue to press for changes in areas including climate change, renewable energy, food, biodiversity, extractive industries, resource use, and the spending of EU funds. We'll also make more connections between them by strengthening our work on dirty energy, land, economic structures and corporate power. Wide-ranging as this work may be, we will retain the flexibility to deal with emerging threats such as the EU-US trade talks.

You can read about all these issues, and more, in this review. The successes of our network's campaigns across Europe are also detailed. While pan-European progress may be lacking, it is encouraging to remind ourselves of achievements such as a national Bee Action Plan in the UK, a legal victory against Shell in the Netherlands, and the halting of damaging infrastructure plans in Croatia. (Read more on pages 10-12).

I hope you will enjoy browsing this review of twelve months in the Friends of the Earth Europe network, and support our choices of focus in our efforts to tackle the many challenges we face in Europe and around the world.



Magda Stoczkiewicz
Director, Friends of the Earth Europe
Brussels, May 2014

Campaign highlights – our work in 2013

As with every year, 2013 saw us campaigning for environmental and social justice and pushing Europe to take responsibility for the impacts it is having on other parts of the world. We continued to work in a variety of ways, always bringing the voices of the grassroots network we represent – to demand a different energy system, to highlight corporate capture, to call for good food and farming, to expose the emerging threat of the EU-US trade talks, and to speak on behalf of people and the planet. Here are highlights of just some of our activities in 2013.

Publications

All of the publications produced by Friends of the Earth Europe in 2013 are available on our website www.foeeurope.org/publications or by contacting us.

Advocating solutions

Tackling waste

Europe is unnecessarily sending valuable materials to incineration and landfill, concluded our report *Less is More*. With case studies on aluminium, cotton and lithium, the report showed how valuable resources are being thrown away as rubbish, contributing to unsustainable demand for more raw materials. This report is a tool in our campaign for higher recycling targets as well as targets for reuse and waste prevention.

Defending human rights

We supported people and communities who are facing human rights abuses as a result of their struggles to defend the environment beyond Europe's borders. In Guatemala, our allies in social movements are being increasingly criminalised, repressed and intimidated. Our work with groups on the ground helped raise awareness of land-grabs and human rights violations in the rush to exploit resources including gold and nickel deposits and hydro-electric power. We called on the European Union to provide mechanisms to monitor and enforce the defence of human rights.



Debating non-financial reporting for companies in the European Parliament

Making company reporting work

We worked alongside the European Coalition for Corporate Justice to highlight the need for strong non-financial reporting so that companies can no longer ignore their responsibilities to people and planet. Our debate in the European Parliament discussed how to make financial reporting work for all parties, and our reports focussed on the need for resource efficiency. We will continue to campaign for the transparency and accountability needed for European companies, wherever they operate.

Bankers say profits, we say food

We highlighted the intense corporate lobbying that continues to undermine attempts to curb the destructive practice of food speculation – a major contributor to rapid and unpredictable swings in food prices. Food speculation costs the world's most vulnerable the food on their plates, yet their voices were drowned out in Brussels. We call for an end to excessive and harmful speculation, and to the environmental and social damage done by financial markets.

Saving energy = saving money

As Europe continued to miss out on the huge potential benefits of energy savings, we pushed for strong implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive and for a binding savings target for 2030. Our report on the economic benefits of saving energy served as a wake-up call – getting on track to meet the energy savings target of 20% by 2020 would save the EU €200 billion net per year. Savings by 2030 would be even greater.



Reining in food speculators outside the European Parliament



Telling the European Commission not to cook the planet

Getting to the truth

Sounding the alarm about the EU climate gap Using various activities online and offline we raised awareness about the alarming disconnect between climate science and EU action. When the European Commission published its draft climate and energy plans for 2030 we branded them 'dangerously inadequate' and explained how they assume a 50:50 chance of overshooting the 2°C safe limit for global warming – no better odds than a coin toss. With odds like these, much stronger action is needed in the form of three tough binding targets – for emissions reductions, renewables and energy savings – for 2030.

The greenhouse gas numbers that the Commission is currently going for gives us only a 50:50 chance of preventing run-away climate change

Reuters quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Brook Riley

Mapping green leaders and laggards Thanks in part to Friends of the Earth and CEE Bankwatch campaigns across Central and Eastern Europe, EU countries are now required to spend at least €23 billion on renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable urban mobility projects. We analysed how the region's draft spending plans measure up so far and displayed the findings in an interactive map. Our online tool showed politicians, the media and others which countries are leading and which are lagging in making spending for the environment a reality.



Community-run solar power in Spain

Finding weed killer in human urine Our tests in 18 countries in Europe revealed traces of the weed killer glyphosate in human urine. We sounded the alarm and asked where the glyphosate is coming from, how widespread it is in the environment, and what it is doing to our health. Our work highlighted the dangers of glyphosate, and the need for urgent measures to reduce its use, including the rejection of genetically modified crops – reliant upon its use.

Biodiversity under threat

Biodiversity across Europe remains seriously under threat; we took that message to national governments and showed them that urgent action is needed if Europe is to meet its target to halt biodiversity loss by 2020. We called for harmful subsidies that are devastating biodiversity to be phased-out, or redirected. We also began documenting the individuals working to protect nature in our network, ahead of an exhibition and book launch in 2014.

Documenting land-grabs

We worked closely with our groups on the ground to document cases of land-grabbing in Indonesia, Liberia and Uganda – joining the dots between environmental and social devastation and European companies and investors. We worked to implicate large palm oil companies who receive European financial backing in land-grabs, and in some cases deforestation, that have resulted in communities losing land, farms, food sources and livelihoods.

Palm oil is driving mass deforestation, wildlife loss, community conflicts, and accelerating climate change

The Guardian quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Robbie Blake



Satiman villager working in his rice paddy

Debunking shale gas myths

Using figures from key industry sources and economic experts, we showed that shale gas is not the economic miracle heralded by its proponents. Our myth-busting reports and a debate in the European Parliament made it clear to European decision-makers that the shale gas boom is based on shaky economic foundations, which side-line health and the environment, and are driven by speculation and industry overestimates. We continue to campaign for genuine solutions to the climate and energy crises – community-owned renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Shale gas isn't a long-term solution to Europe's energy security issues

New York Times quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Antoine Simon



Raising awareness of the impacts of fracking in Brussels

Keeping tar sands out We kept up pressure for the immediate implementation of the EU's Fuel Quality Directive to keep tar sands, one of the dirtiest fossil fuels in production, out of Europe. We targeted Commission President Barroso with street actions and with a letter signed by 21 Nobel Prize winners calling for a healthy planet for future generations. We also brought the internationally renowned climate scientists James Hansen and Mark Jaccard to Brussels where they emphasised the need for urgent action.



Telling Barroso to play his cards right and implement the FQD

Having influence

Canada's dirty lobby efforts

We countered Canada's intensive push to bring tar sands to Europe with a report exposing its unprecedented lobbying efforts. The Canadian government has done everything in its power to undermine and delay the Fuel Quality Directive, while portraying the country as a pristine country with natural beauty and huge cultural diversity. Alongside First Nations groups we exposed this myth, documenting the devastating impacts of tar sands on the environment and First Nations people, as well as the threats to indigenous communities on the new frontier of tar sands, Madagascar.

The EU's scientists are being continuously undermined by the Canadians

EurActiv quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Darek Urbaniak



Warning the European Parliament not to support food for fuel

Feeding people, not cars

Every year, Europe burns enough food as biofuel in our cars to feed millions of people. We worked to expose this madness using high-profile stunts outside the European Parliament, research exposing the increasing reliance on environmentally and socially destructive palm oil, and close work with Friends of the Earth Indonesia on the impacts of palm oil production. A proposed cap on biofuels from food crops indicates positive progress but does not go far enough to stop the reckless use of food for fuel altogether.

An historic EU budget

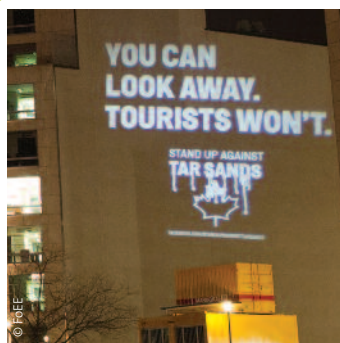
Our work with CEE Bankwatch helped shape the EU's €959 billion budget for the next seven years, with a final agreement allocating, for the first time, a percentage of the budget to climate protection. With this historic commitment in place, we turned our attention to government spending plans at the national level. Our pressure is paying off: allocations for much needed energy efficiency go beyond legal minimums in all CEE countries and our spending recommendations for sustainable development were included in almost every national spending plan.

We need to end biofuels competing with food production by phasing out this misguided use of food for fuel altogether

Wall Street Journal quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Robbie Blake

Europe's land footprint and its hidden impacts

We continued to advocate for *land footprint* as the best tool for Europe to measure its overall land consumption and to set reduction targets. Our *Hidden Impacts* research used new data to show how Europe's land use is one of the largest in the world and to back up the case for using the *land footprint* indicator. A second report on meat consumption restated the case of Europe's overconsumption of land and its global impacts. We published a simple infographic explaining how *land footprint* is measured. We brought together a coalition of more than 30 organisations which called on the EU to measure and report its *land footprint*.



Targeting Canada on tar sands

Poll brings citizens' concerns to the fore

We provided a wake-up call for European decision-makers after our poll of 6,000 citizens showed that the vast majority want more transparency and better ethics and lobbying regulation. We continued to campaign for a mandatory transparency register – over 10,000 people signed our petition. We also showed that more than a year after it came into force the new code of conduct for Members of the European Parliament is failing to prevent potential conflicts of interest.



Bringing citizens' concerns on transparency to decision-makers

Victory for youth against fossil fuels

Four hundred youths from across the globe met on the edge of the Arctic Circle for the annual Young Friends of the Earth Europe summer camp. The focus was on climate justice and tools to empower resistance against dirty fossil fuels. The camp drew attention to the threats of oil and gas exploration to the Lofoten Islands in northern Norway. The camp is just a snapshot of the youth network's passionate and vital work for social and environmental justice. Two months after the camp the new Norwegian government agreed to keep Lofoten free from oil and gas drilling – proving the power of sustained creative campaigning.



Empowering activists to resist dirty fossil fuels

Getting stronger

Trading away our future?

The plan for an EU-US trade deal which emerged in 2013 represents one of the biggest contemporary threats to human health, the environment, social well-being and democracy. With three briefings, we began to raise awareness of this new danger, building alliances and capacity in the network and beyond, exposing the secrecy of the negotiations, and detailing the far-reaching impacts of the deal – from food and chemical safety to agriculture and energy. We succeeded in moving the deal up the public, media and political agendas and will continue to ensure the voices of people and planet are heard at the negotiating table.



Mobilising around the EU-US trade deal



Standing in solidarity with communities resisting fracking

Building connections

We strengthened connections with our groups in Ukraine and Georgia with two trips to witness the ongoing work to bring sustainable development to the countries. We followed Friends of the Earth Ukraine's work to bring cycling infrastructure to Dnipropetrovsk and to tackle illegal development, and met local residents working with Friends of the Earth Georgia to improve water and sanitation in their villages. We also built relationships with groups in Romania, standing side-by-side with the community in Pungești to observe and document its resistance to shale gas – one of the front lines of the struggle against dirty energy in Europe.

Growing movement for good food and farming

As negotiations around Europe's new agriculture policy came to a close, we enabled citizens to contact their European representatives. Our innovative *Good crop/Bad crop* online tool urged politicians to consider the benefits of crop rotation. Ultimately the need for fundamental change in the way we produce and distribute food and manage our landscapes was not present in the final deal. We continue to strengthen and participate in the growing movement of people who want a food and farming system in Europe that ensures a viable and sustainable countryside producing quality food and benefiting local communities.



Marching for good food and farming

Europe needs more small-scale farming systems that protect biodiversity, increase soil fertility, provide good food and tackle climate change

EurActiv quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Adrian Bebb

Campaign to stop GM crops

We intensified pressure on the European Commission to stop attempts to push more unwanted genetically modified (GM) crops on to Europe's fields. Our new campaign, *Stop the Crop*, targeted new GM crops in the pipeline, including Pioneer's toxic maize 1507. New alliances were built, and the impacts of extensive GMO cultivation in the US and Latin America were documented. We celebrated when the European Court of Justice overturned the approval of the GM potato, Amflora, but also raised concerns about what an EU-US trade deal could mean for GMOs in Europe. The message that it's time to stop pandering to the biotech industry and its empty promises was ploughed home.



Giving bees a chance: no pesticides, no GM crops

Targeting resource efficiency

Our conference in Brussels looked at the role of targets in bringing about a reduction in Europe's use of resources. Senior policy-makers, including Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik, addressed the issue in front of a packed room of EU institutions staff and stakeholders. A new paper showed that Europe's demand for land is not compatible with a more equitable global society and the protection of biodiversity. The conference concluded that ambitious and visible targets are needed to decouple resource use from economic growth.

Our overconsumption is directly contributing to communities losing their land, deforestation, climate change and water scarcity

AFP quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Ariadna Rodrigo



Planting trees at As Corcerizas

Moving the network

We brought 35 participants from 16 countries to Galicia, Spain, to share skills and ideas on activism across Europe. The group spent a week at the sustainable-award-winning *As Corcerizas* environmental centre for the *Get Moving Too* event. Workshops and in-depth discussion of struggles in the context of economic, social and ecological crises provided inspiration and commitments were made to strengthen upcoming campaigns and to increase solidarity within the network.

The role of companies in resource use reduction

New EU non-financial reporting plans provided us with an opportunity to advocate for a more resource efficient future. Alongside the European Coalition for Corporate Justice we pushed for, and achieved, mandatory reporting requirements for European companies. However, we criticised the European Commission's proposal for not going far enough to guarantee ethical behaviour by businesses. We hosted a debate in the European Parliament where we put the focus on the need for companies to report on their use of resources to help move Europe towards greater resource efficiency.

Polluters talk; we walk

The day before the scheduled conclusion of the international climate talks in Warsaw, Poland, hundreds of climate activists – including Friends of the Earth member groups and Young Friends of the Earth Europe – walked out. We did so in protest at the lack of ambition at the talks, and in solidarity with people affected by climate change.

The walkout included social movements, trade unions and major environment, development and youth groups, together representing millions of people who demand real climate action.

It symbolised a flashpoint of frustration at the toxic influence of dirty energy corporations on the climate talks and the positions of many national governments. We see the walkout as a key moment in the revival of a climate justice movement towards the international climate talks in Paris in 2015 and beyond.

Friends of the Earth was instrumental in organising the walkout, and in exposing the corporate capture of the climate talks in Warsaw. It represented a culmination of the year's work on climate, a year in which we maintained pressure at the European level – calling on politicians to push for fast and fair emission cuts in line with science.

Our world is already experiencing man-made climate change, and the impacts are being felt by communities. We will continue to strengthen the movement for climate justice, challenge weak European climate policy, and push for genuine solutions to the climate crisis that put people and planet first.



Telling Poland that you can't clean coal



Demanding climate justice at the international climate talks



When polluters talk, we walk: the mass walkout

The walkout was held out of frustration and disappointment with the course of the talks

Fox News quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Susann Scherbarth



Walk-out of the climate talks by civil society



Above: The full Friends of the Earth International delegation in Warsaw Below: Kicking coal out of the climate talks



Standing in solidarity with the victims of typhoon Haiyan

K dla energii
ywatelskiej!

Campaigning with and for people across Europe

Highlights of our member groups' achievements in 2013

2013

Germany **Good Food, Good Farming**

More than 25,000 people marched in Berlin for reform of agricultural policy as part of Friends of the Earth Germany's *Good Food, Good Farming* campaign. The demonstration carried a message that fundamental agricultural reform, not only in Germany but in all Europe, is long overdue. Friends of the Earth Germany published reports on the colossal levels of meat consumption in Germany and advocated stricter environmental and animal welfare standards.



Calling for good food and farming

Netherlands **'Jungle-free' cheese please**

Friends of the Earth Netherlands received over 11,000 orders from across the country for the first batch of its *Kleine Hoefprint* (small hoof-print) cheese! The cheese is made by a family-run farm which uses milk from cows fed with locally-sourced animal feed. No soy is used in the process, thereby reducing the environmental and

social impacts of importing soy from Latin America. The Netherlands is the world's second largest importer of soy, the demand for which is a major cause of deforestation and biodiversity loss. In response to Friends of the Earth Netherlands' awareness-raising more producers have adopted sustainable practices, such as locally sourced protein-feed.



Reducing the hoof-print of cheese

Belgium **Promoting voluntary simplicity**

At The *Big Day of the Apple* in Belgium over 1,700 people gathered to smell and taste local varieties of apple and to learn and exchange information about the apple harvest. Friends of the Earth Wallonia and Brussels designed this event to promote organic production and show how the individual can contribute to a more fair and sustainable society by adopting an attitude of *simplicité volontaire* (voluntary simplicity).



Promoting organic production

Ireland **Debating real climate action**

Friends of the Earth Ireland expressed concern over the weak and unsubstantiated Climate Action Bill released by the government. They organised a public debate with a Masai farmer and an Irish organic farmer to discuss what developed countries like Ireland can do to take responsibility for reducing emissions – including climate targets, and sustainable agriculture and land use. Pushing for a law that contains targets would change the terms of the debate from *whether* we cut emissions to *how* we cut emissions.

Bulgaria **Halting destruction**

Bulgaria's Pirin national park came under threat when the government announced plans to reduce restrictions on development. Friends of the Earth Bulgaria launched a campaign against the plans which would have seen the construction of new ski-lifts and slopes in the park. As a specific result of letters sent and pressure generated by the campaign, the Minister of Environment declared that a final decision would be postponed until proper environmental assessments had been made. Siding with Friends of the Earth and its efforts to protect the Pirin park, the Supreme Administrative Court ruled there had been an inadequate Environmental Impact Assessment and halted further development.

Czech Republic Saving Šumava

When the Czech parliament threatened to open the doors of the country's most prized national park, Šumava, to logging and development, Friends of the Earth Czech Republic re-invigorated its efforts to protect endangered wildlife and save the forest. The group focused on protecting the wilderness zones – which are free from human intervention – and preserving the national park's status, including the submission of a formal complaint against the government's plans to the European Commission.



Endangered capercaillie

England, Wales and Northern Ireland Bee-cause bees matter

The Bee Cause campaign to protect bees following the dramatic fall in British bee numbers in recent years won a great victory when the UK Government committed to a national Bee Action Plan. As well as putting the decline of bees and other pollinators high on the agenda of all arms of government, the campaign supported individuals to make changes in their gardens and surroundings to help bees. The Bee Cause celebrated success at the European level when it helped win a ban on neonicotinoid insecticides linked to bee deaths.



Challenging mountaintop removal

France 40,000 vote for worst companies

Companies whose environmental and social performances do not match their public profiles were the subjects of Friends of the Earth France's *Pinocchio Awards*. More than 41,000 people took part in the online poll and voted water company Veolia, nuclear multinational Areva, and retailer Auchan the big winners of the year's prizes. Through the condemnation of bad and immoral practice, human rights violations and environmental damage, the awards pressure companies to change.

Scotland Lifting the lid on devastating investments

The Royal Bank of Scotland was challenged to disinvest in devastating mountaintop removal at its AGM. Friends of the Earth Scotland, which celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2013, installed a replica mountain outside the meeting and called on the bank to stop supporting coal mining linked with mountaintop removal. Mountaintop removal involves blasting the tops off mountains causing large-scale environmental destruction, as well as serious health impacts. Activists called on RBS to be a leader in the transition to a sustainable economy.

Croatia Citizen support for conservation

A decision on whether to build a golf resort on the Srdj plateau – an area of natural beauty and cultural heritage – outside Dubrovnik was put to the community in a referendum. Friends of the Earth Croatia led the campaign calling on citizens to reject the plans. Over 11,000 citizens voted with an overwhelming 84% agreeing that plans for the resort should be scrapped. Friends of the Earth Croatia celebrated another critical win for the environment when it successfully persuaded the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to cancel a €123 million loan for the construction of the controversial Ombla hydroelectric plant, thereby saving one of Europe's most unique underwater ecosystems.



Saving the Srdj plateau



Marching for bees

Lithuania Fighting fracking

Young Friends of the Earth Lithuania played an integral role in resisting large-scale fracking in the country; reaching out to local communities and the European network to raise awareness. The group pressured the Lithuanian government and called for a shift towards a more environmentally and socially just energy future. Activists will continue to organise meetings with community groups and co-ordinate campaigns in the country.



Highlighting the dangers of fracking in Lithuania



Cycling for the climate

Finland On the road to a climate law Friends of the Earth Finland biked their way towards stronger climate and energy action with a cycle rally. The event carried the message for a strong climate law to the different government ministries involved. It addressed concerns about what a climate law would mean for Finland, explained the benefits of a strong act, and told politicians what they could do to support it. The rally was part of the ongoing *Big Ask* campaign for a strong climate law. In 2013, thanks to persistent pressure from Friends of the Earth Finland, the climate bill entered the legislative process.

Austria No new nuclear subsidies The European Commission buried plans to fund the construction of new nuclear power plants in Europe with public money after a petition from Friends of the Earth Austria. Almost 30,000 citizens called on the European Commission to stop funding costly, dangerous new plants. The plan would have diverted public finance from the safe, clean renewable energies needed to tackle climate change.



Stopping dangerous new nuclear plants

England, Wales and Northern Ireland Telling companies to Make It Better

The unsettling truth about Samsung's use of harmful tin in its electronic products was revealed as part of Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland's *Make It Better* campaign. Research showed how the world's best-selling smartphone brand sources tin that is destroying tropical forests, killing coral and wrecking the lives of communities in Indonesia. More than 15,000 people contacted Samsung, prompting it to promise to take urgent action to tackle the problem. The European Commission announced plans for new laws requiring some companies to report on a range of environmental and social factors alongside their financial results, but the *Make It Better* campaign is keeping up the pressure for the laws to require all companies to reveal the full human and environmental impacts of their operations.



Highlighting Samsung's harmful tin

Spain Eco-centre awarded sustainability prize An environmental education centre and eco-hostel managed by Friends of the Earth Spain was recognised for its commitment to sustainability in a worldwide competition. As *Corcerizas* in Galicia was honoured in the contest organised by Hostelling International, the global network of youth hostels, and received funding to construct a wind turbine. The hostel will be able to realise its long term goal of becoming an independent energy island with 100% of its energy inputs sourced from renewables.

Netherlands Making Shell clean up its mess In a watershed decision, a Dutch court ruled Shell responsible for not preventing the pollution of farmlands in Nigeria. The case brought by Friends of the Earth Netherlands and four Nigerian farmers was an important victory for Nigerian people and the environment. It is the first time Shell has been ordered to pay compensation for damage caused by its operations. The case fuelled efforts toward the European Commission to take steps to ensure that parent companies are held liable for the actions of their foreign subsidiaries.



Legal victory over Shell

Switzerland Voting against urban sprawl The majority of Swiss citizens voted yes in a referendum for a new law initiated by Friends of the Earth Switzerland to protect areas used for farming and natural habitats from urban sprawl. Urban sprawl is causing significant damage to ecosystems and is destroying the Swiss landscape. The success is a step towards more sustainable towns and communities that evolve in harmony with agriculture and nature.



Thanking voters for preserving Swiss land

A community-powered energy revolution

We believe people are key to the transition to a clean energy future.

Our *People's windmill* on the esplanade of the European Parliament in Brussels brought together more than 150 people to demand more support for community renewable energy projects. The colourful event called on politicians to move away from the current dirty energy system, which favours the interests of big multinational energy corporations, and towards a new, decentralised clean energy system open for all.

People's windmill events also took place in Austria, Georgia, Spain, Scotland and the UK.

Community energy projects exist in many shapes and sizes right across Europe – from solar villages in Spain, to co-operative wind farms in Belgium, and community energy saving schemes in the Czech Republic – but they need more political backing to fulfil their potential. They are a proven solution to the climate and energy crisis.

We published a brochure and website showing that by putting people and communities at the heart of renewable energy we can achieve an energy transition more quickly, fairly and with added social benefits. They contain case studies like these:

- The island of Samsø in Denmark achieved 100% renewable energy self-sufficiency in just eight years thanks to a project led by the island community.
- Templederry in Ireland is home to the country's first community wind farm which supplies the grid with enough community-owned wind energy to power 3,500 houses.
- Energy consumption in apartments in Brno in the Czech Republic fell by 80% when tenants got together to fit insulation.
- In El Pomar in Spain, in exchange for agreeing to have solar panels on their roofs for 20 years, residents receive free hot water and have their electricity bills paid by the local housing association.

Our work to promote community energy is part of the *Community Power* project, a project in 12 European countries aiming to put people at the heart of increased renewable energy.

The project will continue in 2014 and 2015 to inform and engage policymakers and citizens, build support for community renewable projects, and speed up the development of renewable energy projects by creating a favourable legislative environment.

www.communitypower.eu



The People's windmill outside the European Parliament, Brussels



A People's windmill in Vienna, Austria



People power in the Imereti region, Georgia

Financial information

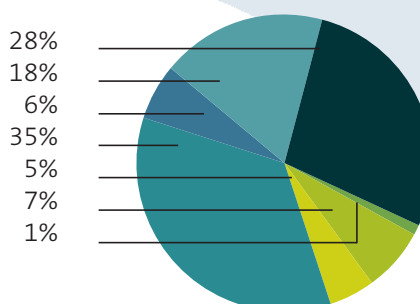
Income sources 2013 (in euros)

Operational grant - EU	751,064
Project grants - EU	481,905
Project grants - Other governments	163,079
Project grants - Foundations	931,616
Project contributions - Members	135,045
Membership fees	195,907
Other income	4,922

Total income 2013

2,663,538

Operational grant - EU	28%
Project grants - EU	18%
Project grants - Other governments	6%
Project grants - Foundations	35%
Project contributions - Members	5%
Membership fees	7%
Other income	1%



Expenditure 2013 (in euros)

Campaigning and communications	1,474,533
Network development	197,908
Support to national campaigns	173,386
Management and organisational development	302,484
Administration, IT and office costs	465,224

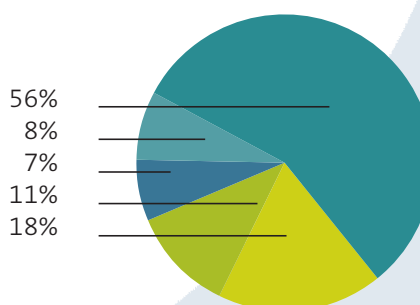
Total expenditure 2013

2,613,536

Reserves allocation for 2013

50,002

Campaigning and communications	56%
Network development	8%
Support to national campaigns	7%
Management and organisational development	11%
Administration, IT and office costs	18%



All figures are rounded to the nearest euro. Full copies of Friends of the Earth Europe's accounts are available from the Belgian National Bank at www.nbb.be from 1st July 2014. Quote company number 0443.252.089

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Emerging threats: the transatlantic trade deal

Plans for a trade deal between the European Union and the United States were sprung upon us last year. If agreed, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership will be the biggest bilateral free trade agreement in history.

Friends of the Earth Europe was quick off the mark to identify the huge dangers posed by the deal and to start raising awareness. Under the guise of removing barriers to trade, democratically agreed standards risk being negotiated away. These include standards that govern food safety, genetically modified crops, toxic chemicals, highly polluting fuels, data protection and many other aspects of life for people on both sides of the Atlantic.

We also quickly recognised the all-too-familiar excessive corporate influence on a process being conducted behind closed doors and away from public scrutiny.

From the outset we have worked closely with our partners at Friends of the Earth US in Washington to share analysis and sound the alarm about what citizens on both continents stand to lose.

We are also working closely with European allies, especially consumer and health organisations. With these partners we wrote to the EU Presidency before the talks even began expressing our concerns. Our open letters, briefings, and media work have helped push the deal up the public and political agendas.

As the talks have progressed in secret with none of the negotiating texts available to the public, our fears have increased. Opposition to the deal is understandably growing.

In 2014 we are focusing our efforts on three areas: raising awareness around Europe of the dangers the deal presents to the environment, health, social wellbeing and democracy; opposing excessive rights for business; and demanding increased transparency.

We reject outright the *investor-state dispute settlement* clause which, if included, would give excessive rights to corporations, enabling them to claim damages in secret courts if they deem their profits to be adversely affected by changes in regulation or policy.

We are campaigning to end the secrecy surrounding the deal, and to ensure the voices of people and planet are heard at the negotiating table. Public and civil society organisations must be able to follow what is being discussed and to know whether the interests of investors and big business are being placed ahead of the interests of people and the environment.

Big businesses see the deal as a chance to get rid of laws that have been put in place to protect citizens and the environment

EU Observer quotes Friends of the Earth director Magda Stoczkiewicz

2013

Friends of the Earth Europe
ANNUAL REVIEW

Friends of the Earth Europe

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