

Friends of the Earth Europe
ANNUAL REVIEW

2011

for the people | for the planet | for the future



2011



**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 national member organisations and thousands of local activist groups in 30 European countries * The people's voice at the heart of the European Union.



Friends of the Earth Europe's annual meeting, the Netherlands, 2011

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This annual review is dedicated to Helen Holder, dearest colleague and friend to all those in Friends of the Earth Europe, who passed away on Sunday 28th August. She was a brilliant campaigner and a wholehearted environmental activist. She will be deeply missed.

Friends of the Earth Europe Board 2011-12 Andy Atkins, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland – Chair; Oisín Coghlan, Friends of the Earth Ireland – member; Gina Gal, Friends of the Earth Hungary – Secretary; Hester Schoute, Friends of the Earth Netherlands – Treasurer; Lawrence Sudlow, Friends of the Earth Spain – member.

Welcome

MAY 2012

Friends of the Earth Europe has always been far more than an office in Brussels – it is a vibrant, thriving and diverse network with 30 organisations across Europe. In 2011, our network celebrated 25 years of existence, and each and every one of those groups has been, and remains, indispensable in our common campaign for environmental and social justice.

Renowned campaigner Chris Rose said: *“If politics is the ‘art of the possible’, campaigning is the science and art of changing what is possible.”* We have practiced the art of campaigning for 25 years and some of our groups for even longer. Our demands have always remained true to both science and justice, even when they appear far from political reality. But, when political reality is so discordant with the reality of our current environmental and economic crises, I am convinced, now more than ever, of the importance of being realistic and demanding the ‘impossible’.

Our network is part of a global federation spanning over 70 countries that has mobilised, resisted and transformed for four decades. This, combined with our 25th anniversary, provides a backdrop of credibility and confidence with which we continue to address the social and environmental challenges facing our planet.

Advocating for practical, safe solutions forms a crucial part of this work. We stood in solidarity with the population of Japan following the tsunami and nuclear disaster in Fukushima. There will always be risks with nuclear power, so we promote safe alternatives – energy savings, and community-owned renewable energy projects.

In the context of the economic and financial crises, we offer recommendations on how to make banks sustainable and on how to use EU regional funds to steer Europe on a sustainable development path. We fly the civil society flag in the European debate on resource use, addressing Europe’s overconsumption of natural resources by pushing for the robust measurement of Europe’s land, water, carbon and material use. Resource efficiency offers one path out of the current crises and the opportunity to build a new economy that operates within the planet’s limits.

We continue to push for lobby transparency, for a mandatory lobby register and against excessive corporate influence and revolving doors. In 2011 we succeeded in putting in place a proper code of conduct forbidding MEPs from holding second jobs that involve lobbying the Parliament’s agenda, the implementation of which we’ll monitor closely.

Another crucial part of our work is exposing the negative impacts that sections of the business community have on climate action. Our innovative spoof newspaper the ‘European Noise’ ridiculed BusinessEurope rhetoric and skewed industry arguments during the European Business Summit, while we countered airline industry ‘greenwash’ with research presenting the true environmental impacts of aviation agrofuels.

We continue to oppose Europe’s growing appetite for unconventional fossil fuels. Shale gas exploration threatens to prolong fossil fuel dependency at the expense of renewable energy and energy efficiency – last year we laid the foundations for a European campaign against this unconventional gas. Our ‘dirty lobby diary’ shone light on the Canadian government’s lobbying offensive to open the European market to the most environmentally devastating fossil fuel – tar sands.

2011 saw victories for our campaign against genetically modified crops, including support from the highest European court for the right of beekeepers to remain GM free. However, 2011 also brought a tragic loss, not just for the campaign, but for the entire network. Our dear colleague and friend Helen Holder passed away – a brilliant campaigner and wholehearted environmental activist who worked tirelessly against genetically modified organisms and for sustainable agriculture. Her spirit and ideas remain alive at the core of our work.

Twenty-five years of existence, and the cumulative experience and diversity of our European and global networks, brings both the credibility and strength to achieve our common vision of socially and environmentally just societies. It provides solid ground from which, in 2012, we will continue to tackle the most pressing environmental issues and we will continue to champion truly sustainable and transformational solutions. I hope this review provides a snapshot of our work in 2011, and an idea of what to look forward to in 2012.



Magda Stoczkiewicz
Director, Friends of the Earth Europe
Brussels, May 2012

Campaign highlights – our work in 2011

For the last quarter of a century Friends of the Earth Europe has campaigned for the people, for the planet, for the future, and 2011 was no exception. Throughout our 25th anniversary year we continued to work on the world's most pressing environmental challenges which threaten global peace, equity and social justice. We saw significant successes in our campaigns on genetically modified organisms, corporate accountability, ethics regulation, tar sands, and resource use, amongst others. Here are highlights of just some of our activities in 2011.

2000

DURING INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE TALKS IN THE HAGUE, THOUSANDS OF FRIENDS OF THE EARTH SUPPORTERS BUILT A ONE KILOMETRE DIKE FROM SANDBAGS, SYMBOLISING THE THREATS POSED BY MAN-MADE CLIMATE CHANGE



Celebrating Europe's imaginary adoption of bold climate action with a spoof 'party'

Urging greater corporate accountability With the European Coalition for Corporate Justice we handed over more than 70,000 citizens' signatures to the European Commission calling on it to hold companies legally accountable for their social and environmental impacts around the world. The petition was accompanied by supporting pledges from 140 parliamentarians. Our demands for the EU to end the global damage European businesses cause people and planet were heard when the European Commission announced plans for a legislative proposal for mandatory reporting by companies on their social and environmental impacts.

2011

Providing solutions

Energy savings – a bright idea

The bright idea of energy savings was the focus of our highly visible work on the EU's Energy Efficiency Directive. Throughout the year at key moments we pressured for binding targets to drive down energy consumption. Using less energy is the best way to cut CO₂ emissions, oil and gas imports, and energy bills.

Commissioner Hedegaard's reliance on energy efficiency strengthens the case for a binding 2020 energy savings target

EU Observer quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Brook Riley

Nothing less than climate justice will do

The ongoing international climate talks were key moments for our youth and international networks. Young Friends of the Earth Europe held a spoof 'party in the future' at the UN meeting in Germany and cheered an imaginary decision by Europe to adopt a 40% domestic emission reduction target. As governments met in South Africa, Young Friends of the Earth Europe hosted 'Durban in Brussels' - a week of workshops, discussions, actions, and campaigning for more than 50 young activists. The talks failed to make real progress and we criticised the EU and other rich nations for not working in the interests of the world's 99%.

Eyes on finance As part of our work on sustainable finance, we co-founded the first EU financial regulation watchdog, 'Finance Watch'. Its mission is to counterbalance the profit-driven lobbying of the financial industry. With two groundbreaking reports on how to make banks sustainable we called for social and environmental criteria in lending and investment. With our supporters we sent around 65,000 emails to MEPs urging them to tackle food speculation.



Re-creating the Archimedes' 'Eureka moment' with Herman Van Rompuy, naked in a bath, having the bright idea of energy savings

1991
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE STARTED A BIOTECHNOLOGY CAMPAIGN TO INFORM POLICY-MAKERS OF THE RISKS FROM GM CROPS. IN 2011 LESS THAN 0.1% OF EUROPE'S FIELDS ARE PLANTED WITH GM CROPS.

2007

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH GROUPS COLLECTED 635,000 SIGNATURES DEMANDING A PHASE-OUT OF NUCLEAR POWER ACROSS EUROPE.

Support and solidarity after Fukushima We stood in solidarity with the population of Japan following the tsunami and as the disaster at the Fukushima nuclear power station unfolded, and we expressed our support for the people of Ukraine on the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The events in Japan highlighted that there will always be risks with nuclear power. We called on European leaders to phase-out nuclear and open the way for safe solutions to climate change and energy security.

Europe needs a phase-out plan for nuclear, and must open the way for safe solutions to climate change and energy security

The Guardian quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Patricia Lorenz



Lighting candles in Croatia in solidarity with the victims of Chernobyl

Telling Monsanto to 'buzz off' and let beekeepers be GM free Victories for the movement for agriculture free from genetically modified (GM) crops came when the European Parliament voted for substantially improved rights for national governments to ban crops on their territories. The European Court of Justice also upheld the rights of beekeepers to keep honey free from GM contamination. We welcomed both decisions as clear signals that politicians and European law are on the side of the majority of European citizens, who oppose GM crops.

This is a victory for beekeepers, consumers and the movement for GM-free agriculture in Europe

AFP quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Mute Schimpf

2009

MORE THAN 5,000 PEOPLE FROM OVER 20 DIFFERENT FRIENDS OF THE EARTH GROUPS JOINED THE FLOOD FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE ON THE STREETS OF COPENHAGEN DURING THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE TALKS



Telling Monsanto to 'buzz off' and let beekeepers be GM free

Influencing the debate

Towards a sustainable economy A conference convened representatives from European regions, EU institutions, the European Investment Bank and other stakeholders to discuss how EU regional funds can steer a green economic recovery. The event titled 'Green investments to the rescue' captured the spirit of hard times and took place in cooperation with the coalition for sustainable EU funds and the Committee of the Regions.

Debating the dangers of emissions trading Ahead of the international climate talks in South Africa we warned of the EU's overreliance on emissions trading. On a panel alongside members of the European Parliament, European Commission and Carbon Trade Watch, we told an audience of journalists and stakeholders that carbon markets are fundamentally flawed and are failing to deliver the carbon cuts needed.

1992

AT THE EARTH SUMMIT IN RIO DE JANEIRO FRIENDS OF THE EARTH GROUPS CRITIQUED THE BUSINESS-AS-USUAL APPROACH OF GOVERNMENTS AND CORPORATIONS



Ridiculing business rhetoric at the European Business Summit

Funding Europe's future Friends of the Earth Europe's and CEE Bankwatch Network's detailed recommendations for EU regional funds 2014-2020 described how to put Europe on a sustainable development path. With this publication we told the European Council and European Parliament, as well as national governments, that they must use structural and cohesion funds to tackle climate change, stop biodiversity loss and reduce resource-overconsumption.

Ridiculing business rhetoric Around 10,000 copies of our spoof newspaper, 'European Noise', were distributed to delegates at the European Business Summit, Brussels' biggest lobby forum, as well as to European Commissioners and Members of Parliament. Key business sectors hindering effective climate action were met with the parody paper produced to raise awareness and to push for bold climate action. By highlighting how business, like summit organiser and lobby group BusinessEurope, prevent vital action, and ridiculing their rhetoric, we showed EU leaders that it's time to reject skewed industry arguments and introduce tough targets.

Making resource use responsible

Our two-day high level conference in the European Parliament addressed what a responsible, resource efficient Europe should look like, and how to get there. Speakers included the European Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potočnik and the Executive Director of the European Environmental Agency, Jacqueline McGlade as well as campaigners from Friends of the Earth Brazil and Cameroon who brought their experiences of the impacts of Europe's overconsumption direct to EU decision-makers.



Working at the highest level to tackle Europe's overconsumption of resources

Revealing reality

Stopping secrecy Following four years of pressure, the European Commission finally released uncensored correspondence with car company Porsche. The letters reveal that Porsche tried to convince the European Commission that uniform emissions limits on all car manufacturers would threaten their existence. Only our threat of legal action made the Commission comply with access to documents regulation. This is a case of the European Commission acting transparently only when litigation looms, thereby obstructing citizens' rights to engage in the legislative process.

2005
THE WORST EU LOBBYING AWARDS WERE BORN TO EXPOSE AND COUNTER DIRTY LOBBYING TACTICS, PRIVILEGED ACCESS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND GREENWASHING.

New ethics code The 'cash for influence' scandal in which several Members of European Parliament (MEPs) were caught accepting money for tabling amendments revealed a blatant lack of ethics regulations. With ALTER-EU we reacted quickly and campaigned hard for a proper code of conduct. By the end of the year a new code was in place forbidding MEPs from holding second jobs that involve lobbying the Parliament's own agenda. We will be tracking the implementation closely to ensure loopholes do not lead to new abuses.

The proposed code must be part of a genuine overhaul of the Parliament's ethics rules

New Europe quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Natacha Cingotti

Fairer farming in doubt As Europe debated the biggest shake-up of farming for decades we called for radical reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to make it fairer, greener, protect family farming, and reduce its impacts in Southern countries. In a stunt to highlight the weaknesses of the European Commission's proposals, cows dressed as explorers and detectives went in search of the 'green' CAP. At the same time we released an analysis of the failings of the proposed reforms.



Searching for the real 'green' CAP outside the European Commission

Exposing biofuel greenwashing Trials of biofuel powered flights were exposed as a convenient smokescreen to the need to genuinely reduce emissions. Lufthansa, KLM, Virgin Atlantic and other airlines were prevented from greenwashing their image by our assertions that biofuelled flights can never be green. Our research showed that increasing the use of biofuels in Europe will exacerbate poverty, hunger and climate change, drive land grabbing and deforestation, push up food prices, and devastate wildlife.

The EU has committed to halt biodiversity loss by 2020 but researchers estimated that 85% of biodiversity risks being damaged across 17,000 square kilometres of natural habitats unless EU biofuels policy is reformed.

It would be irresponsible to grow enormous amounts of crops and grab land to fuel flights, rather than to feed the hungry

Reuters quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Robbie Blake



Telling the agrofuel industry to stop burning food for fuel

Jatropha: no wonder crop Jatropha, the much-touted biofuel crop is neither a sustainable nor profitable investment, we warned. Our report, targeted specifically at investors, told how companies are making false claims about the profitability of jatropha. In reality it is failing to prevent climate change and failing to help poor countries develop. This report formed part of our increased focus on the issue of land grabbing – when local communities lose access to land that they previously used, threatening their livelihoods. We campaigned to stop the drivers of land grabbing – calling for the scrapping of political targets for agrofuels – and for the reduction of Europe's land footprint.

Documenting dirty tar sands

lobbying 'Canada's Dirty Lobby Diary' was the title of our investigation into Canadian efforts to block EU plans to reduce fossil fuel emissions. The 'diary' documented Canada's unparalleled lobby effort to open up the European market to environmentally devastating tar sands oil. Our work continues to ensure the EU defies Canadian pressure and includes oil from highly-polluting tar sands in Europe's Fuel Quality Directive.

The Canadian government has done everything in its power to undermine and delay the EU's Fuel Quality Directive

The Huffington Post Canada quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Darek Urbaniak



Calling on the European Union to keep tar sands out of Europe

Revealing the true costs of GM crops

The costs of segregating genetically modified and conventional crops are much higher than originally thought, and are being unfairly pushed onto conventional and organic sectors, our research concluded. We urged European Ministers to take into account the full social and economic costs of GM crops, and not to rely on industry-biased models, when assessing countries' rights to uphold national bans. We also reminded decision-makers that the unpopularity of GM crops is mounting: the number of hectares of European fields planted with GMOs declined 23% since 2008, and bans on Monsanto's GM maize are in place in seven EU countries, and BASF's GM potato in three.

Strengthening the network

Putting people at the centre

With our member organisations around Europe we began planning for truly transformational change in how Europe produces its energy. Campaigners came together to work on a vision – putting people at core of reaching 100% renewable energy by massively increasing the share of community and citizen-owned renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. At the same time member groups came together in the form of 'affinity groups' to solve problems and support each other to deal with the challenges and opportunities for mobilising people. The learning around engaging with supporters and working with local groups will stand the network in good stead for making our vision of community energy a reality.

Witnessing the effects of climate change first hand

Hungary hosted 50 young people representing 20 different countries for the Young Friends of the Earth Europe five day summer camp. The location, the village of Ónod, was poignant as it has experienced devastating floods and increasingly hot summers over recent years, making the effects of climate change well known to the local community. The youth participants were welcomed by local residents who took part in an intercultural exchange.



Youth activists in Hungary

Measuring-up resource use reduction

Plans to tackle Europe's dependency on imported resources must include measuring the entirety of the EU's global land, water, carbon and material footprints and reducing them, we said. And the European Commission agreed. We welcomed its announcement that it will develop indicators in these four areas. However, with Europe's resource consumption amongst the highest in the world, we warned there must be no delay. We backed-up our calls for urgent action with new research showing Europe's land footprint is one of the largest in the world and that Europe's material consumption is threatening water supplies around the world.

Overconsumption in Europe is making the continent extremely dependent on land from outside its boundaries... contributing to climate change and biodiversity loss

The Parliament Magazine quotes Friends of the Earth campaigner Ariadna Rodrigo

Frack-off shale gas Shale gas exploration threatens numerous European countries. We brought together campaigners and activists from our member groups to examine the impacts, consider the alternatives, and plan ways of mobilising resistance. This form of unconventional gas and the process of 'fracking' required to extract it represents a serious threat to the climate, the environment and local communities.

Training budding campaigners

A four-day training on how to plan and run effective campaigns brought together 18 youth participants from 11 countries. People from Young Friends of the Earth Europe groups learned campaigning skills and developed exciting plans on EU climate policy, the Common Agriculture Policy and factory farming, which laid the basis for campaigns in 2012.

2007

THE YOUNG FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE NETWORK WAS FORMED



Standing in solidarity with small island states during the international climate talks

25 years of campaigning in Europe

Born from European campaigns on acid rain and the protection of tropical rainforests, and under the guidance of Friends of the Earth International, Friends of the Earth Europe began life as Coordination Européenne des Amis de la Terre (CEAT). It was in 1986 that a single employee began working from a small Brussels office – with the aim of putting the environment on top of the European Union agenda.

In 2011 we celebrate our first 25 years, in which time, Friends of the Earth Europe has grown into a vibrant office engaged in campaigning, communications, fundraising, network coordination, capacity building and supporting youth activism. We work with our thriving network of groups across Europe – stretching from Ireland to Georgia and Finland to Cyprus.

Seedling campaigns created in the early years now encompass movements capable of mobilising tens of thousands of people across Europe – whether against GM crops, or for climate justice. They have grown into campaigns capable of holding both European institutions and multinational companies accountable for their actions; campaigns that transform on the ground, while influencing core policy at the highest level.

Our programme for network development now tackles the core organisational issues behind campaigning – building on the network's common experience – while Young Friends of the Earth Europe, founded in 2007, rallies a grassroots network of young people and youth organisations to work together for social and environmental justice.



© Friends of the Earth International

1992

Calling on the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit to protect the world's rainforests

Demonstrating against imports of tropical wood, outside Harrods in London

1993



© Jonathon Rose - Friends of the Earth



© Milieudefensie

Building a one kilometre dike during the international climate talks to symbolise the threats posed by man-made climate change. The Hague

2000



© Milieudefensie/Michel Wijnbergh

Peaceful direct action against airport expansion at Schiphol airport, the Netherlands

1998

Twenty-five years is a significant milestone, one that reflects the credibility and strength of our network. It's also a sturdy point of reference from which we will continue to push for solutions to the world's urgent environmental and social challenges, and from which we will continue to campaign 'for the people, for the planet, for the future'.

Friends of the Earth Europe was recognised as an independent regional office in 1986, and was welcomed to the federation at the first Friends of the Earth International AGM to be held in the Global South, in Penang, Malaysia
© Friends of the Earth International 1986



More than 5,000 people join the 'Flood for climate justice' on the streets of Copenhagen during the international climate talks, Denmark

2009



2007

Friends of the Earth activists from 16 countries show their support for climate-friendly energy outside a meeting of EU ministers in Brussels



Thom Yorke, the front-man of Radiohead, launches the Europe-wide climate campaign the 'Big Ask' in Brussels

2008



More than 6,000 people take part in the filming of a short video on the beach at Ostend to call for legally binding annual emissions cuts, Belgium

2008



Campaigning with and for people across Europe

Highlights of our member groups' achievements in 2011

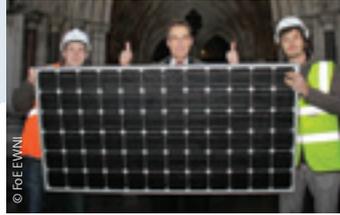
2008

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ENGLAND WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND SECURED THE UK CLIMATE CHANGE ACT – A WORLD FIRST THAT COMMITS THE UK TO LEGALLY BINDING CUTS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

2011



Dancing against 80s style climate policy outside the Scottish Parliament



Victory for solar power in the UK

England, Wales and Northern Ireland Solar cuts ruled illegal

Following a legal challenge from Friends of the Earth England Wales and Northern Ireland, the High Court ruled that the UK government's cuts to solar tariff payments were illegal. The decision was upheld on appeal. Friends of the Earth urged the government to reduce installation costs and ensure the solar industry continues to play a key part in developing a cleaner future.

Scotland Getting out of the 1980s to meet climate targets

Activists in 1980s gear performed outside the Scottish Parliament to highlight politicians and business leaders who are 'stuck in the 80s' and stand in the way of Scotland meeting its ambitious climate targets. Dressed as 80s versions of a Scottish minister and industry and banking leaders they sang a pop song calling on them to change their environmentally damaging ways. Scotland is already committed to steep cuts in emissions by 2020 after Friends of the Earth Scotland's campaign for a climate law.



Belgians march for an end to nuclear

Belgium Demonstration calls for renewable energy

In Brussels 2,000 demonstrators marked the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster and demanded the acceleration of the phase-out of nuclear power in Belgium. With electricity prices in Belgium rising, demonstrators demanded that former state monopoly electricity producer Electrabel pay the price for the transformation to a sustainable, renewable-based, economy. Electrabel currently makes hundreds of millions of Euros profit each year while consumers, particularly those on low incomes, are paying the price for the switch to renewable energy.

Croatia Controversial golf course law repealed

After nearly three years of campaigning from Friends of the Earth Croatia, the Croatian Parliament abolished a law that allowed golf courses to abuse and sidestep environmental regulation. The original law was unconstitutional, failed to prevent corruption during the granting of permits, and did not ensure environmental protection during the construction of golf courses. Campaigners celebrated this positive step towards protecting its agricultural land, forests and environment, as well as respecting social justice.



Celebrating Croatia's stand for environmental justice

Cyprus Catching bird trappers and poachers

Friends of the Earth Cyprus exposed two of the three largest criminal gangs controlling illegal and non-selective bird trapping and killing in Cyprus. The Anti-Poaching Squad and the Game Fund and Wildlife Management Service located the two gangs and organised the immediate arrest of the leading trappers. At the same time a top restaurant serving illegal birds, discovered by Friends of the Earth Cyprus, received the largest fine possible from the Cypriot courts.



Activists protecting local wildlife in Cyprus

Denmark Boost for climate law campaign

Friends of the Earth Denmark's Big Ask campaign received a major boost when the new Danish government committed to pass a climate law. The new coalition also pledged to use the climate challenge as a lever for innovation, job creation and increased export of green technologies. This momentum came as Denmark prepared to take over the rotating EU Presidency. Friends of the Earth Denmark wrote to the Presidency raising a number of issues, including energy efficiency, resource use and GMOs, and called on it to show strong leadership for a more environmentally-friendly and sustainable future.

Scotland Rapping against greenwash A 'girl band' dressed as 'oily bankers' protested outside the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) sponsored 'Scottish Low Carbon Conference' in Edinburgh. The action highlighted how RBS is trying to 'greenwash' itself by sponsoring the conference when in reality it is heavily involved in financing the fossil fuel industry, including Canadian tar sands. The activists sang a song with lyrics altered to tell the story of RBS's highly destructive investments and calling on the bank to take taxpayers' money out of tar sands.



Ridiculing 'The Oil bank of Scotland' through song

1998

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH NETHERLANDS TOOK PEACEFUL DIRECT ACTION AT SCHIPHOL AIRPORT IN A PROTEST AGAINST THE EXPANSION OF THE AIRPORT

Finland Government agrees on climate law proposal The Finnish Big Ask campaign reached a major milestone with the new coalition government agreeing to prepare a proposal on a climate law. The three parties all stated that a climate change law is one of the most important legislative projects of the next electoral period. The Minister of Environment stated publically that a climate law, a climate panel and carbon budgeting are important policy areas to him.

England, Wales and Northern Ireland Mass free lunch highlights food waste

Five thousand people in London received a free lunch made from fresh ingredients saved from being thrown away. The event helped highlight the scandal of the 16 million tonnes of food wasted in Britain every year and asked individuals, businesses and the government to stop it happening. Friends of the Earth England Wales and Northern Ireland organised the event to call for surplus food in the UK to be diverted to feed animals, instead of burning the food or sending it to landfill.



Pigging out in Trafalgar Square

France Pinocchio Prize highlights corporate greenwashing Friends of the Earth France, in a tongue-in-cheek reference to the famous wooden puppet and his very personal conception of truth, awarded three Pinocchio awards denouncing 'greenwashing' by multinational corporations. The awards were judged by internet voters and awarded to companies whose activities harm social and environmental rights in countries in the South. The winners were French construction giant Vinci, agroindustrial group Tereos, and bank Société Générale.

2008

15,000 PEOPLE GATHERED IN MADRID TO DEMAND A BAN ON GM CROPS

Netherlands Parodying Shell's sustainability claims Friends of the Earth Netherlands published a parody erratum to Shell's sustainability report, in which Shell apologised for all previous wrong-doings. It distributed the spoof erratum amongst shareholders at Shell's AGM in The Hague, drawing attention to their flagrant 'greenwashing'. In the erratum, Shell 'admits' that it is "causing a lot of unwanted and unnecessary damage" in its global oil, gas and agrofuels operations. The erratum highlighted 12 cases from five continents, showing climate and other environmental impacts from Shell's oil and gas operations.

Czech Republic 10,000 attend Big Ask festival Around 10,000 people attended a music festival in Prague in support of the Big Ask campaign. The main message of the festival was that a climate change law would bring benefits for Czech people, the economy and the climate. People packed Kampa Island in the centre of Prague, attracted by great musicians, theatre, a farmer's market and green technology demonstrations. Political leaders and 30 celebrities were among the guests.

FIVE SPECIES OF BUTTERFLY WERE SAVED FROM NATIONAL EXTINCTION IN SWITZERLAND THANKS TO THE CREATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURE RESERVES BY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH SWITZERLAND 2008

Switzerland 'Ark of Biodiversity' An 'Ark of Biodiversity', a mobile exhibition on Swiss biodiversity organised by Friends of the Earth Switzerland, completed a national tour. People of all ages were able to enter the timber ship and experience the mystery and wonder of biodiversity. An interactive exhibition explained the importance of biodiversity, the threats it faces, and showed the action we can take to preserve it. Friends of the Earth Switzerland also offered nature excursions for children, special programmes for school classes and advice on biodiversity-sensitive gardening.

Austria 720,000 voices against nuclear power Friends of the Earth Austria mobilised 720,000 signatories against nuclear power in response to the shocking nuclear accident in Fukushima. The success of the petition showed that attitudes towards nuclear power are changing all over Europe. In 2012, Friends of the Earth Austria will launch a European Citizen Initiative petition to the European Commission asking it to phase-out nuclear and embrace renewable energy.



Crowds gather to visit the 'Ark of Biodiversity'

Publications

In 2011 Friends of the Earth Europe produced the following publications, all of which are available on our website – www.foeeurope.org/publications – or by contacting us.



EU Funds: EU Funds in Central and Eastern Europe: Roadmap to sustainability or dead-end investments? (December 2011)

This map presents 33 environmentally and socially harmful projects being supported by EU Cohesion Policy Funds totalling costs of sixteen billion Euros.



Extractive industries: Locking up the Future: Unconventional oil in Africa (November 2011)

An overview of three investments in unconventional oil in Africa.



Resource Use: Under Pressure: How our material consumption threatens the planet's water resources (November 2011)

Research on how Europe's material consumption is threatening the world's water supply and how Europe is neglecting the catastrophic global consequences of water stress and scarcity.



Resource Use: Europe's land import dependency (October 2011)

Research showing the scale of flows of 'virtual land' around the world.



Energy Savings: Paying for Europe's cheapest energy source (September 2011)

Ten bright ideas to deliver the energy savings we need and develop the cheapest, cleanest and safest energy through upfront financing and a supportive legislative framework.



Extractive industries: Canada's dirty lobby diary – Undermining the EU Fuel Quality Directive (August 2011)

This detailed 'diary' shows the extent of Canadian efforts to block EU plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and its unprecedented lobbying effort to open up the European market to tar sands.



Agrofuels: Flying in the face of the facts: greenwashing the aviation industry with biofuels (June 2011)

This briefing shows that agrofuels are a false solution for the aviation industry and often produce more emissions than the fossil fuels they replace.



Agriculture: The Truth behind the CAP: 13 reasons for green reform (June 2011)

Thirteen factsheets highlighting reasons for reforming the Common Agricultural Policy, in coalition with leading Brussels NGOs.



Extractive industries: Marginal Oil – What is driving oil companies dirtier and deeper? (May 2011)

This paper describes the drivers behind forms of unconventional oil and gives an overview of existing and potential projects across the globe.



Climate justice: The European Noise (May 2011)

Spoof newspaper to raise awareness and urge business and EU leaders to take bold climate action.



Friends of the Earth Europe: Friends of the Earth Europe Annual Review 2011 (April 2011)

Extractive industries: Tar Sands impacts on people, climate and environment – From Canada to Africa (March 2011)

This factsheet explains how much the global development of tar sands will magnify the climate crisis and damage environmental and developmental objectives.



Extractive industries: Gas flaring in Nigeria: wasting environment, wasting development, wasting life (March 2011)

The enormous amounts of natural gas released into the atmosphere, or flared, during the production of oil by international corporations means the Millennium Development Goals will not be met.



Extractive industries: Extractive industries and Millennium Development Goals for Sub-Saharan Africa (March 2011)

This report sets out why Millennium Development Goals will not be met in Sub-Saharan Africa due to unfulfilled political and financial commitments.



Sustainable finance: Seven steps to make banks sustainable in 2011 (March 2011)

Constructive arguments for the EU to incorporate social and environmental criteria in the new standards brought about through Basel III.



Sustainable finance: In 2011 European decision makers can make banks sustainable (March 2011)

Looking at the role banks and other financial institutions play in allocating financial resources, including how they manage their contribution to social and environmental sustainability.



Agriculture: Who benefits from GM crops – an industry built on myths (February 2011)

This report reveals how the cultivation of GM crops across Europe is continuing to decline.

Presenting our network at 25 years

Friends of the Earth Europe is a thriving and diverse grassroots network which unites national member organisations across Europe.

As we reached our 25th anniversary we assessed the shape and strength of our network in 2011 and how we have evolved since our formation in 1986.

- Our European network is **25 years old**, but Friends of the Earth International, our global federation, is **40**. And **our earliest national group dates back to 1909**.
- Friends of the Earth Europe currently has **member groups in 30 European countries**. These 30 organisations work at local and national level and across borders for our shared vision for social and environmental justice, deciding upon pan-European campaign strategies which also work in national contexts.
- These member groups represent more than **2,500 local groups all over Europe** working on the most pressing local priorities, and contributing to campaign **victories and successes** at local, national and international level.
- Groups work together with social and environmental movements to inspire and mobilise citizens to act, and in the past two years we have empowered more than **1,000,000** people to take action, both online and on the streets.
- We have at least **700 staff and countless volunteers** in offices and at local level across the continent.
- Our vibrant youth network Young Friends of the Earth Europe empowers young people to take action in youth-led environmental and social campaigns, **with 15 groups across Europe**.

From working in solidarity with indigenous populations in the Global South, to mobilising thousands of people for acts of peaceful non-violent direct action; from challenging corporate power in the courts, to calling on decision-makers in order to influence international policies; from engaging citizens in practical programmes on environmental education and nature conservation, to innovative online campaigning – our activists employ a diverse range of tactics and strategies to bring about change.

The Friends of the Earth Europe network continues to evolve, becoming ever more vibrant and connected, and will continue to challenge the current model of economic and corporate globalization, campaign for environmental and social justice and promote solutions that will help to create environmentally sustainable and socially just societies.

Financial information

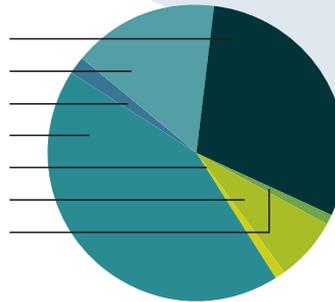
Income sources 2011 (in euros)

Operational grant - EU	777,917
Project grants - EU	409,742
Project grants - Other Governments	52,731
Project grants - Foundations	1,120,165
Project contributions - Members	17,546
Membership fees	187,456
Other income	9,781

Total income 2011

2,575,338

Operational grant - EU	30%
Project grants - EU	16%
Project grants - Other Governments	2%
Project grants - Foundations	43%
Project contributions - Members	1%
Membership fees	7%
Other income	<1%



Expenditure 2011 (in euros)

Campaigning and communications	1,366,906
Network development	145,145
Support to national campaigns	199,303
Management and organisational development	379,900
Administration, IT and office costs	434,084

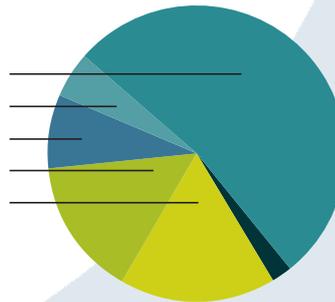
Total expenditure 2011

2,525,338

Reserves carried forward (2%)

50,000

Campaigning and communications	53%
Network development	5%
Support to national campaigns	8%
Management and organisational development	15%
Administration, IT and office costs	17%



Full copies of Friends of the Earth Europe's accounts are available from the Belgian National Bank at www.nbb.be from 1st July 2012.

Quote company number 0443.252.089

Thank you! Friends of the Earth Europe's work would not be possible were it not for the support of our donors. We would like to thank the following institutions and foundations who helped fund our work: EU Commission Directorate General (DG) Environment; DG Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid; Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EACEA); European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe; European Climate Foundation; James M. Goldsmith Foundation; Isvara Foundation; David and Lucile Packard Foundation; Tides Foundation; Misereor; Oxfam Novib and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thanks also to Friends of the Earth Europe national member groups and Friends of the Earth International.

Details of our funding can be found on our website: www.foeeurope.org/about/financial

KEEP THE

Looking ahead – our work in 2012

In 2012 we will build on our 25 year history of campaigning for sustainable societies and for the protection of the environment. Here are just some of Friends of the Earth Europe's activities for 2012:

- building a European-wide campaign for truly transformational change in Europe's energy production and consumption, putting community and citizen-controlled renewable energy and energy efficiency projects at the core of reaching 100% renewables
- working with local groups on grassroots resistance to shale gas developments, raising awareness about the detrimental effects of shale gas production, and putting a stop to shale gas exploration in Europe
- pushing for binding energy savings targets, obligations for power companies to invest in energy efficiency measures, and policies to ensure in-depth renovation of buildings through our work on the EU Energy Efficiency Directive
- tracking implementation of the European Parliament's code of conduct to make sure it does its intended job of stopping conflicts of interest, and continuing to challenge the opaque nature of lobbying in Brussels
- calling for strict regulation of speculation on food prices to protect the poorest in society
- pushing European governments to defy pressure from oil companies and pro-tar sands governments and to say no to this most devastating fuel entering the European market
- taking action to make sure the next long-term budget for the European Union contributes towards tackling climate change, creating green jobs, and halting the decline of biodiversity, rather than supporting socially and environmentally harmful projects
- campaigning to stop the drivers of land grabbing including political targets for agrofuels and Europe's unsustainable use of the world's limited land
- highlighting the need for Europe to measure its resource use and recognise the environmental, economic and social benefits of reducing its overconsumption of resources
- pushing European governments to listen to public opinion and close the door on genetically modified (GM) crops, and supporting stronger rights for countries and regions to ban GMO cultivation
- campaigning for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy to deliver environmentally and socially friendly agriculture, notably home-grown proteins, reduced dependence on imports, and support for sustainable small farms
- launching a new website to better share the successes and developments of our campaigns and better reflect our European network
- facilitating trainings to share skills, experience, knowledge and resources between Friends of the Earth Europe groups on mobilising for environmental justice.

To find out more about any of our activities please visit www.foeeurope.org or contact us.

Austria, Vienna Global 2000 | Global 2000. **Belgium – Wallonie, Namur** Les Amis de la Terre | Friends of the Earth Wallonia & Brussels. **Belgium – Flanders, Gent** Friends of the Earth Vlaanderen & Brussel | Friends of the Earth Flanders & Brussels. **Croatia, Zagreb** Zelena Akcija | Friends of the Earth Croatia. **Cyprus, Limassol** Friends of the Earth | Friends of the Earth Cyprus. **Czech Republic, Brno** Hnutí Duha | Rainbow Movement. **Denmark, Copenhagen** NOAH | NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark. **England/Wales/Northern Ireland, London** Friends of the Earth | Friends of the Earth. **Estonia, Tartu** Eesti Roheline Liikumine | Estonian Green Movement. **Finland, Turku** Maan Ystävät Ry | Friends of the Earth Finland. **France, Montreuil**. Les Amis de la Terre | Friends of the Earth France. **Georgia, Tbilisi** Sakhartvelos Mtsvaneta Modzraoba | Greens Movement of Georgia. **Germany, Berlin** Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland | Friends of the Earth Germany. **Hungary, Budapest** Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége | National Society of Conservationists. **Ireland, Dublin** Friends of the Earth | Friends of the Earth Ireland. **Italy, Rome** Amici della Terra | Friends of the Earth Italy. **Latvia, Riga** Zemes Draugi | Friends of the Earth Latvia. **Lithuania, Kaunas** Lietuvos Zaliuju Judėjimas | Lithuanian Green Movement. **Luxembourg, Luxembourg** Mouvement Ecologique | Ecological Movement. **Macedonia, Skopje** Dvizhenje na Ekologistite na Makedonija | Ecologist's Movement of Macedonia. **Malta, Valletta** Moviment għall-Ambjent | Friends of the Earth Malta. **The Netherlands, Amsterdam** Vereniging Milieudefensie | Friends of the Earth Netherlands. **Norway, Oslo** Norges Naturvernforbund | Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature. **Poland, Krakow** Polski Klub Ekologiczny | Polish Ecological Club. **Scotland, Edinburgh** Friends of the Earth Scotland | Friends of the Earth Scotland. **Slovakia, Banska Bystrica** Priatel'ia Zeme – Slovensko | Friends of the Earth Slovakia. **Spain, Madrid** Amigos de la Tierra | Friends of the Earth Spain. **Sweden, Gothenburg** Jordens Vänner | Friends of the Earth Sweden. **Switzerland, Basel** Pro Natura | Friends of the Earth Switzerland. **Ukraine, Kiev** Zelenyi Svit | Green World.

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