

OUR impact

Friends of the Earth Europe
Annual Review 2015

PEOPLE.
POWER.
NOW.



20
15



Friends of the Earth Europe Annual General Meeting, Georgia, 2015. © FoEE

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Friends of the Earth Europe Board 2015-2016

Lawrence Sudlow, Friends of the Earth Spain – Chair; Bertrand Sansonnens, Friends of the Earth Switzerland – Secretary; Eddie Olsson, Friends of the Earth Sweden – Treasurer; Craig Bennett, Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland – member; Olexiy Angurets, Friends of the Earth Ukraine – member.

Cover image: Bringing the power of people to Paris.
© Luka Tomac

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OUR IMPACT

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/ 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 32 NATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND THOUSANDS OF LOCAL ACTIVIST GROUPS ACROSS EUROPE

/ THE PEOPLE'S VOICE AT THE HEART OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

These are troubling, turbulent times for Europe and the European Union.

The harrowing humanitarian crisis of huge numbers of refugees arriving in Europe in search of safety and a better life dominated 2015. Now, as I write, Brussels is slowly recovering from terrorist bombings. These come all too soon after the Paris attacks which overshadowed the end of last year and reshaped our activities during the UN climate talks.

I was particularly proud of Friends of the Earth's presence in Paris. Thousands of our supporters made the journey to the French capital. This included 600 who travelled by train from the UK, 400 who came by bus and bicycle from the Netherlands, and others from Ireland, Bosnia, Russia and all corners of our network, plus of course different parts of France itself. With our colleagues from other continents we created a unique, empowering activist experience. We were at our most ingenious and inventive in response to the restrictions on demonstrations. We harnessed the power of people and of technology to write a giant message by thousands of individuals plotting their locations via mobile phone (read more on page 11). The words "Climate Justice Peace" we spelled out remain poignant.

Friends of the Earth was critical of the climate agreement made in Paris. The deal falls far short of the soaring rhetoric from world leaders. We are determined to keep mobilising people power to get Europe on track for the fast, tangible transition of our energy system that must follow.

Other displays of people power have inspired me in the last year. More than three million people signed the petition against the EU's toxic trade deals with Canada and the US – CETA and TTIP; more than 250,000 marched against TTIP in Berlin (see page 15), and the record for participation in an official EU consultation was smashed when half a million people expressed their opposition to the misguided review of European nature protection laws (see page 7).

I see citizens leading the way where governments are failing. It is ordinary people who are responding to the plight of refugees. It is local communities who are declaring themselves as 'TTIP free zones' and building their own resilient and sovereign food and energy systems. More and more people realise we must make the links between the root drivers of the crises we face and build a more sustainable, fair and inclusive world.

The challenges have never been greater – but neither has our resolve.



MAGDA STOCKIEWICZ, DIRECTOR,
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE
APRIL 2016



“THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSFORMATION IS ALREADY HAPPENING ACROSS EUROPE LED BY PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES.”

SUSANN SCHERBARTH,
CLIMATE AND ENERGY CAMPAIGNER

Renewables defeating fossil fuels at tug-of-war in Brussels.
© Lode Saidane

FIXING EFFICIENCY FLAWS

When the European Commission calculated the EU’s potential to save energy, it used a flawed methodology. Its modeling unfairly penalised energy efficiency, making it seem far riskier than it is.

Not only that, its calculations assumed a maximum energy savings potential of 33% by 2030 when much more is possible.

We were among the first to spot this problem and realise the consequences of

artificially limiting Europe’s potential to reduce consumption – and therefore cut carbon emissions.

We knew we needed to fix this to have any chance of a tougher EU energy efficiency target for 2030.

We wrote briefings and blogs to explain the real significance of these complex calculations for the climate. We stirred-up cross-party MEPs on the issue who spoke

out against limiting efficiency. We fed arguments about the benefits of efficiency for energy imports, jobs and air pollution to the Commission, the press and allies.

The result: after two years’ work we have fixed the modeling. The Commission is now treating efficiency more fairly and is working on projections for up to 40% savings by 2030 which practically guarantees a higher target.



Calling for community power at the Paris climate summit. © Luka Tomac

COMMUNITIES TAKE CONTROL

The citizen energy movement continued to gain momentum in 2015. We worked with communities on the ground to realise renewables schemes, through our 'Community Power' project. Edinburgh Solar Cooperative successfully raised £1.4m to become the biggest urban community scheme in the UK. In Spain more than 150 families took part in Friends of the Earth's 'solar gardens' by investing in solar arrays, helping to save over 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

At a policy level, the EU's new 'Energy Union' strategy stressed for the first time the importance of citizen ownership of energy – proof that, whilst far too many barriers remain, community control has become an undisputed part of the energy solution.

“THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS USING PUBLIC FUNDS TO PROVIDE A LOBBYING VEHICLE TO THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY.”

ANTOINE SIMON, SHALE GAS CAMPAIGNER IN THE GUARDIAN

CLIMATE CAMPS FOR CLIMATE GENERATION

FIGHTING FRACKING

An advisory network on shale gas set up by the European Commission, and which we joined, turned out to be so unbalanced that we decided to leave. The body was supposed to assess the safety and appropriateness of different fracking technologies and projects in Europe. But a closer look at the group revealed the dominance of dirty energy interests. We published research showing over 70% of members represented, or had financial links to, the fracking industry. We filed a complaint with the European Ombudsman. At the beginning of 2016 the network was abolished.

Also, this year our network was involved in significant victories against shale gas. There were moratoriums in Scotland and the Netherlands, and exploration projects were stopped in England. Our 'Fracking Business as Usual' report – produced with on-the-ground input from our national members – documented the inadequacies of EU rules on fracking.



Celebrating a frack-free Lancashire.
© Amelia Collins / FoE EWNI

The European youth network gathered in Brittany, France, for its annual summer camp. Over 100 activists from 29 countries tackled issues like intersectionality, social justice and the international climate talks. Activists stood in solidarity with the nearby community on Ile de Sein who are struggling against energy giant EDF to build community-run renewables. The newest member of the network, Young Friends of the Earth Russia, held a camp in the Arctic Circle on alternative lifestyles. Participants then crossed the border to support over 250 activists from Young Friends of the Earth Norway to tackle the archaic practice of dumping mining waste in pristine fjords.



“LET NO-ONE BE IN DOUBT, THE BIOFUELS BUBBLE HAS BURST. THESE FUELS DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD FOR PEOPLE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE CLIMATE.”

ROBBIE BLAKE,

BIOFUELS CAMPAIGNER IN EURACTIV

BIOFUEL BUBBLE BURSTS

In April the European Parliament agreed new EU laws to limit the use of crop-based biofuels, signalling an end to the expanding use of food crops for transport fuel. This milestone came after years of hard fight to reverse harmful biofuels policy.

Friends of the Earth Europe played a central role in building a powerful coalition of

environment and development groups to fight for ‘Food not fuel’. By working with our network in Indonesia, Africa and Latin America, we were able to bring first-hand accounts of the impacts of biofuel production on people and the environment in producer countries to the debate.

We brought speakers from the frontline to

Deyeatee Kardor, clan chairlady resisting biofuels in Liberia.
© Jason Taylor/FoEI

meet with decision-makers and published research on how much land would be needed to fuel Europe’s appetite for biofuels.

With its future at stake, the biofuels industry put up a vociferous fight against the cap. It is a testament to our campaign that policy-makers set a limit of 7% – even if we would have liked to see the end of all food for fuel.



19 COUNTRIES REJECT GM-CROPS

It was a landmark year in the fight to keep Europe GMO-free. Following our campaign to establish rules giving governments the right to ban genetically modified crops, outright rejection snowballed. In a clear signal that GM crops, and the companies that make them, are not wanted in Europe, a total of 19 countries took political steps to ensure

they can be GMO-free – including Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Regions within member states also rejected GM crops, including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the UK, and Wallonia in Belgium.

“THIS IS ANOTHER NAIL IN THE COFFIN OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS. WHILE NOT PERFECT, THIS LAW ALLOWS GOVERNMENTS TO SHUT THE DOOR ON BIOTECH CROPS IN EUROPE.”

MUTE SCHIMPF.

GMO CAMPAIGNER IN BLOOMBERG

“A THRIVING NATURAL WORLD IS CRUCIAL FOR EVERYBODY’S HEALTH AND WELLBEING, SO THE EU WOULD BE FOOLISH TO UNDERMINE NATURE PROTECTIONS IN THE NAME OF CUTTING RED TAPE.”

ROBBIE BLAKE. NATURE CAMPAIGNER IN REUTERS

RECORD BREAKING NATURE ALERT

A record-breaking half a million citizens signed-up to save Europe’s nature laws. In 2015, the European Commission launched a process to rewrite vital European nature laws, potentially weakening nature protection. As a founder of the ‘Nature Alert’ coalition, involving over 200 organisations from across Europe, we led the development and promotion of a digitally innovative tool that gave the public the chance to have their say on the process, leading to the highest number of responses to a Commission consultation ever. The response shows how deeply people care about nature and wildlife, and helped to shift the political ground for nature protection in Europe.

BUILDING A NEW FOOD SYSTEM

We helped communities across Europe promote the benefits of sustainable local food through support for projects, including a food cooperative in Spain and food markets in Prague. We showed policymakers that citizens and farmers can work together to provide solutions to our broken food and farming systems. Initiatives such as the vibrant farmers’ market in Sofia, attended by thousands of local people, demonstrated the health and financial benefits of local sustainable food for farmers, citizens and local economies, while also building momentum for discussions at the national level. Cooking classes gave people hands-on experience of the benefits of sustainable food.



500,000 citizens called to protect Europe’s nature laws.

© FoEE



We’ve had enough! Calling for good food and farming in Berlin. © BUND

“WILMAR AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES,
BACKED BY EUROPEAN MONEY,
ARE FORCING COMMUNITIES
FROM THEIR LAND IN UGANDA.”

ANNE VAN SCHAIK, ACCOUNTABLE
FINANCE CAMPAIGNER IN THE GUARDIAN



Resisting land grabbing in Nigeria. © FoEI

EXPOSING DIRTY INVESTMENTS

From Brussels we stepped up our work to stop European financiers investing in land grabbing companies overseas. And as part of a coalition successfully lobbied for regulations to specifically stop European investors profiting from land grabbing and deforestation projects. On the ground, we worked with member groups across the international federation to expose palm oil

company Wilmar International's culpability in failing to prevent devastating forest fires in Indonesia. We helped campaign against the expansion of a large Wilmar project in Uganda, and in Nigeria we supported the first ever local resistance against Wilmar's planned expansion.

DANGERS OF THE 'TROIJAN TREATY'

We continued our high profile campaigning against the transatlantic trade deal between the EU and US. We helped a record 150,000 citizens say no to corporate courts as part of the treaty, forcing the European Commission to acknowledge the public opposition and put forward an alternative proposal. The new system offered only superficial

changes and we showed how it would continue to give investors the right to sue European governments. Our stance was backed by European judges' associations who questioned its legal basis, as well as the need for it in the first place.

"IT IS HIGH TIME FOR THE NEGOTIATORS TO TAKE STOCK AND STOP THE NEGOTIATIONS."

NATACHA CINGOTTI,
TRADE CAMPAIGNER IN REUTERS



Demonstrating against the Trojan treaty, in Brussels.
© Lode Saidane

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS 2015 RESOURCE USE, EU FUNDS, YOUTH

MIXED RESULTS FOR RESOURCE WORK

A hugely positive step came when the European Parliament adopted our 'four footprints' to measure and reduce Europe's consumption of land, water, material and carbon. But these progressive measures fell victim to the European Commission's so-called 'Better Regulation' agenda and did not make it into the redrafted 'Circular Economy' proposal – new legislation governing everything from product design to recycling targets. Despite promises of 'ambition', the reworked package was weaker than ever. However, the Parliament's positive stance offers opportunities for further action to solve the fundamental problem of Europe's resource overconsumption.

"CHOPPING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY PACKAGE OUT OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK PROGRAMME IS DELAYING THE ACTION ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVE EUROPE'S RESOURCE EFFICIENCY."

ARIADNA RODRIGO,
RESOURCES CAMPAIGNER IN ENDS

YOUTH RISING

The Young Friends of the Earth network went from strength to strength, with seven new groups joining the grassroots youth network. New groups in Belgium, France, Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Northern Ireland and Scotland added their weight to an unstoppable movement ensuring the voices of young people are heard in Europe and beyond. Groups in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and Luxembourg committed to engage, potential new members for 2016. The network continues its work on social and environmental justice and intersectionality issues.



Youth expressing solidarity with local energy struggles in France. © YFoEE/Tatjana Avramović

SUSTAINABLE SPENDING

With our close partner CEE Bankwatch Network, we managed to secure an additional sustainability safeguard in President Juncker's €315 billion investment fund. This means there is more chance money goes to green, sustainable and resource-efficient projects, and provides better means to hold the EU to account on the plans. Our unique analysis of EU funds spending plans for 2014–2020 exposed how central and eastern European countries are renegeing on commitments to use the money to transform their energy systems, giving us another important pressure point.



“THE WORLD’S POOREST AND DEVELOPING NATIONS WILL RIGHTLY NOT BE CONVINCED BY THIS LEVEL OF ACTION.”

SUSANN SCHERBARTH,

CLIMATE CAMPAIGNER IN POLITICO

PEOPLE POWER IN PARIS

Friends of the Earth went to the international Paris climate talks with low expectations of world governments. We doubted leaders would act on the scale needed to deliver climate justice.

Yet we left Paris on a high. Our inspiration came from the powerful displays of people power we were part of.

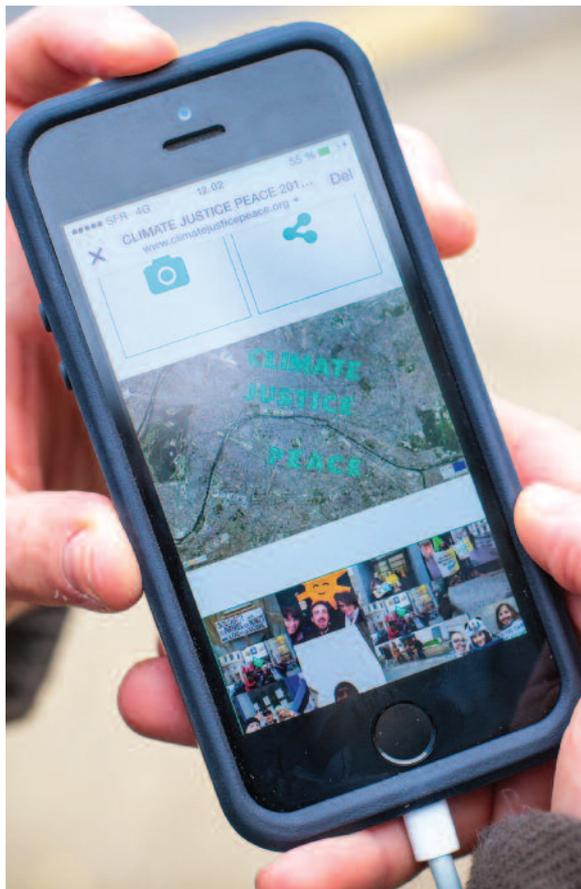
For Friends of the Earth Europe the conference was a rallying point for powerful, peaceful demonstrations for social and climate justice.

Our network was integral to climate marches across Europe that brought tens of thousands of people onto the streets in the run-up to the talks.

Speaking out about the state of the climate talks in Paris.
© Luka Tomac

In Paris, with Young Friends of the Earth Europe leading the way, we pushed back against restrictions on public protest both inside and outside the negotiation halls.

We denounced corporate sponsorship of the talks and human rights abuses with our **Pinocchio Climate Awards**. Chevron, EDF and BNP-Paribas were recognised for undermining climate action and harming local communities at a ceremony after a public vote.



Sending a giant message of Climate Justice and Peace. © Luka Tomac



We cannot be stopped, climate change can! Activists cycling to Paris. © Boukje Kassenaar

As the talks concluded we gathered to show that the real power was with the people. Despite the difficult security situation, we were proud that over 2,000 activists from the Friends of the Earth International federation travelled to Paris for a weekend of peaceful demonstration. They were joined by more than 50,000 people online. We called for justice for people affected by climate change, an

end to fossil fuels, and support for community-owned renewable energy.

Our **People. Power. Action** event heard from communities fighting climate change on the frontline, like those challenging coal in Wales and those pushing for people-powered solutions in Palestine. This was followed by our innovative **Climate. Justice. Peace** demonstration. Using geolocation technology we sent a giant message writ

large across Paris with thousands of individuals spelling out 'Climate Justice Peace'.

Politically, Paris fell short. For the deal to mean anything governments must take real action to accelerate immediate energy transformation. And post-Paris, we are more determined than ever to lead an energy revolution.

ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND BEE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

More than a quarter of British bee species are under threat, so people from the Scillies to the Shetlands have been helping out. Local groups have been holding bee summits to bring communities together to transform their cities for the good of both humans and pollinators. As a result, schools, churches, businesses and gardeners have been busy planting bee-friendly habitats and drawing up plans to restore bee populations to good health. As part of the Great British Bee Count 2015, over 100,000 bees were spotted and the data handed to experts to improve understanding of bee health in the UK.

MALTA MALTESE BEES 'BUZZ' POLITICIANS

Maltese bees 'buzzed' delegates at the Commonwealth People's Forum in Malta, highlighting the need to reverse the decline of bees and other beneficial pollinators. The stunt coincided with the launch of a new report at an event organised by Friends of the Earth Malta that brought together 100 people – from politicians and academics to bee-keepers – catapulting the group's work on bees into the national political and media limelight.



Buzzing politicians in Malta.
© Paul de Zylva

IRELAND CLIMATE LAW LACKS BITE

The Irish government published its long awaited climate law, after an eight year campaign from Friends of the Earth Ireland. The law lacks bite – it does not include any targets for reducing carbon emissions – and the group was first to criticise it as a missed opportunity. To highlight the government's lack of action on climate change, around 150 people gathered on a beach in Dublin to bury their heads in the sand. Ireland is one of the worst emitters in Europe.



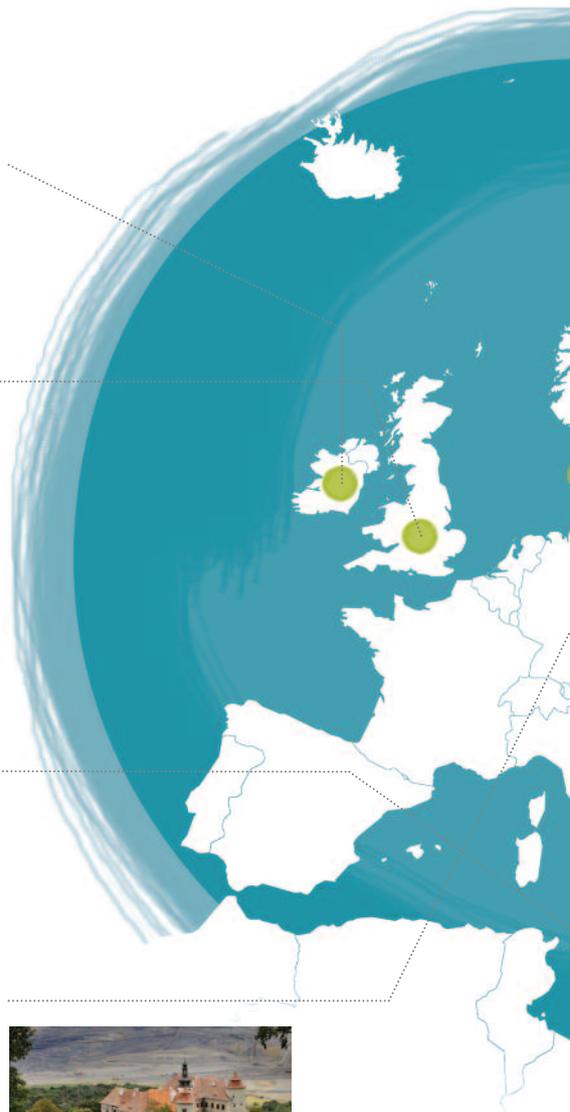
Showing Irish politicians they have their heads in the sand.
© Stop Climate Chaos

CZECH REPUBLIC LIMITS ON COAL

750 million tonnes of dirty coal will remain in the ground, and two towns on the map, thanks to a campaign from Friends of the Earth Czech Republic and allies. Years of debate around limits on opencast coal mining in the country, and nation-wide demonstrations, culminated in a partial victory for the organisation and local communities. However, the Czech government gave the go-ahead for a smaller mine with about 100 million tonnes of coal – now the new focus of the group's campaigning and mobilising.



Setting limits on coal in the Czech Republic.
© FoE CZ





FINLAND COAL-FREE HELSINKI

Thanks to the work of the coal-free Helsinki campaign, the country's capital announced plans to shut down one of the city's two coal power plants. The Hanasaari coal power plant will be phased-out over the next eight years. The announcement followed on from the climate bill passed in March – an historic victory for Friends of the Earth Finland – committing to 80% emissions reductions on 1990 levels by 2050.



Stepping towards a coal-free Helsinki.
© Hiilivapaa Helsinki

POLAND CAMPAIGNING FOR THE CLIMATE

Friends of the Earth Poland brought together allies, local and national government, media and Warsaw universities for a series of debates on agriculture, transport and construction – with an eye to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In the run-up to the climate talks in Paris, the group led the 22 organisations that form the Polish Climate Coalition through a number of successful lobbying visits, and high-visibility campaigns targeting the Polish government.

DENMARK GREEN GUERRILLAS

Friends of the Earth Denmark initiated a 'ground-breaking' course lasting 18 weeks, called *Grøn Guerilla* (green guerrilla). Following School of Sustainability curricula, the course engaged heads, hearts and hands. Theoretical workshops tackled themes around environment, nature, resource use, energy, climate, food and agriculture with the aim of building a better future. Practical workshops got to grips with gardening, bee-keeping and composting, as well as community organising and personal well-being.

AUSTRIA PROTECTING THE ADRIATIC

Friends of the Earth Austria worked hand-in-hand with Friends of the Earth Croatia to protect the Adriatic Sea. Austrian oil and gas company OMV, which received seven of the 10 concessions for oil in the Adriatic, was the target of a series of protests. Demonstrators from Friends of the Earth Austria targeted the OMV headquarters and petrol stations, and delivered a petition from 5,700 supporters. In July, OMV pulled-out of the Adriatic.



Targeting polluters OMV over the Adriatic.
© Global 2000/Paul Lauer

NETHERLANDS
LEGAL VICTORY OVER SHELL

Four Nigerian farmers and Friends of the Earth Netherlands celebrated an unprecedented legal victory over Shell in The Hague, paving the way for victims of environmental pollution and human rights abuses worldwide. The ruling allows the farmers to jointly sue Shell in the Netherlands for causing extensive oil spills in Nigeria, and gives the Dutch government the mandate to rule over Shell's activities in Nigeria. Nigeria is the stage of one of the largest oil spills on earth, and Shell is doing far too little to clean up the mess.



Taking Shell to court in the Netherlands.
© Marten van Dijk

MALTA
EMBRACING DIVERSITY
THROUGH CONSERVATION

In a year when migration became a controversial political topic, Friends of the Earth Malta addressed diversity through the exploration of Malta's unique biodiversity. In a series of informal workshops, the 'Scented Stories' project documented the historical and cultural significance of spices and flowers for people from all cultural and religious backgrounds. The works were published and used in an interactive exhibition.

WALLONIA & BRUSSELS
CREATIVITY AND ECO-COSMETICS

More than 400 people participated in Friends of the Earth Wallonia and Brussels workshops during the summer which took a hands-on approach to awareness-raising around climate change, resource use and consumption. Volunteers helped people create their own eco-cosmetics, including shower gel, toothpaste and deodorant. Individuals were empowered and helped to connect the dots between global issues and the importance of acting locally.

NORWAY & FRANCE
DIVESTMENT FROM COAL

Following international pressure, and domestic campaigning by Friends of the Earth Norway, the Norwegian Parliament voted to withdraw its \$900 billion sovereign wealth fund from coal companies. A major victory against fossil-fuels, and a wake-up call to investors – dirty energy is a bad investment for people and planet. In France, French energy giant Engie announced it would stop investing in coal – a victory for Friends of the Earth France and its tireless fight against Engie's support for dirty energy.

SCOTLAND
EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP

Scotland reached its target for community and locally-owned renewable energy five years ahead of schedule. Friends of the Earth Scotland and allies played a part in this success by promoting successful projects and helping create the first ever Scottish Community Energy Coalition. Community ownership has helped build strong public support for the energy revolution and the coalition is now calling on the Scottish government to double the target to two Giga-watts by 2030.



Community power
in action, in Scotland.
© Colin Hattersley



SWITZERLAND SAVING SWISS LANDSCAPES

Iconic Swiss landscapes in the Bernese Alps were saved from destruction thanks to Friends of the Earth Switzerland. Following a long campaign by the group, the regional court ruled against the extension of a dam that would have destroyed alluvial and marsh ecosystems, as well as mountain forests, and set the tone for potentially similar developments in the area. In the Aargau region, the group celebrated 20 years of work revitalising unique flood-plain ecosystems along the Rhein, with the inauguration of a new natural site. The area covers 50 football fields and boasts recently returned endangered animal and plant species, alongside trails and recreation areas for people.



Rejuvenating
Swiss landscapes.
© Pro Natura

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA NO TO DIRTY ENERGY

Some of Bosnia and Herzegovina's pristine landscapes and waterways remain safe thanks to tireless campaigning from one of our network's newest members. Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina led preparatory work to protect the Dinaric Alps from Shell's activities, informing local communities and creating a coalition in opposition. Shell pulled out of Bosnia and Herzegovina in September. The groups also mobilised public support for the preservation of Sutjeska national park. They defeated plans for four hydropower plants in this area of astounding natural beauty. Over 2,000 hydro projects have sprung up across the Balkan region, threatening many endangered species and biodiverse rivers.



Saving Sutjeska
national park.
© CZZS

GERMANY 250,000 MARCH AGAINST TRADE DEALS

Over 250,000 people took to the streets of Berlin to protest against the trade deals TTIP and CETA, in one of the largest public demonstrations in Germany for many years. Instead of the current EU trade policy, Friends of the Earth Germany is demanding social and ecological guidelines for fair global trade. Friends of the Earth Germany organised the demonstration together with a broad alliance, encompassing trade unions, environmental- and consumer-protection, social, development and cultural organisations. The group were also instrumental in collecting over 3 million signatures against TTIP and CETA.



Marching against
trade deals in Berlin.
© Christian-Linus Pauling

CROATIA DEFEATING COAL AND OIL

Friends of the Earth Croatia welcomed a moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the Adriatic Sea, following a high-profile and successful campaign, 'S.O.S. Adriatic'. The group mobilised local communities to oppose the project, putting pressure on the government. The group also welcomed a moratorium on the construction of a new coal power plant, Plomin C – the result of five years of campaigning, countless actions, lawsuits, and a local referendum with 94% of voters in opposition. The group continues to work for permanent bans on these dirty energy projects.

SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY: ENGAGING HEADS, HEARTS AND HANDS ACROSS EUROPE



Connecting struggles and activists at People. Power, in Paris.
© Luka Tomac

SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY: ENGAGING HEADS, HEARTS AND HANDS ACROSS EUROPE

Our European School of Sustainability project was launched in April. It brings together 21 groups from across Europe, Young Friends of the Earth Europe and Friends of the Earth International. Inspired by the Latin American *Escuela de la Sustentabilidad*, and driven by popular education techniques, the project aims to strengthen the regional network of Friends

of the Earth Europe, and create common political analyses of system change from a social justice, environmental justice and human rights perspective.

The three-year project will offer up over 1,000 local, national and international opportunities to mobilise, resist and transform. It will engage individuals and

communities in practical workshops, learning by doing, residential events and new and creative forms of working.

The project has included solidarity and integration work with refugees and migrants in Croatia, Sweden and Malta; cooking classes and food workshops in Hungary and Bulgaria; gardening and well-being workshops in Denmark; film



Top: Empowering youth across Europe © Koen Glotzbach. Bottom: Transformational education for system change. © FoEE

Top: Youth bringing People Power to Paris. © Victor Barro
Bottom: Network partners building a school of sustainability. © FoEE

festivals and debates; practical solar energy workshops, and youth camps across Europe – all with the aim of linking system change and global issues to concerns close to home. It was also the foundation of network-wide mobilisation towards the climate talks in Paris. Our **People. Power. Action.** in Paris was the largest School of Sustainability event in Europe – bringing together over 2,000

activists from across the Friends of the Earth federation.

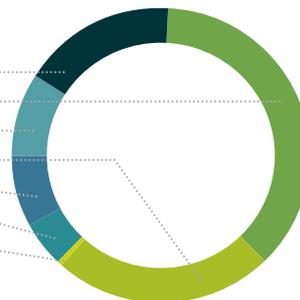
Examples of the school's work are dotted throughout this review, and the project will be a network-wide driving force – galvanising groups, engaging new audiences, empowering youth, and developing our power to create system change.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2015

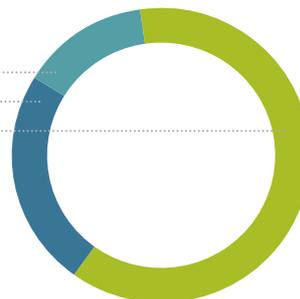
INCOME 2015 (IN EUROS)

Operational grant – EU	813,720	17%
Project grants – EU	1,797,171	37%
Project grants – Other governments/institutions	439,448	9%
Project grants – Private funders	1,148,700	24%
Project contributions – Members & partners	384,786	8%
Membership fees and donations	235,700	5%
Other income	10,672	<1%
TOTAL INCOME	4,830,197	100%



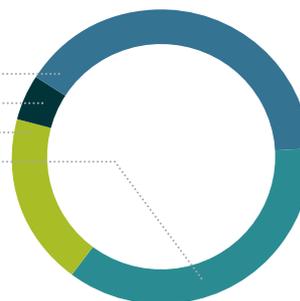
EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT 2015 (IN EUROS)

Operations and management	667,683	14%
Network development	1,147,192	24%
Campaigning and communications	2,944,113	62%
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,758,988	100%



EXPENSES BY TYPE 2015 (IN EUROS)

Salaries	1,885,385	40%
Office costs	245,727	5%
Campaigning activities	905,386	19%
National member and partner projects	1,722,490	36%
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,758,988	100%
Reserves allocation for 2015	71,209	

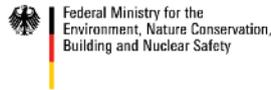




All figures rounded to the nearest Euro. Full copies of Friends of the Earth Europe's accounts are available from the Belgian national bank at www.nbb.be from 1st July 2016. Quote company number 0443.252.089. Details of our funding can be found on our website: www.foeeurope.org/about/financial

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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.



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