

# GreenAction

2011

The magazine of Friends of the Earth Cymru



**Cyfeillion  
y Ddaear  
Cymru**

**Friends of  
the Earth  
Cymru**

**JUST GETTING STARTED**  
40 years and counting of green action



**Acting silly  
for serious action**

Community energy | Inside the Assembly | Friends of the Earth local groups

# A good time too

Simon Williams, Editor



Now is a good time to take a moment and think about just how far we've come. Friends of the Earth has campaigned in the UK for 40 years, and it's Friends of the Earth Europe's 40th anniversary this year too.

Friends of the Earth Cymru hasn't existed quite so long, first campaigning in Wales in 1984. But someone who has been around nearly forever is our respected director, Gordon James, who heads into a very well-deserved retirement this year. Though knowing Gordon, it's unlikely to be the last we'll hear from him,

There've been some major campaign successes here in Wales, and some of them have had positive consequences far beyond our green country – you can see a short roundup on page 8. Of course, none of these would have been possible without our supporters, local group members and everyone else who's got involved along the way. So it's a good time to say thank you too.

But if this is the first time you've thought about it, now is a really good time to get involved. It was the 1969 Apollo space mission pictures of a beautiful, fragile Earth which inspired a generation to realise the importance of protecting our environment. And now, facing the massive threats of climate change and biodiversity loss, we're even more aware of how fragile our only life-support system really is.

Campaigning for the planet and a fair future for all who live on her has changed in 40 years. On page 8, Gordon says it seems harder now, as the problems we face can sometimes feel overwhelming, and there are difficult decisions that may change our lifestyles.

But see the pictures on page 6 and you might think campaigning doesn't look like such hard work. Having a good time feels even better when it's doing something important, and acting silly can be a powerful way of making a serious message heard.

Working with others is the way to

great satisfaction for many, and our communities hold the power for positive change. But opponents of wind power and other renewables often claim that green energy projects just benefit the big companies, and don't do enough for the people on their doorsteps. Possibly sometimes true, though somehow this is never given as a reason to oppose another coal or nuclear power station.

So here's your chance to do something about it. Have a look at the simple guide to getting started with a local energy project, and think whether your area has the potential to produce power – and money – to benefit the community. And then, to find out more go to our website [www.foecymru.co.uk](http://www.foecymru.co.uk).

So it's out with the old (sorry, Gordon) and in with the new. Good luck to Gareth Clubb, the new Director of Friends of the Earth Cymru. And here's to another 40 years of good times, making a difference to Wales, people, and our beautiful planet.

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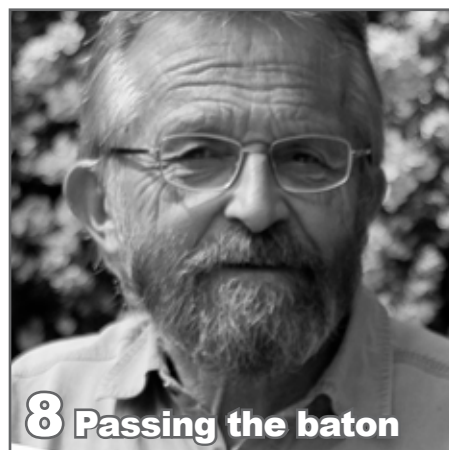
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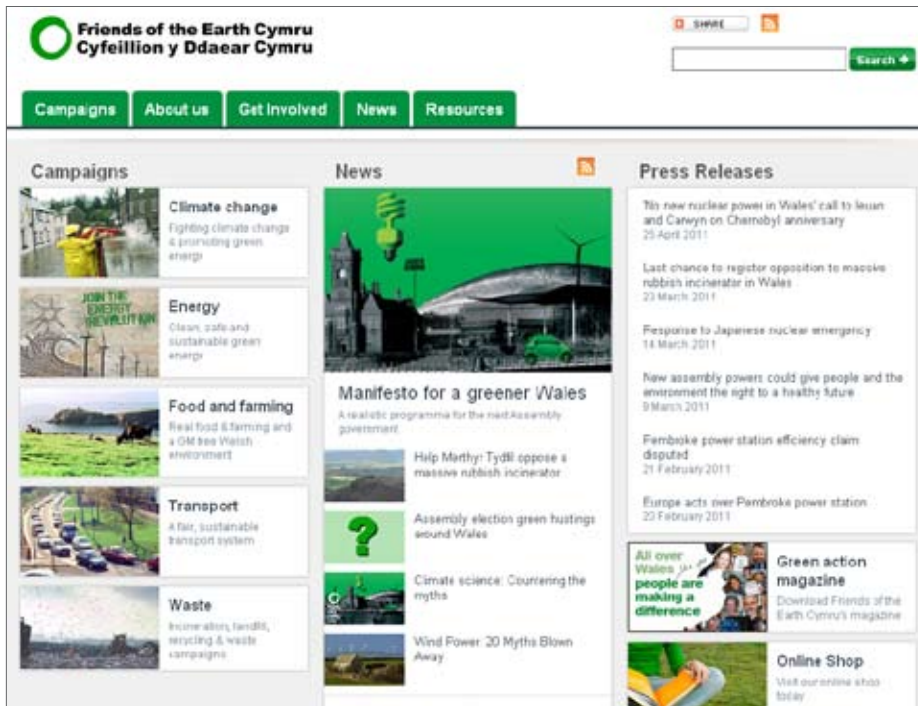
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# Join us online



[www.foecymru.co.uk](http://www.foecymru.co.uk)

The Friends of the Earth Cymru website is your hub of information and resources for environment issues in Wales, updated regularly with news, events, local group details, press releases, reports and publications.

[www.facebook.com/foecymrucydd](https://www.facebook.com/foecymrucydd)

'Like' us on Facebook, and keep up-to-date with green issues in the media, environmental events and campaigns all around Wales.



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### Friends of the Earth Cymru:

- is dedicated to protecting the environment and promoting a sustainable future for Wales
- is part of Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the UK's most influential environmental campaign organisation
- is part of the most extensive environmental campaigning network in the world, with almost 2 million supporters across five continents and more than 70 national organisations worldwide
- supports a unique network of local campaigning groups, working in communities throughout Wales
- is dependent upon individuals for over 90 per cent of its income



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# Support us

Friends of the Earth Cymru is a part of Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There are lots of ways to get involved – from raising money by searching the web to taking part in a fundraising event

If you're not already a financial supporter of Friends of the Earth why not sign up today? Your donation will help us find solutions that can protect planet and people, now and in the future. Visit [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk) or call **0800 581 0510**. We'd be really very grateful for your support

Have fun and help us - organise a fundraising event for Friends of the Earth Cymru. Call **029 2022 9577**

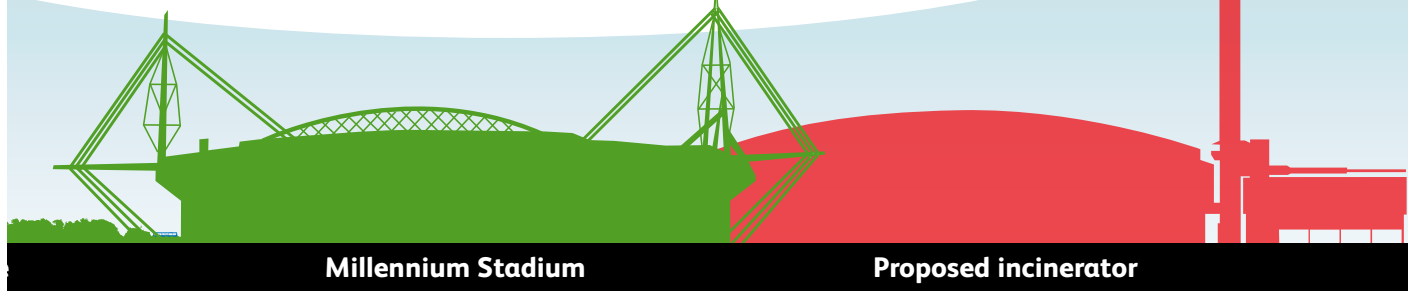
If you're concerned about the kind of world that future generations will inherit, leaving a gift in your will to Friends of the Earth is one of the best things you can do. Find out more at [www.foe.co.uk/legacies](http://www.foe.co.uk/legacies) or call Candice on **020 7566 1606**

Raise extra funds for Friends of the Earth just using the internet search engine Everyclick. Register at [www.everyclick.com/friendsoftheearthtrust](http://www.everyclick.com/friendsoftheearthtrust)

Switch to get your household electricity from 100 per cent renewable electricity with Good Energy and we get a £50 donation. Visit [www.good-energy.co.uk/foe](http://www.good-energy.co.uk/foe) or call **0845 456 1640**, quoting Friends of the Earth



# Massive campaign opposes monster incinerator



Millennium Stadium

Proposed incinerator

Six months is a long time in Merthyr. Last September Merthyr Tydfil Friends of the Earth ran a stall to tell people in the town about the massive incinerator proposed by an American company for their doorstep. No one had heard about it, and many said, "There's nothing we can do about it, this is what always happens to Merthyr."

Fast-forward to March 2011 and people are queuing at the same stall to fill in the forms objecting to Covanta's plans. And many are asking how they can do more to help the campaign.

Previously indifferent politicians were now keen to speak at rallies, and the local paper went from only

printing Covanta's views to front page headlines about the campaign.

Covanta officially submitted their proposal on New Year's Eve 2010, confirming the massive size of the plant which would need 750,000 tonnes of waste a year to feed it. Community organised meetings quickly followed in virtually every village in the Rhymney Valley and around Merthyr, and groups came together to form the United Valleys Action Group.

Three coaches were needed to carry people delivering the opposition forms to the Infrastructure Planning Commission's (IPC) offices in Bristol. Covanta and the IPC were probably not

expecting the over 10,000 responses that were received in just 6 weeks.

Now we must make sure the decision-making process takes account of the massive impact this incinerator will have on local people, and the fact it clearly contradicts Welsh waste and climate change policy.

Giving the go ahead to this monster incinerator would be a green light to companies worldwide to pollute communities in Wales. It would confirm our worst fears about the IPC process, and strengthen increasing calls for decisions on energy to be devolved to the Welsh Government.

**Video:** [www.foe.co.uk/merthyr](http://www.foe.co.uk/merthyr)

## Los Amigos de la Tierra Gales

Farmers, communities and environmental groups campaigning against GM crop growing. Protests against agribusiness. Lobbying politicians to enshrine GM-free communities and regions...

Sounds familiar? No, it's not Wales 10 years ago, but Paraguay today.

For the past few years we've been working with Friends of the Earth Paraguay, know as Sobrevivencia, to expose the devastating impact European demand for soy animal feed is having on their country. Extensive soy farming, often using genetically modified (GM) crops, is destroying ecosystems and reducing agricultural diversity. Communities are facing forced displacement, and people contaminated by toxic pesticides and herbicides are suffering serious health problems and even death.

Sobrevivencia knows that part of the solution is for Paraguay to become GM-Free, and is starting by focusing a campaign on an area around the community of La Pastora.

With our history in Wales of

pioneering opposition to GM agriculture, and strong work building a reputation for high quality food production, we've been really pleased to be involved with Sobrevivencia and the La Pastora GM-free campaign.

A letter from us telling of the positive experience in Wales was read in the public hearing considering whether to declare La Pastora GM-free. There's likely to be lots more joint campaigning with Sobrevivencia, and we're hoping that Paraguay farmers who support GM-free agriculture will visit Wales soon.

You can help Sobrevivencia and Paraguay by demanding justice for an 11 year-old boy poisoned by toxic pesticides used by soy farmers at [www.foe.co.uk/paraguay-justice](http://www.foe.co.uk/paraguay-justice)

Watch our video on Paraguay – simply scan this code with the QR reader on your smartphone (normal data rates apply). Or see [bit.ly/hK8nwY](http://bit.ly/hK8nwY)



## EC investigates new Pembroke power station

The breaching of environmental law by the new gas-fired power station at Pembroke is being investigated by the European Commission.

Friends of the Earth Cymru has submitted the complaint, as the intake of large amounts of water and its discharge at a warmer temperature will cause unacceptable harm to marine life in the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation.

Our view is that the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Environment Agency should not have given consents for the construction and operation of the power station, before a full assessment of its possible impact on the marine environment.

According to a report by The Countryside Council for Wales, the technology being used at the new power station is not considered the best available in the USA because of the environmental damage it causes. Pembrokeshire's important and valuable marine environment deserves the best possible protection.

# Nuclear isn't the answer

The catastrophe at Fukushima has forced a global re-think on nuclear power. Germany will shut down all reactors by 2022, China has suspended approval for proposed plants, and Japan is reviewing its nuclear programme.

Fukushima coincided with the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, reminding us that more than 300 farms in Wales are still affected by the fall-out.

The risk and cost of accidents, the lack of safe disposal for waste, the threat of nuclear proliferation and terrorist attack, and power stations generally costing far more and taking longer to build than planned, are all strong reasons for rejecting nuclear.

And as nuclear power provides less than 4 per cent of Britain's energy, and a similar proportion globally, its role in tackling climate change is relatively minor. Pursuing nuclear power can



undermine efforts to cut carbon emissions by diverting limited financial resources and political attention away from energy options that could do this sooner, cheaper and more securely.

Many countries are now turning their back on nuclear power because the risks and financial costs are too great. Here the Government needs to recognise that Wales' huge potential for renewable energy, together with a comprehensive energy saving programme, can provide the cleaner, safer future we need.

## Action on fuel poverty 'win-win'



One in four households in Wales are in 'fuel poverty', where more than 10 per cent of income needs to be spent to keep the house warm. And it's getting worse – fuel poverty has been steadily increasing since 2004.

But with housing producing about a fifth of greenhouse gas emissions in Wales, refurbishing houses to be more energy efficient is a win-win situation – creating local jobs and improving health, as well as cutting emissions.

Friends of the Earth Cymru has joined with children's groups, housing charities, consumer and health

organisations to form the Fuel Poverty Coalition for Wales. Following strong campaigning since 2009, the Welsh Government has responded with some big steps forward, including a Fuel Poverty Strategy and the 'Arbed' and 'Nest' energy efficiency schemes.

Now challenging the new Welsh Government to be even more ambitious, the Coalition's 'Countdown to affordable warmth: an agenda for the new Welsh Government' offers a six point plan that would bring affordable warmth to thousands of Welsh homes.

[www.fuelpovertycharterwales.org.uk](http://www.fuelpovertycharterwales.org.uk)

## IN BRIEF

### 20,000 green jobs for Wales

Dr Calvin Jones of Cardiff University has found that a nationwide home energy refurbishment programme would create 20,000 new jobs in Wales, cut millions of tonnes of carbon emissions, and lift thousands of households out of fuel poverty.

Friends of the Earth Cymru, as a member of the Stop Climate Chaos Cymru coalition, worked with Dr Jones on the report, 'Cutting carbon, creating jobs', offering practical measures for the Welsh Assembly Government to tackle climate change and boost employment.

[www.stopclimatechaoscymru.org](http://www.stopclimatechaoscymru.org)

### Shale gas drilling

Proposals for shale gas drilling in the Vale of Glamorgan are concerning environmentalists and local residents. Shale drilling, not previously allowed in the UK, involves detonating explosives underground and using chemicals to increase the fractures.

Recent research suggests that shale gas exploitation could result in more greenhouse gas emissions than coal. Shale gas is mostly methane, which has a greater greenhouse effect than carbon dioxide, so even small leaks during the extraction process can add to the impact.

As well as the greenhouse gas emissions, further environmental damage can be caused by leaking chemicals or gas entering underground water systems and contaminating drinking water.

### Where next for Welsh energy?

Debates about energy in Wales have been hotter than ever recently. Whether it's renewables, nuclear, coal, gas, pylons or pipes, it seems few can see the big picture to lead us to a successful, low carbon future. So we're working with energy specialists on a route map to safe, clean and green energy. To be notified when the report is out, email [cymru@foe.co.uk](mailto:cymru@foe.co.uk)

### Conference 2012

The next Friends of the Earth Cymru conference, with expert speakers, workshops and discussions, will take place in spring 2012, location to be confirmed. For more information email [bleddyn.lake@foe.co.uk](mailto:bleddyn.lake@foe.co.uk)



**2008** Merthyr Council weds giant mining company Miller Argent, as the Welsh Assembly Government gives its blessing to an opencast coal mine 30 metres from people's homes.



# Clowning around

**We might be tackling some serious issues, but there's plenty of fun to be had along the way**

Isn't campaigning supposed to be all dour and earnest? Surely there can't be much fun to be had telling people the planet is in big trouble?

Actually, making people think sometimes really can be a laugh. And 40 years of campaigning experience has taught us that being deadly serious isn't always the best way to persuade and educate. Fortunately, it's rather hard to be too serious when you're dressed as a cow or carrying the back end of a 30 foot blue dragon.

So here's a quick look back in pictures at some of the fun that's

been had in just the last few years. A mini street opera, umbrella-wielding flashmobs, a mock wedding and messing around in boats have all been essential parts of some very successful campaigns. Of course, we still do the serious business of talking with AMs and MPs, but even some of them have been known to smile at a silly hat.

So if you like your serious issues to come with a dash of silliness, join in with our campaigns. You don't have to enjoy dressing up (and no one will make you, honestly), but there are plenty of opportunities if you do ●



**2009** A giant blue dragon charges the Welsh Assembly, demanding effective action on climate change.





Right from top: **2011** The Opera Group's mini opera on the streets of Cardiff raises awareness of climate change and saving energy. **2010** Two cows discuss how improving their diet can help fight climate change. **2008** Chasing Gordon Brown around in a small boat to persuade him to introduce a strong climate change law.



**2009** Flashmobs around the country tell the world to wake up to climate change.



**2010** Gas masks can protect against waste incinerator air pollution, but won't stop their effect on climate change.



© Phil Martin





# Passing

**Gordon James has been involved with Friends of the Earth for nearly 40 years. Retiring as Director of Friends of the Earth Cymru in September, he looks back, and forwards, at the challenges and rewards of environmental campaigning in Wales**

**You started Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth in 1987. Was this your first involvement with the organisation?**

Actually the first thing I did was in the early 1970s, just after they set up in the UK exactly 40 years ago. I wrote a letter on nuclear power to the local MP. They replied saying, thank you for your eloquent letter. Well, I hadn't written it, it was written by Friends of the Earth staff. Right from the very beginning, Friends of the Earth has had a very high standard, and we've tried to maintain that ever since.

**Has campaigning changed in the last 40 years?**

It's getting harder. Over the years we've won lots of campaigns. In the past we were asking for cleaner air, cleaner rivers, recycling – these were all the things that people generally welcomed. We're now asking people to change their lifestyles very quickly, because of the immense threat of climate change. And no ones likes being told the way we live is causing this huge problem.

But environmental issues are also becoming much more mainstream. Ideas we've supported may once have seemed unrealistic, but now lots of policy in Wales is based on what we've campaigned for – recycling, renewable energy, tackling fuel poverty, energy efficiency. This is a big, big achievement for the environment movement. We shouldn't forget the progress we've made, and should be proud of it.

**So what's been your proudest moment as a campaigner?**

The GM-free Wales campaign, during the time I was director of Friends of the Earth Cymru between 1995 and 2000. In 1999 the Welsh Assembly was about to be set up and it was our campaign that showed that the Assembly could do things differently from Westminster. The example we set has been followed by regions throughout Europe, and is still strong today – I think it's been one of our greatest achievements.

## A quarter century of success: Friends of the Earth in Wales

1980s

### **Acid rain**

Following its formation in 1984, Friends of the Earth Cymru took a lead role in creating greater awareness of the problem of acid rain. This helped to bring about reductions in polluting emissions in Wales

1990s-2009

### **Road expansion**

Strong campaigns defeated a number of unnecessary road building projects, from by-passes through Snowdonia in the early 1990s, to the dualling of the A40 in west Wales and the monstrous Gwent Levels motorway in 2009

1995

### **Marine life protected**

A complaint to Europe, made jointly with Friends of Cardigan Bay to protect this rich marine habitat, forced the UK government to require environmental impact assessments for oil and gas drilling in all UK waters

1999

### **Sea Empress prosecution**

Following the Sea Empress oil spill at Milford Haven in 1996, evidence was gathered and a legal case prepared. This was handed over to the Environment Agency which successfully prosecuted the Port Authority in 1999



# the baton

## Many people call you the hardest working campaigner in Wales. What's kept you motivated for four decades?

An anger I feel when I see things being done badly, or people being dishonest and putting out false information, when I see the media giving so much attention to people who are denying that climate change is happening when the evidence is overwhelming, or when I see people trying to rubbish wind energy with such weak arguments. I've got to get up and do something to try and make a difference, I just feel we can't let them get away with it.

But also, I was brought up close to nature in Pembrokeshire and I still love it, and I feel strongly that we have to protect the habitat we've got for future generations. My great fear is that when my children are my age they'll be living in a much more frightening world, because climate change will be much more of a reality for them than it is now.

## What are the greatest environmental challenges for Wales?

Delivering the targets government has set – 3 per cent a year cut in greenhouse gas emissions, all electricity from renewables by 2025, major improvements in energy efficiency. There will be great benefits, but putting them into practice still meets a lot of resistance.

It's seen as environment versus jobs – that environmental improvements will harm industry, hit jobs. But this is a false argument, lots of evidence shows that implementing good environmental policies and practices can help the economy and create jobs. And this is particularly true now – the green economy globally is expanding faster than any other sector.

## We're such a small nation, can anything we do make a difference to global challenges like climate change?

We're already making a difference. From its early days, the Welsh Government has said it wants Wales to be a world leader in the green energy revolution, as we were a world leader in the industrial revolution.

We might be small, but we definitely have an important role to play. Wales is well ahead of England – in agricultural policies, targets for emissions reductions, recycling and waste reduction. So within the UK people are looking to Wales for a lead. And around the world people are looking to the UK for a lead, as the only country to have set legally binding targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions, under the

Climate Change Act that was largely the result of a Friends of the Earth campaign.

We also have a moral responsibility to act. Britain has emitted more carbon dioxide per person than any other nation because of our long exploitation of coal, and of course Wales became famous as a coal exporting country.

## Will life be better for people in another 40 years, or worse?

I retain hope it can be better, but the next five years are crucial. We still have a window of opportunity to cut emissions and develop a low carbon economy, but we must act fast. We need brave politicians, and as individuals we have to do more too – we must live the life we want to see. When my children are my age, the world can be a better place, but we are running out of time.

## What are the retirement plans? Does a campaigner ever actually retire, just keep their head down and stay quiet?

I definitely plan to carry on campaigning. Indeed I hope to have more time for research, writing and campaigning, as all the administration and management will go away. So no, I don't expect I'll be completely quiet ●

## Gareth Clubb New Director of Friends of the Earth Cymru

Previously Director of the Snowdonia Society, Gareth has worked in environmental policy and project management for the Department for International Development, Keep Wales Tidy, the European Commission, the National Assembly for Wales and Environment Agency Wales. He's also worked for several years in South America, Africa and Asia.

Gareth is looking forward to the job immensely. "There is no more important role in Wales than that undertaken by Friends of the Earth Cymru," he says. "In the face of significant threats, they've been a beacon of light over the past 25 years, highlighting injustice and lobbying persuasively – and successfully – for change."



2000

### GM-free Wales

The campaign to keep Wales free of genetically modified crops and to support environmentally friendly farming, which was launched in 1999, was unanimously backed by Welsh Assembly Members the following year

2000s

### Yes to wind

Busting myths about wind power, and campaigns in support of specific projects helped gain clean green energy from windfarms at Cefn Croes (2002), Tir Mostyn (2002), Gwynt y Mor (2009) and Wear Point (2010)

2010

### Severn Barrage sunk

The long campaign against the large Cardiff to Weston Severn Barrage finally succeeded. The Government was urged to back less damaging ways of harnessing the energy potential of the Severn Estuary

2010

### Climate change

The Welsh Government, having been the first in the world to set annual targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions after our persistent lobbying, introduced an action plan including many of our recommendations

# Inside the Assembly



**New government, new ministers, new term and new powers. Oh, and a new name as well.**

2011 saw not only a new government in Wales and the election of many new Assembly Members, but also the introduction of legislative powers following a referendum in March. And dropping the 'Assembly' from Welsh Assembly Government means the Welsh Government has a new name to go with its new powers.

Winning 30 out of 60 seats in the May elections, Labour decided to go it alone with a no-majority government. Cabinet responsibilities have been shuffled considerably, with Newport's John Griffiths now Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development. With his legal background and strong track record of supporting tackling climate change, he should be a steady pair of hands to take the agenda forward, deliver targets and use the new legislative powers to put all on a sound legal footing.

The Minister's portfolio now includes GM crops, plant health and animal welfare, areas previously under the Agriculture and Food Minister. But that role has gone, the remaining portfolio is handled by a deputy minister, Alun Davies, reporting to the Business Minister, Edwina Hart.

Other Cabinet changes include a new Minister for Housing and Regeneration, with Huw Lewis filling the post, and First Minister Carwyn

Jones taking overall responsibility for major energy issues.

The previous government was criticised for policies in economic development, transport and local government that failed to look after the environment. Will this new-look Government take environment out of its one ministry silo, and lead to wider carbon cuts across all areas?

## Environmental rights protected

The proposed Sustainable Development Bill will be a major opportunity for this. We've long campaigned for people's right to live in a healthy environment to be protected in law. This must be a bold Bill, making the most of the new powers to protect our environment for future generations. There is, after all, no point in legislative powers unless they're used to take Wales further and faster towards a greener society.

The dynamics of a single-party, no-majority government is a big change. The opposition parties have more power, and in theory could vote government business down if there's any dissent within Labour. But we're more likely to see a pattern of compromise and agreement on issues before being introduced as policy.

A new committee structure is designed to give Assembly Members more opportunity to specialise in

a subject area. Larger 10 member committees now scrutinise legislation as well as government policy, and

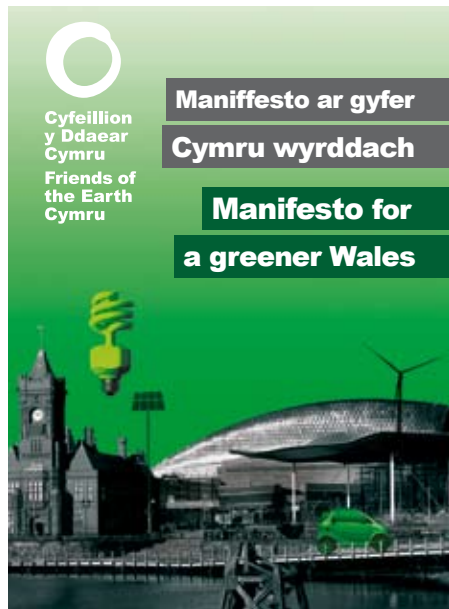
## "Will this new-look Government take environment out of its silo?"

there are likely to be more focused enquiries looking at specific issues over shorter periods. AMs may be appointed to lead on reports, as is common in other European legislatures and in the European Parliament.

The Environment and Sustainability Committee remains in place, made up almost entirely of new AMs. Former Presiding Officer Dafydd Elis-Thomas is certain to provide strong and creative leadership as its Chair. The hot topic of energy, especially large energy infrastructure which we've long called upon to be devolved to the Assembly, is likely to feature prominently in its discussions. And the crucially important Petitions Committee remains in place, and will be considering Friends of the Earth Cymru's 'No to Incineration' petition in the coming months.

It looks like the coming year in the Assembly – and perhaps all the next term – will be about change and delivery. And we'll certainly need plenty of both if we're going to urgently tackle climate change in Wales.

**Haf Elgar, Campaigner**



## Manifesto for a greener Wales

Our new manifesto offers a positive future for a greener Wales. It sets out a realistic agenda for the Welsh Government to tackle climate change, build a stronger economy, create more jobs, reduce fuel poverty, improve health and protect wildlife.

*Manifesto for a greener Wales* lays out our key policy recommendations in a handy and concise format. Following these recommendations would ensure that climate change is placed firmly at the heart of all Welsh Government policies. It would mean strong and ambitious measures to improve energy efficiency, switching from fossil fuels to

renewable energy, reducing resource use, increasing recycling rates and rejecting incineration.

We're calling for better support for sustainable farming, which is essential for the future of rural Wales and for our food security. Farming can benefit people and environment by creating jobs and managing land responsibly.

And we believe the Welsh Government should legally protect people's environmental rights, to make sure we all have the right to live in a healthy environment, and to protect it for future generations.

**Download at:** [www.foe.co.uk/cymru](http://www.foe.co.uk/cymru)



# LOCAL GROUPS IN WALES

## Local campaigns help win plastic bag charge in Wales



Sue Harrison, Sue Heppenstall and Lynette Green of Abergavenny and Crickhowell Friends of the Earth with the Abergavenny Bag

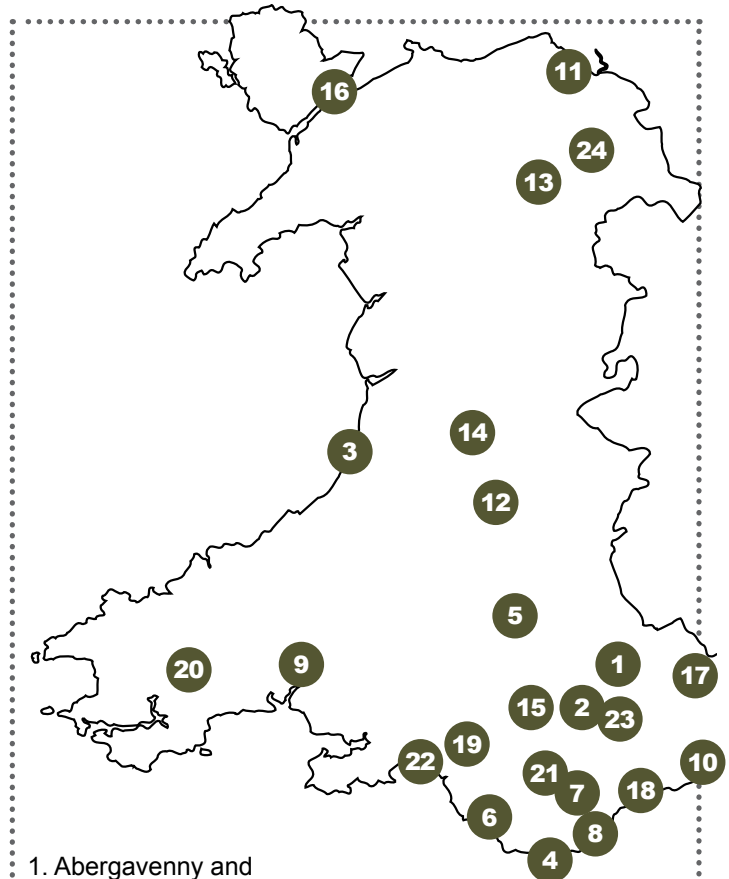
Wales will be the first nation in the UK where shoppers have to pay 5p for every single-use plastic bag they use. The charge is being introduced from October 2011 through regulations made possible by the Climate Change Act, itself largely the result of a Friends of the Earth campaign.

A number of Friends of the Earth local groups in Wales have been campaigning to reduce plastic bag use in their areas. Not only tackling our every day throwaway habits, the local campaigns worked to show our politicians that there was a real desire for a compulsory charge.

Abergavenny and Crickhowell Friends of the Earth produced a Fairtrade organic cotton bag, which they now sell to local shoppers and use the proceeds to give fruit trees, bushes and plants to local schools.

The Caerphilly group have given 10,000 Fairtrade cotton bags to local school children and residents. The schools competed to design a bag logo, with the winner chosen by a visiting Fairtrade farmer from the Dominican Republic.

Llangollen Friends of the Earth raised enough money to give every household in the town a reusable bag, also with a logo and slogan designed with help from local school children. The group also organised a Plastic Bag Free Week, which saw 65 local shops taking part.



1. Abergavenny and Crickhowell
2. Abertillery
3. Aberystwyth
4. Barry
5. Brecon
6. Bridgend
7. Caerphilly
8. Cardiff
9. Carmarthen
10. Chepstow
11. Flintshire
12. Heart of Wales
13. Llangollen
14. Llanidloes
15. Merthyr Tydfil
16. Môn a Gwynedd
17. Monmouth
18. Newport
19. Neath Port Talbot
20. Pembrokeshire
21. Pontypridd & District
22. Swansea
23. Torfaen
24. Wrexham

To find out more call **02920 229 577** or go to **[www.foecymru.co.uk](http://www.foecymru.co.uk)**

### Abertillery

Friends of the Earth's first school-based group held a Green Question Time in the run up to the Welsh Assembly elections in May 2011.

Pupils have since been learning about the terrible environmental damage caused in the Niger Delta by gas flaring, where gas released during oil production is burnt off. They are keen to find out more from Friends of the Earth Nigeria about its campaign to stop the flaring.

### Caerphilly

Caerphilly's first Green Christmas Fayre was a great success, and joins the seed swaps, stalls and film showings to extend a busy calendar throughout the year.

Local political candidates were quizzed at the group's Green Question Time prior to the Assembly elections.

Plans are progressing to provide local libraries with electricity monitors for people to hire to measure their home electricity consumption.

### Môn a Gwynedd

Working together with other north Wales groups, Môn a Gwynedd Friends of the Earth is opposing plans for a large incinerator in the area.

The North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project (NWRWTP) seems certain to be a single massive incinerator, which would demand 150,000 tonnes of rubbish each year. This monster would have an estimated cost of a staggering £600 - 800 million over 25 years.

### Newport

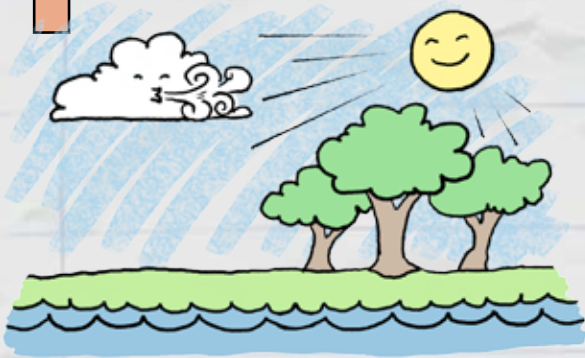
Newport Friends of the Earth has been opposing plans to build a new biofuel power station in the city, organising Newport's first ever Green Fayre and setting up a new green film club to show films every other month.

They've also started GREEN Newport (Green Resources for Environmental and Ethical Network), to help individuals, voluntary groups and organisations with shared aims to work together.

# Community energy guide

Set up a renewable energy scheme, and your community could earn money as well as help tackle climate change. We've put together a simple guide on our website with lots of useful links and resources to help get you started.

## 1 Identify your resource



## 2 Form your group



## 3 Feasibility and planning



## 4 Financing



## 5 Build / install



Find out more at [www.foecymru.co.uk](http://www.foecymru.co.uk)