

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro



Newsletter June 2014

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth has joined the anti fracking campaign



Six reasons for not exploiting unconventional gas

1. Climate Change

The argument in favour of shale gas is that it replaces coal but in order to prevent runaway climate change $\frac{3}{4}$ of existing fossil fuels, ie coal, gas and oil, **must** stay underground.

2. It detracts from the real solutions

Support for unconventional gas takes investment away from renewables and slows the move to a low carbon economy.

3. Environmental Damage

There are 3 major concerns, pollution of water supplies, air pollution and fugitive emissions from methane leaks and waste water. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas and the waste water has to be treated in a plant with a radioactive waste permit.

4. Impact on Jobs

At the peak of activity it is estimated the industry will provide 1000 jobs in Wales for 3-8 years, of which less than 200 will be locally filled. This has to be set against the jobs lost in agriculture, tourism and renewables.

5. Minimal or no impact on energy prices

6. Unpopular with local communities

Local communities fear the industrialisation of their environment, the inevitable increase in heavy traffic and the legacy that such exploitation will leave.

Abergwaun Community Wind Turbine

Letters of support for the planning application 13/0415/
PA Appeal ref:2214139 [http://
www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk/pcsportal/casesearch.asp](http://www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk/pcsportal/casesearch.asp)

Please support this TODAY

Responses need to be in by **9th June 2014**

What are the Unconventional gases?

Shale Gas

This is methane (natural gas) obtained from solid rock by a process of hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Each well has a short productive life so to exploit an area many wells have to be drilled. The process requires large amounts of water (1.6 million litres per fracture) and produces waste water which requires processing in a licensed plant.

Coal Bed Methane

CBM is methane (natural gas) trapped in coal seams underground. To extract the gas, after drilling into the seam it is necessary to pump large amounts of water out of the coal seam to lower the pressure. It is often also necessary to frack the seam to extract the gas. There are a similar catalogue of negative environmental and social effects as with Shale Gas. This includes methane migration, toxic water contamination, air pollution, increased carbon emissions and a general industrialisation of the countryside. Impacts that are specific to CBM include depletion of the water table and potentially subsidence.

Underground Coal Gasification

UCG is a process for exploiting coal that cannot be mined because the seams are too deep, thin or fractured. The process involves using the same sort of drilling technology usually used for fracking to get air/oxygen into the coal seam and then set the seam on fire. By controlling the amount of oxygen injected it is then possible to only partially burn the coal and bring the gases produced to the surface where they can be burned to produce energy. A witches brew of toxic and carcinogenic coal tars are produced in the burn cavity. The process is associated with serious groundwater contamination and massive carbon emissions.

To sign the petition go to www.foe.co.uk/cymru

Or write to First Minister, Carwyn Jones

Dear First Minister

Allowing fracking and the exploitation of unconventional gas in Wales would mean:

- ◆ Significant climate change impacts
- ◆ Negative impact on investment in renewable energy development
- ◆ Uncertainty around local environmental impacts
- ◆ Substantial lorry movements

Please make a public statement in support of a moratorium on fracking and all unconventional gas exploitation in Wales, pending the resolution of scientific doubt over adverse impacts and the clear evaluation of the impact on climate change.

Transition Town Haverfordwest's Green Fair in the beautiful grounds of Hilton Court took place in May. It was a beautiful, if windy, day but thanks to some sturdy fixings our gazebo and stall remain earth bound. We had



plenty of interest from youngsters wanting to make their own bee hotel. Earlier in May we had our usual stall at the Big Plant Sale in Narberth where we made £100. Thanks to all those who donated plants. Finally thanks to Kiri Howell we joined the Welsh Dragon Boat Race festivities at Llys y Fran. We are hoping to attend more events around the county this summer to spread the word. If you have suggestions or would like to help do let us know.

Bee Campaign Update

The Bee campaign was launched 2 years ago. DEFRA has now closed the consultation on the draft National Pollinator Strategy. On 1st May FoE handed over a petition with over 25,000 signatories calling of the Minister to ensure that a stronger and more effective action plan is introduced and the measures are effectively put into action and enforced.

Thanks to all those who signed.

This is a victory but there is still more we can do.

Personally we can make our gardens a Bee friendly place. We all think we do a lot, but there is surely more we can all do and every little helps.

Plant flowers, shrubs and trees that bees love. Many of these will reward you with fruit too.

Don't use pesticides or seeds that have been treated with pesticides.

Turn part of your lawn into a wild flower meadow. For advice on how to do this look at our leaflet - Creating a wild flower meadow - on the website. If you mow the edges it doesn't look untidy and it less work in the long run.

Don't be too tidy, leave a wild corner for the nettle willow herb and cow parsley, a pile of logs is great too.

Provide fresh water, a bird bath or dish with a few pebbles in it will do

Create nesting/resting sights with a Bee hotel, they can look great too.

Locally we can create bee worlds together and put pressure on PCC to follow our example.

Finally the strategy is due to published in July so there is still time to lobby our MP's.

Vintage Green Cohousing is proposing a visionary scheme to meet the challenge of an aging population in Wales.

Vintage Green Cohousing (or in Very Good Condition) is researching into a housing project for the over fifties in Pembrokeshire.

Cohousing is a form of group living which clusters individual homes around a 'common house' - the common house is the hub of the community with its own kitchen and workshops; members can share meals, skills and activities and also have a place for visitors to stay. It can also be a facility for the wider community to join in activities.

One of the main aims of this project is to make the housing affordable and environmentally as well as socially sustainable. Age UK's latest report shows 50,000 Welsh pensioners live in severe poverty and 30% of welsh households are estimated to be in fuel poverty. The buildings will be insulated to the highest standards, reducing the need for heating, while natural lighting and renewable energy will be made the best use of.

To help make it to be a truly green project there will be communal and private gardens for the residents to relax in and grow their own fresh vegetables. The site will be in or near a town or village with public transport and other facilities, and they also hope to have a car sharing scheme.

All Cohousing groups are run as not-for-profit organisations. The overall site and shared facilities are owned and managed by the residents.

By building a community of mutual support VGC are demonstrating a positive approach to the second half of life, embracing new possibilities and encouraging active involvement in the creation and management of the project. VGC want to be a show case for groups to visit and learn from their experience.

The VGC website is under construction, but for more information to go to www.cohousing.org.uk and a paper commissioned by the Joseph Roundtree Foundation entitled 'Senior cohousing communities-an alternative approach for the UK?' by Marie Brenton January 2013.

Majority support for onshore wind

The latest DECC Public Attitudes Tracker reports that 70% of people support the development of onshore wind <http://www.scottishenergynews.com/new-decc-survey-shows-majority-of-voters-support-onshore-wind-parcs/>



TransitionNarberth

transitionnarberth.org



AGM

**5.30pm Friday June 27th @ The Seminar Room
Bloomfield Centre
followed by**

“Project Wild thing”

a thought provoking film for all the family

Film maker David Bond is a worried man. His kids' waking hours are dominated by a cacophony of marketing and screen dependence threatening to turn them into glassy-eyed zombies..... they spend way too much time indoors – not like it was back in his day.

He decides to get back to nature literally

Rated very highly by the Guardian

Please come and support your local group

Entry is free though donations always welcome.

Jill Evans re-elected MEP

We are delighted that Jill Evans has been elected once again. She has fought alongside Foe Pembrokeshire on many Environmental issues. She spoke at our recent FoE Cymru Conference about the absence of media coverage in Wales of the European Parliament and her concerns about the lack of knowledge about its workings.

By it's very nature, the environment transcends political, legal and man-made boundaries. Co-operation between EU member States and between the EU and the rest of the world is essential to tackle the challenges of Climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

The EU has agreed that at least 20% of its €960 billion budget for the 2014-2020 period should be spent on climate change-related action. This represents around a threefold increase from the 6-8% share in 2007-2013. The EU is thought to be the first region in the world to 'mainstream' climate action into its whole budget.

The Celtic Trader

Stefan Proszynski from Llanycefn is spending much of his spare time working on a long held dream of restoring Wales maritime culture by returning to the tradition of trading by sail boat along our coast. He would like the millions of pounds spent on maintaining our roads to go into developing our waterways, enabling us to reduce our carbon footprint and meet environmental targets.

There is a growing movement to return to trading under sail with several small companies trading in Europe and across the Atlantic to Barbados and Brazil, go to www.sailtransport.com. Engineers at the University of Tokyo are working on 'hybrid' ships. Using the latest in engine technology and huge aluminium and fibre reinforced plastic sails they say fuel consumption can be cut by 30%. www.globaltrademag.com

Stefan, who served as an apprentice shipwright and has worked for years as a carpenter, is building a fully functioning model, with a motor, of a schooner. He plans to work with others to build a 50 foot schooner which could carry a 20 ton shipping container. He believes this could eventually be developed as 150 foot vessels carrying eight 40 ton containers.

The hull is designed to allow entrance into tidal rivers and old town quays. The 2 masts and booms can quickly convert into lifting derricks able to move a standard container from hold to wharf. It would offer comfortable accommodation to charter guests and have auxiliary power of two 70 horse power engines with 2 propellers.

Harnessing the wind power in these beautiful vessels may become a far more attractive proposition than continuing to shift containers in huge gas guzzling juggernauts.



13-15 June 2014, Castleton, Derbyshire

FoE are heading to the beautiful surroundings of Derbyshire's High Peak for a weekend of fantastic activities aimed at helping you take action and making a difference where you live. It is an opportunity to develop your ideas and hear from some of the brightest minds on environmental issues.

There will be a range of accommodation to choose from - including camping, dorm beds at the YHA, nearby B&B's and a hotel.

For programme details go to: <http://www.foe.co.uk/events/basecamp>

The Wales we want by 2050

The Welsh Government's Future Generations Bill

The aim of the proposed Future Generations Bill as stated by the Welsh Government is to put the needs of communities at the heart of the decisions that Welsh public services make now and in the future.

However beyond this the bill's aims such equality and sustainability, while laudable, are too vague.

FOE Cymru believes for this bill to be more precise and therefore meaningful a legal definition of sustainable development is essential. FOE Cymru is working with a team of environmental lawyers in partnership with many other groups including WWF, OXFAM, Stop Climate Chaos and Nature Wales, to produce a sustainable development Bill.

The definition of sustainable development they propose is

'Sustainable development means meeting the social, cultural and environmental needs of people and communities without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

The bill also needs a time scale for reaching its goals and a process of assessing progress. FoE Cymru believe it is time to move forward from the carbon footprint as a way of measuring and reducing our environmental impact to include a land footprint - the area of land used, a water footprint - the volume of water used and a material footprint - tonnage of materials used including the mining of metals.

This concept has already been adopted by companies such as Unilever.

To find out more about the Future Generations Bill go to www.waleswewant.co.uk

A Foraging workshop led by Adele Nazader author of 'Hedgerow Handbook'

This took place at this year's FoE Cymru Conference held at the Gladstone Library Hawarden. On the workshop we learnt about the history of use of plants such as silver weed which was dug up and harvested for its carbohydrate rich nodules in times past.



Some dates for your diary

Saturday 7th June

9:45am - 4:00pm

Plas Dwbl Farm College, Clynderwen

Pembrokeshire Community Growing Network

Free growing event with speakers and practical workshops. Lunch provided. All welcome but places limited so booking essential

Contact karens@planed.org.uk or on 01834 862115



Wool Spinning Classes

10:00am - 1:00pm Bloomfield Centre, Narberth

Free betinab@dsl.pipex.com or on 01437 563657

Sunday 15th June

10:00am - 4:00pm	Eco Homes Tour	vicky@ecocymru.org
Newport, Pembrokeshire	£12 or less	Vicky 01239 820971

Sunday 22nd June

3:00pm	Guided Nature Walk	Vicky 01646 672615
Freshwater East	Family event Free, donations welcome	

Sunday 29th June

12noon - 3:00pm	Wildlife on Your Patch: "Get to Know Your Pollinators"	sarahg@planed.org.uk
Cilgerran	Family event, booking essential. Free	Sarah 01834 862119

10:30am - 1:30pm	People Power needed to eradicate Himalayan Balsam	gilland-tosh@yahoo.co.uk
Poppit Sands, St Dogmaels	Volunteer working party	Gill 01239 613 031

3:00pm	Guided Nature Walk	Vicky 01646 672615
Freshwater East	Family event Free, donations welcome	

Pembrokeshire FoE Contact Info

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