

Earth First!

August 2008

Action



Update

A quarterly round-up of ecological and other direct action from around Britain and beyond

Climate Action starts on your dinner plate!

On 3rd June climate activists around the country took action on food issues, to coincide with the UN Conference on World Food Security.

Campaigners from the Network for Climate Action organised demonstrations, guerrilla gardening, film nights, workshops and free food events calling for a drastic shift in the way we produce and consume food:

“The food we eat contributes a third of humanity's global contribution to climate change. Vast amounts of fossil fuels are used in producing, processing, packaging and transporting food. An immediate change in our diet towards locally produced, organically grown, plant-based, unpackaged food is one of the most effective steps we can each take to stop climate change.”

Action round-up

In **London**, campaigners took to the streets to treat city workers to vegan food samples and protesters from Biofuelwatch and Food Not Fuel protested outside Newham town hall against the planning application for the UK's first biofuel power plant. Banners quoted the number of people going hungry because of agrofuels. Over 500 signatures objecting to the plant were collected.

In **Manchester** a free vegan picnic was organised by Manchester Animal Protection and Manchester Climate Action. Food and seedlings were given away, whilst guerrilla gardeners planted everything from courgettes to rose-bushes in Piccadilly gardens, the scene of full-scale corporate take-over of public space. Activists also delivered snacks into Burger King and Starbucks, offering customers free cake and propaganda!

Liverpool hosted a free vegan food fair at its social centre 'Next to Nowhere'. Around 50 people attended and loads of food and information was given out. Climate change and animal rights activists in **Nottingham** gave away free chips, vegan pasties and tomato plants. People also visited Fresh & Ecoworks community garden. Ready, Steady, Skip!, a new film and website about the joys of skipping was also launched. In **Glasgow** a group of waiters invited passers-by to 'Taste the waste' and sample their free food. The menu was made up entirely out of skipped goods from supermarket bins and included such delights as: homemade vegan frequent flyer banana cake, skipped chip, rescued roast veg. and binned beans. Across the water in the **Netherlands**, a group of pigs took action for a more vegan Amsterdam. They handed out organic vegan falafel and chocolate cake snacks to encourage people not to buy that ham for dinner. There was also a film night with organic vegan food and ideas on how to combat climate change.

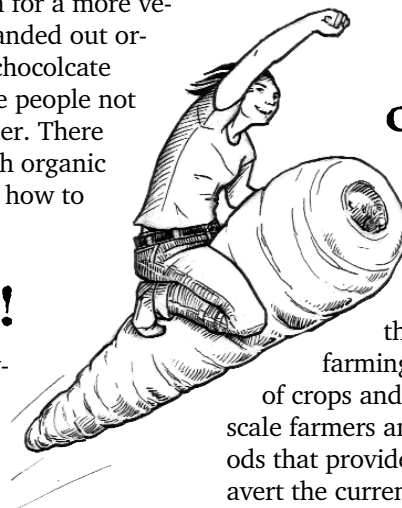
Go vegan!

The activists' call for low-carbon food is supported by two high-profile reports from the UN. The 2006 UN Food and Agriculture Organisation report on the impact of livestock found that livestock contributes 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions – which is more than the emissions from the world's entire transport system (13.5%). The report states: “Livestock's contribution to environmental problems

is on a massive scale. The impact is so significant that it needs to be addressed with urgency.” As well as CO₂ the livestock industry produces 100 million tonnes methane each year, with methane being 23 times more harmful to the climate than CO₂. A study published in the New Scientist confirms that the equivalent of 1.5 tonnes CO₂ is saved annually by a vegan diet (4kg/person/day). This is a reduction of over 15% of the average UK person's greenhouse gas emissions (10 tonnes/year).

Eating animal products at the current level is simply unethical in the light of climate change, the emerging food crisis and the suffering of animals.

Producing one calorie of animal protein requires more than 10 times as much fossil fuel input as a calorie of plant protein. In all, the raising of livestock takes up more than two-thirds of agricultural land. Getting your protein directly from plants is much more efficient than getting it from animals – meaning we can feed a lot more people with much less environmental impact.



Local and organic food!

The recently published UN International Assessment of Agricultural Science provides a sobering account of the failure of industrial

farming and genetic engineering of crops and found that it is small-scale farmers and agro-ecological methods that provide the way forward to avert the current food crisis and deal with climate change. So get out your spade and start growing your own food, pop down to your local organic grower and buy seasonal veg and fruit, give up processed junk, and discover the delights of fresh, healthy, seasonal vegan food. www.daysofclimateaction.org.uk/food.html

www.earthfirst.org.uk

Coal Resistance

International news

Coal is the most carbon intensive form of fossil fuel use, and the biggest historical cause of climate change. If we are to cut our carbon emissions enough to prevent catastrophe, we must stop burning coal. Coal is everywhere. But climate change affects everything. And the people most affected by climate change and mining are the indigenous peoples of the planet and the poorest communities in coal rich areas.

Often these are people with the smallest carbon footprints, who the world needs to be learning from, not destroying to burn more coal. Resistance is growing globally to the mining, transportation and burning of coal. Here are just some of the coal projects being targeted. For loads of info about coal mining and local resistance check out this site: www.minesandcommunities.org

Venezuela



In Venezuela, the eco-indigenous defence group Homo et Natura are accompanying the indigenous and ecologist resistance against the the Trans-Guajira 'Poliduct' fossil

fuel infrastructure that supports big coal and big oil in the region, the Bolivar or America Harbor, and the rail-lines that are part of the coal industry expansion in Zulia.

www.homoetnatura.org

Bangladesh

Phulbari is the coal capital of Bangladesh and British company Global Coal Management are working to build a huge open-cast coal mine. Local people are opposed to the project and there has been no genuine public consultation. The proposed mine would divert a river, suck an aquifer dry for 30 years and evict thousands of people from their homes. The coal would be exported via a railway and port in the Sundarbans, the

world's largest mangrove forest. In August 2006, Phulbari witnessed the killing of five people by paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles during a massive rally against the project. Hundreds more were injured among a crowd of some 50,000 people opposing an open-pit mine which would cover an area containing more than a hundred villages. www.phulbariresistance.blogspot.com

North America

Fighting mountain top removal

The Appalachian Mountains in North America are being literally blown up to mine coal. 'Mountain top removal' is a form of strip mining where the mountains are blasted away, the coal seams plundered, then the spoil dumped into thousands of valleys leaving unusable toxic land around some of the poorest communities in the USA. Local water, homes, schools and communities are being devastated.

Resistance is increasing, and in the last few years Mountain Justice, Earth First! and Rising Tide have been taking action, targeting mines, power plants, offices, billboards and the banks that are financing coal.

This has included taking over the only bridge into a coal fired power plant in Virginia, blockading the construction of new power plants in Florida and North Carolina. The latter resulted in police using tazers and pain compliance to get people to unlock from equipment.

Most recently on 30th June twelve activists from Blue Ridge Earth First! and Mountain Justice blockaded Dominion Coal in protest against the construction of new coal plants and new nuclear reactors at Lake Anna.



One of the three North American climate camps this year is being held in the Appalachians to "fight the coal industry's

stranglehold on our region".

www.mountainjusticesummer.org

www.risingtidenorthamerica.org

www.katuahef.org

There will be three Climate Camps in the USA this summer:

www.climateconvergence.org

Black Mesa resistance



In South West USA both mining and power plant construction are being resisted by the indigenous people of the Black Mesa. Black Mesa Indigenous Support describes:

'In 1974 the US Congress passed Law allegedly to settle a so-called land dispute between the Dineh and their Hopi neighbours. This law required the forced relocation of well over 14,000 Dineh and a hundred plus Hopi from their ancestral homelands. The 'dispute' being settled was, in reality, fabricated by the US government as a way to obtain easier access to strip-mine one of the largest coal reserves in North America.

The land known as Black Mesa is home to thousands of traditional sheep herders, weavers, silversmiths and farmers. For hundreds of years before Europeans came to the Americas the Dineh and Hopi existed in balance with each other and with Mother Earth.'

In 30 years the Black Mesa mine has contributed an estimated 325 million tons of CO₂ to the atmosphere. The expanded mine could potentially contribute an additional 290 million tons of CO₂ to the global warming crisis! Lives are being attacked from all sides with the relocations, the drop in the water table from water mining for slurry, affecting drinking water springs and desert plants shrinking by the year from lack of rainfall due to climate change. But over 30 years on and the Elders carry on resisting.

www.blackmesawatercoalition.org

www.blackmesais.org

Cross-Atlantic Solidarity



The company responsible for much of the destruction in the USA is Peabody Coal, who are now also moving into business in Australia after buying up Excel Coal. Here, in the region around Newcastle, indigenous members of the United Nations of South Pacific, people from 3 aboriginal nations and local residents occupied the offices of Peabody Coal in solidarity with the people of Black Mesa.

Arthur Ridgeway who is a traditional owner of the Pambalong area that now makes up Newcastle said: "Climate change now is a global issue and the global community must now act to protect what is left of our precious environment. These coal companies have no place in our future the way they desecrate the earth and our sacred homelands. Peabody's practices in America have shown that they have no regard for the earth there and they will do the same here. We will not let the desecration of indigenous cultures continue, here in Australia or overseas".

New Zealand

Over the Tasman Sea in New Zealand people have been occupying Happy Valley since January 2006, in an effort to halt development of a proposed open-cast coal mine. Solid Energy's mine - a planned 96 metre deep pit - would completely obliterate this pristine valley, and pollute local rivers with heavy metals and acid mine drainage. The coal produced would create as much carbon dioxide as all of New Zealand's domestic transport. Lots of actions have been car-



ried out including the digging up of the front lawn of Solid Energy's HQ, occupations and banner drops at the HQ. Protestors have twice blockaded railway tracks used to move coal, with two people locked directly onto the rail tracks, and a third hanging 30m above the ground from a tree and a support rope attached to the tracks.
www.savehappyvalley.org.nz

Australia

In Newcastle people are fighting the expansion of the worlds largest coal port - set to increase its capacity by 60%. This has included a string of direct actions including locking onto trains, and obstructing trucks, offices and construction sites, culminating in this year's climate camp. The camp began with an invitation to Aboriginal country by local Pambalong traditional owners Peta and Arthur Ridgeway.

On 13th July, over a thousand people marched to the Carrington coal terminal "The children led the march which meandered along the edge of the coal rail line until we held a 5 minute silent vigil in front of the massive coal stockpiles. Then, one by one, small groups of people made their way over or under the fence line and onto the tracks. By the end of the day, 57 people had been arrested and we successfully halted all coal trains through the Carrington port for the day. The atmosphere was amazing... you could see huge grins on people's faces and hear the excitement in their voices as they shared stories of the day. Collective action a beautiful thing."

On 27th June activists locked on to and shut down a conveyor transporting coal into Muja power station in Collie. Two activists were arrested.

www.climatecamp.org.au
www.risingtide.org.au

Germany

Activists in Germany are gearing up for their Klima Camp, from 15th -24th in Hamburg, planning to stop construction of the new Hamburg-Moorburg coal power plant, which is being built by energy company Vattenfall despite massive local opposition.

Resistance against open-cast has a long tradition in East Germany where wanton destruction started in 1923 and carries on to date under the auspices of Vattenfall. Huge areas of the Lausitz (inhabited by the Sorbs, a slavic speaking minority) have been ripped up, many villages destroyed and ten thousands of people forcefully resettled. The now partly des-

troyed village of Lacoma has been the focus of several long-term occupations, tree protest camps, sabotage of heavy machinery and pumps over the past decade. Direct action is ongoing. In South West Germany local activists have blockaded coal trains for the Mannheim coal power station as well as access to the power plant itself. In May several hundred people stormed the plant in protest to plans to build a new additional plant on the same site.



www.klimacamp08.net

www.lacoma.info

<http://de.indymedia.org/2007/09/195301.shtml>

Netherlands

In the Netherlands five new coal-fired power plants are planned to be built. E.on is making a concerted effort to be the first company to start building next spring. E.on is also planning to build a coal-fired plant in Antwerpen, Belgium Dutch Earth First! (Groen Front!) have been resisting with blockades of E.on Headquarters, bike demos and other protests. www.groenfront.nl

Ground Kingsnorth!

UK climate campers are vowing to prevent the construction of the first new coal power station (likely to be Kingsnorth) should the government go ahead with plans.

An ongoing campaign of civil disobedience is being planned, to stop construction at the plant itself but also to target all parts of the chain, including suppliers and contractors. The campaign is planned to involve people from all walks of life from all parts of the country with accessible information, direct action training and frequent actions at the plant. The decision on Kingsnorth will be made by the government in October, so watch this space.

Leave it in the Ground!

Whilst protests are mounting against climate change, the coal industry continues to rumble on in the background - extracting, transporting and burning the most climate damaging of all the fossil fuels. There are 14 deep coal mines open in the UK at the moment, and 4 more planned. But for the coal industry opencast is where it's really at - there are 33 opencast mines in the UK at the moment, with **30 more in planning or development** - a near doubling of mine sites.

Open cast mining is cheap and there is money to be made: Using enormous mechanised machines, a small number of workers can rip apart the landscape and get to the coal, meaning no need for expensive underground tunnels and shafts. Unfortunately, this makes opencast amazingly destructive to the environment around the mine, as well as a climate disaster. It also means that new mines usually provide very few jobs. Currently 29% of the coal we use comes from the UK - the rest is imported from equally destructive mines around the world - also to focus of local resistance.

Ffos-y-Fran

Ffos-y-Fran opencast coal mine near Merthyr Tydfil will be the biggest opencast in the UK and a climate disaster waiting to happen. Miller-Argent want to dig up coal which, when burnt, will produce about 30 million tonnes of CO2 every year. Local people have been

opposing the mine for years. More than 10,000 signed a petition opposing the mine - not surprising given that it will mean coal dust, noise, and a 200m deep pit as little as 35m away from homes. Despite this, the Welsh Assembly, encouraged by Westminster, gave the go-ahead. Since November campaigners have been helping local residents make some noise about the mine - engaging in civil disobedience on site. The mine has been closed down twice, bringing public and media attention to the issue, and supporting the local campaign with rallies and meetings in Merthyr and Cardiff.

It's an empowering campaign, working with local residents and using creative protest. To get involved, email reclaim-merthyr@gmail.com
www.stopffsoyfran.co.uk
www.thecoalhole.org/facts/merthyr/

Derby squat eviction alert

The anti-opencast squat near Shipley, Derbyshire is on full eviction alert after UK Coal won a possession order on Friday 18th July. Activists have been occupying the house at Prospect Farm (re-named Bodge House) and surrounding trees since mid June.

The farmhouse is scheduled for demolition under UK Coal's plans for a hundred-hectare opencast mine removing 1 million tonnes of coal over five years.

The plans were opposed by local people and refused by the council, but central government, in its hunger for energy supplies at any cost, overturned the refusal in spite of planning policy guidelines.

The opencast pit will destroy farmland with a rich wildlife population, cause nuisance and health risks for local residents, and release 3m tonnes of CO2.

The Bodge House site is already well defended with tree houses, fortifications to the building and a tunnel system. Eviction could start as early as 21st July (possibly before you read this) and more support is urgently needed.

For up to date information contact 0750 3335870,
www.leaveitintheground.wordpress.com

Digger diving fun

Work on the Derby site has begun, with UK Coal building access roads and preparing a plant compound. Actions to disrupt work have been taking place, including obstructing a steamroller which was being used to set a tarmac ramp for heavy plant machinery on 29th June. Leave it in the ground also held two noise demos at the UK Coal HQ.

Coal train stopped



Twenty-nine climate campaigners halted a train taking coal to Drax power station in North Yorkshire on 13th June. Drax is the single biggest source of CO2 in the UK, and train services delivering coal to the station remained stopped for the day. Up to 100 police officers, some in riot gear, had to be drafted in to remove the activists. Protesters used safety signals to stop the train on a bridge overlooking the power station, before climbing on board and dumping coal off onto the tracks. Others used a network of climbing ropes to suspend themselves under the bridge from the train.

E.on greenwash

On 16th July E.on took a double hit to their tarnished reputation. In London Greenwash Guerrillas held a demo outside the Guardian Climate Change Summit, which E.ON were sponsoring. 40 activists swarmed around the building and made sure that every delegate knew about E.ON's plans to build a new coal power station at Kingsnorth.

At the same time Oxford Climate Action blockaded the headquarters of Edelman PR because of their collusion with E-On in "greenwashing" the Kingsnorth development. Protesters gained access to the firms offices whilst others climbed onto the roof to unfurl a banner
www.greenwashguerrillas.org

Leave it in the Ground! National Meeting to resist new coal

11th - 12th Oct 2008, Manchester

A meeting to bring together groups and communities resisting coal in the UK - from open cast and deep coal mines, to power stations and coal imports. Share information, plan for action, and build a strong network of resistance. To find out more:

info@leaveitintheground.org.uk
www.leaveitintheground.org.uk
www.thecoalhole.org

Peak District threat

Glebe Mines, owned by INEOS (the multi-billion pound company that owns Runcorn chemical works) have applied to the Peak District National Park Authority to build an open pit quarry on Wensley Hillside, 6 miles from Bakewell and 2 miles from Stanton Moor. They plan to extract 660,000 tonnes of fluor-spar from the 12 ha site over 6 years. If this application is accepted, INEOS/Glebe are likely to submit further applications for extensions to follow the vein.

Smash Edo

Smash Edo held its Carnival on 4th June and noise demos continue every week. The next big demo will take place on Wed 15th October. Meet at 12, opposite Falmer Station. www.smashedo.org.uk

Incinerator Protest

On 22nd July Stop Incineration Now! and Climate Camp Activists took over the site of the proposed new incinerator plant in Newhaven. They entered the premises under cover of darkness and formed a barricade by superglue-ing themselves to the road, whilst on the site itself, other members of the group locked-on to machinery in order to halt construction on the highly controversial incinerator plant.

Arms dealers out

On 8th July people in Nottingham held a demo at Heckler & Koch Weapons Manufacturers. H&K not only count the Janjaweed, the brutal militias of Darfur amongst their clients but also supply guns to the Iraqi and Afghan puppet governments, with Blackwater providing the training for the mercenaries.



Sticky Brown

On 22nd July a Plane Stupid campaigner super-glued himself to Prime Minister Gordon Brown in 10 Downing Street. He'd been invited to receive an award for protesting, so promptly decided to carry on in that vein! Whilst asking Gordon about refusing to meet West London residents opposed to the construction of a third runway at Heathrow, the intrepid protester put his super-glue covered hand onto Brown's polyester suit. When Brown went to turn away he found he was stuck and for once had no option but to listen. www.planestupid.com

News in Brief

Carlisle Airport expansion plans have been shelved after haulage company Eddy Stobart have pulled out due to the delays forced on them by a public enquiry. Stobart had been ruthlessly pushing for permission to turn the airfield into a northern air freight hub.

Burma protests continued at petrol stations in London and Chester in June and July. French Total Oil funds the brutal Burma junta with 500 million dollars a year and its gas pipeline was built with slave labour. www.totaloutofburma.org

Grouse traps and enclosures were sabotaged on Ilkey Moor in July.

32 SUV owners woke up in Oxford on 18th July to discover that their environmentally destructive vehicles had been disabled using the 'mung bean trick' to let down their tires. This involves inserting a mung bean into the valve before the cap is screwed back on.

The Tent City Occupation of Wembley Sports Ground was evicted on 18th July. One protester had to be removed from the roof of the Community Centre where he had d-locked himself to a flagpole to stop the City Academy and to save the community sports ground.

Badgers are saved in England, as the cull is repealed in England, but given the go ahead in Wales. Animal rights activists took to the streets in protests, whilst others sabotaged NFU offices. www.badger-killers.co.uk

The new 'Spirit of Freedom' newsletter is out, produced by Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network. With eco and animal rights activists under repression around the world, get out your pen and write some letters to show solidarity.

Menwith Hill US spy base saw another cheerful demonstration on 4th July, Independence Day.

Faslane nuclear submarine base in Scotland found its gates blockaded yet again on 19th June. Those pesky blockaders just won't go away...

A slaughterhouse was burnt to the ground in Sweden on 4th July by animal rights activists. It was due to be opened in Sept and slaughter moose, elk and other wildlife.

In Bristol local residents have been protesting the felling of 27 trees in a conservation area by the landowner

EARTH FIRST!

GATHERING
27 Aug - 1 Sept '08, Norfolk

Direct Action to halt the destruction of the Earth
5 days of workshops and planning action.
Plus low-impact living without leaders.
Meet people, make links, take action.

www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk

Join us for:
Action training including: Blockading, reccies, security for actions, how to plan actions, legal and arrest info, bypassing security systems, researching companies, night time and navigation skills, self-defense, squatting, climbing and more.
Get involved in and plan direct action campaigns: Coal resistance / Leave it in the ground, Saving Iceland., GM resistance, Food and climate change, Agro-fuels, Rossport Solidarity, Nuclear Power, Smash Edo, Rising Tide and more!
Learn about ecology, eco-centric ethics, sustainable living and ecological restoration including field trips and hands-on work.



Genetix Update



European round-up

At a recent gathering in France over 300 GM crop decontaminators celebrated a hot year of resistance in Europe. The gathering brought together GM activists from different countries to make links for tackling a global problem.

French still in the lead...

The huge French anti-GM direct action movement continues to be massively effective. Back in February Europe's largest seed cooperative *Limagrain* moved its GM crop tests to the US, put off by the ongoing destruction of test fields. On VE Day activists held a successful day-long blockade of the Cargill port in Brest, where GM animal feed is imported. This followed past blockades of agricultural co-ops distributing GM seed, and another 3 day port blockade. MON810 GM corn has been banned due to environmental and human health concerns, but farmers are still planting it illegally all over France. As the state isn't up to it, activists have been going out testing crops, and if they show up as GM, instructing the state to destroy them.

However GM crop liberators are experiencing fierce repression, with the day-time decontaminations harrassed by police helicopters throwing tear gas and sound grenades, and local farming militias protecting fields with guns and dogs. Recently passed co-existence laws now include a specific offence of crop trashing, which ups the number of years people could get sentenced to in prison. Fines and prison sentences have already been severe and taking up a lot of energy, but the GM activists are vowing to carry on.



...but Germans are catching up

German crop trashers reported that this summer no less than seven proposed GM trial sites have been squatted. The first was a field where GM had been grown for 12 years, despite fierce local campaigning. Within a week of squatting the land, the owners pulled out and said they would never plant GM again. Field liberators then moved on to other sites,

decamping with each success. The last farmer was particularly obstinate. Despite campers and tripods, he set out with his tractor – with activists following behind picking each corn seed out and passing them back to him. He finally gave up after the field was over-sown with organic maize.

There have also been at least 6 night-time decontaminations, despite strong police mobilisations, including 900 square metres of wheat at a bio-bank which was guarded with dogs, 2 fences and 4 CCTV cameras.

British occupy GM lab...

After over decade of direct action against GM, this year only 2 outdoor field trials were granted permission in the UK. The BASF potato trial at the National Institute for Agricultural Botany (NIAB), in Girton, Cambridge is a trial for blight resistance in GM potatoes. On 2nd June about a dozen protesters from Earth First! UK invaded the NIAB office right next to the field and hung banners from buildings in protest at the trial. After a successful night-time raid last summer, this year's trial at NIAB has to be conducted under siege-like conditions with high levels of security, including a permanent security personnel presence, high metal fences, alarms and floodlights.

The activists stated: "Genetically modified food is not the answer to either climate change or world food shortages and we stand here today in solidarity with the many farmers and local food producers across the world who are speaking out against GM crops. The increasing industrialisation of agriculture benefits neither producer nor consumer and we need to look to a future of low-input, diverse, local food production."

...and destroy GM spuds

The second UK GM trial was taking place at Tadcaster, under the auspices of Leeds University. On 5th June four people took just 25 minutes to completely remove the GM spuds from the ground. The potatoes had been engineered for nematode resistance.

According to the Sunday Mirror the Environment Minister, Mr Woolas was not

happy: "The people behind this should have the guts to go public and join the debate about GM foods. Their arrogance appalls me."

The crop pullers themselves had this to say: "The BioTech corporations would have you believe that GM is about feeding the starving millions. It isn't. WDM, Oxfam and Action Aid (who actually do something about poverty in the developing world) all have an anti-GM stance. No, this is just about profits and corporate control of the food we eat!"

Swiss not to be left behind

On 13th June around 35 persons entered a field trial of GM wheat close to Zurich in Switzerland and destroyed the crop by scything and trampling the plants.

Anti-GM in Brazil

On 7th March - International Women's Day - Brazilian women occupied a research site of the US biotech giant Monsanto, destroying the greenhouse and experimental plots of genetically-modified corn. Participants, members of the international farmers' organization La Via Campesina, stated they were taking action against the Brazilian government's decision to legalize Monsanto's GM Guardian® corn, which came just weeks after the French government had prohibited the corn due to environment and human health risks.

La Via Campesina also held protests in several Brazilian cities against the Swiss corporation Syngenta Seeds for its ongoing impunity for the murder of Valmir Mota de Oliveira. Mota was assassinated last October during an occupation of the company's illegal experimental site for GM soybeans. Brazil has a high number of land activist murders.

The expansion of agricultural biotechnology into Brazil is increasing agrarian conflicts and exacerbating historic tensions over land. The movements in La Via Campesina reject seed patenting, claiming the practice traps poor farmers in a cycle of debt to corporations that own the seed patents, and undermines small farmers' autonomy to save and share seeds. They claim that "GM technology threatens biodiversity and native seed varieties, and violates the rights of consumers and small farmers by contaminating conventional and organic crops."

International News

Saving Iceland



The 4th Saving Iceland camp kicked off with its first action on 19th July when 40 activists from over 10 countries occupied the site where Century Aluminum are constructing and aluminium smelter, and chained themselves to machinery and cranes.

The camp is taking place in a beautiful geothermal valley in the Hengill area, threatened by the expansion of a geothermal power station to provide power for heavy industry projects.

Activists from Iceland, Australia, America, Denmark, Germany, Britain, Holland, France, Belgium and Italy amongst others have joined the campaign as information about the destruction of Iceland's wilderness has spread. This year the campaign is focussing specifically on the humanitarian effects of aluminium production, from the genocides associated with mining in India, South America and Jamaica, to the use of aluminium for arms manufacture and the defence industry.

savingiceland@riseup.net
www.savingiceland.org

Peasants' revolt

The UN Biodiversity Summit took place 12th - 30th May in Bonn, Germany. A coalition of social movements and activists' networks including the international peasant network Via Campesina called for protests under the slogan "Nature for people, not for business!" . Peasant activists invaded official proceedings, banging on tea cups, hanging banners and handed out messages. Activists also disrupted an industry lunch where agro-industrialists were congratulating each other on their success at monopolizing the seed supply and destroying agricultural biodiversity.

Shell to Sea

The community resisting the construction of the Shell pipeline in Rossport, Ireland reports that Shell has ramped up activity in the area. They are calling on people to come for a visit and help to resist as Shell plan to start offshore pipeline laying shortly.

Erris Fishermen held a protest to object to where Shell are placing their waste outflow pipe: "We've been fishing these waters for generations and we all have licences to fish them." He added that if Shell wanted to remove his crab pots from the route of the pipeline, they would have to get a court order. "I won't heed the court order so they'll have to send me and other fishermen to jail." Shell have begun working on their compound in Glengad by starting to put in security fences. Two people were arrested on the site but released without charge.

Meanwhile Mayo County Council are attempting to build a road for Shell, but are so far hitting a wall of resistance with residents fighting the widening of the road through legal channels. There is also a lot of other stuff going on, such as Shell being stopped from accessing Rossport commonage, loads of submissions gone into the planning applications and a European Petitions Challenge.

Phone **0851141170** or email rossportsolidaritycamp@gmail.com to say when you can come.
www.shelltosea.com
www.rossportsolidaritycamp.110mb.com

Forest defense

The fight to stop the logging of the last patches of high-density old growth forest in Tasmania carries on.

Little Denison Valley is a 1000 ha area, where 300 year old trees are being dynamited and cut down for the world's largest



hardwood woodchipper, Gunns Ltd. The area is home to the critically endangered Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle and the endemic Denison Burrowing Crayfish. In April 80 people attended community protests and one night 20 activists set up an occupied platform, suspended 60 metres up a Eucalyptus and succeeded in blockading the progress of a logging machine for three days.

In early June, in the Weld Valley, road building began into pristine native forest, with full scale logging operations to follow. In immediate response 25 people conducted a walk-in along the new road. While an activist locked-on to a gravel truck, Premier Bartlett declared his continued support for native forest destruction.

5th June saw a National Day of Action highlighting the Australian Labor Party's failure to protect Tasmania's ancient forests with protests in Hobart, Melbourne, Canberra, Newcastle, Brisbane and Darwin. On 4th July activists scaled the Environment Ministry building with a banner reading 'The Australian Government is Destroying Tasmania's Old Growth Forests'. www.huon.org

Airport squat

In Germany climate activists have been squatting a woodland since the beginning of June to stop the construction of yet another new runway for the already massive Frankfurt airport. The camp continues to grow with over 30 people living on site and has the support of the community. Demos and actions are being organised together with local residents' groups against airport expansion. Amazing treehouses, walkways and funky ground shelters have been constructed to make life pleasant in the woods and to resist eviction as long as possible. People are welcome to join in. www.waldbesetzung.blogspot.de

Rail blockade

Brazil this June saw a series of protests by landless peasants targeting multinationals. 1500 people blockaded a railway line that transports iron ore for mining company Vale, with more than 30 trains delayed over 10 hours. Protesters also occupied properties of industrial conglomerate Votorantim and a supermarket belonging to the Wal-Mart group.

About Earth First!

Earth First! is about direct action to halt the destruction of the Earth. We believe we can make a real difference by doing it ourselves rather than relying on leaders, governments or industry.

We're a loose network of people, groups and campaigns coming together for ecological direct action and we believe in non-hierarchical organisation.

The name Earth First! is a banner anyone who shares a similar philosophy can work under.

In the UK people have been taking direct action using the Earth First! name since the early 90s – stopping road building, the quarrying of coal, rock and peat, freeing our fields of genetically modified crops, protesting against climate criminals, fighting corporate power and much, much more.

If you believe action speaks louder than words, then Earth First! is for you.

The Earth First! Action Update brings you a quarterly collection of news and updates on ecological direct action from the UK and beyond. You can pick up copies from your local social centre, or even better: subscribe and get it direct. The next issue will be out in November, so if you've got news to share send us your articles (150 words max.).
actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk
or post straight onto our website:
www.earthfirst.org.uk

Contacts for Taking Action

EF! Contacts

EF! Gathering Collective
summergathering@earthfirst.org.uk

EF! Action Update Collective
actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk

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07949 611912
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worthing@eco-action.org,
PO Box 4144
Worthing BN14 7NZ

Networks

Saving Iceland
www.savingiceland.org,
savingiceland@riseup.net

Leave it in the Ground
www.leaveitintheground.org.uk,
info@leaveitintheground.org.uk

Rising Tide UK
62 Fieldgate Street, London, E1 1ES
www.risingtide.org.uk
info@risingtide.org.uk, 07708 794665

Network for Climate Action
www.networkforclimateaction.org.uk

Genetic Engineering Network
www.geneticsaction.org.uk (website a bit out of date)

Support

Schnews
Free weekly news sheet and website.
www.schnews.org.uk

Advisory Service for Squatters
0203 216 0099,
0845 644 5814
advice@squatter.org.uk

Earth Liberation Prisoners

Prisoner support
www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk

FreeBeagles
Activist legal stuff.
www.freebeagles.org

Activists Legal Project
www.activistslegalproject.org.uk
info@activistslegalproject.org.uk

Activist Security website
www.activistsecurity.org

Seeds for Change
Action training.
www.seedsforchange.org.uk
hello@seedsforchange.org.uk

UK Action Medics
www.actionmedics.org.uk/
contact@actionmedics.org.uk

Activist Trauma Support
www.activist-trauma.net
activist_trauma@riseup.net,
07962 406940

Activist Mediation Network
www.activistmediation.org.uk
activistmediation@aktivix.org

Activist Tat Collective
www.atcoop.org.uk

Protest Camps

Bodge House
Shipley, Derbyshire
www.leaveitintheground.wordpress.com

Camp resisting open cast coal mine.

Bilston Woods Anti-Bypass Camp
c/o ACE, 17 West Montgomery Place
Edinburgh, 0775 3280009
www.bilstonglensabs.org.uk
bilstonwoods@gmail.com
Occupied since 2002 to block road building and a new biotech research facility.

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon Near Helensburgh, Scotland
www.faslanepeacecamp.org.uk
01436 82091
Opposing nuclear weapons since 1982 at Faslane Naval Base on the Clyde, 30 miles from Glasgow.

Camp Bling
Southend on Sea, Essex,
www.savepriorypark.org
Opposing dual carriageway scheme.

Titnore Emergency Action (TEA)
Box 4144, Worthing, West Sussex
07913 534083
www.eco-action.org/porkbolter/camp-titnore.html
info@protectourwoodland.co.uk
Camp opposing road building, a Tesco Hypermarket and a housing / commercial development

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