

Action Update

Earth



October 2008

First!

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

Direct Action Halts Pipeline

It's been a momentous summer in Mayo, Ireland, as activists from Rossport Solidarity Camp joined with the local community to resist Shell's plans to lay an offshore gas pipeline. In September Shell attempted to lay 80km of pipeline from the Corrib gas field out at sea to Glengad beach. The Corrib Gas Field is a reserve of natural gas situated 80km off the west coast of County Mayo containing 11 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Instead of processing the gas at sea Shell intends to pump high pressure raw gas to an inland refinery where it would be processed for sale and consumption. The majority of the local community is opposed to these plans as they feel a high pressure pipeline through their community would not be safe. After weeks of high seas actions, pickets, a 10 day hunger strike, over 40 arrests and a bit of luck, the pipe-laying

ship *Solitaire* has returned damaged to Scotland, where it remains for now.

All at sea!

Throughout the summer marine actions on an almost daily basis, saw inflatable kayaks, dragon boats, dingies and swimmers paddling out to the dredging boat and getting into the compound to stop the pipe channel being built. On one occasion after work had been stopped for an hour the health and safety conscious workers decided to swing the jack up towards a S2S swimmer and dump a tonne of rocks within a few feet of him. During this time *Shell to Sea* kayakers also paid three visits to the *Solitaire* which was still anchored up the coast off Donegal. It was boarded for a short time by activists, the Irish tricolour unfurled aboard it, and letters were delivered to the captains of the *Solitaire* and its supply vessels. On 4th September the *Shell to Sea Flotilla* took to the waves in Broadhaven Bay in an attempt to foil winching preparations in advance of...

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Leave it in the Ground!

Coal Authority AGM Disrupted



Merthyr Tydfil residents and climate campaigners disrupted the AGM of the UK Coal Authority at the Cardiff Hilton on 10th September. Three campaigners scaled the main entrance of the luxury hotel and hung a banner reading "Coal: Leave it in the Ground", while others inside the conference challenged delegates on the industry's record of environmental damage.

During the industry body's "environmental awards" presentation, local residents affected by the Ffos-y-Fran open-cast mine interrupted proceedings to present developers Miller Argent with their own Community Award for Global Climate Crimes. "I wanted to make clear to James Poyner of Miller Argent the misery he is bringing to our community," said resident Alyson Austin. "The Ffos-y-Fran mine is a two hundred metre deep hole, only thirty-five metres from our houses, and the coal they are digging out is causing dangerous climate change."

The UK Coal Authority is a government-funded body tasked with promoting and supporting the UK coal industry.

See inside for more coal action reports...

www.earthfirst.org.uk

Derbyshire resists coal mine

August saw Bodge House squatters resisting eviction for nine days, racking up massive costs for UK Coal, the owners of the site, and Derbyshire police. The protest squat at the Shipley opencast coal mine in Derbyshire was part of an ongoing campaign opposing UK Coal's plans to extract 1 million tonnes of coal from the site over five years, which would produce over 3.5m tonnes of CO₂, a massive contribution to climate change. The planned opencast mine has been hugely unpopular with local residents, many of whom supported the squatters.



The protesters had been preparing defences including the tunnels, a scaffold tower, lock-ons and treehouses since moving into Prospect Farm in June. When the eviction team arrived very early on Thursday 7th August they first had to spend two days removing people from the rooftop and lock-ons inside the house. This left two people deep in the tunnel under house. For the following week the bailiffs were digging hard, but the two people ahead of them in the tunnel were not asleep but extending their tunnel faster than the bailiffs could follow. They were finally brought out in the wee hours of Friday morning, nearly nine days after the eviction had started. By lunchtime that day the house had been flattened.

One of the tunnellers, identified only as 'Moley', said, "We found ourselves in a hole, but we kept digging. It was pretty hard spending a week underground, but worth it to slow down UK Coal's destruction of the environment."

The eviction cost the local police force £58,000 and UK Coal will be billed for some of the expenses. The full cost of the eviction to UK Coal, who hired bailiffs and equipment, is expected to have been much higher. Activists are pledging to continue to resist the mine.
www.thecoalhole.org
www.leaveitintheground.org.uk

No to opencast in Wrekin

On 4th August campaigners battling plans for an open cast mine on the edge of Telford unfurled banners reading "Coal: Leave It in the Ground" on a bridge over the M54. Wrekin Stop War and Wrekin Anarchist Group also hung banners proclaiming Telford as "Birthplace of Industry/Womb of Climate Change" from bridges at the motorway junction.

Coal Action Network Formed

A new action network has been set up to support autonomous groups and individuals to take action against the exploitation of coal.

The Coal Action Network will make it easier for coal campaigners to share skills and resources and to network with each other. There will be website with local groups' details and coal related info, briefings on the coal industry, a newsletter to keep people in touch and the network can help with action training and legal training.

The Coal Action Network has grown out of the recent Leave it in the Ground actions and explicitly supports direct action. The network says that *Just Transition* is vital for coal free future and that nuclear is not a way out of the problem. It will also be supporting the Kingsnorth rolling blockade.

If you've got a coal mine near you and want to start doing something about it, get in touch for some help and info.
07804018214 coal phone
www.thecoalhole.org

Mass Trespass Shipley Coal mine Sat 25th October



Leave it in the Ground, supported by Earth First!, invites you to a second Picnic in the Park for a Mass Trespass to get to know the area, meet the locals and have fun...

Trespassers are planning to enter the site of the coal mine for a site seeing tour, bring yer boots and banners. Meet at the Visitors Centre, Shipley County Park, off Slack Lane, Heanor DE75 7GX at 12 noon on Saturday 25th October.

For more info see
www.leaveitintheground.org.uk or
call 0780 4018214

Kingsnorth Six Acquitted

Six activists who attempted to paint a slogan on the chimney of Kingsnorth power station have been cleared of criminal damage. The jury found that they had not committed a crime because they were trying to save the planet.

Earth First! Winter Moot

Brighton, 6th - 8th February 2009

Enjoyed the Summer Gathering? Ready for more planning of ecological direct action action? Come along to the Earth First! Wintermoot.



Join us for a weekend of action planning, strategy, strengthening the EF! network, security and communications. It's also a chance to reflect on where we are as a radical ecological movement and on where we are going.

There will also be sessions about the next Summer Gathering, the Action Update, campaigns such as resisting coal and GM plus a discussion on mobilising for the UN climate conference in Copenhagen late 2009.

The moot will be held in Brighton (t.b.c.). More details on our website and please email any items you would like to add to the agenda. moot2009@earthfirst.org.uk

www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk



Photo by Dviesnik

Block the Nuclear Bomb Factory!

On 27th October anti-nuclear activists will blockade the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Aldermaston, near Reading. Trident Ploughshares' Big Blockade will disrupt work at AWE on Trident nuclear warheads.

Hundreds of activists are expected in the biggest day of direct action against Trident nuclear weapons since the Faslane Big Blockade last October in Scotland. AWE is currently being massively expanded so the blockade will be a significant show of opposition to Britain's nuclear arsenal. Tel: 0845 4588361, blockawe@yahoo.co.uk, www.tridentploughshares.com blockawe.blogspot.com

Fantastic Foolery

On 1st April activists around the world will celebrate another Fossil Fools Day targeting climate criminals and pulling pranks that pack a punch!

www.fossilfoolsday.org

No Borders!

Gathering: 8th - 9th November

No Borders is a network of groups struggling for the freedom of movement for all and an end to all migration controls to enable us to live another way, without fear, racism and nationalism. The gathering in Newcastle is a chance to discuss, network and plan actions. Accommodation available. For more details contact the Newcastle planning group at whydontyou@post.com www.noborders.org.uk

Drax29 Rally

The Drax29, who stopped a coal train heading for Drax power station in June this year will be on trial in the new year. They are appealing for donations to cover costs: www.thecoalhole.org

Camp News

Titnore news

The Titnore Woods protest camp is celebrating some success – plans to cut down trees have been scaled down but needless to say the camp near Worthing holds out for total victory! Visitors welcome, free food cafe the last Sunday of every month. www.protectourwoodland.co.uk

Camp Bling 3rd anniversary

Camp Bling in Southend-on-Sea celebrated their third birthday in September. As well as saving woodland they're now broadening the protest to include education about issues such as peak oil and sustainability. www.campbling.org

Direct Action Halts Pipeline - Cont'd from Page 1

...the *Solitaire's* arrival. The intrepid *Shell to Sea Flotilla* were opposed in their mission by Shell's fleet of security mercenaries, Gardaí, and 3 navy gun boats. Eight marine protesters were arrested.

At the same time two local fishermen, Pat O'Donnell and his son were involved in a 3 day stand-off out at sea protecting their lobster pots from being damaged and removed by Shell.

In July 13 people were arrested trying to gain access to the beach whilst the compound was being built. Pickets were started again at the compound gates where activists and locals tried to stop workers entering the site.

A group of determined local residents accompanied by Rosspoint Solidarity Campers asserted their right to walk the illegally enclosed foreshore and tore down a section of fence. Those who managed to get through the fence were assaulted then arrested.

Solitaire comes... and goes again

When the *Solitaire* finally arrived in the bay the road to the compound was blocked by an arm tube lock on and Maura Harrington, the local headteacher drove her car to the compound gates and declared that she was on hunger strike until the *Solitaire* left Irish Waters.

Meanwhile out at sea Pat O'Donnell aka The Chief was arrested twice in 12 hours trying to protect his lobster pots.

The *Solitaire* was mysteriously damaged within an hour of trying to lay pipe and eventually went back to Donegal.

Maura stayed on hunger strike for a further 10 days until the ship finally

left Irish waters. In those 10 days there were solidarity actions all over the world, in Switzerland, Germany, London, Cariff, Dublin and the Netherlands. The *Solitaire* is expected to return next year, so dust off your wet-suits and get your arses to Mayo!!!

With this d-lock I the wed...

On 19th September two Leeds based activists tied the knot at a Shell petrol station in Ludlow, successfully blockading it for an hour in the process.

Around 100 friends and family turned up to wish them well for the future and to show their support for the struggle of Rosspoint against the ecological and social damage caused by Shell.

The bride and groom along with the assembled friends and family wore black, green and purple to symbolise their resistance. The forecourt was blocked off with banners and the pumps were switched off and locked up. Hymns were sung (Dancing on the Ruins of Multinational Corporations and the Diggers Song). Veggies served cake and tea. A hand full of cops turned up to enjoy the ceremony and take some photos.

www.shelltosea.com



News in Brief

★ **The Portishead Borders and Immigration Agency** was sabotaged in August, when all 7 vehicles in the car park were disabled in a protest against routine violence, forced removals, detention and deportation.

★ **Mid August the BNP held their Red, White and Blue "festival"** in Denby, Derbyshire. Several hundred people attended a rally, whilst elsewhere around 100 antifascists attempted to barricade the road to prevent access to the site, resulting in clashes with police, with several people injured and over 33 arrests.

★ **Animal rights activists set free thousands of partridges** from an intense breeder shed in East Sussex during one night in September.

★ **The self-styled 'Oil and Gas Bank'** Royal Bank of Scotland was targeted by a climate protest on 10th October in London for their role in financing the fossil fuel industry.

★ **Bardon's quarry in Burton-on-Trent** was hit in a night time raid, with conveyer belts, earthmovers and trucks damaged. Bardon are part of a group that owns the Glensanda Quarry in Scotland, one of the largest quarries in Europe, exporting stone for road construction.

★ **Sussex Uni's freshers' fair** was livened up in early October by a group of clowns who visited the University Royal Naval Unit stall in an anti-war protest. The disguised protesters squirted paint and threw glitter before making their getaway.

★ **The number of eco-defense prisoners** has grown yet again, according to the September 2008 edition of Spirit of Freedom. There are now 40 listed animal and earth liberation prisoners in Europe and America. Spirit of Freedom encourages people to take up correspondence with prisoners. Contact details are provided on: www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk

★ **As we go to press the SmashEdo campaign** was planning a large demonstration see smashedo.org.uk and schnews.org.uk to see how it went. And don't forget the Halloween noise demo outside EDO on 29th Oct.

★ **New London Social Centre** in Camberwell, check it out at 42 Knatchbull Road (entrance on Burton Rd).

Earth First! Summer Gathering

How difficult to convey in words the lasting sense of the genuine kindred spirit and camaraderie at this year's EF! Summer Gathering. The gorgeous site, in Norfolk, provided a perfect setting for the temporary village of EF! to establish itself. There was ample quiet camping space and the site was accessible for wheelchair users.

With lots of planning and energy a field in the middle of nowhere (...well, rural Norfolk) underwent total transformation into a buzzing gathering complete with five marquees, bar, kitchen, shower, hot-tub and compost toilets, providing space for hundreds of activists to network, share experiences and plan actions.

Even though many at the Gathering had known each other for years, newcomers, including myself, were welcomed and included in the uplifting and inspiring activities and workshops. These varied from the practical, such as: Action Reconnaissance for Beginners, Tripod and Lamp-post Climbing and Blockading Tactics; to the more informative such as: Dealing with Mainstream Media, Researching Corporations and Anarch-

Do you have ideas or comments on the gathering? Would you like to help organise the next one? Get in touch: summergathering@earthfirst.org.uk

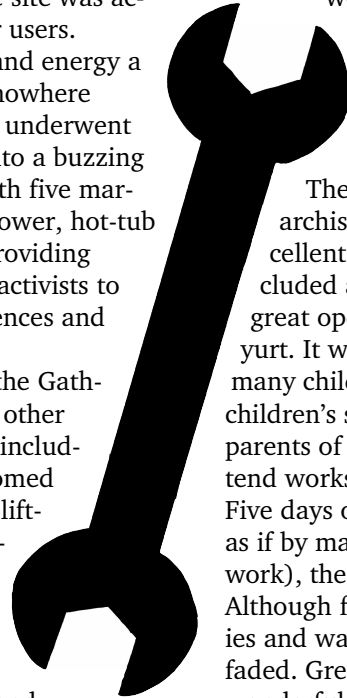
ist History.

A noticeable difference between this Gathering and the 'Camp for Climate Action' at Kingsnorth earlier in the summer was that the absence of police harassment – making for a much better learning environment. The

workshops were balanced and very well facilitated.

At times, there seemed almost too much to take in (all the more reason for attending next year)!

The food was provided by Anarchist Teapot and Veggies – excellent value. Entertainment included a bar, acoustic music, a great open mic session and a film yurt. It was encouraging to have so many children at the Gathering; the children's space helpers meant that parents of young ones could also attend workshops and activities. Five days of workshops and fun then, as if by magic (...actually, lots of hard work), the site turned back to a field. Although five weeks ago, the memories and warm after-glow have far from faded. Great to have met so many wonderful people and to be part of a movement for positive change. A big thank you to all those lovely people involved and to everyone who participated in the Gathering throughout.



Submarine base blockaded

13 Trident Ploughshares activists blockaded Devonport naval dockyard, Plymouth, early on the 22nd August. Dockyard workers were held up for half an hour by activists using two long metal ladders, a lock-on tube with a chain attached, bicycle chains, a wheelchair and their bodies to completely block the incoming carriageway to the base used to refit nuclear submarines.

Police eventually arrived and had to divert traffic for a further hour, until the cutting team turned up. The blockaders and their supporters agreed to leave, given that most workers had already entered the base. They managed to keep all their banners, ladders and other blockading equipment.

The next day the group tied anti-Trident banners to prominent bridges and roundabouts on roads going into Ply-

mouth. Later, in the city centre, they dressed themselves in white 'radiation suits' and held a die-in, their 'corpses' sprinkled with 'nuclear fallout' ash. Others leafleted shoppers and talked to interested locals and soldiers from the nearby Territorial Army centre about the nuclear menace on their doorstep.

Sizewell Blockaded

The entrance to Sizewell A and B nuclear power stations were blockaded on the 24th July. After two previous blockades in the last few months, security had been stepped up but there was no sign of this and the blockaders had to call them to let them know that their power station had been blockaded for "health and safety". It still took them another five minutes to get there, and another 4 hours before the five blockaders were cut out.

www.easterncnduk.org

A hot summer saving Iceland

By a Saving Iceland activist.

This summer we held our fourth direct action camp. We stayed on Hellisheiði for three weeks, where Reykjavík Energy is expanding the geothermal power plant to supply energy to aluminium smelters. We enjoyed the summer between steaming pools and icy rivers amid amazing scenery – all endangered by construction.

This summer we focussed on the global impact of aluminium production: how it not only affects Iceland, but the whole world; the global impact on nature, life, climate change, human rights and people's livelihoods.

Once again the fight in Iceland has reached a crucial stage. Construction of a new Century Aluminum smelter has started, an Alcoa smelter is on its way and a new dam is under construction for Rio Tinto, to be followed by three more. The near bankruptcy of Iceland could lead either to these and other projects being abandoned or intensified.

Some of this summer's amazing actions and events:

★ **19th July: we stopped the first stage** of construction of Century's planned Helguvík for a whole day.

★ **Two days later we blocked the road** to Century's existing smelter and Elkem's iron blending factory in Grundartangi. Both times we pointed out the unique geothermal areas which are to be destroyed because of energy production, Century's corrupt business deals in West Congo and Jamaica where the company has bauxite mines and wants to expand refining.

★ **20th July: we went up to the Þjórsá River** to meet farmers who are fighting against the state owned energy company Landsvirkjun's plans to build three dams in the river. We walked around the area, looked at beautiful waterfalls

and got to know about the farmers' fight.

★ **22nd July: we organized an open meeting** with the Icelandic anti-war movement, where Samarendra Das, an Indian activist, author and film-maker, talked about the aluminium industry's links to arms production and cultural genocide. A day later Saving Iceland held a conference with Reykjavík Academics, Samarendra and Andri Snær Magnason, the author of *The Dreamland*, spoke about the global impact of aluminium production.

★ **We woke up Friðrik Sóphusson, the director of Landsvirkjun, on the 25th July** and gave him an eviction letter, telling him he would have to leave his house in a few hours, for the benefit of the Icelandic nation. His company has knocked on Þjórsá farmers' doors again and again even though the farmers have announced that they will not take any part in further discussion about the dam construction. By promising better mobile connections, better roads and money, Landsvirkjun has managed to get the district councils on its side, but the farmers are strong and refuse to negotiate with Landsvirkjun.

★ **Later that morning Saving Iceland** showed up in Landsvirkjun's headquarters and stopped work by setting off a fire alarm, while a group of people occupied the entrance, danced and hung up an 'Illvirkjun' ('evil work') banner. Landsvirkjun's links with Alcoa was our main focus point, and we pointed out Alcoa's human rights abuse in its factory in Honduras.

★ **All work was stopped on a drill in Hellisheiði on the 28th July.** A group of people turned off the power of the drill while others locked themselves to machinery and climbed on to the drill house. As well as the destruction of unique geothermal areas on Hellisheiði,

we pointed out Reykjavík Energy's corrupt business deals in Yemen. Our last action took place on the 1st August when we stopped traffic to Rio Tinto-Alcan's aluminum smelter in Hafnarfjörður. Activists locked themselves to the gates, stopping trucks from getting in to the smelter area. We



pointed out the corruption which is taking place in Hafnarfjörður and Rio Tinto-Alcan's links with arms production and warfare.

★ **21st - 28th July: several international solidarity actions** took place in Switzerland and Italy, in front of Icelandic embassies and the headquarters of Alcoa, Glencore and Imregilo.

Our focus on the international impacts of aluminium production was effective; for the first time the global impacts of bauxite mining are being discussed. Saving Iceland is the only Icelandic environmental group which focuses on the global context and that fact was pointed out by several different environmentalists and MPs this summer. Despite the successes there is still a lot of work to do and the fight against the development of heavy industry in Iceland and around the globe continues.

Conference Visit

On 25th September the 11th International Conference on Aluminium Alloys (ICAA) met with angry protests. Activists from the environmental network Saving Iceland disrupted the proceedings at the University Aachen. Fire alarms in the building were set off, stink bombs thrown and a high volume rape alarm set off and suspended out of reach by green and black helium balloons. The auditorium was also strewn with information leaflets. The aim was to call attention to the industry's singular involvement in ecological destruction in Iceland and elsewhere.
savingiceland@riseup.net
www.savingiceland.org



Camp for Climate Action 2008

The third Camp for Climate Action took place outside Kingsnorth power station in Kent, where E.on and the UK government plan to build the first new coal-fired power station the UK has seen for 30 years.

Over 3000 people endured £6 million worth of police repression and illegal stop and searches to attend the camp and participate in a week of sustainable living, direct action and a range of workshops covering everything from the practical to the political.

A hot week of actions

Undeterred by the threat of being bailed off-site, people took action throughout the week to highlight links between the industries driving climate change.

★ A one-night mini-camp was held outside **Longannet in Fife**, the UK's dirtiest power station, demanding an early closure date.

★ Nine Plane Stupid activists arrived at **Gatwick airport**, one group scaling the wall above the train station, occupying the roof and dropping the banner: '*Short-haul flight? Let the train take the strain*' while a second group mounted the mezzanine above the arrivals lounge, handcuffed themselves to a railing and dropped the banner: '*Stop short-haul*', and a third group, wearing t-shirts asking, '*Can I hinder?*', leafleted the crowd with information about the ecological cost of short-haul aviation.

★ Miniature activists invaded the E.on-sponsored **Legoland**, dropping a banner from the model Kingsnorth chimney stack while elsewhere the **Royal Bank of Scotland** was hit twice in two days with fifteen bodies lying in a pool of oil blocking the entrance to the London HQ and then another group super-gluing themselves to the front doors of the Oil and Gas Division, wielding a banner reading '*RBS: Cashing In On Coal*'.

★ Twelve activists exposed the naked

truth about climate change by super-gluing themselves together across the entrance to **DBERR** wearing nothing but tabards.

★ One of the country's biggest **agrofuel depots** was blockaded, preventing fuel lorries from leaving and a 35 foot banner was dropped from the top of the site's Vopak oil container.

★ At **USAF Mildenhall** activists dressed as CO2 technicians attempted to entertain whilst defiantly educating troops and passers by of the large CO2 emissions created by Military aircraft.

★ Six campers climbed the roof of **Smithfield meat market** to highlight the links between climate change and meat consumption, dropping a banner bearing the message '*Fight climate change - Go Vegan*'.

★ Another group from Thames Valley occupied the lobby of **BHP Billiton**, super-gluing themselves to the doors and windows and climbing onto part of the architecture.

★ The day of mass action started early with a **flotilla of boats** sailing towards Kingsnorth in the sun. Three people occupied the ledge above the power station's water inlet tunnel while a banner proclaiming '*CO2AL: Starter Gun for Climate Chaos*' was hung from Darnet Fort on an island directly opposite the power station.

★ Meanwhile, around 1,000 people from the **Orange group** headed directly to the main gates led by a colourful carnival dragon. The group blocked the main entrance as a police helicopter demanded the marchers disperse.

★ The **Green group** made it to the perimeter fence, where they recycled a section of harris fencing as a ladder to get over both the outer and the inner electric fence and two climbers scaled a nearby pylon to hang a banner reading '*Shut Down Kingsnorth*'.

What next?

At the first post-camp national gathering, in Manchester in September, campers old and new discussed ideas for the coming year including days of action, the UN COP15 summit in 2009 and the Kingsnorth rolling blockade. Come to the next gathering, 8-9th November in Bradford, to help draw up the plans.

www.climatecamp.org.uk

Camping is Contagious!

Following Australia's camp in July and the UK camp in early August, Germany set up their first Klimacamp in Hamburg, Germany's largest coal-harbour, the site of a major agrofuel factory and from where Vattenfall energy company directs its nuclear and coal-fired power plants.

During the week 700 protesters braved heavy rain and brutal police attacks in an attempt to occupy the building site of Vattenfall's planned new coal-fired power station, forcing the postponement of building works.

Canada

From 8-24th August, Canadian activists held a camp against plans for a new gas terminal in Levis. Nearly 200 people formed a huge white circle marked with a red 'X' on the arable lands which would make way for gas tanks.

US Climate Convergences

Yep, the US held not just one but three climate convergences, in the North East, West Coast and South East, all ram-packed with workshops and actions... On the West Coast the day of action consisted of two major acts of disruption, street theater and rallies. The first action targeted the I-5 motorway expansion following which the rally moved to the headquarters of Northwest Natural Gas where three women locked themselves to each other, blocking the entrance.

In the South East activists occupied Dominion's nuclear power plant. The action was taken against plans to build two new nuclear reactors. 25 people occupied the visitors' centre for two hours. Actions continued a couple of days later, when 50 activists defied a massive police presence. Carrying banners reading, "No Nukes, No Coal, No Kidding" they called at the headquarters of Massey Energy, Dominion, Virginia Department and Bank of America. Two activists infiltrated security at the bank and locked on to a sign in the customer entrance. Others supported the lock-on with a die-in.

www.climateconvergence.org
www.risingtidenorthamerica.org

Following camps in the UK, US, Australia, Germany and Canada this year there are now camps in the pipeline for Sweden, Denmark, New Zealand...and maybe more yet to come...



International News

US action updates

★ Resistance to the construction of Interstate 69 continued on 31st July as 100 Earth First!ers took over K Street in Washington, DC and then stormed the offices of a neoliberal think tank. Later on fifteen protesters were arrested for blocking the entrance to Gohmann Asphalt who are responsible for evictions of farmers, and the devastation of wetland environment. www.stopi69.wordpress.com



★ Rising Tide's billionaire bloc descended on Bank of America's regional headquarters in July demanding the bank invest more in coal. Carrying signs reading "More Profit, Less Mountains" and sipping dirty (coal) martinis, they applauded BoA for its funding of mountaintop removal coal mining as well as the new generation of dirty coal plants.

★ On 7th July 100 Earth First! activists occupied the headquarters of American Municipal Power in Megis County. Dozens of activists charged the building, danced on furniture and delivered anti-coal messages to employees. Five activists locked themselves down as others climbed flagpoles, hoisting signs reading "no new coal!"

★ In September, four Maine Earth First! women locked their necks together at the Land Use Regulatory Commission following approval of a plan by Plum Creek to rezone the Moosehead Lake Region. Activists gave notice that complicity in the destruction of the largest undeveloped area east of the Mississippi will not be tolerated. Plum Creek plans to build a resort of 700 units, a marina and golf course in Lily Bay, a natural habitat for the endangered Canada Lynx.

www.savebigwilsonoldgrowth.blogspot.com

★ 50 protesters entered the construction site of Virginia's Wise County coal-fired power plant in September, locked on to steel drums and held banners demanding clean energy. Residents joined the protests with the realisation that coal was in their lungs and drinking water.

Oil War in Nigeria

In September the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Mend), mounted a week-long campaign on Nigeria's oil industry after a military raid on one of its bases.

The attacks were carried out among others on the Soku Gas Plant, and the Chevron Platform in Kula, forcing oil giant Shell to declare a force majeure, which frees it from contractual obligations on crude oil shipments from its Niger Delta facilities.

Kidnapping of oil workers and sabotage have reduced the country's crude production by 20% over the past two years. Nigeria currently exports around two million barrels of oil daily.

Nigeria's President announced a new ministry for the Niger Delta in an attempt to bring peace to the region but militants dismissed the plan, saying 40 other ministries in existence have done little to improve life for them. Mend said the operation would continue until the government of Nigeria 'appreciates that the solution to peace in the Niger Delta is justice, respect and dialogue'.

Tribe Threatened

The Dongria Kondh tribe are desperately resisting the British company Vedanta which wants to mine their sacred mountain. Vedanta's subsidiary Sterlite plans to source bauxite, the raw material for aluminium, from Niyamgiri mountain in Orissa, eastern India.

The Dongria Kondh say the huge open cast mine will destroy a vast swathe of untouched forest, and will reduce their most sacred site to an industrial wasteland. Spokesperson Jitu Jakesika said, "We will become beggars if the company destroys our mountain and our forest so that they can make money. We will give our lives for our mountain".

www.survival-international.org/tribes/dongria

Forest Defence

Logging machines were immobilised with lock-ons and a forestry road was blockaded with a tree platform in the Styx Valley – an old growth forest in Tasmania on 25th August. Meanwhile the camp at the Upper Flozsa is still stopping the logging of old growth, and an arson attack on Gunns Ltd showed resistance to the proposed Tamar Valley Pulp Mill. Details of Styx actions at: www.huon.org and myspace.com/stillwildstillthreatene

News in Brief

★ **Penan communities in Malaysia**, have mounted a road blockade against the logging company Interhill to stop the destruction of their last remaining rainforests. www.survival-international.org

★ **An estimated 14,000 Amazonian Indians** are taking direct action against the Peruvian government in response to new laws that make it easier for companies to seize control of their territories. The protests have seen roads and rivers blockaded, boats belonging to a gas company intercepted, an oil pipeline closed, and a hydroelectric plant taken over.

★ **August saw Irish motorway** protesters take to the tree tops as 62 bodies were removed from their sacred burial grounds to make way for the construction of the M3 Motorway. The graveyard dates from prehistoric times with burials continuing into the medieval era.

★ **The 20th Ecotopia camp was held** in Turkey this year bringing together activists from over 30 countries. On 23rd August the camp was forcibly evicted by Turkish police to stop them from supporting a local anti-nuclear initiative. Days before six campers had been nicked alongside local activists during an action at the Turkish Nuclear Energy Agency.

★ **German anti-airport activists** held a week of direct action in September. They are resisting the building of a new runway at Frankfurt airport. A protest camp was set up in June and is now preparing for winter. www.waldbesetzung.blogspot.de

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 for anyone who shares a similar philosophy to 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 February, 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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West Wales EF!

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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 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

Bilston Woods

Anti-Bypass Camp

c/o ACE, 17 West Montgomery Place
Edinburgh, 0775 3280009
www.bilstonglen-abs.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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