

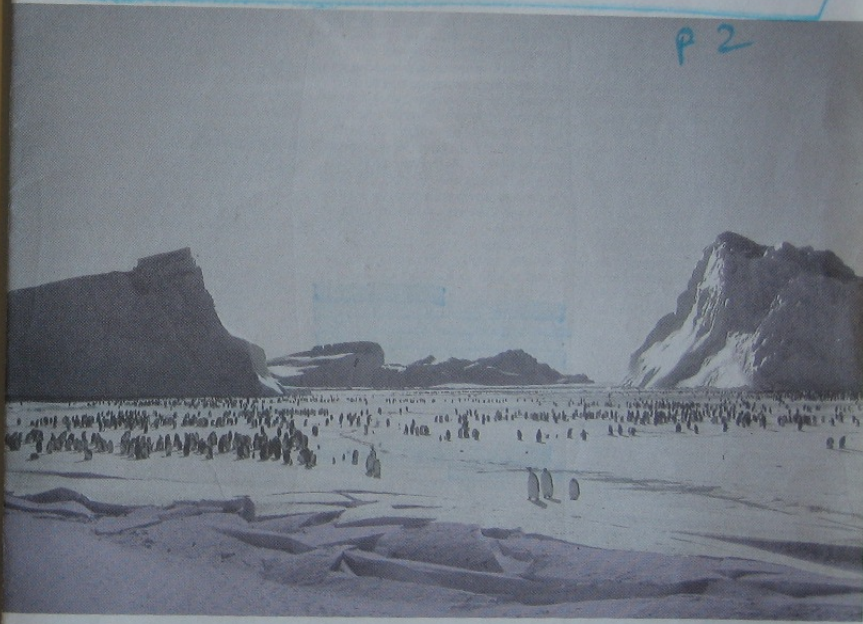
GREENPEACE

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australianews

P 2



WORLD PARK ANTARCTICA

GLOBAL WARMING

Adopt a Beach · Campaign Updates

WORDS FROM THE INSIDE

from Paul Gilding, executive director of Greenpeace Australia

I face a daily input of national and global disaster stories. It is depressing, but it's reality and it is important to keep things in perspective in order not to become overwhelmed by it all. Despite my efforts to maintain perspective, something recently broke through and I became decidedly overwhelmed. An issue declined to be pulled into perspective and instead demanded my full attention. In fact, this issue raises some vitally important questions for us at Greenpeace for you as members of Greenpeace and for every individual on this planet.

Dr Jeremy Leggett, head of science at Greenpeace, U.K., visited Australia recently. He was here to launch one of the most important documents Greenpeace has ever produced, *Global Warming - The Greenpeace Report*. (See page 8) Dr Leggett brought into clear focus the enormity of the problems we face with the greenhouse effect. Problems which could lead not just to changes in the weather, but possibly to the extinction of most species on the planet, including us. Jeremy had a way of explaining the reality of what we face, which broke through the usual mental barriers we erect to such gloom and doom stories.

As he says in the book, "the uniquely frustrating thing about global warming - to those many people who now see the dangers - is that the solutions are obvious". I think this is why the issue struck me with such force. We know, as a matter of indisputable fact, that the greenhouse effect is real. The only variables are the degree of warming and the severity of the impacts. And yet, there are still arguments about the need to take action.

I think the best analogy I have heard about the choices we face comes from David Suzuki. If you walked into your doctor's surgery and were told that your child had a 10%-20% chance of dying, you would be devastated. If the doctor then said there was a good chance of saving the child if immediate action was

taken, but the necessary action would be difficult and disruptive to your life, you probably would not stop to consider your options. You would do whatever it took to save your child.

This is similar to the problem of global warming, except for two frightening points. The chances of our planet being devastated are ~~not nearly 10%-20% but rather well over 50%~~. There is the chance that the predictions of the world's leading scientists overstate the danger, but there is an even greater chance that their predictions underestimate it. And the child in this case is the whole planet and all its species, including us. The time frame for these changes is terrifyingly short. The predictions are for a five degrees Celsius rise by 2100, the same temperature rise which has occurred since the last ice age. That means my children could see the world dying.

The madness in this is that we can see, in such stark clarity, the self-interest of those who are still arguing against counter measures to slow global warming. The coal industry, car manufacturers and oil producers, people concerned with short-term profit at the expense of the environment, are doing everything they can to avoid making the changes we all need. Nothing is new in this attitude, except that 'the environment' in this case means having a future for our planet and our children. I don't mean having a healthy future with lifestyles similar to ours, but a future - full stop.

Governments are not doing much better than industries. Australia recently joined the group of countries known as the 'fossil fuel group'. This group is characterised by its behaviour at international meetings where it argues against taking action to avert global warming.

Industry is failing. Governments are failing. It is fast coming down to our last hope. People. You.

So what can you do? I recently received a letter from a Greenpeace member who expressed his frustration at not being able to be more directly involved with Greenpeace activities. We receive such letters from time to time and sympathise with the sentiments expressed. We have many volunteers and we are exploring ways to expand this area of our work.

Historically though, as a matter of allocating our always limited resources, we have seen direct community involvement best carried out by local groups, with whom we work closely. The dilemma we face is that the only real hope for the future is people, lots of people, becoming directly involved in 'saving the world'. I hope the above-mentioned member won't mind me quoting from his letter.

"Being 'Green' is not just a monetary commitment. It is a way of life, and it is only through each person in the world making being 'Green' their way of life that the 'Green' movement can hope to succeed."

The bottom line is that no single organisation, even one as large and diverse as Greenpeace, can hope to solve the problems we face without the active support of the community. Not just the support created by joining and being involved in organisations, but support from every level of society. We have to change the culture which created these problems. We have to transform society. These changes are not difficult technically; they are all there waiting for us. The only limitation is our thinking.

If we are to have hope, it will require people and organisations everywhere to work together like never before. We must move beyond the mind set of allowing politicians and business to make the decisions which are destroying the world while we stand by and watch. Everyone must get involved - financially, physically, personally and emotionally.

We are moving into a crisis phase in world history - a race to save the planet. It is a phase during which each person will be directly affected by environmental problems. If we want to survive, we all have to contribute towards the solutions. The future, like never before, is in our hands. The choice is ours.

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stop press

Nuclear Weapons Testing - Contaminating our Environment, Threatening our Peace.
Greenpeace's protests against French testing were the focal point of its beginnings in the Pacific region. Today we continue to protest, not only against French testing at Moruroa, but also at other nuclear test sites.

In October, the *MV Greenpeace* voyaged to Novaya Zemlya, an island in the Arctic Circle where the Soviet Union plans to resume underground testing. Then, in January, the week before the international community meets at the United Nations to discuss a comprehensive ban on all tests, Greenpeace is organising a protest action at the American test site in the Nevada desert. Representatives of all nuclear weapons-testing nations will participate in a mass trespass in Nevada before going on to New York to lobby their governments at the UN.

Along with these international activities, the protests of individuals everywhere need to be heard. Greenpeace is asking its members (and anyone else concerned) to send postcards to the leaders of the nuclear testing states, telling them you want the testing to stop.

President George Bush
The White House
Washington DC
UNITED STATES

President Mikhail Gorbachev
Supreme Soviet
The Kremlin
Moscow
U.S.S.R

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
London W1
UNITED KINGDOM

President Yang Shangkun
Head of State
President of the People's Republic of China
Beijing
CHINA

President Francois Mitterand
Palais D'Elisees
Paris
FRANCE

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Cover Photo The beauty of Antarctica



Antarctica

CLOSER TO WORLD PARK

Antarctica is the world's last great wilderness, a continent of amazing beauty where rare plant and animal species thrive in a fierce environment of rock, ice and wind. The Antarctic wilderness and the surrounding Southern Ocean embrace a vulnerable, irreplaceable ecosystem.

Antarctica makes up ten percent of the world's land surface, an area almost twice the size of Australia. It is known as the pulsating continent because when the sea ice freezes over in winter, the land doubles in size. Antarctica contains 90% of the world's ice and 70% of the world's fresh water reserves locked up in its ice cap. Antarctica's purity enables it to serve as our planet's laboratory and provides a baseline against which we can monitor global pollution, ozone depletion and the greenhouse effect. As such it holds the key to humanity's survival.

Since 1982 Greenpeace has been formally calling for Antarctica to be declared a World Park, to ensure the permanent protection of the entire continent from all environmentally destructive human activities, including, and especially, all mining activities. As a designated World Park, Antarctica should be declared a

zone of peace and conservation, with complete protection of all wildlife and peaceful cooperation on accepted scientific activities emphasised, and where the role of the region as a place to monitor global environmental pollution and atmospheric degradation should be respected and protected. Mining is totally incompatible with these activities, so there must be a permanent ban on mining in the Antarctic.

Mining activities are sure to have grave ecological consequences. For example, if oil is found, there will be a great danger of blow-outs, major and minor oil spills, and atmospheric pollution. As witnessed by the sad consequences of the massive Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, effective clean-up is practically impossible even in relatively accessible areas. So far, no single stretch of Alaskan coastline has been properly cleaned. And, in fact, there has already been a number of shipping accidents in the Antarctic resulting in oil spills. An Argentinian re-supply ship, the Bahia Paraiso, ran aground on rocks near the U.S. Palmer station in 1989, spilling approximately 670,000 litres of petroleum products. Krill and limpets, major food sources for penguins and other animals in the area, were contaminated.

Penguin colonies were directly affected and some scientific programmes in the area had to be abandoned. Due to Antarctica's extreme cold, spilled oil may take up to 100 years to break down. Mining activities would also need extensive onshore development in ice-free

areas, where bases and wildlife already compete for very limited space. There are also concerns that seismic surveys, carried out at present, may be harmful to marine life.

The preservation of the Antarctic is not a local or national issue, but a global one. There is growing international support for the protection of the entire continent, including a ban on mining. The International Scene Antarctica is governed by an international agreement, the Antarctic Treaty, which was negotiated in 1959 due to international desire to maintain the region for peaceful scientific work. The Treaty now has 39 signatories, 25 of whom have 'consultative' or decision-making status. In the early 1970s, Treaty governments were approached by commercial interests for prospecting rights in Antarctica.

As no legal framework existed to permit mining, the Treaty nations decided to negotiate a new Convention to govern such activities. Following six years of intensive discussion, in June 1988 the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (CRAMRA) was completed and opened for signature/ratification. To take effect, it must be ratified by at least 16 of the 25 Consultative Parties who were present at the final negotiating session, including all seven claimant countries (Australia, France, Norway, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and the United Kingdom), the superpowers and at least five developing countries.

Some countries supporting the Minerals Convention, such as the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan, argue that the Convention is meant to protect the fragile Antarctic environment. Yet, as its very name implies, the Minerals Convention is, in reality, a convention for the controlled destruction of the

continent. If ratified, the Minerals Convention would establish rules for the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the last great wilderness.

In May 1989 both the Australian and French governments announced their intention not to support the Minerals Convention, effectively blocking its ratification. They decided instead to call for the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Environmental Protection Convention which would ensure the protection of Antarctica as a nature reserve/land of science and include a complete ban on mining. Greenpeace supports these respective governments on their strong environmental stance.

In response to the controversy surrounding the Minerals Convention, the Treaty nations have agreed to a Special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting to be held in November 1990 in Chile to determine appropriate measures for comprehensive environmental protection. It has become increasingly clear that current mechanisms in the Treaty are just not adequate. And Australia and France are not the only Treaty countries re-considering their positions. A growing number of Treaty countries have decided not to support the Minerals Convention.

■ This year, New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr Geoffrey Palmer, announced New Zealand would set aside consideration of the ratification

of the Minerals Convention and work towards effective environmental protection for Antarctica.

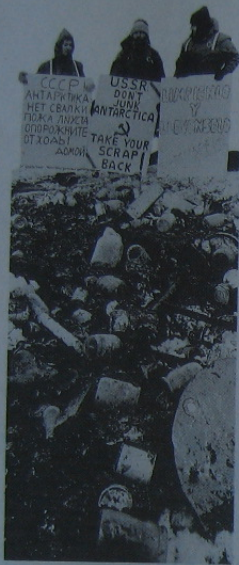
■ The Federal Republic of Germany allowed the Minerals Convention signing date to pass without a decision made either way.

■ Belgium announced that the ratification of the Minerals Convention would be inappropriate and indicated support for a World Park Reserve. The Belgian Parliament also unanimously passed a bill prohibiting of exploration and other mining activities by Belgian nationals and corporations.

■ The Italian Parliament unanimously passed a motion committing the Italian government not to sign or ratify the Minerals Convention, while offering full support to the World Park concept.



ANTARCTICA



Greenpeace activists protesting at Russian base rubbish tip.

■ Indian Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, stated that India favours the idea of a new protection regime and hopes the voluntary mining moratorium continues.

■ In the U.S.S.R., statements by Mr. Gorbachev and Prime Minister Mr. Ryskov expressed support for the negotiation of a legal regime to protect the Antarctic environment.

■ In the United States, comprehensive legislation has been introduced into the House of Representatives calling for a permanent ban on American minerals and oil development in Antarctica, and mandates the U.S. to negotiate an international agreement banning Antarctic mining by all nations. Recently, the Bush administration stated it may consider "a moratorium for an indefinite period... on all mineral activities."

During a recent testimony before a Senate committee, Mr. Bohlen, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, said the administration had not submitted the Minerals Convention to the Senate for ratification because of the objections to it. He said the administration believes the U.S. must negotiate "a new comprehensive agreement" protecting the Antarctic ecology, beginning at the meeting of parties which took place in November. However, although the United States seems to be starting to put the Antarctic environment first, they still have not withdrawn full support, already given, of the Minerals Convention.

■ Chile has signed but not ratified the Minerals Convention. At the last Treaty meeting, Chile put forward a proposal for "further measures for the complete protection of the (Antarctic) environment".

■ Argentina is in a similar position, having signed the Convention, but is supportive of the Chilean "environmental measures" proposal.

■ Sweden has also put forward a Conservation Convention for consideration at the Special Consultative Meeting, but has not withdrawn support for the Minerals Convention.

■ In July, Spain introduced a motion into the Parliamentary Senate, officially stating that Spain does not support the Minerals Convention and instead supports the declaration of Antarctica as a "Nature Reserve - Land of Science".

Greenpeace is calling on all Treaty countries to withdraw any support for the Minerals Convention and to support the declaration of a World Park for Antarctica. With so many Treaty nations supporting the call for comprehensive conservation measures for Antarctica, we are actually much closer to the ultimate goal of World Park Antarctica being realised.

Antarctica stands as an elegant and pure symbol of the beauty possible in our world. There will never be another Antarctica to give to our children. Preserving Antarctica is a necessary part of the process of conserving our Earth. The action we are taking now dictates the course of all of our futures.

We ask you to write to the Australian government, applauding them on their Conservation Convention proposal for Antarctica and urging them not to bow to pressure from pro-CRAMRA countries to adopt CRAMRA. You could also write to the leaders of the following governments asking them to set aside the ratification of the Minerals Convention and instead adopt a World Park proposal for the protection of Antarctica.

Argentina

Dr. Carlos Menem
Presidente de la Republica Argentina
Balcarce 50
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Chile

Presidente Patricio Aylwin Azocar
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile

U.S.S.R.

His Excellency Mr. M. Gorbachev
President of U.S.S.R.
General Secretary of the Central Committee
of CPSU
Kremlin
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

United States

President G. Bush
The President of the U.S.A.
The White House
Washington D.C., United States

Lyn Goldsworthy

EVERYDAY LIVING

Ideas for preserving some of Australia's most beautiful resources, our beaches and marine creatures

ADOPT-A-BEACH

As summer approaches, Australians head for the beach, a beach that all too often is contaminated with someone else's rubbish. No coastline in the world is protected from this destructive pollution. Litter is killing and injuring hundreds of thousands of marine mammals, sea birds, fish and other marine organisms. We believe it is time to stop this destruction and we believe there is a relatively simple way to accomplish this goal.

Greenpeace Australia has launched a nationwide campaign called Adopt-a-Beach. This campaign is establishing clean-up programmes for our beaches and waterways, primarily carried out by volunteers from Greenpeace and local community groups.

Their task is to observe, collect, record and dispose of rubbish found on our beaches. The data collected is sent to our Sydney office for correlation. Along with clean-up activities, an important part of the campaign will be education programmes to make sure everyone knows the potential danger behind littering seemingly insignificant bits of rubbish. In the long term, Adopt-a-Beach will be campaigning for waste minimisation aimed directly at the polluters themselves.

Greenpeace New Zealand has been conducting an Adopt-a-Beach campaign for nearly twelve months. It was the first national beach clean-up plan in the world. New Zealand Adopt-a-Beach has grown tremendously, with 3,000 to 4,000 supporters in 40 regional

centres, and these numbers are increasing steadily.

Along with tonnes of locally generated rubbish, volunteers have already found a cigarette packet, condom packet, orange juice container and beef tin, all originating from the North Pacific, and trays and food boxes inscribed in Japanese, presumably from shipping vessels.

The Australian Adopt-a-Beach was launched in Queensland at the end of October. Communities in Cairns, Townsville, Yeppoon, Brisbane and the Gold Coast, often with the co-operation of the local council, have begun their own clean-ups. We will be launching the campaign in other Australian states over the summer.

With the valuable information gained from our collections, Greenpeace will be able to confront industrial leaders with the magnitude of the problem they are creating. But, just changing litter disposal method is not enough. What would have been marine debris ends up in a land-fill site, in some unsuspecting third world country, or as toxic ash poisoning us all. Greenpeace aims to encourage industry to begin the waste minimisation process - to establish recycling, to stop using so-called disposable conveniences and to stop altogether the production of unhealthy waste products.

Watch the February issue of this magazine for more information and be on the look-out for Adopt-a-Beach posters in your community. Or, to find out more immediately, contact Anne Reynolds, Ocean Ecology Department, in our Sydney office.

Anne Reynolds



Death from marine debris, mainly plastics and fishing gear, occurs in a variety of ways. Some creatures are entangled and drown, or are strangled over a longer period as the animal grows into its plastic nose. Alternatively, some may swallow plastic bags and other debris, thinking they are food, and either choke or starve because the items remain in the stomach, convincing the animal it is full.

new office

new office

new office

new office

BRISBANE

Welcome to Brisbane

Thanks largely to the work of a core of dedicated volunteers and caravanners, Brisbane's Greenpeace office has been transformed from four empty rooms to a vibrant, exciting and functional office. Situated in Spring Hill, our office has enjoyed a high level of public support and the number of daily enquiries proves that there is a demand from the Brisbane public for information on Greenpeace and its issues.

This interest is also reflected by the talks conducted by the Schools Team, a band of people who go out to talk to schools and community groups on request. If you would like to arrange a talk, contact Robin Brown, office administrator, on 832 0077. These talks place emphasis on Greenpeace's work and campaigns, and offer guidance for responsible, caring actions at home and within the greater community.

The Stalls Committee is now fully mobilized, operating regular stalls at universities and riverside markets. Stall workers were inundated with requests for information at our most notable success to date, the annual Spring Hill fair.

Public support for our initial venture, the Traffic Campaign, has been good. This issue is locally important as well as globally, since Brisbane's traffic produces approximately three million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. The campaign is directed at changing the recommendations of the Brisbane Traffic Study. Instead of emphasising widening and building more roads, Greenpeace wants more funds allocated to improving the accessibility and efficiency of the public transport system.

Queensland was the natural choice for the exciting launch of the Adopt-a-Beach campaign.

The campaign involves the clean-up of local beaches, shorelines and recreation areas by Greenpeace volunteers, who adopt their local beach. The information collected will be invaluable for Greenpeace's research and long-term campaign of waste minimisation. Contact our office for more information or to arrange a speaker for your community group.

An important factor in our successes so far has been the enthusiasm of volunteers who come in either on a regular or temporary basis, helping with a variety of jobs around the office. The combined skills of these volunteers are considerable. As we write this, we farewell Ian, a computer engineer, who was here on a daily basis for the first two months. He left our office straight for the airport and we wish him a very enjoyable stay in Europe.

All this in only five months. And you thought Queensland was a sleepy backwater!

Robin Brown

GLOBAL WARMING

THE GREENPEACE REPORT



Jeremy Leggett

Opera House, which itself has become a symbol of these things of beauty we stand to lose if we allow the global warming process to continue. Lyn Goldsworthy, Australian Atmosphere and Energy Coordinator, and Robyn Williams, Chairperson of the Commission for the Future and presenter of the ABC's Science Show, also spoke about the prospects we all face as a result of global warming.

"Global warming is the greatest threat to global security created by people," said Ms Goldsworthy. Continuing more optimistically, she added, "The problem is real, but the solution is available."

Mr. Williams developed these ideas further, giving the situation the recognition it deserves and then citing the existence of a number of already existing options we have to stop the warming process from going any further. He spoke of the many ways we can all conserve resources and how the interconnectedness of the planet makes all these efforts very significant. But Mr. Williams indicated that the unwillingness of key countries, including the U.S., the U.S.S.R., China, Saudi Arabia and even Australia, to change is causing difficulties for everyone. Governments and industries are failing to see that new technologies and conservation techniques can save everyone much money, along with the side benefit, of course, of saving the world.

Dr. Leggett gave a more scientific view of the situation. He said an examination of the history of climatic changes (contained in Chapter 1 of the book) shows, "we are flirting with danger". Current climatic models are predicting changes unprecedented in 10,000 years. He said "we keep going with our current 'business as usual' attitude. There will be a point of no return," where it will be too late to reverse the climatic train we have set in motion. Dr. Leggett summed up the themes of the launch, and the book as well, with this:

"The uniquely frustrating thing about global warming – to those many people who now see the dangers – is that the solutions are obvious. But there is no denying that enacting them will require paradigm shifts in human behaviour, particularly in the field of co-operation between nation states – which literally have no precedents in human history. That is the challenge for the 1990s. There is no single issue in contemporary human affairs that is of greater importance."

The book 'Global Warming' is a composition of the research and ideas of twenty-one of the world's leading scientists in their respective fields of climatology, biochemistry, botany, epidemiology, nuclear physics, energy research, international studies, tropical forests and international law. These experts include Dr. Stephen H. Schneider, Professor Jose Goldemberg, Dr. Armon Louis, Dr. Klapani Ramakrishna, Professor Norman Myers, Dr. Anne Ehrlich and Dr. Susan George.

Each person in the book wrote his or her chapter as an individual. Not everyone agrees with each other or with Greenpeace on all points. However, they do all agree on one most important item:

"**Humankind is in potentially serious trouble as a result of the greenhouse effect, that the risks of doing nothing far outweigh any possible risks associated with responding; and that the means of responding – primarily, substituting energy efficiency and renewables for fossil fuels, eliminating use of CFCs and related greenhouse gas chemicals, ending deforestation and changing methods of agriculture – are available and ready for implementation if humankind can but find the collective will to square up to change.**" (From Global Warming, page 8)

In May of this year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body of more than 300 international scientists established by the United Nations to advise world leaders on global change, presented a formal report of their findings. They concluded, "We are certain emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases. . . . These increases will enhance the greenhouse effect, resulting on average in an additional warming of the Earth's surface." However, the advisory sub-committee on action to be taken as a result of the group's findings has not followed up on the recommendations of the IPCC scientists. Leading nations of the world have also been sluggish in their commitment to actively combat global warming. And so, Global Warming – The Greenpeace Report was born, to make sure the message of urgency is spread around the world.

While reading Global Warming is uncomfortable and even frightening, the message it conveys is not one of hopelessness. We can do it. We can protect our world and our future generations from danger. Change is perhaps one of the most difficult human processes. But, without it, we fail to grow. Global Warming challenges us to grow, to protect ourselves and our futures. Failure to accept this challenge means failure for us all.

While reading Global Warming is uncomfortable and even frightening, the message it conveys is not one of hopelessness. We can do it. We can protect our world and our future generations from danger. Change is perhaps one of the most difficult human processes. But, without it, we fail to grow. Global Warming challenges us to grow, to protect ourselves and our futures. Failure to accept this challenge means failure for us all.

Some thoughts from 'Global Warming'

"... the single most important lesson, assuming that no steps are taken to curb greenhouse-gas emissions, is that the climate-changes forecast for the next century will give rise to warmer climates than have been experienced on Earth for at least several million years, and that these climate-changes will take place more than an order of magnitude faster than the most rapid climate-changes of the recent geological past..."

Brian Huntley p. 133

"... Many critiques somehow underestimate the fact that the sword of uncertainty has two blades: that is, uncertainties in physical or biological processes which make it possible for the present generation of models to have overestimated future warming effects, are just as likely to have caused the models to have under estimated change."

Stephen H Schneider p. 44

"... given business-as-usual growth in energy demand, it appears that even an infensibly massive global nuclear power programme could not reduce future emissions of carbon dioxide. To displace coal alone would require the construction of a new nuclear plant every two or three days for nearly four decades..."

"... in the United States, each dollar invested in efficiency displaces nearly seven times more carbon than that a dollar invested in new nuclear power... even if the nuclear dream cost of around 5 cents/kWh were realised, electric efficiency still displaces between two-and-a-half and ten times more carbon than nuclear power per dollar invested. And these numbers may be conservative..."

Bill Keepin p. 295

"... Many present efforts to guard and maintain human progress, to meet human needs, and to realise human ambitions are firmly unsustainable – in both the rich and poor nations. They draw too heavily, too quickly, on already overdrawn environmental resource accounts to be affordable far into the future without bankrupting those accounts. They may show profits on the balance sheet of our generation, but our children will inherit the losses. We borrow environmental capital from future generations with no intention or prospect of repaying. They may damn us for our spend-thrift ways. But they can never collect on our debt to them. We act as we do because we can get away with it; future generations do not vote; they have no political or financial power; they cannot challenge our decisions. But the results of the present profligacy are rapidly closing the options for future generations..."

The UN World Commission on Environment and Development, in Our Common Future (the Brundtland Report, 1987) p. 163

"The Earth is slowly dying, and the incurable – the end of life itself – is actually becoming conceivable. We human beings ourselves have become a threat to our planet..."

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands p. 113

"... If, in a global movement toward controlling greenhouse-gas emissions, the agricultural sector and the underlying driving force of population growth are forgotten or neglected, heroic efforts to convert the energy sector might be negated as the more potent methane and nitrous oxide emissions build up in place of carbon dioxide. In that circumstance, agriculture's fairly modest 14 per cent share of the greenhouse build up could quickly double..."

Anne Ehrlich p. 400



CAMPAIGN UPDATES

atmosphere

Our Loss - The Ozone Layer

The disappointing result of the London meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol is that the continued active destruction of the ozone layer is now a certainty for another seven to ten years. The parties agreed only to a phase-out of CFCs and halons by the year 2000, due to the stubbornness of the United States, the USSR and Japan. The good news is that a group of thirteen nations, including Australia and New Zealand, have declared their intention to phase out CFCs by 1997.

More gains were made as well. Restrictions were placed on some other ozone-depleting substances, including carbon tetrachloride, to be controlled by the year 2000, and methyl chloroform, to be 70% phased out by the year 2000 and 100% by 2005. Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), the transitional substances favoured by industry to replace CFCs (and themselves atmospheric hazards) were recommended to be phased out only by the year 2040 and, if possible, by 2020.

Greenpeace will be pushing hard to have HCFCs more strictly controlled at the next meeting of the Parties in 1992.

(Editor's Note - The Parties of the Montreal Protocol now meet every two years to discuss each nation's response to the atmospheric crisis we all face. The most recent meeting was held in June 1990 in London.)

The meeting went very slowly and nearly all of the main issues (the listing of substances and their phase-out dates) were undecided until the last day. Greenpeace's main aims were to make sure the environmentally minded countries, Australia, New Zealand and the Nordics, stood firm on their push for a 1997 phase-out of CFCs and to ensure all ozone-depleting substances were considered for phase-out.

The production of ozone-depleting substances is actually increasing in developing nations. As a result, a multi-lateral fund, with a budget of \$US 240 million, was established to provide financial and technical assistance and technology transfer to developing nations, to help them fulfill their obligations under the treaty. Also on the final day of the meeting, China and India announced they would recommend to their governments that they become Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

In an attempt to start the London meeting with a sense of urgency, the Australian government released figures on the first day of the conference showing record levels of ozone depletion of 10%-15% over Macquarie Island.

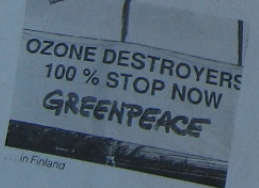
Greenpeace visiting the State Pollution Control Commission

This is significant because it indicates general levels of ozone depletion in the mid-latitude zone, which is not confined to just Antarctica. Greenpeace made sure this information became publicly available all around the world. Although the revised Montreal Protocol from the June meeting is significantly improved from the original, it must be kept in mind how quickly ozone depletion is occurring, particularly in the Southern Hemisphere.

Greenpeace believes that if the same levels of ozone depletion had been recorded in the Northern Hemisphere, above those countries who are obstructing real protection of the ozone layer, much stricter controls would have been adopted at the meeting. However, ozone losses over the Northern Hemisphere are now around 6%, indicating similar processes operating in the Arctic as in the Antarctic. (NASA flights 1990) In order to close the Antarctic ozone hole and to prevent an Arctic ozone hole from developing, nothing short of a complete ban on all ozone-depleting substances is required immediately.

Liz Smith

Greenpeace protesting against ozone-depleters...



toxics

Developments

Since beginning as new Toxics Campaign Co-ordinator at the end of July, the pace has been hectic. This pace is largely the result of the singular activities of so many of Australia's big polluting industries. For instance, ICI alone has kept us very busy with:

- a serious mercury spill into the Sydney sewer system and Greenpeace's subsequent visit/occupation of the State Pollution Control Commission;
- followed by the release of a report outlining the horrendous contamination of the ground water at the ICI Botany plant;
- and then, a spill of 200 litres of thionyl chloride, which, in turn, reacted with water to produce a toxic cloud of sulphur dioxide, serious enough to send seventeen people to hospital.

A big thank you goes to those committed members who wrote to the Premier of New South Wales expressing concern about the State's beaches. The letters worked! The State Pollution Control Commission has agreed to allow the Sydney Water Board to go ahead with its prosecution of ICI for the above-mentioned mercury spill.

Generally, we are going through a number of staff changes, but for your reference, here are the main people to contact:

Co-ordinator for General Overview

- Lynette Thorstensen

Pesticides

- Mark Oakwood

High Temperature Incineration

- Mark Oakwood

New South Wales/General

- Donna Russo

All of the above are based in the Sydney office

Victorian office - Simon Divcha

South Australian office - Jake Deane

This hard-working team has the following priorities for the coming months (not in any particular order).

- Strong campaigning against the siting of a high temperature incinerator in Australia.
- Continuing our work on the Sydney sewer system.
- Work to nationally ban organochloride pesticides.
- Fighting the misinformation generated by heavy industry and government as a result of the Greenpeace investigation of the NUFARM pesticides plant in Melbourne.
- Opposition of dioxin emissions from pulp and paper companies.

Lynette Thorstensen

ocean ecology

Driftnet Action in Canberra

"Continued exploitation of the oceans by drift-netting is short-sighted and will result in the destruction of valuable food resources and the slaughter of innocent marine creatures. Greenpeace today sends a clear message to the Japanese government and all Australians that indiscriminate exploitation of the marine environment cannot be tolerated. Drift-netting is stripping the oceans of countless numbers of marine animals and it must stop!"

So said Molly Olson on the occasion of the September Greenpeace action at the Japanese Embassy in Canberra when Greenpeace activists carefully adorned the Embassy with 600 metres of driftnet. Also, six individuals were chained to the portico. A cardboard by-catch of dolphins, turtles and sea birds was entwined in the nets, and banners in English and Japanese brightened the scene further. We presented the Japanese Ambassador with a letter explaining the reasons for our action and requesting a meeting for further discussion. However, the Ambassador declined to meet but said he would visit our office at a later date. (At press time this meeting had not yet occurred.)



Protest against driftnetting, Japanese embassy, Canberra



The action was a graphic and tangible demonstration of the devastating impact driftnets have on our oceans. By wrapping up people, we wanted to symbolize that human life on the planet is intimately linked to the oceans and, if we devastate the seas, we destroy our own capacity for survival.

The action as a whole was just one part of Greenpeace's international effort to ban high seas driftnet fishing.

Although driftnetting countries in the South Pacific have agreed to stop the practice, there are over 1,000 driftnetting vessels in the northern Pacific. An estimated 50,000 - 120,000 dolphins and up to 800,000 sea birds are annually killed by this fleet. In addition, fisheries scientists are concerned that salmon, squid and albacore tuna stocks could be depleted if driftnetting continues.

For information about what you can do to stop the driftnet fleets, contact Molly Olson in the Sydney office.

Molly Olson

nuclear

When Will It End?

In Australia, the uranium mining issue looks set to be making a comeback as a political hot potato. Statements from key Labor Party figures, most notably Minister for the Environment, Ros Kelly, have raised the spectre of the subject many politicians wish would just fade away.

Present Labor Party policy is that there can be three named mines operating in Australia. These are Roxby Downs in South Australia, and Ranger and Nabarlek in the Northern Territory. (Nabarlek is effectively closed as the leased area has been mined out.)

With the nuclear industry claiming it is the answer for the greenhouse effect, the uranium mining industry obviously sees an opening to press for a relaxation of the three mine policy. The environmental movement has replied with comprehensive energy policies which do not involve nuclear power, but instead take us down the road of renewable energy, conservation and energy efficiency. Other issues, such as Australia's permitted radiation doses, which are higher than those recommended in the U.K., are also going to have to be addressed by the relevant authorities to ensure protection of workers and the public alike.

The next major item on the agenda is the report from the Labor Party's Uranium Review Committee, which will be handed down in December. The issue will then go to a vote at next year's Party conference. The scene is, once again, set for a major campaign. Recently Greenpeace sent a message to the government that said if it allowed uranium mining to expand, its troubles over privatization would seem like a minor tiff - and we meant it.

Jean McSorley

CANBERRA

The Bureaucracy and the Fate of the Planet — Greenpeace's Role in Fighting Dangerous Inertia

"The greenhouse effect is really not to be taken seriously. In any case, the costs associated with the required change would be exorbitant. Besides, since Australia is a major coal exporter, we simply cannot afford to adopt targets to limit greenhouse gas emissions. You must understand, using energy more efficiently is actually going to cost society hundreds of millions of dollars."

Such is the view of global warming taken by the traditionally hostile economic departments in the federal bureaucracy.

By the time you have read this article, Federal Cabinet will have decided whether Australia will embrace greenhouse gas emission reduction targets (consistent with Labor's pre-election promises) or whether this country ignores science and aligns itself with the likes of the coal and oil industries. The dangerous reality is that the sort of narrow, fallacious 'facts' touched on above form the basis of departmental advice to key Cabinet Ministers. In turn, these Ministers will determine Australia's position on global warming.

In spite of the dire warnings from the International Panel on Climate Change, the economic heavyweight bureaucracies have chosen to back the status quo.

If Australia adopts targets aimed at limiting a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, it will have been achieved in spite of the public service, not because of it. I must add that not all the departments are hostile.

The Department of Environment certainly respects the science and the economics of the issue and is strongly advocating strict emission targets, and there are others. However, these departments are lightweights in the bureaucratic hierarchy, compared to the economic departments which are flush with funds and resources. Departments such as Treasury, Primary Industry and Energy, Prime Minister and Cabinet amongst others, are staunchly opposed to national emission targets in spite of the reality of global warming and in spite of the economic advantages offered by energy efficiency measures.

Why is it, that in the face of overwhelming

scientific evidence, these people have totally failed to grasp the nature and urgency of the situation?

The answer is difficult to articulate. However, the innate conservatism of the bureaucracy actively discourages change, and combatting global warming is all about change, and big change at that.

Equally it is frequently the case that the government and bureaucracy are well behind the pace of public opinion. In addition, the bureaucracy is a structural manifestation of the system that landed us in this mess in the first place. The mission statements and agendas of the economic departments are still directed toward traditional goals, which place the environment well down the list of priorities. For instance, the oil exploration branch of the Department of Primary Industry and Energy is still promoting oil exploration without qualification and failing to integrate this promotion with energy conservation policy. This compartmentalisation of the issues effectively prevents a holistic analysis and therefore an appropriate response to complex problems requiring change.

The challenge for environmental lobbyists is to break this closed circuit that potentially exists between Cabinet Ministers as decision-makers, and bureaucrats as the providers of information on which Ministers' decisions are made.

Greenpeace has an important role to play in breaking the potential monopoly of information input held by the bureaucracy. Greenpeace's ability to provide accurate, high-quality information, backed up by in-house scientific expertise has been, and will continue to be, a vital input to the global warming debate. The visit to Canberra by Dr. Jeremy Leggett (Director of Science, Greenpeace UK) and Andrew Kerr (International Co-ordinator of Greenpeace's Atmosphere and Energy Campaign) has clearly announced to both politicians and bureaucrats alike that Greenpeace is a major player in the global warming debate.

The release in Australia of *Global Warming — The Greenpeace Report* has confirmed this organisation's vital role as a major counter-balance to the narrow-minded, economic heavyweights in the federal bureaucracy.

Publicly, the debate over targets may appear to be between environmentalists and the coal and oil industries. The reality is that we are also fighting an incredible inertia and bias within the bureaucracy that resists those vital changes we need to embrace to counter global warming.

Rick Humphries
Greenpeace National Liaison Officer



"Interest is down,
the laggards are
happy, the dollar
looks good and
So do I... I've
put the cat out,
cleaned my teeth,
... now there was
something else...
... er... ups...
the environment!!"

PERTH

Canvass Perspective

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Canvass Perth to our members. Canvass is essentially a campaign on its own, the grass-roots lobbying campaign. One canvasser might visit up to 50 people in one night, working to convince people that everyone can make a difference by the actions they choose. In our first year of operation, approximately 5500 people in Western Australia chose to join Greenpeace, all sharing the belief that the actions of each individual do, in fact, matter.

Canvassers also receive information from the public on environmental problems in their area. Recently, Greenpeace was able to work behind the scenes to stop toxic wastes, including totally unacceptable levels of cadmium, from being dumped into the Swan River via a drain.

When a canvasser comes to call, ask him/her questions. If s/he does not know the answers, information will be sent promptly to you through the post. We always appreciate your help, support and friendly response.

Graeme Henderson and Silke Smithson

Supporter Meetings

Shortly after opening our doors in May 1989, it became apparent that some of our supporters were not content with just donating money to Greenpeace. They wanted to become more actively involved. After some deliberation we decided to have monthly supporter meetings, run by supporters themselves and overseen by a Greenpeace staff member. In June we ▶

Endangered species on the run



ADELAIDE SYDNEY

Plug 'em

The arrival of the *Redbill* on its final stop of the Clean Waters Campaign caused the Adelaide office to switch into campaign overdrive. The spectacular entrance of the *Redbill*, escorted the whole way into Port Adelaide by a playful dolphin, was a favourable omen of the activities yet to come.

The main event was the symbolic blocking of Port Pirie's Broken Hill Associated Smelters (BHAS) effluent discharge pipe. This action was used to focus attention on the ongoing and unregulated industrial pollution into Spencer Gulf. BHAS is the biggest lead/zinc smelter in the world and has been a notorious polluter for over 90 years. A significant achievement of this action was the response from the local people. Historically, residents have been protective of the smelter as it is the major employer in Port Pirie. However, the local consensus after the action was, "Enough is enough!"

Residents finally saw that the pollution they had seen as necessary was, in fact, avoidable. Overall, the purpose of the action was to stress the general principle that industry cannot be relied upon to accept environmental responsibility and clean-ups will not happen unless forced by legislation.

The *Redbill* and crew also initiated and participated in a series of smaller activities centred around the same issues.

Weeks later the issue raised by these activities still require thorough follow-up to ensure our gains do not get lost. For example, Adelaide office administration and canvass staff are working to ensure passage of South Australia's first comprehensive marine protection legislation.

While supporting the many campaign activities, canvass and administration still found time to give a number of school and community talks, and organise several fundraising events.

Canvass also served as support for the campaign activities in the Spencer Gulf area by transporting the canvass team there to assess community attitudes and answer questions immediately following the action.

For more information on the Adelaide office, contact Jake Deane, office administrator, or Garry Verrell, canvass director.

Diana Fusco, Jake Deane
and Vera Hughes

Judy Baderie

officially opened the first meeting, with 60 people attending. Since then attendance has averaged out at 20 hard-working supporters and the meetings have increased to two per month.

What happens at a supporter meeting? This is essentially up to the people attending them. We do provide videos, campaign talks from staff members, discussion of local issues and news items of interest, and letter writing.

The involvement of Greenpeace supporters has been a great help in the development of our office. Some of the accomplishments of our supporter group are banner-making, staffing stalls, helping organise rallies and concerts, letter writing and signature collection for petitions. If you would like to be part of this happy team, meetings are held on the second and last Wednesdays of each month, 7.30 pm, at the Environment Centre, 794 Hay Street in Perth. For more information contact Mike or Roy on 322 5517.

Mike Collison

merchandise

Greenpeace merchandise is available through mail order. For your copy of our catalogue send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Scott Riggin
PO Box 56
Mullumbimby QLD 2482
(066) 84 1418

MELBOURNE

On the Move

Our Melbourne office is in the process of moving. By the time you read this, Melbourne Canvass will definitely be in the new premises and administration hopes to be established by the end of November. The new address is:

389 — 393 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne 3000
(03) 670 1633.

Brisbane news... page 7

our media director is desperate!!!
desperate for some help with her filing/information system.
Are you a professionally trained filing clerk/secretary/office
person with one day a week to spare for three
months or longer? Do you have a sense of
humour? If this description fits
you, contact Michelle
Sydney office
(02) 555 7044

roving reporter

news from around the world

Baltic Sea - A Greenpeace commissioned report by Torigny von Wachenfeldt of Sweden's Lund University shows that the increase in nitrates and phosphates entering the Baltic in the past has produced such severe oxygen-depriving algal blooms that the sea will die unless the surrounding countries take immediate action. Nitrates and phosphates from pollution cause excessive growth of all marine vegetation.

Certain species of plants eventually dominate, suffocating existing vegetation and upsetting the delicate balance of the ecosystem. A third of the area of the sea floor - over twice the size of Denmark - is already dead. Spawning grounds for cod have been reduced by two thirds, devastating the region's fishing industry.



United States - According to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, as many as 60 cancer-causing pesticides can be used on the most commonly eaten foods under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules. (The EPA is commonly cited as a reliable expert by Australian authorities.) The group further claims that the EPA does not adequately account for the accumulated exposure to such pesticides through consumption of a variety of foods. Critics also maintain that some levels used are based on outdated health and medical information.

South Pacific/France - A report by American scientist Norm Buske claims that a re-evaluation of sampling data collected by Jacques Cousteau in 1967 shows water in the Moruroa lagoon to be contaminated with Cesium 134 and Cesium 137. France has claimed that the Cousteau report supported French military assurances of the safe containment of the nuclear tests. The findings also contradict claims that the still will not leak radioactive contamination for hundreds of years. Although it is conceivable, as France claims, that Cesium 137 was produced by the fall out from earlier atmospheric tests, the only plausible source of the Cesium 134 is the underground tests.

U.S./U.S.S.R. - Greenpeace has released a report called 'Nuclear Warships and Naval Nuclear Weapons 1990'. A Complete Inventory, showing that although the U.S. has significantly reduced the number of its naval nuclear weapons, the U.S.S.R. has not. The number of U.S. Navy ships capable of firing nuclear weapons declined by 53% from 292 to 136, primarily due to the elimination of ASROC, SUBROC and Terrier missiles.

Over the same period, the Soviet Union reduced the number of Soviet Navy nuclear ships and submarines to only 11%, from 633 to 555.

There are approximately 579 nuclear reactors on vessels at sea. But this number will decline considerably in 1991-1992, as the first generation of nuclear submarines is retired. The number of naval reactors needing disposal will thereby rise dramatically, creating a critical waste disposal problem.

Between 1988 and 1990, the overall numbers of U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons declined by 10% from 15,429 to 13934.

Hungary - A research centre to help Eastern Europe tackle 40 years of environmental mismanagement has opened in Budapest. The centre will focus on the environmental problems suffered by Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, as well as Hungary. The United States put up half of its \$US 10 million budget for the next three years, with the balance being paid by the European Community, Canada and West European countries.



Greece - Solar energy lights more than 100 lighthouses on both the mainland and the islands of Greece. The island of Gavdos, frequently cut off from the rest of Greece during winter storms, is the only place in Europe which is totally reliant on alternative energy. A photovoltaic power station was constructed on the island three years ago. The central generator supplies the island's two villages, while isolated homes and tavernas are equipped with 700 watt solar panels.

The two systems provide enough energy to power the telephone network, lighting, refrigerators and other electrical consumer goods.

Earth - Deforestation around the world has increased over the past decade from 28.2 million acres of forest lost in 1980 to 42.5 million in 1990. Nearly half the tropical forests standing at the start of the century have been felled for agriculture and ranching. Much of the timber is sold at low prices in rich countries. Poverty, injustice, inequitable land tenure, low agricultural productivity and inappropriate development account for this destruction, which will eventually exact a high price in the loss of genetic resources and biological species.

Taiwan - Taiwan is facing a nuclear waste disposal crisis within three years. A report from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation says that the island nation sees the deep trenches of the Pacific Ocean as an ideal dumping ground for the waste products of its nuclear power plants. Dr Chao Min Tsai, director of radioactive waste administration at Taiwan's Nuclear Energy Council, says ocean dumping is the most economical alternative. At the moment, Taiwan's growing stockpile of low-level radioactive waste is housed on tiny Lan Yu island, 75 kilometres south of the mainland. Taiwan joins Britain, Japan and the U.S. in seeking to overturn a moratorium on nuclear dumping at sea, signed in 1985. The moratorium is currently under review.

Canada - In order to stop shipments of chrome at Canada's largest chrome producer, Canadian Occidental, the Rainbow Warrior blockaded a deep sea loading dock in Vancouver. Two activists inside a steel box bolted to nearby railroad tracks prevented rail access. Two more activists chained to the towers of a loading ramp stopped shipments by barge.

Chrome, a highly poisonous gas, is also a known carcinogen and creates compounds which are bioaccumulative and persistent. Accumulated in the human body, they can cause cancer, reproductive disorders and immune system deficiencies.

New Zealand - Greenpeace activists blocked the eight main outlet pipes at the oxidation ponds of the Mangere sewage plant in South Auckland. They posted banners across the pipes reading 'Clean Water, Clean Seas' and 'No Time to Waste'. The pipes discharge over 500,000 cubic metres of effluent daily. The local mudflats at Manukau. The Auckland Regional Council has proposed to pipe effluent further out into Manukau Harbour. This measure will ensure the contamination of Auckland's sewage with hazardous wastes. There is too much water in the Auckland sewage system and the Mangere plant is inefficient and overloaded. Sewage treatment needs to be decentralized.



Indonesia - The government of President Suharto has decided to have a 600-megawatt nuclear power plant in operation by 2003. It will be built on the slopes of a dormant volcano in central Java, where 100 million of the nation's 180 million citizens live. At the same time, Indonesia, with a \$US 49.2 billion foreign debt and an annual per capita income of less than \$US 500, intends to export oil and liquefied natural gas. Indonesia currently is the largest exporter of natural gas in the world, with proven reserves in excess of 90 trillion cubic feet. It also enjoys 25 billion tons of coal resources.

Brazil - The Brazilian army is building an experimental nuclear reactor to produce 500 grams of weapons-grade plutonium annually by the year 1994. 'El Globo' has reported.

The type of plutonium to be produced could be used in an atomic bomb. Brazil is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its reactors are not inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

West Germany - Greenpeace protesters greeted the departure of 102,000 rounds of American nerve gas from West Germany to Johnston Atoll. Honolulu-based reporter Jim Borg stated that the gas would probably be routed through the South Atlantic, around Africa, between Australia and New Zealand, and then north to Johnston Atoll. The people on the Pacific islands were not consulted about the shipment and fear that it represents only the beginning of what may be many such consignments of deadly military wastes from all over the globe. The U.S. government plans to store the weapons in Johnston Atoll until 1994 and then incinerate them, discharging dangerous quantities of pollutants into the marine environment. The technology does exist to neutralise the chemical weapons at their original storage site. The U.S. Army has already successfully destroyed ten times the amount of nerve gas in this shipment by neutralization. The Army has also chosen to ignore the possible alternatives of biodegradation, photodegradation and electrochemical degradation.

Spain - Biologists at the universities of Barcelona and Valencia have said that as many as 6,000 dolphins may have already died of a mysterious viral disease after ingesting toxic substances. Autopsies have found high doses of polychlorobiphenyls (PCBs) in the dolphins' bodies. The PCBs are believed to be depressing the immunological system, exposing the animals to viral infection. PCBs are illegally dumped into the sea by petrochemical plants.

Some anti-greenhouse actions for the concerned citizen

(not necessarily in order of amount of greenhouse-gas emissions saved)

- replacing conventional light bulbs with compact fluorescents in the home
- insulating the roof, the water tank and the walls
- Fitting draught-stripping and/or double-glazing, and use of radiator thermostats
- Replacing electric appliances with best-available energy-efficient products
- Recycling of paper and avoidance of excess packaging and disposable products
- Active pursuit of personal ways out of the 'great car economy' trap: use of public transport wherever possible, avoidance of car use wherever possible
- Favouring organically-farmed produce over intensive-farming products
- Favouring vegetarian produce over meat
- Exercise of consumer discretion concerning the products of companies whose activities add to the greenhouse threat

from 'Global Warming - The Greenpeace Report' by Jeremy Leggett

GREENHOUSE FEVER!



GREENPEACE Over 4,000,000 caring individuals working for a cure

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