

ACTING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH SCOTLAND ANNUAL REVIEW 2016



Friends of the Earth Scotland



Illustration by Andy Arthur

INTRODUCTION

Friends of the Earth Scotland takes action locally and nationally to tackle our toughest environmental problems. Because we're focused on big, systemic problems like climate change, it can sometimes be hard to pinpoint moments where our work has made a difference. But We're pleased to say that 2016 saw a number of big achievements – successes we can celebrate and build on as we work to bring people together to take action on environmental issues.

The support of our members has been vital to our success, enabling us to do a lot more and make big strides forward in our campaigns. The changes we've seen this year will have a ripple effect, improving lives for many years and decades to come.

This year, we've mobilised hundreds of young activists, and encouraged thousands of people to take environmental action online. We've continued to build our profile in the media, keeping environmental issues in the headlines. And we've engaged decision-makers and government on a wide range of issues, winning important victories.

This report offers a brief overview of our top recent campaign wins, and how those successes will benefit people across Scotland and beyond. We're deeply grateful to everyone who has supported our work this year.



THE FIGHT AGAINST FRACKING

Over 40,000 people responded to the Scottish Government's fracking consultation. We built a new Stop Fracking website packed with information and insights, organised events and drove thousands to take action online. We worked hard to keep fracking in the spotlight, generating stories and linking to struggles elsewhere in the world. The Scottish Government will conduct an analysis of responses over the next few months and has committed to making a recommendation to Parliament before the end of the year. We'll be there to keep pressure on MSPs to ban this dirty dangerous industry for good. In our 'belt and braces' approach we'll also be supporting a Labour members bill to ban fracking.

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

SCOTLAND'S FIRST LOW EMISSION ZONE ON ITS WAY



2,500 people die each year in Scotland due to air pollution, and many thousands more suffer health effects. Traffic is the main source of air pollution, in addition to being a major contributor to climate change. We need a step change in Scotland that gets even more people onto public transport or walking and cycling. This past year saw the Government commit to a Low Emission Zone, with both Glasgow and Edinburgh Councils competing to host the first zone by 2018. We are now working to ensure these zones are funded adequately and implemented in a fair way.

A BAN ON UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION

Burning coal seams under the Firth of Forth and other parts of the Scottish coastline would have threatened local habitats and made a major contribution to climate change. So we were delighted when the Scottish Government decided to ban this risky technology, following our ground-breaking report and campaign working alongside local community groups.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

DIVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUELS



10 organisations have now made moves to divest from fossil fuels and our campaigning is pushing the debate into council chambers, finance houses and even Westminster. Proposals in our report 'Divest and Reinvest: Scottish council pensions for a future worth living in', launched at SNP Conference and supported by Common Weal and UNISON Scotland, were backed by 50 local council candidates. 17 UK Parliament candidates – SNP, Labour, Conservative, Lib Dem and Green – have also pledged their support.

Our campaign for a sustainable 'National Investment Bank' received the support of UK Labour and the SNP following groundwork laid by our work in 2016 and we have also secured divestment from BMO, who invest on behalf of the huge NEST pension fund.

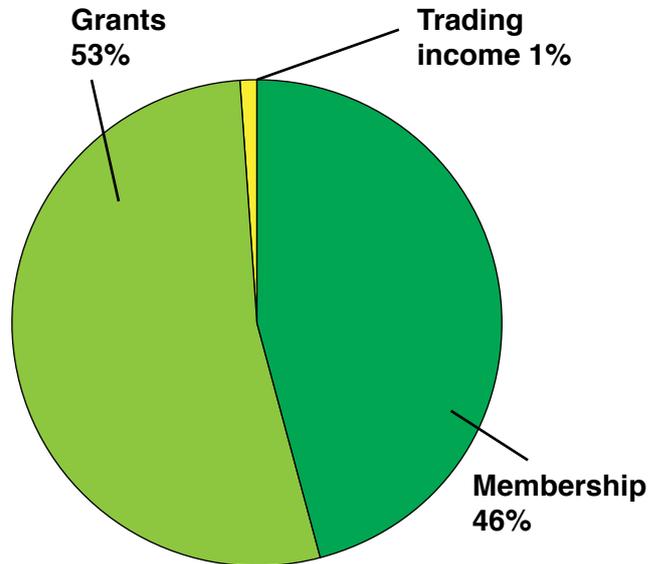
JUST TRANSITION

Shifting our economy away from dependency on fossil fuels is critical in responding to the climate crisis. We've begun to work with partners in the trade unions on industrial policies that can help to build a fairer, more equal and socially just Scotland. Last Winter we organised a conference and agreed a joint statement with these groups urging the Scottish Government to be more ambitious on measures to tackle climate change.

POWER TO MORE PEOPLE AS COMMUNITY ENERGY GROWS

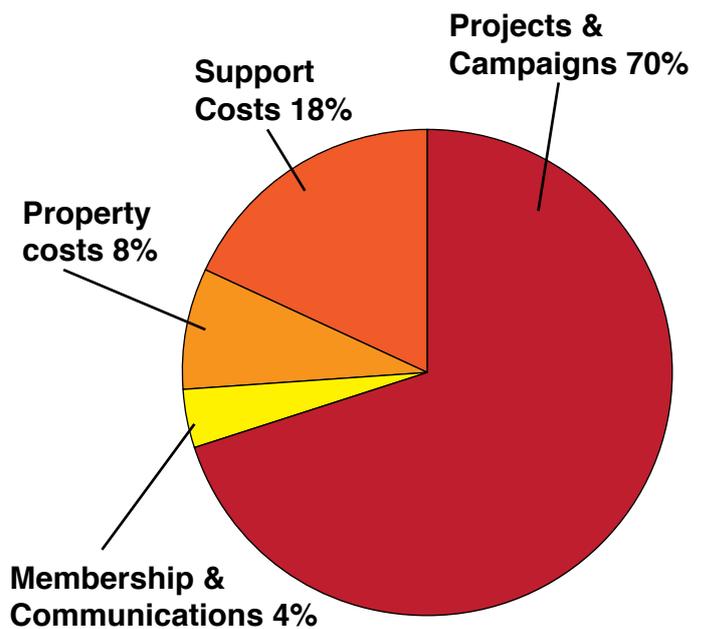
A big part of our vision for Scotland's future is local communities having a stake in and benefiting from clean renewable energy sources in their area. More and more communities are becoming part of this success story. We penned a new report focusing in on Shared Ownership. This is when communities enter partnerships with outside organisations or developers to enable them to build and benefit from renewable energy projects.

INCOME



Total Income £685,786
(includes a generous legacy of £105,000)

EXPENDITURE



Total Expenditure £428,218

