



**Friends of
the Earth
Scotland**



ANNUAL REVIEW

2014-2015

Enclosed are some highlights of the year.

For more information please visit our website www.foe-scotland.org.uk

WHY WE WORK

Our vision is of a world where everyone can enjoy a healthy environment and a fair share of the planet's resources. We are committed to democracy, accountability and equality, and we strive to work with communities in our campaigning for positive change.

HOW WE WORK

We work in many different ways depending on the nature of the campaign, our intended audiences and urgency of the issue. We approach our work in a strategic fashion mapping out our plans for the months and often years ahead. We develop connections with the media to highlight important decisions, events and opportunities for action. Through an active and growing presence on social media we engage the public in increasing numbers. Our advocacy work has enabled us to meet Ministers, make representations to councils and work closely with MSPs.

Our local groups have also continued their tradition of fantastic work making the links between global issues and local people. We have also strengthened our links with those communities threatened by unconventional gas and other inappropriate development.

We have continued to play a key role in the



CLIMATE CHANGE

fight against climate change both at home and internationally. We work at various levels through supporting local groups pushing councils for greater ambition, as a constructive part of the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Coalition, and working with Friends of the Earth national groups right across Europe.

Several of the team have just returned from Brussels where they have been planning for the year ahead as we approach the crucial UN climate talks in Paris this December. Our Head of Campaigns Mary Church attended the last round of talks in Lima as part of the FoE International delegation.

Climate change runs through a great deal of our work and we have continued to push the Scottish Government to live up to the commitments made in the Climate Change Act.

AIR POLLUTION

It is an exciting time as public awareness and demand for action on air pollution increases. In April, the Supreme Court issued a legal judgment ordering the UK Government to act immediately over illegal levels of air pollution across the UK. Air quality is devolved, so we are campaigning for the Scottish Government to heed this landmark ruling.

In Glasgow, we teamed up with our local group to influence a new City Centre Transport Strategy, which now contains ambition for segregated cycle paths, 20mph zones, and tree-lined avenues. In Edinburgh we backed the proposals for 20mph zones and were delighted to see the Council approve the plans in January.

On a national level, we are campaigning for the Scottish Government to introduce Low Emission Zones by 2018 along with a range of measures to reduce traffic levels as part of its new "Low Emission Strategy". We have continued to raise the profile of air pollution in the media. We generated unprecedented press coverage in January as we revealed Scotland's most polluted streets, and raised the alarm about high air pollution episodes in March and April.

COMMUNITY POWER

During the 2014 Community Energy Fortnight we launched our film and case study report 'Community Power Scotland: from remote island grids to urban solar co-operatives'. You can see them both on our new website: www.communitypower.scot.

Over the year we worked closely with the Scottish Community Energy Coalition to develop a number of high-level events. We sponsored the second day of the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) conference. We also invited Ecopower, a large Belgian co-operative and international partner in the Community Power campaign to give an inspirational presentation at the event.

We have actively supported the development of the Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative www.edinburghsolar.coop which will put solar panels on council-owned roofs.



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Our Sustainable Finance work has seen us launch two big campaigning efforts this past year. In the lead up to the referendum we launched a report, “Smaller, Greener Banking” making the case for breaking up RBS in favour of local, democratic, accountable banks. This campaign has now been taken up by partners at the UK level.

Into 2015 we have developed a new public campaign called “Divest! Scotland’s Going Fossil Free”. Launched on “Global Divestment Day” in February, we’re calling for public pensions to take their money out of fossil fuels and to invest sustainably.

As well as our public campaigning, our Sustainable Finance work is supporting improved networking between organisations in Scotland campaigning for economic reforms. We helped bring together a successful conference in September entitled “Reinvent Our Economy”, and we will continue to help others influence policy development on finance in the Scottish Parliament.



FRACKING

In January 2015 Scotland joined the growing list of countries, states and regions around the world with a ban or moratorium on fracking. The moratorium – which covers shale gas and coalbed methane – is the result of 4 years of hard campaigning by FoES, our local groups and impacted communities.

During the last year we:

- fought alongside the community at the public inquiry into Dart Energy’s application for commercial coalbed methane at Airth
- Gave evidence to the Scottish Government’s Independent Expert Scientific Panel on Unconventional Gas
- won important changes to planning policy bringing in buffer zone protection for communities and environmentally sensitive areas
- took Mr Frackhead, a 10ft puppet, to Holyrood to protest UK Government plans to remove peoples’ right to say no to fracking under their homes
- spoke to hundreds of people in community meetings across the country
- saw dozens of local campaign groups set up and worked with communities to facilitate a Broad Alliance against unconventional gas

We are now pushing for underground coal gasification to be included in the moratorium and working to mobilise huge numbers of people call for an outright ban on all unconventional fossil fuels.



ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In remarkably fortuitous timing the Scottish Government announced in February 2015 that it would consult on options for an environmental court or tribunal, the very week we published a report on the matter. The Government has switched into listening mode on Aarhus compliance following a year in which we piled on the pressure raising Scottish specific issues at the 5th Meeting of Parties to the Convention, and the Parliament’s Equal Opportunities Committee sought legal advice on our ongoing access to justice petition.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sat 23 May, People's Climate

Assembly Edinburgh 9.45 -5pm

Opportunity to explore how climate change affects you and your organisation. Day includes workshops on communication, mobilisation, lobbying and more.

Wed 27 May, Rally for the Climate

Scottish Parliament 12–2pm

Handover of messages to First Minister to demand that we meet our commitments at home & lead internationally.

<http://www.stopclimatechaos.org>

5–20 September, Community Energy **Fortnight**

Lots of events providing an opportunity to explore and celebrate how communities across the UK are generating, owning and saving energy
<http://ukcec.org>

26/27 September, International Day of Alternatives, Alternatiba Village in Paris & worldwide. Weekend of activities exploring and promoting citizen-led alternatives to tackle climate change and transform our energy system.

<https://alternatiba.eu/en/>

9/10 October, Global Day to Reclaim **Power**

Decentralised actions around the world against dangerous, harmful and dirty energy systems

<http://www.reclaimpower.net/2015>

28/29 November, Edinburgh & Worldwide National and international marches in major cities to mark beginning of the UN talks and set out the people's demands.

30 Nov – 11 Dec 2015, UN climate talks in Paris www.unfccc.int

Friday 11 December, Friends of the Earth International Big **Action**, Paris

We'll bring people from across Europe for an unique moment to demonstrate power of the people and call for a clean energy revolution.

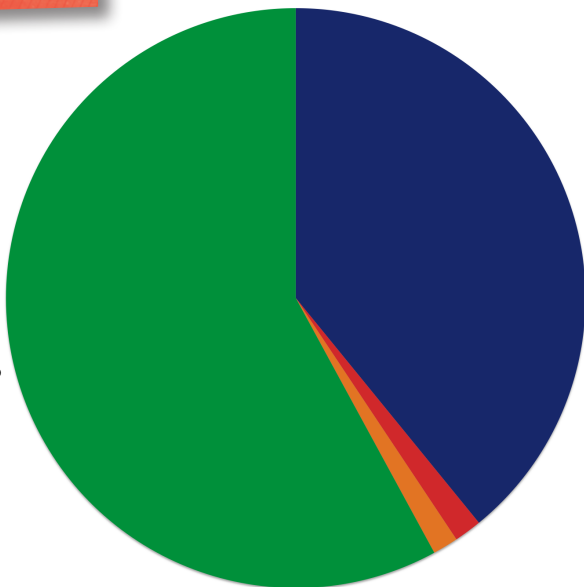
Saturday 12 December, Big Rally

Mass mobilisation in Paris to mark the end of the talks and the peak of two weeks of activism.

Early 2016, Post-Paris Climate Assembly to prepare for the campaigns ahead.

INCOME

- Grants 39%
- Fundraising 2%
- Sales & fees 1%
- Membership 58%



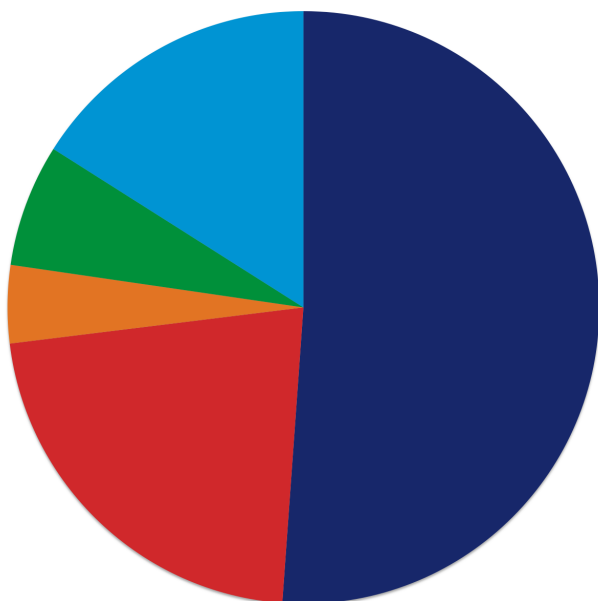
WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS:

- The Esmeé Fairbairn Foundation
- Friends of the Earth International
- The Patagonia Environmental Grants Fund
- Players of the People's Postcode Lottery
- The Scottish Government
- The European Commission's Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)
- The Schiehallion Fund
- Institute for Economic Thinking

We would also like to thank all our generous supporters and members who fund our work, as well as the contributions we received from raffle donations, in-kind support, sponsorship, work place fundraising, events and partnerships.

EXPENDITURE

- Campaigns 51%
- Membership and Communications 22%
- Fundraising 4%
- Property costs 7%
- Running costs 16%



For more detailed information about our projects and funding please visit www.foe-scotland.org.uk/accounts-review

Friends of the Earth Scotland is an independent Scottish charity SC003442

Friends of the Earth Scotland

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Friends of the Earth Scotland is:

- Scotland's leading environmental campaigning organisation
- An independent Scottish charity with a network of thousands of supporters and active local groups across Scotland
- Part of the largest grassroots environmental network in the world, uniting over 2 million supporters, 74 national member groups, and some 5,000 local activist groups - covering every continent.

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