



CLIMATE JUSTICE KIT

info & ideas
for climate
justice action

We made this kit on the land of the Gadigal Eora people and on the land of the Dharawal nation.



Sovereignty was never ceded. We express solidarity and our continued commitment to working with indigenous peoples - on this continent and around the world - in ongoing struggles for land rights, self-determination, sovereignty and recognition of past injustices.

As we work for climate justice, we want to work with local Traditional Owners for land, economic and social justice. Community campaigns around greenhouse pollution and coal are deeply linked with the struggles of Aboriginal peoples. Coal mining began over 200 years ago, and continues: community activism for a just transition away from coal goes hand in hand with local struggles for sovereignty. We want to learn about sustainable living on country, climate change, water, forests, and other species.

contents

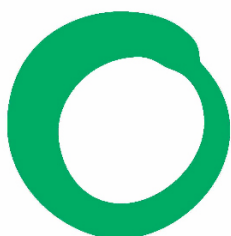
3	Introduction
4-5	Climate injustice and resistance
6	Carbon trading
7	Technofixes
8 - 9	Windows onto climate justice struggles
10 - 11	Copenhagen and U.N Mechanisms
12 -13	Real Solutions
14	Ideas for action
15	Some things to consider: acting for climate justice
16	Links

about friends of the earth sydney collective

FoE Sydney are a community-based collective working for social and environmental justice. In 2009, we are supporting the creation of a grassroots Sydney Trade Unionists Climate Action Network, organising civil disobedience at Climate Camp, blitzing community spaces with glorious permaculture gardens, standing up with Traditional Owners and affected communities against the polluting coal industry and taking action for climate justice.

We meet regularly on Tuesday nights in Newtown. We welcome new members, ideas, initiatives and projects. Please get in touch and come along: contact scarlet.wilcock@gmail.com / 0405 996 544.

Friends of the Earth Australia is a federation of independent local groups working for a socially equitable and environmentally sustainable future. Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) is the world's largest federation of national environmental organisations, active in 77 countries, with more than 5,000 local branches.



**Friends of
the Earth
Sydney**

Get Active & be part of vibrant community movements for justice and change. Whatever your background or skills, there is a place for you. Become a member, volunteer on a project, sign up for the Friends of the Earth Australia magazine Chain Reaction, and come along to one of our community events or meetings.

www.sydney.foe.org.au

introduction

Everywhere from the boardrooms of coal lobby groups to forest blockades, it is recognised that climate change is about people. Only a lunatic fringe of political, business and scientific players now deny that climate change is happening, and that it is caused by human activity. In fact, many have adopted the rhetoric of the need for 'radical and urgent action,' regardless of how ineffective or troubling their policy frameworks are. What is not always recognised is that climate change is not just about people, as such – it is about power and inequality.

Environmental movements have recognised before that struggles to make a healthy environment are inseparable from the struggle of communities to live healthy lives with dignity. In the U.S. in the latter part of the century, movements began to talk about toxic factories, incinerators and waste dumps being built near locations where mostly people of colour and people on low incomes lived and worked. Activists and scientists pointed to rates of asthma and cancer. Many spoke of 'environmental racism', where communities of colour, with limited power in the U.S. political system, became the country's toxic dumping ground.

At the other end of the chain of production, environmental and social damage has been done by resource extraction companies in every part of the globe. Campaigns against companies like Shell and BHP have been supported by a sense that environments should be protected, but also that communities have rights to manage their land and live without having their drinking water and crop lands

irretrievably contaminated. Communities everywhere from the Niger delta to Ecuador are on the front lines of the process that fuels climate change – the process of digging fossil fuels out of the ground in order to burn them for energy. In Australia, resistance to uranium mining has been enmeshed with the struggle for sovereignty for indigenous peoples.

It is becoming more widely acknowledged that people already marginalised by the global economic order will be more affected by climate change. Climate change activists in many places are calling attention to the threat that rising sea levels pose for low-lying pacific islands, and delta zones in Bangladesh.

Calls for policies to address climate change, however, do not always have justice at their heart. While many environmentalists and organisations will engage in a debate about whether emissions trading will actually reduce emissions, they will not always extend that debate to the impacts that emissions trading will have on people – whether it be people on low incomes in European cities, who will bear the cost of higher food prices, or people who will be forced off their land to make way for corporate agrofuel plantations. While many environmentalists and organisations talk about the need to transition our economic system away from fossil fuels, they will not always engage with what will happen to the workers in the industries currently linked to these practices. When 'green jobs' are raised, the discussion does not always extend to whether these will be good jobs, and to what extent workers and unions will drive the massive industrial shifts that the climate movement is pushing for.

Working for climate justice can mean many things – putting communities at the centre of how we talk about the climate, how we campaign for solutions to climate change, and the solutions that we campaign for.

This kit is designed to provide some resources for people to think through some of these issues in more detail. It's also got some ideas for actions that groups can work on together. We're not claiming to have all the answers – but we do think these issues are absolutely crucial to the work that the climate movement does and will continue to do for many years to come.



CLIMATE INJUSTICE

- Rich countries have used and continue to use more energy per person than countries in the global South¹; companies and governments that drove this high energy consumption in rich countries should compensate communities who are impacted by the cost of reducing emissions and adapting to a changed climate.
- Increasing droughts, flooding, fires and massive storms will jeopardise people's safety and health – and it is those who have least who will face most uncertainty and danger.
- Climate change is already and will continue to massively disrupt people's access to food: rising sea levels mean that whole areas of land become too salty to grow food in, or are permanently flooded.
- Where parts of the earth become impossible to continue to live, people will be forced to move from their homes, and the world will have to deal with massive movements of people.²

Environmental racism in Oz

It is increasingly common to hear climate change used as a justification for restrictions on immigration from the global South. It is claimed that Australia cannot sustainably support people displaced by climate change or economic inequality. These views do nothing to address the causes or the symptoms of climate change. They merely entrench inequality while moving the effects of climate change to the areas of the world least equipped to deal with them.

Most countries where displacement will occur are majority non-white countries in the global South. Restrictions on immigration policy will ultimately discriminate against these groups. We must examine the links between climate change and injustice otherwise we risk using environmentalism as a vehicle for racism.

"The North Richmond [California] community is on the frontline of Chevron's chemical assault. We have experienced a lifetime of chemical exposure, asthma, cancer and death. These are human rights violations. West County Toxics Coalition will fight until there is no net increase in emission."

Henry Clarke, Executive Director West County Toxics Coalition.⁴



and resistance

- People on low incomes in places like Australia will bear the brunt of rising costs of water, petrol, and food. Hurricane Katrina showed that even in the richest country in the world, poor people are not protected from the extreme weather events that climate change is making more common.
- Many communities in the global South, and indigenous communities in the global North, are extraction sites for fossil fuel companies. Many of these communities are resisting mining and drilling, in struggles for land rights, food security and access to clean drinking water.
- Activists have drawn attention that processes of burning and refining fossil fuels are often sited close to poor communities of color that have minimal access to political power³– communities have been fighting for many years against impacts of contamination.
- As well as resisting the root causes of climate change, marginalised communities are also working together to adapt to a changing climate, by organising their communities to deal with relocation or flood emergencies.⁵

Water and food, not coal!

NSW is home to dozens of coal mines and the largest coal port on earth, in Newcastle, with plans to double export capacity.

Coal communities and climate justice groups across NSW are fighting plans for a huge expansion of coal mining, and new coal-fired power plants in the Hunter and Lithgow regions.

Communities are opposing coal because of huge health impacts, destruction of water, food and agricultural land, and that NSW coal mining, burning and exports are driving climate change.

references

¹ The term “Global South” is commonly used by many global justice activists instead of “developing countries”. This is because it is felt that the definition of “development” is contested and that it is inaccurate to imply that these countries must aspire to achieve the same style of development as countries like the US, Australia and the European Union. The most recent per capita emissions numbers, taking into account a historic perspective, show Australia, Canada and the USA to have the highest per capita emissions. Maplecroft, 2009. Climate Change Risk Report. Maplecroft, London, UK. http://www.maplecroft.com/Climate_change_info.php

² The exact number of likely displaced people may be hard to calculate, this review suggests 325 million are seriously affected by climate change each year. Sir Nicholas Stern and the IPCC estimate between 150-200 million climate displaced peoples. Global Humanitarian Forum, 2009. Human impact Report: Climate Change - The anatomy of a silent crisis. Global Humanitarian Forum, Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.ghfgeneva.org/OurWork/RaisingAwareness/HumanImpactReport/tabid/180/Default.aspx>

³ Saegert, S., Thompson, J. P. and Warren, M. R. 2001. Social Capital and Poor Communities. Ruseel Sage Foundation, New York, USA. <http://books.google.com.au/books?id=dfvWgHb96J0C&lpg=PA60&ots=WK9MknJJdg&dq=mines%20located%20near%20poor%20communities&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q=&f=false>

⁴ ‘500 Protest Chevron at Richmond Refinery’, August 21 2009, <http://west.actforclimatejustice.org/2009/08/500-protest-chevron-at-richmond-refinery/>

⁵ Ursula and Saheena’s stories from Oxfam’s ‘Sisters on the Planet’ series of short films are worth looking at: Oxfam Australia, 2009. Sisters on the Planet – women fighting against climate change. Oxfam Australia, Melbourne, Australia. <http://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/climate-change/what-oxfam-is-doing/sisters-on-the-planet>

carbon trading

- Carbon trading doesn't work: where it has been trialed (for instance, in the European Union, or in New South Wales) it has failed to stop the expansion of coal-fired power stations and other heavily polluting industries.¹ In fact, it has provided huge subsidies from governments to big polluters.

- Carbon trading schemes rely on the market to produce a high carbon price, which will then 'encourage polluters to pollute less'. The recent financial collapse has shown we cannot rely on markets to produce anything except volatility.

- Carbon trading creates new markets and opportunities for profits, and encourages privatisation of land, air and water - it has major implications for equality and people's ability to make decisions about their lives with dignity.

- The Rudd Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) has so many handouts and loopholes that it is unlikely to achieve even its own low 'targets'. The government has caved to the demands of the

fossil fuel lobby and is proposing a scheme that will lock Australian governments into supporting a polluting economy for many years to come.

- The proposed CPRS will allow polluters to buy unlimited amounts of permits from overseas. This will mean emissions in Australia can continue to rise, as schemes with questionable impacts on communities (and questionable emissions reductions) endlessly multiply to 'offset' them overseas.

references

1 Lohmann, L. 2008. Hold the Applause: A Critical look at recent EU Climate Claims. The Corner house, UK. <http://www.thecornerhouse.org.uk/summary.shtml?x=563463>

2 For example coal-fired power generators will receive \$3.5 Billion in compensation to help them 'adjust' to the CPRS. Centre for International Economics. 2009. Review of the proposed CPRS. Centre for International Economics, Canberra Australia. <http://www.crikey.com.au/Media/docs/CIE-Review-of-CPRS-e1ad8ba2-59a6-4098-9002-7736b7a954c6.pdf>



U.S. Activists interrupted an event with the Danish climate minister, dressed as pirates and bearing this 2 trillion dollar note (representing the value of the new market in emissions presented by the U.S. carbon trading legislation.) <http://tiny.cc/pxnsl>

TECHNOFIXES

Illustration by Boris Moller



'Technofix' is a term used to describe an emergent technology that has been hailed as a 'solution' to climate change. Technofixes are popular amongst those who have power (e.g. governments and corporations) as they are seen as a way of 'solving' climate change without economic, political or social change. Technofixes are often driven by a profit imperative, especially under emissions trading schemes, and many would place a disproportionate control of the global climate in the hands of a small number of companies or Governments.

Some things to consider when deciding if a technofix is just or even effective: Who owns the technology? Who gains from the technology? Who loses? How sustainable is the technology? Does it really work? Will it be available in time to help, or is it merely a distracting us from taking real action?"

Examples include:

- Carbon capture and storage (the infamous 'clean coal' technology)
- Agrofuels (such as Ethanol)
- Nuclear Power
- Biochar
- Hydrogen power (in cars, and general electricity generation)
- Large Hydroelectricity projects (dams)
- Biomass
- Spraying sulfates into the atmosphere to block the sun's rays

For more on technofixes, see:

False Solutions to Climate Change booklet: Rising Tide North America <http://www.risingtidenorthamerica.org/special/fsbooklet.pdf>

Techno-fixes (a critical guide to climate change technologies) www.corporatewatch.org

Biochar

Biochar has recently been receiving increased attention within scientific, government and NGO forums, with suggestions that it will "allow us to address three or four critical crises at once: the climate change crisis, the energy crisis, and the food and water crises."¹

Some environmental groups are actively supporting the development of industrial charcoal processes, and promoting it as if it was proven, safe and useful. However, there is currently little evidence to support such claims, and even less critical assessment of biochar's supposed benefits.

The International declaration to keep 'biochar' and soils out of carbon trading, from a huge range of indigenous peoples, environment organisations and others across the globe, states that "[biochar] poses a major threat to biodiversity and ecosystems that play an essential role in stabilising and regulating the climate and are necessary to ensure food and water security. It threatens the livelihoods of many communities, including indigenous peoples."

For more on Biochar, see:

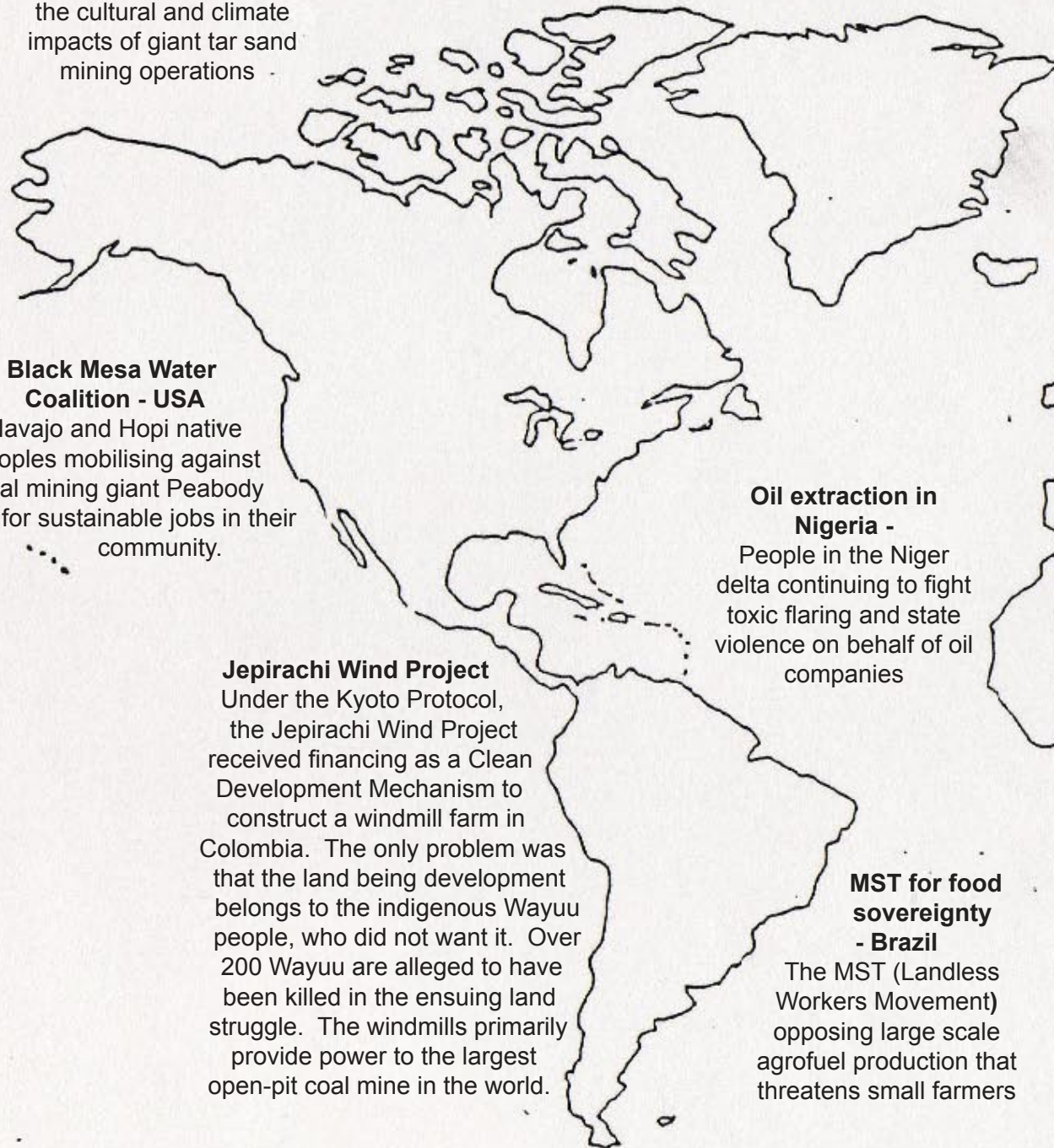
<http://tiny.cc/QSbC1>

www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/docs/biocharbriefing.pdf

1 'Declaration: 'Biochar', a new big threat to people, land, and ecosystems', 26 March 2009, <http://www.regenwald.org/international/englisch/news.php?id=1226>

**Tar Sands resistance -
Canada**

Indigenous peoples and environmentalists challenge the cultural and climate impacts of giant tar sand mining operations -



**Black Mesa Water
Coalition - USA**

* Navajo and Hopi native peoples mobilising against coal mining giant Peabody and for sustainable jobs in their community.

**Oil extraction in
Nigeria -**

People in the Niger delta continuing to fight toxic flaring and state violence on behalf of oil companies

Jepirachi Wind Project

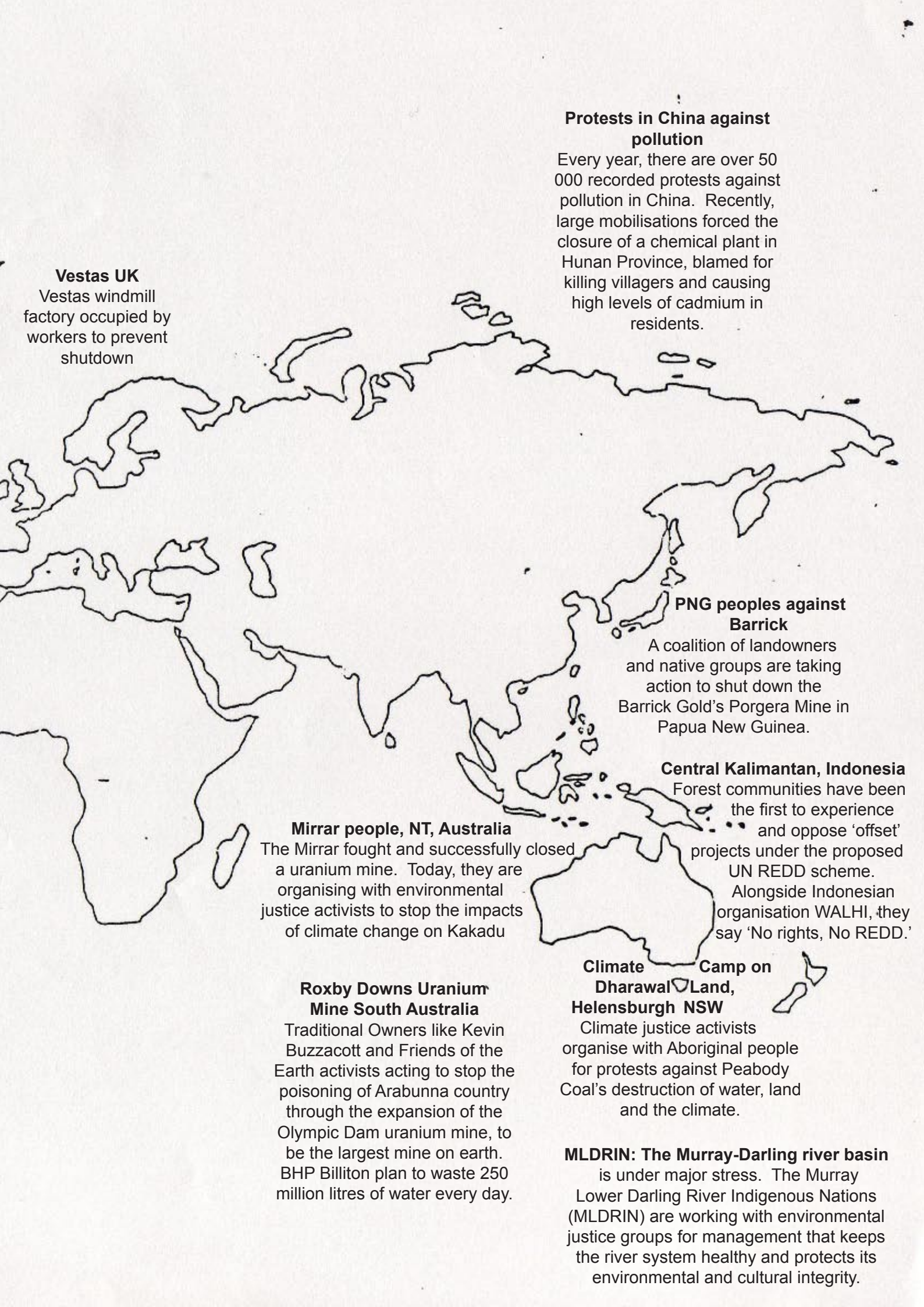
Under the Kyoto Protocol, the Jepirachi Wind Project received financing as a Clean Development Mechanism to construct a windmill farm in Colombia. The only problem was that the land being developed belongs to the indigenous Wayuu people, who did not want it. Over 200 Wayuu are alleged to have been killed in the ensuing land struggle. The windmills primarily provide power to the largest open-pit coal mine in the world.

**MST for food
sovereignty
- Brazil**

The MST (Landless Workers Movement) opposing large scale agrofuel production that threatens small farmers

the impacts of climate change we are already seeing are alarming. if we continue polluting as usual, the impacts of people and the planet will be devastating. already, people are being affected and displaced by so-called solutions to climate change.

but communities of people across the planet are mobilising against pollution, false solutions, and for meaningful change to cut emissions and create climate justice.



Vestas UK

Vestas windmill factory occupied by workers to prevent shutdown

Protests in China against pollution

Every year, there are over 50 000 recorded protests against pollution in China. Recently, large mobilisations forced the closure of a chemical plant in Hunan Province, blamed for killing villagers and causing high levels of cadmium in residents.

PNG peoples against Barrick

A coalition of landowners and native groups are taking action to shut down the Barrick Gold's Porgera Mine in Papua New Guinea.

Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

Forest communities have been the first to experience and oppose 'offset' projects under the proposed UN REDD scheme. Alongside Indonesian organisation WALHI, they say 'No rights, No REDD.'

Mirrarr people, NT, Australia

The Mirrarr fought and successfully closed a uranium mine. Today, they are organising with environmental justice activists to stop the impacts of climate change on Kakadu

Roxby Downs Uranium Mine South Australia

Traditional Owners like Kevin Buzzacott and Friends of the Earth activists acting to stop the poisoning of Arabunna country through the expansion of the Olympic Dam uranium mine, to be the largest mine on earth. BHP Billiton plan to waste 250 million litres of water every day.

Climate Camp on Dharawal Land, Helensburgh NSW

Climate justice activists organise with Aboriginal people for protests against Peabody Coal's destruction of water, land and the climate.

MLDRIN: The Murray-Darling river basin

is under major stress. The Murray Lower Darling River Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) are working with environmental justice groups for management that keeps the river system healthy and protects its environmental and cultural integrity.

copenhagen

- Since 1996, government representatives have been meeting annually for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In 13 years, the meetings have not produced an international climate change agreement that gives us a safe climate. Greenhouse pollution is still increasing.

- The 'debate' leading up to the international talks in Copenhagen in December 2009 has been conducted mostly by professional lobbyists and government aides. The terms of discussion have been full of technical and confusing policy language. This has not been a democratic debate where most people have been able to have a say.

- The negotiations are focused on carbon trading and wrangling over rules for the new carbon markets – which will create new opportunities for profit and a new bureaucracy, and will further marginalise communities, without achieving the changes we need to ensure a safe climate

- The 'solutions' that negotiators are putting forward will grow the power of the players that got us into this mess: companies, governments and international financial institutions.

- Already the World Bank is positioning itself as the gatekeeper for 'clean' development and adaptation funding in the global South. The World Bank has been heavily criticized for many years about the effects of its work – just as its projects have put private sector profits before community welfare, its climate work will continue to put the fossil fuel industry before a safe climate.¹

- Climate justice activists are converging at Copenhagen, to call attention to the bankruptcy of the talks, and to highlight real and just solutions to climate change. Actions are planned around the world to focus attention on the real issues hiding underneath the complicated terminology – like the relationship between burning fossil fuels and an unequal world. For the climate justice action calendar, see: www.climate-justice-action.org/mobilization/action-calendar/

- For excellent and much more detailed analysis of Copenhagen, see: Deal or No Deal: A primer on the UN Climate Talks: <http://tiny.cc/yqejl>

- Just or bust - Can the Copenhagen talks deliver Climate Justice? Danny Chivers casts an eye over the options. New Internationalist, Jan 2009, Issue 419 <http://tiny.cc/TyeXN>



u.n. mechanisms

“Not only does the carbon trading mechanism not work, it makes the greedy north feel like they have done something meaningful while we keep drowning. Using the market to solve a problem the market created seems a little short of insanity.”

Sandy Gauntlett, Pacific People's Environment Coalition

offsets

The basic premise of international carbon offsets' is simple: polluters in the North keep polluting, and pay someone else in the South to pollute less or 'sequester' carbon (by not cutting down a forest, for example). This is supposed to produce an overall reduction in carbon pollution. However, it is both fairer and necessary for a safe climate for polluters in the North to reduce emissions, over and above reductions in the South. Offsetting delays the phase out of polluting industries in the North and South, often involves privatisation and jeopardising land rights, and does not necessarily reduce pollution – in fact, it will probably mean increases in total pollution around the world.

cdm

The 'Clean Development Mechanism' (CDM) is a process under the international Kyoto agreement where governments of industrialised countries can generate carbon 'credits' by funding projects in the global South. CDM covers a range of schemes – from big dams to generate electricity, to tree planting projects, to providing polluting factories with technology to reduce their emissions (for example, by burning methane instead of releasing it directly into the air.)

CDM projects work by carbon accountants making up 'baselines' – that is, what a Southern country's emissions would have been if the project didn't exist – and comparing them against how many emissions will be produced with the project. The resulting comparison produces 'credits' which can then be bought. Crucially, CDM projects must be 'additional' – that is, countries have to prove that the projects would



& copenhagen

image by the beehive collective

not have happened anyway, without the CDM funding. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) says that proving additionality is actually 'impossible.'¹ CDM may even work to delay the use of green practices, as countries in the global South attempt to construct a pollution-heavy 'baseline' to attract CDM investment.

CDM allows companies in industrialised countries to keep polluting, and pay someone else to 'offset' their emissions. Many CDM projects do not involve the development of new green technology, but merely involve the transfer of existing technology that allows dirty industry in the global South to become slightly less dirty.² Many communities in the global South are now facing the impacts of climate change and the impacts of imposed CDM projects, such as communities in India which are resisting the impacts of CDM projects across the country, from displacement by Mega Dams to the health risks posed by sponge iron plants.³

redd

'Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation' (REDD) is a U.N. program put forward as a way to reduce global emissions, protect forests and transfer money from North to South. The program involves turning forests into commodities that can be sold to polluters as offsets.

Polluters who buy credits from REDD projects pay governments and/or companies to lock up forests and prevent them from being cut or burned. Similar to CDM, REDD projects require a made up 'baseline' – that is, the carbon emissions that would have occurred if the project had not existed. Forests are difficult to measure in terms of carbon, as they are full of diverse organisms and complex ecosystems – they are not like factories that pump CO₂ out of a chimney you can put a meter on.

REDD has major implications for communities who live with forests – by definition, the projects involve privatising and/or restricting access to land. Communities are likely to have their livelihoods and land rights disrupted or destroyed – projects involve surveillance of communities for accounting purposes, and sometimes

"REDD will not benefit Indigenous Peoples, but in fact, it will result in more violations of Indigenous Peoples' Rights. It will increase the violation of our Human Rights ... steal our land, cause forced evictions, prevent access and threaten indigenous agriculture practices, destroy biodiversity and culture diversity and cause social conflicts. Under REDD, States and Carbon Traders will take more control over our forests."⁴
The International Forum of Indigenous Peoples on Climate Change

punitive measures to 'discourage' deforestation. Some governments (including the Australian government) have opposed the inclusion of provisions for indigenous and local community rights. Many indigenous activist groups have drawn attention to REDD's potentially ominous repercussions for land rights and indigenous sovereignty.

references

¹ More than 80% of the funds released by the World banks' Prototype Carbon Fund have been for heavily polluting industries. Rising Tide North America. 2009. 'Hoodwinked in the Hothouse'. Rising Tide North America, USA. www.risingtidenorthamerica.org/special/fsbooklet.pdf

² Friends of the Earth America, 2009. A Dangerous Distraction: Why offsets are a mistake the U.S. cannot afford to make, Friends of the Earth America, Washington, USA. p 15

³ Friends of the Earth America, 2009. A Dangerous Distraction: Why offsets are a mistake the U.S. cannot afford to make, Friends of the Earth America, Washington, USA. p 14

⁴ Lohmann, L. 2006. Carbon Trading – A critical conversation on climate change, privatisation and power. The Corner House, Sweden.

⁵ Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) February 2008. "Some views of indigenous peoples and forest-related organisations on the World Bank's 'Forest Carbon Partnership Facility' and proposals for a 'Global Forest Partnership'", Forest Peoples Programme, Moreton-in-Marsh, U.K. http://www.forestpeoples.org/documents/forest_issues/fcpf_ip_survey_feb08_eng.pdf

REAL SOLUTIONS

The people and structures with the most obvious power to stop climate change are often linked to those who created climate change in the first place. However, they are not essential. The grassroots has the power to change views and act directly against polluters. Community-controlled solutions can respond fairly to unjust consequences of climate change in a way that top-down, undemocratic solutions never can. Through organising in our communities and our workplaces, we can win them.

It is sometimes said that, by addressing justice issues, environmental campaigns will lose focus, wasting precious time and resources. In fact the people at risk of the effects of global warming have capacity and desire to be agents of change. The creation of green jobs is necessary in the move away from a carbon-dependent society, and it is also an opportunity to engage with a broad section of the global community in the fight against climate change.

Many other local struggles are key to building a safe climate, such as those for affordable housing and food resources. Grassroots social movements that are owned and maintained by the community are crucial to winning the changes we need, and to achieving empowerment.

Despite their position of power, politicians and business leaders can be made to work towards climate justice. Politicians can be motivated to respond to community pressure. Corporations and their lobbyists can be motivated to respond to direct action and campaigning.

PNG Environmental Law

The Papua New Guinea Environmental Law centre has successfully prosecuted a number of claims against logging companies on behalf of traditional landowners. This has had a significant impact on logging operations in one of the most heavily forested regions of the world.

By working with local communities, the Environmental Law Centre has been able to work against a government that has traditionally enjoyed the benefits of a close relationship with large logging corporations such as the Malaysian company Rimbunan Hijau. The work has benefited the environment and the traditional owners of the Western regions of PNG.

For more information, see
www.foe.org.au/good-news/inspiration/annie-kajir-png/

Community blockade at Desert Rock

In 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency accepted plans for a coal-fired power station on Navajo land in northwest New Mexico. Motivated by concerns about air quality and climate change, community groups and local Navajo residents established a community blockade at the proposed site of the power station. The blockade greatly hampered attempts to develop the site over the course of a year.

In June 2009, the EPA responded to the demands of the local community by withdrawing the permit for the plant. The permit is still under review but, to date, no solid progress has been made on the development of the Desert Rock Energy Project.

www.desert-rock-blog.com/



Palm Oil in Indonesia

The biofuels boom is one of the most damaging outcomes of inequitable solutions to climate change. The palm oil industry in Indonesia has been one of the most exploitative biofuels, displacing local peoples, taking over land from food production and destroying tropical rainforests.

A number of NGOs (Sawit Watch/Indonesia, Friends of the Earth/Netherlands and Greenpeace/Netherlands) have worked with communities in the Netherlands and Indonesia to campaign against the financiers of palm oil plantations. As a result, some of the largest investors in Indonesian palm oil (including ABN AMRO, Rabobank and Fortis) agreed to invest only in just, environmentally safe palm oil. Most recently the World Bank has decided to cease the funding of Indonesian Palm oil through its International Finance Corporation.

Subsequently, investors have cooperated with Indonesian authorities seeking charges against illegal palm oil plantations and a number of plantations have been forced to improve practice in order to secure continued investment.

For more information, see <http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/716.html>
<http://www.wrm.org.uy/plantations/palm.html>

Sydney Energy Cooperative

The Sydney Energy Cooperative is a community cooperative that focuses on:

- * Bulk purchase arrangements for green power
- * Community based installation of solar energy systems
- * Workshops designed to educate the community about energy efficiency and renewable energy.

It relies upon and is directed by the involvement of its members- a genuinely community-owned solution to climate change.

For more info, see www.energycoop.com.au

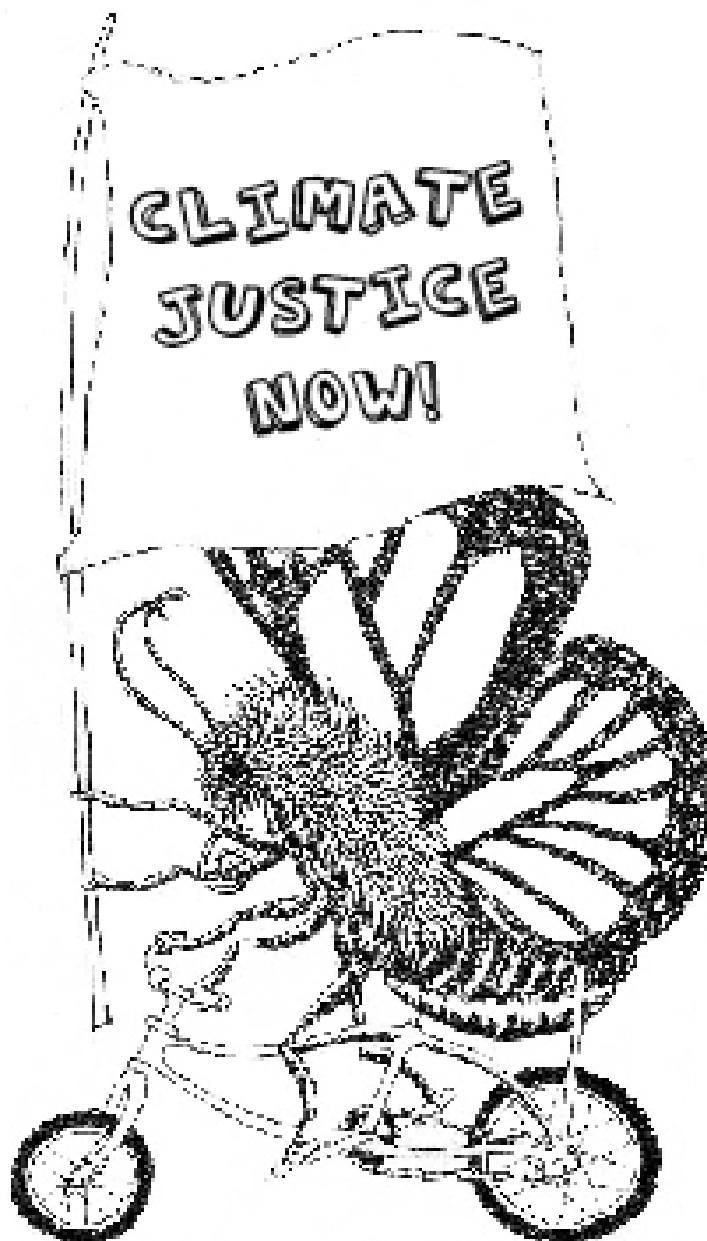


image by beehive collective



www.desert-rock-blog.com/

ideas FOR ACTION

do community education and outreach

Organise a climate justice workshop for your climate change group or in your community. We can help, contact us via <http://sydney.foe.org.au>

Distribute information or organise an event or film screening about false solutions. Some films we recommend are The Carbon Connection (Carbon Trade Watch); Fight for Country - the story of the Jabiluka Blockade (Pip Starr); Crude (impacts of Chevron oil extraction on indigenous peoples in Ecuador); The Gr8 Climate Sale (Focus on the Global South).

organise an action or creative event

- At the sites or headquarters of big polluters, such as Xstrata Coal in Circular Quay, Sydney
- At the sites or offices of companies that profit from false solutions, such as offsetters or financiers like Macquarie Bank.
- At events like Carbon Trading Expos, Mining Conferences, or Minerals Council events. Work with and amplify the voices of affected peoples.

At your event, you could do a Billionaires for Coal stunt. 'Billionaires for coal' is a concept that lots of different groups have used - from California to Wollongong - to expose who really benefits from coal-fired power: coal companies headed by wealthy people. Billionaires for Coal hold parties outside corporate headquarters where they toast profits with champagne, or 'congratulate' politicians on decisions favourable to the coal industry.

You could use satire to show the absurdity of 'offsets'. www.cheatneutral.com has a go, pretending to be a service that allows people to 'offset' their cheating in monogamous relationships by paying other people to stay single or monogamous. You'll find a video of their Valentine's Day action on the website too.



'Billionaires for Coal' outside a Bank of America

solidarity

Support the campaigns and land rights of Indigenous peoples and communities affected by greenhouse pollution, fossil fuel extraction and false solutions:

- Get in contact with Traditional Owners and affected communities: begin the conversation, build relationships, find out where you have common ground, and begin working together.
- Research what big polluters / offsetters / financiers are in your community (eg. Australian mining giant BHP Billiton's Melbourne Headquarters) and which communities are resisting their activities elsewhere (eg. farmers in Caroon, NSW; indigenous peoples in La Guajira, Colombia). There are Friends of the Earth groups in over 70 countries that may be able to help you get in contact: www.foei.org
- Organise a small fundraiser (like cake stall, or just putting the hat around at an event) to support the action and campaigns of indigenous and affected peoples
- Link to their websites on your own
- Support local initiatives for public transport, local food, affordable housing, local renewable energy generation.

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

when we're thinking about climate justice

These ideas are set out like checklists, but are really just a beginning: we're keen to talk with others to add more, amend, and consider them more deeply. The second set of 'things to consider' is about how we organise, and is followed by some ideas about how more privileged people and groups can be better allies – we think these are pretty crucial parts of building climate justice. Thanks to the folks who put time into thinking about them: Wenny, Angie, Natalie, Kylie and more!

things to think about when considering proposed solutions to climate change

- How are people in different social positions going to experience this proposed solution?
- Will it raise the price of basic goods? How will this impact on people with low incomes?
- Does it take away people's right to make decisions about their land?
- Does it involve creating 'dumping grounds' where toxic pollution is concentrated? If so, who will be most impacted?
- Which institutions, governments, companies or communities stand to benefit from it?
- Does it allocate cost according to responsibility? That is, will the companies and governments that caused most of the problem have to pay for it?
- How will it deal with the loss of jobs in polluting industries? What will happen to those workers?
- Are a bunch of 'green jobs' being promised? Are they quality jobs where workers have a voice in their industry and workplace?
- Does it increase the amount of infrastructure in rural/isolated areas, so that people living there can more easily adapt to a changing climate?
- How will it deal with climate refugees?
- Does it account for a growing population?
- Does it give more power to police and military units? Have these institutions been historically been violent and repressive towards particular groups of people?
- Do many people understand it? Or is it highly technocratic and need special training to comprehend the detail?
- Do many people 'own' the proposed solution – do they feel that they and their communities or workplaces will be part of designing it & implementing it?
- Does it increase people's quality of life?
- Will it avoid dangerous climate change and the unequal impacts that follow?

things to consider: is the way we're campaigning building climate justice?

- How do you make decisions in your campaign?
- Who was or is part of decision-making? Who wasn't or isn't?
- Do people from lots of different social backgrounds feel comfortable and empowered in the campaign? In either case, how might this affect the work that you're doing?
- Are there people in the group who speak more than others?
- Do you talk regularly about how the campaign relates to justice concerns?
- What kind of imagery are you using to talk about climate change? Does it rely on an image of powerless victims in the global South?
- Does your group do any solidarity or ally work with other struggles for social justice? Is this considered an important part of what you do together?

being a good ally: some steps in the right direction

- Listen, and try not to be defensive, if someone calls you out on behaviour or language, and appreciate that they are engaging with you
- Challenge other people on their behaviour in a constructive way
- Think about your own privilege and how it affects your behaviour
- Show solidarity and commit resources from well-funded (privileged) organisations
- Read more on the issues!

being a less-than-great ally: some steps in the wrong direction

- Don't rely on people experiencing oppression to be your 'informants'
- Don't look for constant approval and congratulation for your ally work
- Don't be immobilised by guilt
- Don't be unwilling to change the way you or your group works in order to be better allies

Friends of the Earth Sydney
www.sydney.foe.org.au

Six Degrees (tackling coal in Queensland)
www.sixdegrees.org.au/

FoE Australia www.foe.org.au

Collection of articles about climate justice:
www.delicious.com/ClimateJusticeSydney

Trade Unionists Climate Action Network Sydney
www.unionistsclimateaction.wordpress.com/

Australian Student Environment Network
www.asen.org.au

Climate Camp www.climatecamp.org.au

Switch off Hazelwood www.switchoffhazelwood.org/

Rising Tide Newcastle www.risingtide.org.au

Aboriginal Tent Embassy www.aboriginaltentembassy.net/

building climate justice in the way we organise

The Change Agency www.thechangeagency.org

Challenging White Supremacy Workshop
<http://www.csworkshop.org>
For articles, workshop resources and links.

Catalyst project www.collectiveliberation.org/ For info
on structural oppression and liberation movements,
look for 'workshop readers' under 'resources'.

Training for Change www.trainingforchange.org/
Heaps of workshop exercises and tools movements,
under 'anti-oppression/diversity' heading.

Colours of Resistance www.colours.mahost.org heaps
of articles and tools.

School of the Americas Watch www.soaw.org/ Articles
under 'anti-oppression' in the 'resources' section;
training tools, reflective pieces and a glossary.

Sallydarity - www.anarcha.org/sallydarity/
Excellent articles and links on gender and sexuality.

Rant Collective www.rantcollective.net Articles and
tools under the 'anti-oppression' section of 'resources'.



international

Climate Justice Action www.climate-justice-action.org

Environmental Justice and Climate Change Coalition
<http://www.ejcc.org/>

www.350reasons.org to oppose carbon trading

Mobilisation for Climate Justice
www.actforclimatejustice.org

Friends of the Earth International www.foei.org

Green for all: www.greenforall.org

<http://truecostofchevron.com/>
A coalition campaign to highlight Chevron's impact,
everywhere from Nigeria to Richmond California

Indigenous Environmental Network www.ienearth.org/

Just Transitions Alliance www.jtalliance.org

Focus on the Global South www.focusweb.org
To see their and order a copy of their video the Gr8
climate sale, see [http://focusweb.org/the-gr8-climate-
sale.html?Itemid=169](http://focusweb.org/the-gr8-climate-sale.html?Itemid=169)

Carbon Trade Watch www.carbontradewatch.org
You can view 'The Carbon Connection -A film by Carbon
Trade Watch' and order copies for free here:
[www.carbontradewatch.org/index.php?option=com_co
ntent&task=view&id=32&Itemid=46](http://www.carbontradewatch.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=32&Itemid=46)

RTNA www.risingtidenorthamerica.org

UK Climate Camp www.climatecamp.org.uk

Beehive Design Collective www.beehivecollective.org

'Carbon Trading-A Critical Conversation on Climate
Change, Privatisation and Power' Available as a free
PDF [http://www.thecornerhouse.org.uk/summary.
shtml?x=544225](http://www.thecornerhouse.org.uk/summary.shtml?x=544225)

Climate Justice Now!