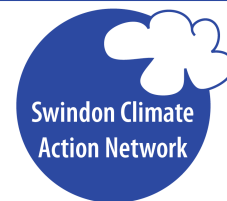


Swindon Climate Action Network



January 2009

SCAN wishes all Newsletter readers a happy and campaigning New Year.

October 2008 activists enjoyed a major gain in the fight against climate change, when Parliament finally passed the first worldwide climate change legislation.

2009 is likely to be more challenging as the downturn in the economy threatens to push environmental issues into the background – unless groups like SCAN are more vocal than ever. We need your support to keep the pressure on. Why not get more involved in 2009?

2008 Round up

SCAN supported the fight for a realistic climate change bill through working with Swindon South MP, Anne Snelgrove, a member of the Parliamentary committee drafting the legislation. The final bill ties the U.K. to an 80% reduction in CO2 by 2050, includes aviation and shipping emissions, and will be supported by the publication of annual performance targets.

Other liason activities included meeting Hilary Benn, Environment Minister; and contributing to local public consultations on planning and transport.

Swindon Borough Council has now included a performance indicator on carbon emissions in its Local Area Agreement, an important driver of future strategy.

A local transition town initiative, supported by SCAN, has resulted from the talk at our May meeting. The Group is currently looking at food issues and you can keep up to date or become involved with their activities by sending an email to transition@swindonclimate.org.uk.

The year finished with the national demonstration against climate change. For anyone who couldn't be there, local member Simon Bridewell has posted a report, pics. and a video on our website.

Finally The Beehive hosted a charity night in aid of SCAN with music, poetry and fire juggling. A big thanks to Rob Stredder and others for their talents in organizing this event. A total of £269 was raised.

2009 plans

At December Committee it was decided to change our way of working for 2009, to use our time in the most effective way. As a result public meetings will reduce to every other month; with more time put into promotional work, the transition town initiative and influencing local issues of importance.

All SCAN members are welcome to send in suggestions for consideration for future activities, or can volunteer via email.

Current issues

Two sustainability posts are being made redundant at Swindon Borough Council, despite the fact that its own Climate Change Action Group has been arguing for a third post in order to meet strategic and legislative commitments.

Say NO to coal and YES to renewables. This is a national campaign to influence Westminster and full details are at <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/actions>.

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a member of

