

## SWINDON CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



*Happy New Year to all our readers. This edition contains a report from The Wave, post Copenhagen feedback and details of other events we hope you will find interesting.*

### The Wave



With fifty thousand people attending, the Wave was the biggest UK Climate Change demonstration. Every seat was taken on the Swindon coach, and there were also coaches from Marlborough and Chippenham. The ages of those who went ranged from school children to retired people. As usual there were bands, speakers and amazing clothes – people had taken the suggestion to dress blue, to heart; and some of our delegation joined a Q&A session with Ed Milliband.

A big thanks to the GMB who donated £80 towards the cost of the Swindon coach.



### Copenhagen

Two SCAN members made the 29 hour bus journey to Copenhagen to “be a voice on the streets;” at potentially “the most important meeting since WW2.” As we now know, Copenhagen has delivered no binding legal agreement.

Anne Snelgrove, MP for Swindon South, gave a local briefing on December 22<sup>nd</sup> to approximately 30 people. Anne described herself as “enormously disappointed and angry” about the outcomes; blaming a coalition of opposition from the USA, China, Brazil, India and South Africa.

She saw the gains as:

- international backing for an agreement of 2 degrees on global warming
- all countries to take actions on global warming, although there would be no audit of these
- long term financial aid of £30 billion by 2020 for developing countries.

Anne advised that she had also been shocked by a pre Copenhagen poll which suggested that 46% of people in the UK are climate change sceptics. She said we all need to do what we can to persuade people on this issue and it was important that Copenhagen was seen as a springboard. She committed to using her position to do what she could to influence policymakers.

The Meeting was opened to the floor and comments included:

Writing to the embassies of opposition countries, a traffic light system to indicate the sustainability of products in supermarkets, the government should promote more vegetarian cooking e.g. through adverts, the need for cheaper public transport, the lighting and use of public sector buildings and the possibility of a cross party programme to tackle climate change.

NB Oxfam has produced an initial briefing note 'Climate shame: get back to the table' available from [www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org)

<b>Happenings</b>	<b>Coming up</b>
<p><b>Yes Men fix the World</b> Over 40 people attended the showing at The Vic in November, and we collected £107.61 which nearly covered the license for the film. A big thanks to Swindon Film Society for all their help with the technical arrangements.</p> <p><b>Election campaigning</b> The World Wildlife Fund UK has invited SCAN and local organizations such as Oxfam, the WI, Civic Trust, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust etc. who are concerned about climate change, to work together to ensure that it is given a high profile at the general election. As a marginal, Swindon South is likely to be targeted by both the Labour and Conservative parties. Currently Anne Snelgrove (Labour) holds 40.3% of the vote and Robert Buckland (Conservative) 37.2%. We will keep you posted on developments.</p> <p><b>Swindon Strategic Partnership Climate Change Action Plan</b> Ed and Steve attended the meeting of the Steering Group for this plan on 17<sup>th</sup> December. James Griffin, Strategy Manager, reported that the Council has now established a Sustainability Director's Group and a Management Group with 4 main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A carbon neutral Swindon</li><li>• Zero waste</li><li>• Sustainable transport</li><li>• Sustainable and locally produced food</li></ul>	<p><b>SCAN Meeting - Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January</b> at the Friends Meeting House (back room). Refreshments 7 – 7.30 pm followed by a review of our activities in 2009, and plans for 2010.</p> <p><b>Civic Trust Meeting - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January</b> at Heelis House (National Trust Office), Kemble Drive, Swindon. Planet + 3 = ??? a talk by Stephen Cairns of Swindon Borough Council on their efforts to develop a sustainable Swindon. £4 donation for non members</p> <p><b>Green Drinks – Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> from 7 pm at The Savoy.</p>