

# **JERSEY CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK**

## **Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at the Société Jersiaise, St. Helier**

**Present:** Approximately 30 people were present.

**1. Welcome and Introduction:** Mark Forskitt welcomed those present to the first Annual General Meeting of the Jersey Climate Action Network (J-CAN). He noted that the group had been set up in November 2008 to work on three main fronts -

- (1) to raise awareness of the issues of peak oil and climate change;
- (2) to provide a network for the exchange of ideas and information;
- (3) to take action to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and counter the impact of climate change.

**2. Background:** Jeremy Harris outlined the background to the establishment of the Jersey Climate Action Network. Several groups had shown an interest in working in this area over the last year or so, including the Jersey Organic Association, and this had resulted in a workshop organised in May 2008 by Maya and Paul Hammersal in which a number of interesting suggestions had been put forward for taking action on peak oil and climate change. Support for the establishment of a group in Jersey had been expressed by the Guernsey Climate Action Network (G-CAN), which had raised no objection to the Jersey group adopting a similar name. G-CAN acted as a network and focus for action on peak oil and climate change, and further information was available on its website [www.g-can.net](http://www.g-can.net).

**3. Activities for 2009 (1):** The meeting noted that a number of activities were already planned for 2009 –

(1) J-CAN launch event: Hazel Jones reported back on plans to organise a high-profile event to launch J-CAN to the public. This was likely to take the form of a talk by Andrew Mitchell on rainforests and climate change, although a date for this event had yet to be agreed (possibly in April/May).

(2) Transport: Francis Binney said that a number of actions were possible in this area, including the promotion of a 'public transport day' which could draw in support from other organisations including Connex and local employers. J-CAN could also encourage businesses to provide incentives for their staff to walk, cycle or take public transport to work. These incentives could include better bike park and shower facilities, discounts on bus passes etc.

(3) Tree Planting: Jeremy reported back on plans to organise one or more tree-planting initiatives as a simple but direct means of drawing attention to climate change. In an urban setting this could take the form of a joint project with the Parish of St. Helier, with J-CAN and community groups planting nut and fruit

trees on street corners and flower beds that could then be adopted by local residents. In a rural setting it could take the form of planting native and/or food-bearing trees on open areas of land, in cooperation with the Environment Department or Trees for Life.

It was suggested this area of activity could be extended to take a more holistic view of land use and the environment in the Island, with greater encouragement being given to the development and retention of areas of wild land.

(4) Food: Several groups and organisations were already involved in this area, including the Jersey Organic Association and the Slow Food Movement. The role of J-CAN in this field might therefore simply be to support and promote what was already taking place, e.g. by drawing attention to the demand for allotments and by publishing a directory of allotments in the Island.

**4. Activities for 2009 (2):** The meeting then discussed other potential areas of activity for 2009, including the following –

(1) Energy: Attention was drawn to the huge potential for tidal power in the waters around Jersey and the scope for investment by the private sector. Given the Island's geographical location, Jersey could aspire to become an international centre for experimentation and development in this field;

(2) Recycling: Interest was expressed in the group becoming active in this area, e.g. by highlighting the potential for reducing waste and by pressing for an increase in recycling facilities;

(3) Education: This was also felt to be an important area of work, and was seen as being a key part of J-CAN's role in '*raising awareness of the issues of peak oil and climate change*'. As one of the Channel Islands, Jersey was almost entirely dependent upon fossil fuels, and the role of J-CAN could be to question this dependency and draw attention to practical alternatives. In addition, the group could highlight the increasing impact of climate change, not only at a local level, but also on internationally.

Possible activities in this area could include –

- carrying out a survey of people's views on peak oil and climate change;
- writing letters to the Jersey Evening Post and other local media to keep these issues in the public eye;
- screening films such as 'Message in the Waves', 'An Inconvenient Truth', and 'The Eleventh Hour';
- encouraging the development a publication which would explain the issues of peak oil and climate change and how they related to Jersey. A similar publication – 'Planet Guernsey' - had been published in Guernsey in late 2007 and could be viewed on-line [www.societe.org.gg](http://www.societe.org.gg)

In this connection it was noted the Jersey One World Group had copies of relevant films and publications, and had also built up a newspaper cuttings library.

(4) States Strategic Plan: Deputy Tracey Vallois advised the meeting that the Council of Ministers was currently developing a States Strategic Plan, in consultation with States members, and this provided a good opportunity for groups such as J-CAN to make their views known and influence policy development.

One means of influencing policy, perhaps in the longer term, might be for J-CAN to encourage the development of a 'Transition Plan' (i.e. the transition to a future with reduced fossil fuels), drawing on experience from similar plans that had been produced in parts of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

(5) Conclusion: In conclusion, it was agreed there was scope for J-CAN to work on several different fronts, and that sub-groups could be established in one or more of the following areas –

- Transport
- Food
- Energy
- Recycling
- Education
- Natural Environment (including land use & tree planting)

It was felt important that J-CAN should not duplicate work that was already being carried out by other groups, and to this end it was suggested that it should carry out an audit of the work that was being done locally in areas relevant to peak oil and climate change.

In addition to pressing for change at a policy level, J-CAN would aim to demonstrate that positive actions could be taken at an individual level to respond to peak oil and climate change, e.g. reducing energy use.

**5. Voluntary donations:** In order to be as inclusive as possible, it was agreed that there should not be a compulsory membership fee, although individuals and organisations would be encouraged to make an annual voluntary donation. The suggested donation levels were agreed as follows –

- £6 – Individuals
- £4 – Student/Unwaged/O.A.P.
- £10 – Family

It was also decided that a voluntary donation level should be proposed for those organisations wishing to affiliate to J-CAN, with a lower rate of, say, £20 for voluntary/community organisations, and £50 for larger and/or commercial organisations. It was agreed the Committee would discuss this point in more detail and decide on an appropriate rate.

**6. Newsletter/website:** It was agreed that the group should publish a newsletter on a regular basis, which would be circulated primarily by e-mail. Steps had

already been taken to establish a website for J-CAN, and this would have the following address - [www.j-can.org.je](http://www.j-can.org.je)

**7. Elections to Committee:** The Committee was elected as follows –

Chairman:	Mark Forskitt
Treasurer:	Francis Binney
Secretary:	Jeremy Harris
Membership Secretary:	Francis Binney
Publicity Officer:	Roger Jones
Newsletter Editors:	Mark Forskitt, Roger Jones & Jeremy Harris
Committee Members:	John du Feu, Nigel Jones, Stephen Le Quesne, Jo McAllister, & Nick Palmer

**8. Date of next meeting:** It was noted that the next meeting of J-CAN would take place at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February in the Maria Ritchie Room, Jersey Arts Centre, Phillips Street, St. Helier. At this meeting the group would consider fixing a regular date and venue for meetings, possibly using a venue where no charge was made for the hire of a room.

JMEH/ 1.2.09