



Newsletter 2, August 2009

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Jersey Climate Action Network.

**Dr Casebow**

Back in June we held a public talk given by Dr Andrew Casebow. He was the main mover of the Planet Guernsey publication, and is an advisor on sustainable island development at Cambridge University.

Dr Casebow's talk was timely following shortly after publication of the updated UK climate predictions. Unsurprisingly the predictions indicate things are happening faster and with more severe probable impact than had been previously thought.

Historically we would expect to be at the end of a typical 100,000 year cycle and heading towards another ice age. However the latest findings suggest that by 2080 Jersey's climate will be as Portugal's is now. Living on islands at the end of long and complex supply chains and food chains, we Channel Islanders are, more than most, vulnerable to shortages in food, energy and fuel. Such shortages are increasingly likely in the next 50 years. Due to sea-level rise, the storm flooding that occurred in Jersey on 10th March 2008 may look like the result of a normal spring tide by 2080.

There was much discussion and many questions to Dr Casebow from the floor. You can find a lot of background material at two addresses Dr Casebow identified:

<http://www.ukcip.org.uk> The UK Climate Impacts Programme

<http://www.ukcp09.net> The UK Climate Projections, 2009.

We would very much like to thank both Dr Casebow for a very interesting talk with much local information in it, and the Channel Island Co-Op who very generously funded the event.

**July meeting**

We were joined at our July meeting by Deputy Rob Duhamel and Dr. Louise Magris. Deputy Duhamel is Assistant Minister for Planning and Environment and Dr. Magris is Assistant Director for environmental policy at the States.

Deputy Duhamel commented that we need radical solutions to meet international targets on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. He also pointed out the States are looking at spending 1.2 billion pounds making changes at the harbour and surrounds. For that money the option of a bridge or possible tunnel to France might be considered. Deputy Duhamel was not keen on the (not altogether serious?) suggestion that for a radical change that would cut CO<sub>2</sub> and save some money; we could close the airport. There was however much discussion and useful ideas on public transport matters in the island.

**Events**

Mark took his tricycle and various materials to the Grassroots event at Val de la Mare, where we had a small stand. The poor weather early on was not ideal, but the covered seating of his tricycle enabled Mark to keep dry. Thanks to all who lent a hand on the day.

We hope also to have a stand at the Natural Living Festival in September. Volunteers will be required.

**In the Press**

As well as the blogs that some of our supporters run, we have had a couple of items in the local press. Nick had a decent length piece in the free paper the Isle. He followed that up more recently with a well worded riposte to a letter in the JEP. A full report by Nigel of the meeting with Andrew Casebow was published in the

JEP on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August. A comprehensive cuttings file, begun in 2007, including such items from the local press, is maintained at the Jersey One World Centre.

### **Greenpeace in Jersey**

Recently a facebook group was set up for Greenpeace in Jersey. A meeting was held 2<sup>nd</sup> August and wide ranging discussion was held on possible campaign topics. Greenpeace is of course active in climate change campaigning, so we have common ground there. If you are not a facebook user, but want get in touch with them, contact Mark using one of the options listed at the end of this newsletter.

### **The petition**

This autumn J-CAN is organising a petition to promote action on climate change. The petition - a copy of which is attached to this newsletter - relates to the U.N. Conference on Climate Change, which will be meeting in Copenhagen this December to decide on global targets for sustainable levels of greenhouse gas emissions. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of this conference in the campaign against climate change, and it will need to be followed up by concerted action at an international level.

At a local level, the J-CAN petition will draw attention to the Copenhagen Conference and will seek a commitment from the Council of Ministers to give detailed consideration to the targets agreed at the Copenhagen Conference and, within six months of the closing date of the conference, to *'report back to the States ... on how they intend to respond, their report to include detailed proposals and timescales'*. The petition is to be presented to the States in December, just before the start of the conference, and it is planned this will be followed by a States debate on the subject in mid-2010.

We need to have as many signatures as possible in order to demonstrate the extent of public concern on this

issue, and this is where we need your help! Please feel free to download a copy of the petition from our website and to collect signatures on J-CAN's behalf - forms need to be returned to J-CAN by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009. To ensure we comply with States of Jersey procedures, please ensure that the first sheet of the petition includes the full text, and that this is visible to anybody signing the petition - it will be sufficient for any subsequent sheets just to have the wording of the petition, i.e. the section that begins 'We, the undersigned, petition the States of Jersey as follows:'.

At our meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> August it was agreed we would begin campaigning with our petition in King Street collecting signatures on Saturdays. The first one is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am to 2.00pm. Volunteers are welcome. Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, then please contact Mark on one of the addresses at the bottom of the page.

### **J-CAN Meetings**

We usually hold our meetings on the last Tuesday of the Month, frequently at the Francis Le Sueur Centre at Les Mielles. We have an open meeting approach, and anyone with energy and campaign ideas is welcome.

#### **To contact us:**

e-mail: [Contact@j-can.org.je](mailto:Contact@j-can.org.je)

telephone: 01534 864063.

write: La Source, Le Mont Vibert, St Ouen, JE3 2DS

web site: [j-can.org.je](http://j-can.org.je)