



Newsletter 5, July 2010

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the Jersey Climate Action Network. And despite the detractors and naysayers, we are still going, indeed growing.

Gulf of Mexico

The last three months have seen the appalling and disastrous events in the Gulf of Mexico. Those scenes of oiled birds, tarred beaches and marine life decimation will surely have resonated with those who remember the impacts locally of the Amoco Cadiz in 1978. It was the insurance payout from that which funded the set up of the Jersey Ecology Fund. Our thoughts and sympathies go to those whose environment, ecology and employment has been blighted by the oil spill.

It is instructive to ask why we drill in waters so deep the technology is at its limits. Why do we drill in places where a spill is so devastating on fragile and rare eco-systems and species habitats? We take these enormous risks because we are so dependent on the black stuff. We have found the easy reserves -the 'low hanging fruit' and are struggling to find sources to keep up with demand. In a phrase it is because we are at Peak Oil.

The Island Plan Review

The public examination of the Island Plan starts in earnest early September. Both Nick and Mark made

submissions, and both have been invited to the initial session on the overall plan discussion. The plan of course derives from the Strategic Plan and that limits how much change we might be able to bring about. But we will at least be arguing the case.

West Show

We had a stand at the West Show where we displayed information and materials on bottled water and oil in food production. A very big thank you to all who helped, and the JOA for their display boards and vegetable basket. We collected a number of contact details of interested people and supporters, and gave out info leaflets to many more.

I was struck that the Eco Active stand was also running information on bottled water, and I know of another organisation preparing a campaign too. The different organisations have separate focuses on the problems of bottled drinks, be it litter, oil consumption, water stress in other places or the overall sustainability view. However that is exactly the circumstances where the network approach is so useful.

Seeing the display I recalled spending school summer holidays combing the beaches for returnable bottles and collecting the deposits.

Petition response

We are expecting a report in response to our climate change petition early August. That should give me some material for the next newsletter.

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