



# newsletter

[www.portsmouthcan.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthcan.co.uk)

Autumn 09

## What is PCAN?

PCAN is a network of people who are calling for urgent action to cut carbon emissions in the Portsmouth area.

We're also a network; we want to work alongside existing groups to share ideas and encourage action. We support national campaigns on climate too and we'll be trying to build up pressure before the UN Climate talks in December

PCAN members meet every month. Our next meeting is on September 9<sup>th</sup>. To find out more, see [www.portsmouthcan.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthcan.co.uk)

## Climate Change is with us

PCAN members believe that climate change is already happening and that action is urgent. For instance a new report this week shows that Greenland ice is melting far faster than scientists expected and they reckon we'll see sea level rises of a metre in less than 100 years. Think of the consequences for Portsmouth.

Another new report from Oxfam shows that almost 250 million people around the world are already affected by climate-related disasters like floods, droughts and hurricanes, in a typical year. This report projects that, by 2015, this number could grow to more than 375 million people and completely overwhelm our current capacity to respond to emergencies.

Hopefully, we can prevent the worst outcomes. Each of us can make changes in our own lives and we can also put pressure on politicians to control emissions.

## 10:10

If you're inspired by the film *The Age of Stupid*, you'll be interested in Franny Armstrong's new venture. 10:10 is the national effort to cut the UK's emissions by 10% in 2010 and loads of celebrities have already signed up to help stop climate change

by making simple changes to their lifestyles, homes and businesses.

More importantly, if you sign up, your voice will be part of the national demand that the UK Government acts quickly to cut our country's emissions as a whole. If we in the UK can prove that fast, deep cuts can be made at a national level, then we may just inspire all the other big polluting countries to follow suit. See [www.1010uk.org](http://www.1010uk.org)

## How you could save your 10%

There are lots of ideas on the 10:10 website – these are just a few:

- Turn your heating down, use sweaters and insulate your house
- Save electricity, change your light bulbs and turn stuff off
- Cut your car mileage - use public transport, walk or cycle
- Fly less, holiday more
- Buy less. Rent, hire, recycle, re-use
- Buy local and organic food, eat less meat and dairy products
- Dump less
- Don't waste food or water

## Copenhagen

The UN Climate talks in Copenhagen in December have been billed as our last chance to save the planet. It's really vital that world leaders agree to massive cuts in carbon emissions.

The UK is historically one of the countries most responsible for climate change. Even today Japan, Europe and the US pump out over 40 per cent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It is only fair that rich countries like the UK must act first and fastest to cut their emissions.

The Stop Climate Chaos Coalition which covers 200+ different organisations, including PCAN, calls on the Government to push urgently for a fair global deal in Copenhagen

which limits global warming to under 2°C, and to lead the way by committing to reduce UK carbon emissions by at least 40% by 2020 through domestic action, and call on other rich countries to do the same.

We are also calling for an end to our reliance on dirty coal power, and a boost for the UK's renewable energy supply to help build a green economy and create new jobs. Burning coal has contributed 50 per cent of the build up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today. We must stop emissions from coal urgently if we are to keep global warming below 2°C. The UK must lead by example and say no to coal power stations without carbon capture and storage.

A third demand is for the resources needed, on top of existing aid commitments, to help vulnerable people in poor countries adapt to climate change and pursue a low carbon development path.

Have a look at the Copenhagen page on our website to see what you can do.



On Saturday 5 December 2009, ahead of the crucial UN climate summit in Copenhagen, tens of thousands of people from all walks of life will flow through the streets of London wearing blue to demonstrate their support for a safe climate future for all. We'll be organising transport from Portsmouth. Full details will be on our website.

## Portsmouth Climate Strategy

This strategy has been produced by the Portsmouth Sustainability Action Group (PSAG) a group set up in response to lobby work by PCAN in late 2006. PSAG is a partnership body that includes some of the biggest carbon emitters in the city and the strategy is built on what they can achieve to cut carbon and on what the Strategy calls 'effective community involvement' which means everyone!

PCAN has been involved with the Strategy from the beginning and welcomes the progress it sees around the City. For instance, the University has systematically targeted big emissions in managing its extensive building stock. The Naval Base has also hit a big win by switching its energy supply to zero carbon

biomass. Gunwharf has also committed itself to a drop in energy use by 10% by 2010, which is commendable, as new buildings are fairly energy efficient, so further reductions take more effort.

PCAN aims to encourage everyone to work to make the Climate Strategy happen. It still wants to see real emission reductions from PCC which has committed itself to reduce its footprint by 30% by 2014, but hasn't spelled out the detail of how this is going to happen. PCAN sees its role as keeping up the pressure to achieve real reductions, for example on carbon emission reduction in PCC's office stock, particularly the Civic Offices and on an Energy Policy for Portsmouth.

We wish the new Chair of PSAG, Cllr Eleanor Scott the best of luck in picking up these challenges

You can pick up a copy of the strategy from the Civic Offices or see it online at [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/15773.html](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/15773.html). Portsmouth's Climate Change Officer welcomes comments.

## Waste oil

Please sign our petition for waste oil to be collected nationally <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/waste-vegetable-oil-recycling.html>

## Events to look out for.

9/9 **Meeting of Portsmouth Climate Action Network** 7.30 Portsmouth Guildhall Room 1.

9/9 **999 Planet in Peril Day** [www.999planetinperil.com](http://www.999planetinperil.com)

7/10 **Meeting of Portsmouth Climate Action Network** 7.30 Portsmouth Guildhall Room 1

16/10 **World Food day** [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

18/10 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm **One World Week event** [www.oneworld.org](http://www.oneworld.org) Dennis Sciana Building, Burnaby Road, University of Portsmouth. Workshops including climate change, presentations and discussions, games and activities from around the world, exhibitions and quizzes. Tickets £1 from [sue@portsmouthcan.co.uk](mailto:sue@portsmouthcan.co.uk)

25/10 **350.org international Day of Action** [www.350.org/](http://www.350.org/) We hope to have a big event in Portsmouth on this day

5/12 **The Wave - March before Copenhagen.** We'll be organising a coach from Portsmouth – keep an eye on the PCAN website for details and look at [www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave)

Produced by Portsmouth Climate Action Network

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