



Hull

EC



Hull's environmental newsletter. Published by Hull Friends of the Earth

www.hfoe.org.uk

July 2018 Issue 62

DIARY DATES

Tues 7 Aug 7pm

HFOE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Tues 7 Sept 7pm

HFOE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Tues 2 Oct 7pm

HFOE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Sat 20 Oct

Green Fair at Cottingham Civic Centre (see page 3)

Tues 6 Nov 7pm

HFOE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Next ECO deadline: Tues 2 Oct

In this issue

Diary Dates	1
Beach Clean at Paull	1
ECO Chit Chat	2
My #PlasticFreeFriday	2
A big Bee Day thank you	2
Ineos, fracking and you (part II)	3
HFOE Green Fair	3
What's going on? Local groups news including Hull Community Diggers	4
Transition & Permaculture Day	5
Tenfoot Gardening	5
WEA Polyculture Course	5
Building a Roundhouse (part I)	6
Government's new shale gas promotion	8
Drax: new pilot to cut biomass gasses	8
BURNED - the movie	8
Cleaning Paull beach - photos	8
Travels in a van: Missing & discovering	9
Will man ruin the earth beyond repair?	10
Burning rubbish to make electricity	11
Membership form & contact info	12

Cleaning the beach at Paull



PHOTO: Hilary Byers

Ready to start the clean-up at Paull

Blazing sunshine and unseasonable warmth helped to ensure that the turnout for Hull Friends of the Earth's beach-clean at Paull in May far exceeded expectation. Following the recent publicity given to plastic waste and other litter discarded into the sea, we had decided we should investigate the extent of the problem in the Humber Estuary.

The Marine Conservation Society, formed in 1983, has campaigned on several fronts including the sewage pollution of bathing beaches, the preservation of fish stocks and the establishment of Marine Conservation Zones, and for the last 5 years has also been focussing on documenting and clearing beach litter through its Beachwatch program (www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch). We therefore decided to link up with them and use their website to publicise the event, as well as using their litter survey forms to itemise and record the litter as we collected it.

Twenty volunteers responded, 5 of them from the Marine Conservation Society, and including some families. Using binbags and grabs kindly provided by East Riding Council, we cleared the 200 metres of shoreline near Fort Paull of **over 20 bags of assorted rubbish** in under 2 hours.

With the large turnout, and with some finding the MCS litter survey forms too time-consuming to complete, we detailed the contents of only 7 bags of the rubbish. The following were the commonest items:

Plastic drinking straws.....	11	Pieces of expanded polystyrene*.....	5
Plastic bottles	9	Pieces of glass.....	3
Plastic/foil crisp & sweet packets.....	7	*perhaps from fishing floats, as we also	
Plastic cotton bud sticks.....	5	found 7 such floats more or less intact	

Compared to the Marine Conservation Society's national data for last year (available at www.mcsuk.org/media/GBBC_2017_report.pdf) we found very few wetwipes or cigarette stubs. This is likely due to MCS surveys tending to concentrate on bathing beaches with more directly-dropped litter. Ours was mainly along the high tide line and probably washed up. *More photos on page 8.*

Rohan Lewis

Green Fair

On Saturday 20 October 2018...

See details on page 3

ECO Chit Chat



All that gas

Well, of all the things we thought might be a problem this summer, it wasn't a shortage of CO₂ was it? I'd have expected it to be in fizzy drinks [Real Ale fans can feel smug] but I must say I'm surprised at how much of our packaged food has CO₂ added to it, aren't you?



Football's coming home... to plastic free

England's Premier League plans to phase out single-use plastics in its operations and supply chains over the next two years. Plastic cups, bottles, bags, stirrers, trays and cutlery are all by-products of football matches. A House of Commons committee has written to the chairmen of the other leagues to encourage them to follow the Premier League's example. [From BBC News].



Plastics Pact

Meanwhile Coca-Cola and Asda are among more than 40 companies which have signed up to the UK Plastics Pact to cut plastic pollution over the next seven years. The firms have promised to honour a number of pledges such as eliminating single-use packaging through better design. The signatories are responsible for more than 80% of plastic packaging on products sold through UK supermarkets. [BBC News]. Let's make sure they deliver.



Give that man a medal!

John Pickles has been getting into town early most mornings to water the Wilson bed. John says 'By getting there early I avoid having to pay for parking and get to the tap before the Council workers.' As a result the veg in the bed are looking perky. **Many thanks John!**

My #Plastic Free Friday

I still get my milk delivered in glass bottles and my cereals are in greaseproof paper bags in cardboard, so that's OK. But my sliced bread is in a plastic bag and the coffee is in those bags that look like foil but I think are really plastic. Can you get ground coffee any other way? The tea bags are in the same sort of bags. Oh dear, I haven't even managed to get past breakfast!

I need to go shopping this morning. Fortunately I live near Newland Avenue where there are still proper greengrocers who sell loose vegetables and fruit. I just need to remember to look for the paper bags to put them in; they are usually near the mushrooms. But should I buy Fairtrade bananas wrapped in plastic, or nonfairtrade which are loose? Arrgh!

I remember to buy my cheese from the delicatessen so that it's not in a plastic wrapper, but I can't think of any way of getting yoghurt that isn't in a plastic tub. I've bought some unwrapped bread, so I can make sandwiches for my lunch, though using solid butter straight from the fridge is a bit hard to spread. I'll resist crisps and biscuits; I should be eating less of them anyway.

The postman has delivered one of those magazines in a pesky plastic wrapper. Whatever was wrong with paper envelopes?

I'm going to a meeting this afternoon, so I must remember to take my reusable cup in case they use the single use plastic ones. I bet the milk will be in those fiddly little plastic thingys though.

My husband often brings a takeaway home on a Friday evening. If it's Indian it will be OK because they use aluminium containers, but the Chinese uses plastic containers. I do keep them to reuse, but now I have so many they fall out of the cupboard when I open the door.

So how have I done?

6/10 could do better? Someone is suggesting we try Plastic Free July; that's a challenge too far for me!

How did you do?

Hilary

A big Bee Count *thank you*

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Great British Bee count between 17 May and 30 June 2018. This will provide essential data about the bee population that will be used both for scientific research and to support our campaigns. Thanks also to Helen Harrison, members of project thirteen, St Augustine's Brownies, St Vincent's Craft Club, Paul and Jackie Rennison, the Rowley Family, Carole Bell, Eileen Harland, Keith Riseam,

Jean fields, Stuart Blagg and anyone else we may have forgotten for the brilliant BEE DISPLAYS in the planters on Newland Avenue. These livened up the street, became a talking point for visitors and raised awareness about the disease and threats to bee populations world wide.

The project invited people to take seed bags and plant in their back gardens to support bee welfare.

Karen Wood



PHOTO: Karen Wood



Ineos approaches government for new 'fracking for plastic cracker' in Hull

Concerns have been raised by local residents as the company INEOS announced plans this week for a €2.7 billion project to create a controversial ethane cracker in East Yorkshire.

The company is currently in talks with the Government and is seeking to secure financial support for a possible location at Saltend near Hull.

INEOS, who are yet to determine the location of the site, are also considering a location in Antwerp Belgium.

The cracker plant would produce ethylene to manufacture materials used in plastics. The project is expected to be completed in four years.

Ethane is currently shipped in on large 'dragon ships' to Grangemouth in Scotland, but the fact that INEOS holds stakes in PEDLs (Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences) throughout East Yorkshire and the north of England, could mean that the material is sourced from closer to home, if the many frack sites required get the go ahead.

The residents' group Frack Free East Yorkshire say that 'Frack Pads' feeding the cracker could be positioned 10-15 per 10km², industrialising the county and risking air, land and water pollution through leaks and emissions. As of yet, there is no solution to the treatment of the huge amounts of contaminated waste water produced, a risk to the health of residents in the Hull and East Yorkshire area.

According to the group Food and Water Watch, cracker plants have been controversial, particularly in the USA where they have caused a number of problems; they emit large amounts of toxic air pollution including nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds. This can contribute to ozone creation and increase airborne particulates, which can cause low birth weight in babies, respiratory disease, pulmonary disease and even premature death.

A spokesperson for Frack Free East Yorkshire said:

"Television programmes like 'Blue Planet 2' highlight the impact that plastics are

having on our environment particularly on marine wildlife. INEOS wants to produce more plastic than ever and has a poor environmental track record.

Theresa May said that 'plastic is one of the great environmental scourges of our time' so how can the government support this?

Members of our communities, councillors and MPs should be concerned".

She went on to say:

"Hull is threatened by rising sea levels due to climate catastrophe.

We should continue to lead the way in renewable energy and we need to push for climate jobs, such as jobs within better public transport services, jobs in home energy efficiency and so on. We should not be looking to the fossil fuel industry that will ultimately harm our area if fracking and its infrastructure smothers and pollutes the county."

Further info on Food and Water Watch website, eg <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/insight/how-fracking-supports-plastic-industry>

Press Release from Frack Free East Yorkshire 4/7/18



Green Fair On Saturday 20 October 2018

Set up stalls from 9am

Open to public 10am to 3.30pm

Clear away 4pm

At Cottingham Civic Hall, 1 Market Green Cottingham HU16 5QG

We are very pleased to have booked this venue which is now run by a Trust of local people and is buzzing with events.

It is very well served with parking, buses and trains, and is in the centre of this large village so should attract shoppers.

As we are holding the Fair a bit earlier in the year than usual, we'll be taking stall bookings *from the beginning of August*.

£15 for a stall including table. Growers, environmental campaigners and educators, recyclers, craftspeople, 'green' businesses, acoustic musicians, you are all welcome! We should have our Green Café too.

Contact: hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk Tel 01482 445747



What's going on round here?

South Holderness Countryside Society

Readers of Hull ECO who are interested in Holderness might consider joining the South Holderness Countryside Society. Founded in 1983, it is based at the Ivy House Centre, converted from farm buildings in the village of Hollym, between Patrington and Withernsea. The centre has an impressive collection of books on wildlife, especially birds, as well as a small classroom, and regularly hosts groups from local schools. A Young Naturalists Club, for children of primary school age, also meets there twice a month.

The SHCS owns and manages two small nature reserves, Hollym Carrs and Toffling Hill, both within walking distance of Ivy House, as well as the Beacon Lagoons wetland area near Kilnsea. There is a winter program of evening talks held in Patrington, and a small Journal published twice a year.

SHCS rely largely on volunteers, and would welcome new members – membership currently costs £12 per year, or £14 for a family. Details of the activities and how to visit the centre or reserves are available on their website www.holdernesscountryside.org

SHCS are holding an **Open Day on Saturday 21 July from 12.00** at the **Ivy House Centre, South Carr Dales Road, Hollym HU19 2SQ**. There will be activities for children including pond-dipping, also a guided walk around their latest nature reserve at Toffling Hill. Refreshments available—but bring a picnic if you need more than that. The centre can be reached by bus as it is close to the A1033 west of Hollym on the 75,76, or 77 bus routes).

Rohan Lewis

Bridlington Vegan Festival

Takes place **Sunday 5 August 2018 from 10.30am at Bridlington Spa, South Marine Drive, YO15 3JH**. Delicious vegan food, live music, speakers, cookery demonstrations, yoga, holistic therapies, stalls with vegan, ethically produced, eco-friendly products, and children's activities. Tickets £3 in advance from www.bridspa.com/events, or £5 on the door.

DropPoint

We are a charity match-making service for people who prefer donating items direct, so they can see the impact their donations are having. We have 62 grass roots organisations signed up so far and growing. Anyone can use DropPoint.org to see where they can donate their unwanted goods. We also have the cheapest 10kg postal service in the UK for anyone wanting to send items further away to specific causes. We have a twitter @DropPointLive and a FB page www.facebook.com/DropPointLive if anyone wants to see what we're up to.

If for some reason you cannot reach me on this email address (lots of updates are coming to our website shortly) you can email me at my personal email address (evalynnekimberley@googlemail.com).

Evy Kimberley



Tel: 07450 818 664 Web: DropPoint.org

DropPoint.org

Hull Food Partnership

launched the Hull Food Charter in June. Hull Food Charter has been developed through wide ranging consultations with organisations, businesses and individuals working to tackle key issues we face around food in Hull. The charter sets out our aspirations for Hull as a sustainable food city, addressing food poverty, better access to fresh and healthy produce, increasing food skills and knowledge and supporting sustainable local food production, procurement and enterprise.

See www.hullfoodpartnership.org.uk

Message from Timebank

Freedom FEASTival—WE NEED YOU

Freedom FEASTival 2018 is on Sun 2 Sept 3-6pm in Hull.

We would love everyone who has contributed in the past to the Hull Harvest FEASTival and last year the Freedom FEASTival, to get involved again. And we would really love more people to get involved too. As they say many hands make light work! It is an amazing thing to be part of and we want to demonstrate what can be achieved by sharing. We need veg pledges, help with cataloguing equipment (this is soon), people to prepare and cook, serve washer uppers, stores people, people who can harvest produce. More details here <https://www.freedomfestival.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/19749.003-Feastival-volunteer-booklet-16pp-Web-1.pdf> and sign up <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/feastival2018>. If you have any questions, or would like to know more, give Kate a ring on 07545696007.

Hull Community Diggers

In January's ECO we reported that Recycling Unlimited had handed back the lease of the community farm at the rear of Kingston Youth Centre on Beverley Road, and its future was uncertain.

Now existing and new volunteers have joined forces to form Hull Community Diggers and taken on the site. They have built raised beds and are growing vegetables here and in the polytunnels, and are tending the 'pocket park', which is a lovely place to enjoy a break.

Everyone is welcome to join in Mondays to Saturdays, 10am to 12.30pm. Look out for forthcoming **special activity days**. News on Hull Community Diggers Facebook page.



Glynis and John prick out seedlings

Tenfoot Gardening

Do you love fresh vegetables, but lack the time, space or knowledge to grow your own? If so, Tenfoot Gardening is for you!

Tenfoot Gardening allows you to easily grow the maximum amount of veg with a minimum of cost, effort or space. All you need is ten square feet of space, whether a raised bed, border or other plot of land, then we'll guide you through the rest, with our blog offering help, hints and tips on how to set up and maintain your own Tenfoot Garden.

We offer seasonal seedling deliveries, along with our special soil mix, through the wonderful local Social Enterprise *Frith Farm*. We can also provide the actual wooden bed frames, via the brilliant local charity *Recycling Unlimited*. Full instructions and our specially designed planting plan are included with every garden.

You'll be eating your own delicious home grown veg in no time!

www.tenfootgardening.org
or ring 07421 118639

Note: Yes, you can still buy planters etc from Recycling Unlimited:
www.recyclingunlimited.org.uk/index.php/garden-furniture

Polyculture course

The WEA are running a taster course an **"INTRODUCTION TO POLYCULTURE"** on **Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 July** from 10.15 am to 12.15pm, at Hull Community Diggers site, rear of Kingston Youth Centre, Beverley Road, HU3 1YE.

The course is free to attend.

Contact: Julia Thompson:
jthompson@wea.org.uk
Tel: 01757 638615



Transition & Permaculture Hull

CONSTABLE Community Allotment
Friends of Constable Street Field

Transition & Permaculture Day
at
Constable Community Allotment
Constable Street, Hull, HU3 3DF

Sat 11th August 2018
11 am to 4pm FREE Entry

Transition Towns

- Stalls
- Pizzas
- Speakers
- Workshops
- LIVE music
- Activities for kids

Refreshments
tea, cake
Pizzas - baked on site!

07816 141169 lausannet@yahoo.co.uk
www.transitionhull.co.uk

Funded by The Permaculture Association
www.permaculture.org.uk

change your world
Permaculture ASSOCIATION

PHOTOS: Hilary Byers



Sue waters the *pocket park*



Raised beds at Hull Community Diggers, behind Kingston Youth Centre

Building a Roundhouse

on

Constable Community Allotment

Photo key:

- 1 Laying out the position of the post holes
- 2 Making the post holes
- 3 Using dry cement under paving slabs to create level bases for the posts
- 4 Choosing suitable timbers in Brantingham Woods
- 5 Timber!
- 6 The 'heavy brigade' load the posts onto a trailer to bring back to Constable Street
- 7 Shaving the bark off the posts
- 8 There is more than one way to remove the bark



2



1



3



4



6



7



5



8

To be continued...

Government announces new measures to back British shale gas exploration

A new package of measures to deliver on the government's manifesto pledge to continue supporting the development of British shale gas was announced on 17 May.

The package includes:

- ▶ Launching a new £1.6 million shale support fund over the next 2 years

to help local authorities dealing with shale applications.

- ▶ Consulting on whether the early stages of shale exploration should be treated as permitted development. *(This means the applications would be treated as too trivial to need a planning application, eg similar to a garden shed.)*
- ▶ Consulting on the criteria required to trigger the inclusion of shale production projects into the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime. *(This means the applications would be too important to*

be decided at local level, eg similar to a nuclear power station or major road.)

Energy and Clean Growth Minister Claire Perry said: 'British shale gas has the potential to help lower bills and increase the security of the UK's energy supply while creating high quality jobs in a cutting-edge sector. This package of measures delivers on our manifesto promise to support shale and it will ensure exploration happens in the most environmentally responsible way while making it easier for companies and local communities to work together.'

From Government press release. *Explanations in italics are mine.*

Hilary

Drax power station aims to cut biomass gases in new pilot

The UK's biggest power station has announced a £400,000 pilot scheme to capture the carbon dioxide produced from burning wood pellets. It is believed to be the first bioenergy carbon capture storage (Beccs) project of its type in Europe.

Drax plans to work with energy firm C-Capture, which is connected to the chemistry department at the University of Leeds. Its aim is to adapt the technology used to capture

emissions from coal and to do the same for wood pellets—known as biomass—which Drax has burned since 2013. The pilot will see the emitted gases mixed with a solvent that "collects the CO₂", which is then stored and prevented from entering the atmosphere, Drax said.

Chris Rayner, founder of C-Capture and professor of organic chemistry at the University of Leeds, said "We have developed fundamentally new chemistry to capture CO₂ and have shown that it should be suitable for capturing the carbon produced from bio energy processes."

From BBC website 21 May 2018

Burned—the movie

Our showing in May at Kardomah94 of the film 'Burned', about the use of wood chips as fuel for power stations including Drax, sparked off a thoughtful discussion. We need to change official attitudes to this fuel, which receives subsidies as a 'renewable energy' source even though it causes massive destruction of forests and worse pollution problems than fossil fuels. We want the film to be more widely shown, so if you have

contacts with a group that shows films, please put us in touch. Contact Hilary (details back page).

- ▶ For a more Europe- focussed look at the problems, see the short film 'Playing With Fire' on <http://fern.org/bioenergy> Some Hull FoE members can be glimpsed for a second campaigning at Drax!
- ▶ For a simple explanation of why burning wood is not carbon neutral see 'The Calculation Error' on www.youtube.com/watch?v=YC4tqu8-oSo . The same address will take you to a lot of short films with interesting future energy sources ideas.

Hilary

Cleaning the beach at Paull *(see article on page 1)*



Counting the rubbish types collected at the beach clean



Enjoying a well-earned drink after the beach clean

TRAVELS IN A VAN PART 6 – Missing and discovering

Sarah and Paul continue to live an idyllic life in South-West Portugal



Photo: Sarah Morris

Three weeks ago we met a chap from Cornwall in Aljezur, a small town near the south-west coast. He lives in a little wood as caretaker for an artist family, near a village called Rogil. The family's house is on land of about an acre. He will be assisting them back to the UK for three weeks over Christmas and New Year. He's looking for someone to keep an eye on the place, so here we are.

However, I miss our previous volunteering post. (I described it to you in part five.) Most of all I miss the joy of Rick and Sanner's son, Xavier. The little boy of one and a half is such a delight, everyone soon falls in love with this happy little chap. Watching as his little toes curl round rocks, he walks sea-legged, arms as an orang-utan. 'Ander' he thinks is the name for the dogs; it means something like 'come'. Their dogs are a bit wild, a bit of a wandering wolf in them. They enjoy the taste of fresh meat; the neighbours are not happy.

Their home was constructed on an old footprint, under new building regulations which conserve tradition. The government of the region is keeping crass modernity at bay, preserving culture, knowledge and aesthetics. Constructed of cob, the house stores heat, whether from sun or wood-burner, for half a day.

Their valley joined a string of grazing pastures; it narrows as a tiny hillock forms on the other side of the stream. Steep hillsides hold huge cork-oak trees; I estimate some being over 300 years old. Cork-bark evolved to save the trees from fire and they are one of the few ways the local economy crunches on. Unless stripped or burned the trees will not survive, so a co-dependency has formed and another traditional skill has been preserved. The next field in the succession is a surprise; an orchard of unripe oranges. Sounds of water, a great eucalyptus makes a bridge and brings us to the neighbours' hillock. The steep climb reveals no human at home, but a guard of chickens and a hostess, the friendly four-legged kind.

I also miss the solitude. Alone I don't feel isolated; I expand to fit the gaps, filling the space with my soul. As I breathe I melt into all that surrounds me. Shutting my eyes, becoming the smell, the sound, the light through mists; I become no more.

Now, quite encapsulated (as caretakers) in our little pine woods, carpeted by yellow flowers of wood sorrel, we are accompanied by frog and birdsong; it is peaceful. We walk on nearby beaches and dune-topped cliffs, taking in the coastal beauty. Few others to share it, it is a treat just for us. My husband retunes the guitar under the advice of Keith Richards' autobiography, hands it to me and says 'You can play this now', and indeed I can. Another creative string is added to my bow.

The stillness of the woods; tall slender trees breaking the sun into long shards, a cobweb hangs in the air; picked by the light, dusk pink dust plays. A setting for my new adventure, the further discovery of myself.

Sarah J Morris

Will man ruin the earth beyond repair?



The years since World War II have been dubbed by some as the Great Acceleration. In a single lifetime, people have seen remarkable advances in transportation, communication and other technologies, which have brought unprecedented economic changes. Many enjoy a standard of living once thought impossible. In the meantime, the earth's population has nearly tripled.

All of this, however, has not come without cost. Human activities are said to be pushing the earth beyond its natural cycles. In fact, some scientists say we have entered a new geological epoch called the Anthropocene—an age in which humans are making an increasingly notable impact on the planet.

A point of no return

Is the earth headed for a point of no return? Some scientists feel that the effect of changes can be difficult to predict. Because of this, they are concerned that we might be approaching “tipping points” where sudden and unanticipated climate changes could bring disastrous results.

Consider, for example, the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. Some believe that with sustained global warming, there is a point

where the melt of this ice sheet could be irreversible. This is because ice cover naturally reflects the sun's rays. But as the ice sheet thins and shrinks, the ocean below, which is less reflective, is eventually exposed. The dark ocean surface absorbs more heat, which in turn leads to greater melting. A self-feeding, runaway cycle could be created. The resulting rise in sea levels from the meltwater could spell disaster for hundreds of millions of people.

Mounting ecological debt

Various road maps have been drawn up to deal with the “planetary emergency” we now face. One long-standing strategy has been called sustainable development, which means promoting economic and social growth within the ecological limits of the planet. What have been the results?

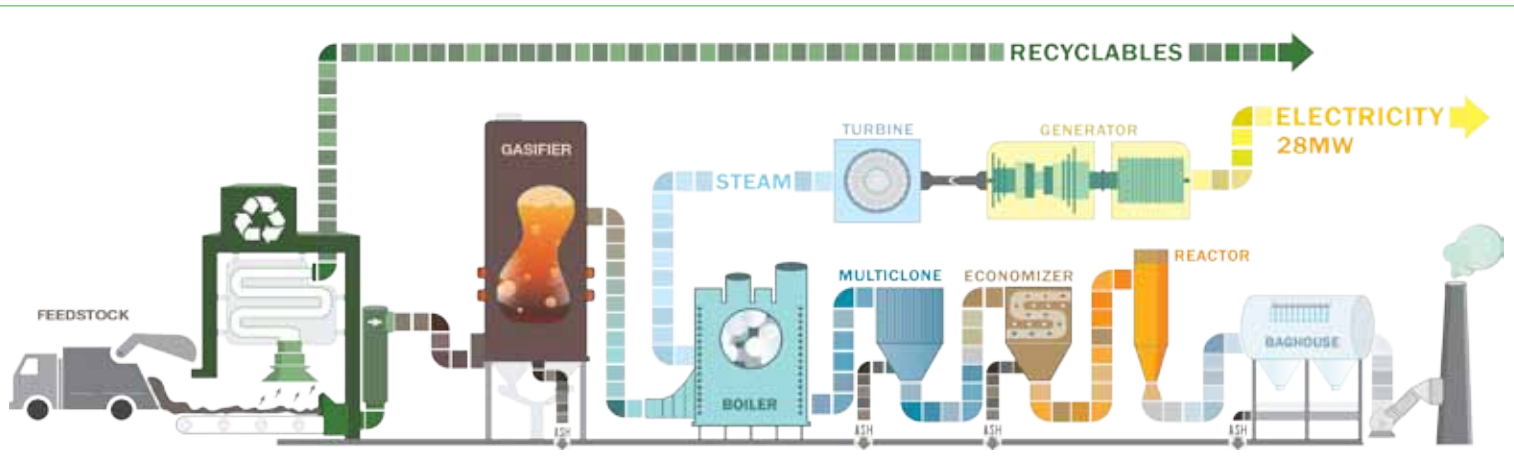
Sadly, like the global financial debt crisis, earth's ecological debt continues to mount unabated. Humans continue to consume our planet's resources faster than these can be replenished naturally. Can something be done? One ecologist frankly acknowledged: “In a sense, we don't have any clue how to manage the planet successfully.”

The earth is far too precious to end up in environmental bankruptcy.

Man's mismanagement of our planet

- ▶ Atmosphere. “There is unequivocal evidence that Earth's lower atmosphere, ocean, and land surface are warming . . . The dominant cause of the warming since the 1950s is human activities.”—American Meteorological Society, 2012.
- ▶ Land. “Nearly 50% of the land surface has been transformed by direct human action, with significant consequences for biodiversity, nutrient cycling, . . . and climate.”—Global Change and the Earth System.
- ▶ Oceans. “Around 85% of global fish stocks are over-exploited, depleted, fully exploited or in recovery from exploitation.”—BBC, September 2012.
- ▶ Biodiversity. “Many scientists think . . . the blame for [the next mass extinction], perhaps the fastest in Earth's history, falls firmly on the shoulders of humans.”—From science.nationalgeographic.com.

David Alexander



Rohan looks at the Energy Works project due to open shortly on Cleveland Street in Hull

Burning rubbish to make electricity

The best environmental strategy for dealing with waste has long been neatly summarised as “reduce – re-use – recycle”. Big improvements in household recycling have been made in recent years (for an overview of ongoing developments visit www.wrap.org.uk), but the average UK bin for non-recyclables still contains considerable amounts of paper, card and plastic which cannot be recycled either because it is too contaminated with food or because it is just the wrong type.

This gives household rubbish (known in the trade as Municipal Solid Waste, MSW) a high energy content, which can be recovered as heat by combustion. MSW has first to be sorted to remove any non-combustible metal, glass etc. and homogenised to produce Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF). A number of UK towns and cities now have plants which use heat from RDF to drive steam turbines to generate electricity, and one is now under construction in Hull, on a derelict industrial site between Cleveland Street and the River Hull.

Due to open later this year, the £200-million project has been funded 90% by private equity, 10% by the European Union. Begun in

2010 by local businessman Charlie Spencer, the project is now owned by Energy Works Hull Ltd on behalf of the investors, and the plant will be operated by ENGIE, the French-based multinational who operate many energy facilities worldwide, from windfarms to nuclear power stations.

Community liaison

The Company recently held a community liaison meeting, which I attended on behalf of Hull FoE, at which they estimated that for its 25-year lifespan the plant would create 27 permanent skilled jobs. Most of the questions from local residents at the meeting, though, concerned the RDF and how it would be delivered. The plant is designed to feed up to 25MW of electricity into the National Grid, and to do this requires 240 000 tonnes of RDF per year, equating to 48 lorryloads per 12-hour working day. The names of the three suppliers of RDF to the plant were not divulged, but it was hinted that one of them has been awarded the contract for disposing of Hull City Council’s MSW, so at least some of the rubbish burned may be local.

Efficiency

The first main difficulty with Waste-to-Energy processes is ensuring consistency of the RDF: even with an advanced combustion process (in this case, fluidised-bed gasification at the base of the chamber, with updraught and combustion of the gases near the top), the potential for corrosion of the boiler tubes if the hot flue gases contain the wrong substances is considerable. The second is that steam turbines are inherently only around 30% efficient—though this rises to 70% if the waste hot water can be used in a CHP (Combined Heat-and-Power) scheme. A basic diagram of the plant available on the Company’s website www.energyworkshull.co.uk shows that space is allocated for future development of CHP, and also details the extensive treatment of the exiting flue gases to ensure that they do not cause air pollution. While it would be preferable if MSW contained less paper and plastic in the first place, in the existing state of society this technology, if it functions as intended, is surely better than dumping it to landfill.

Rohan Lewis



Hull Friends of the Earth

HULL FOE MEMBERSHIP

Contact details		Payment details	
		Please note: the membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March each year.	
Name	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Mx <input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose:	
Address		Membership fee (£10 waged, £5 unwaged)	£
		Donation	£
Postcode		Total	£
Telephone		Please make cheques payable to: Hull Friends of the Earth , and send to: Membership Secretary, Hull Friends of the Earth 187 Sutton Road, Hull HU6 7DP	
Email			
How do you want to receive ECO? <i>Please tick as appropriate</i> By email (in colour) <input type="checkbox"/> In print by post (black and white) <input type="checkbox"/>		I WANT TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER We encourage members to pay by Annual Standing Order. Cheques are being used less and less frequently and a standing order helps you to remember to pay and saves us sending reminders. If you wish to pay by standing order please instruct your bank to set up the payment to: Hull FOE Sort code: 05-05-25 Account no: 27534801	
YOUR DATA IS IMPORTANT The change in General Data Protection Regulation means that we need your permission to hold your data. We will keep your details safe and we will only use them to manage the organisation and keep you informed. PLEASE SIGN IN THE BOX BELOW TO GIVE YOUR CONSENT FOR US TO HOLD YOUR DATA WHILST YOU ARE A MEMBER. <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Many thanks.</i></div>			
I hereby give my consent for Hull Friends of the Earth to store and use the data provided above for business purposes. I understand that I have the right to see the data stored at any time and that I can request its removal at any time. SIGNED _____			

SHARE YOUR NEWS?

Hull ECO welcomes news and views of all things environmental in Hull and East Yorkshire.

Deadlines are the first Tuesday in January, April, July, October

Please send to Hilary (details below).

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