

Camp for Climate Action UK Minutes

4-5 November 2010, Manchester

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Saturday

1. Evaluation

- Presentation about the history of the camp
- Many people in room were at Drax, even more at events following Drax
- Very few people at original organising meeting.

RBS Camp:

- Fraught process of decision making leading up to Camp
- Difficulties in making decision to have a camp.
- Number of different options to choose from
- Decision was made twice, first time pending discussion with Scotland activists
- Put together in extraordinarily short period of time.
- Major difference in terms of infrastructure is that there were less neighbourhoods: but same idea with people camping with people.
- First time we had a camp inside the grounds of our target: we were in the target. The Camp was an action in itself.
- There were also affinity group actions taking place across Edinburgh, interactions
- “Quite Wonderful” Lady Gaga action took place.
- Big “quite exceptional” tarring of the building
- Got really close to the centre of our range
- There was a sense of spontaneity in the smashing windows action, but there was some concerns with the process.
- The media made a big impact in Scotland (“sheer badness”), if not much in rest of UK.
- We were outside Edinburgh, so didn't get much through traffic of people.
- Policing: “no surprises” approach. Through liaison no police incursions.

Comments:

- Police said no surprises: was a surprise we weren't beaten repeatedly. Allowed us to do more action
- Police also hated RBS due to job cuts.
- Media: we did have good reporting, but need to have a strategy for ensuring high impact media coverage. Recently, a group of pensioners occupied bank branches.
- Anger at climate camp due to false police PR smear stories about oil spills. This was the lasting impression. But some of the media coverage in the run up and in the early days was good.
- Credit to the legal team for their work over years leading up to RBS.
- Media coverage: London journalists not going to come to Scotland. We shouldn't gauge our success on media coverage alone.
- The broken windows: that was the image that appeared in press articles. Personal reflection: was arrested in another action and had name appearing next to broken windows, challenged notions of direct action.
- Smash windows: caused tensions with tar sands activists from Canada
- “Thuggish” maybe not the best way to describe it
- People should realise that a broad range of actions happen at climate camps
- ‘Violence’ term is difficult/problematic, see PGA hallmarks change

- Clarification: don't think it was thuggish or damage to property is wrong, but it is about the appearance on the outside
- Really inspiring that it was genuinely affinity group actions at RBS, we didn't try to do a mass action as a whole. Seemed extremely effective.-
- Need to think about how to present disparate actions together as a unified story.
- What's interesting is that CC struggles with its action – what is it going to be, what is its aims, etc. This year seemed different. Maybe worth discussing how mass actions have functioned in the past.
- A lot of actions were very disjointed, random, made it hard to explain to people why we were targeting RBS
- Need to be very careful about what we target
- Broken windows unfortunate, similar to G20 window smashing, media played upon that. On a personal level don't mind breaking a window to get into RBS.
- Community participation lacking, being on RBS property amazing though. But wasn't a place where the public could just wander through and talk to us. Seemed to be animosity locally because of restrictions on roads etc.

Crude Awakening

Description:

- Had a good interesting eye catching website. Initially told 3 blocs with separate targets in the centre of London
- Regional groups had different roles in the process
- Had different outfits etc
- Set off from 3 different bloc meeting points, being told where to go at last minute
- Got onto a train heading out of London, other blocs also there. Message given to everyone that we were actually going to the biggest oil refinery in the UK, at Coryton in Essex.
- An all-female affinity group had already blockaded the road but we need to get there and strengthen the blockade
- Lots of equipment given out, loads of arm tubes, etc.
- Got off the train, blocs split again
- Not too much probs with the police, some dearrests on the way, picked up bamboo tripods
- A bit of stopping and searching
- Arrived at the road and blockaded it in two places – one for each group. Took the road relatively quickly and successfully. Held the space.
- Held the space throughout the day, police didn't really try to break it up
- Allowed workers to drive out
- Towards 4:30 started to discuss how to disperse
- The two blockades joined together
- Left as one big group staying together and got train back to London

Reflections:

- Feedback from RBS was when you go to an action you have to be prepared for “spikyness”
- Seemed evidently taken on board at Crude Awakening, everyone was up for it
- Equipment: quantity and quality was fantastic
- Bamboo tripods are a great invention
- 9 tripods were up within 90 seconds or so

- Having so much equipment meant that people who might not have used tripods, arm tubes etc before had the chance to use stuff
- Also meant that it didn't scupper us when police took some equipment
- The misinformation in the run up really helped us
- We left London and went to Essex – totally different police force who weren't prepared
- “Whispering” messages was effective
- Decision making was also quick and effective on the action
- No arrests

Discussion:

- How much of our success was due to police decisions or our decisions?
- Media: how much was the general public aware of the action?
- Photos of people doing naughty things being posted on the internet is bad
- FIT team were there which was annoying
- Heard about effectiveness in terms of inspiring the movement and media coverage, but what impact did it have on the refinery and the company?
- It did stop oil tankers going in and out all day long, but they probably just drove off later on
- It was an effective action in terms of stopping oil for the day
- The fact that it was kept secret was a stroke of genius and really helped
- Bamboo tripods – brilliant. Safety point: having banners strung between them on a windy day is dangerous! Acts like a sail.
- Footballs to sit on were great!
- Was really energising, nice to go somewhere that is a direct producer of fossil fuels
- Communication was fairly slow to get through
- New people were a bit tense
- The secrecy – it was great but people need to think what would have happened if it wasn't successful?
- We were being misled ourselves, as well as misleading the cops
- Being prepared, what it means to win – discussion about when to leave, most ppl had come for a few hours. We were actually winning, being effective, personally felt there were big reasons for staying. People had come prepared to stay only a few hours.
- If you're in a winning position then we have to push.
- When we organise secretly we don't get to choose the target, how tactically effective was it?
- There was a lot of preparation and hard work which involved just a few people
- Secrecy – felt the balance was just about perfect. It's difficult to get right.
- Farmer whose land we walked over – wasn't very happy
- Was there any outreach done?
- Some informal outreach with people who had come down locally.
- Overall really smooth, second the concerns that we had an easy time due to police behaviour.
- Was part of a global climate justice call-out, but that wasn't really talked about in the messaging.
- Was following on twitter and facebook, don't like secrecy generally, but should never be an organising principle
- Blanket media coverage, very good
- Loads of local papers too
- And some international press

- Most of them carried substantial quotes about oil from us
- Police and media: Essex police had no PR person on that day, so had no PR machine. All that press stuff only had our side of the story, transformed the coverage.
- Past media coverage: Heathrow and Kingsnorth really popular, those were ones where we were fighting actual decisions about whether to do something. This one was not fighting a decision, more abstract ground, but we still got coverage.
- UK Tar Sands Network felt that they didn't have a clue what was going on, was a difficult position due to tensions about tactics surrounding tar sands action.
- Weren't any arrests, but there was lots of surveillance. What about arrests after the action based on surveillance?
- We often define ourselves in relation to what the police do. Need to think about how far we can push based on the police actions.
- Lots of discussion about the secrecy aspects. Tactics used were “mission tactics” in military terms, wider group talk about overall objectives, smaller groups given individual “missions”, take on different aspects. We lied to the police, that was great. Maybe need to discuss whether we consciously adopt “mission tactics”.
- There was a flyer for local people that was distributed
- Messaging good, except needed more about global week action
- Not enough made of the fact that it was an all-women affinity group who did the initial blockade
- We shouldn't write off the concept of open mass actions
- Tensions about tactics with other groups ie tar sands is a difficult topic. Tar sands activists have their own reasons for not damaging property, but we have our reasons for damaging property.
- Police DID try to stop people getting to the road, but was brilliant because people were well up for breaking through the lines
- If the police give us space then we absolutely have to take it up
- Felt there was a lack of narrative around the action
- Struggled personally about why he was going on the action
- Action was not situated within any ongoing campaign – too symbolic
- Seemed weird, particularly as French people were blockading their own refineries etc
- Liberate Tate campaign is good because there's a clear goal
- This one seemed to be in a vacuum, however

Reflection on Process of Climate Camp

- Key decisions are made at national gatherings by consensus.
- System of working groups. Some are continuous (ie Media), others are event specific (kitchens, site). Working groups are given a remit by national gatherings.
- Process group started by coordinating facilitation of national gatherings. Now it also helps communication between working groups and ensure network is running smoothly.
- Finance group manages accounts, finance decisions are made at national gatherings though working group can agree small sums of money.
- Earlier this year there was some experimentation with regionalisation.

Key debates surrounding process:

- Regionalisation
- Certain decisions made badly (ie around RBS)

- How are decisions challenged / when are decisions final
- Process group has too much power
- Role of neighbourhoods (representatives)
- Our representation to the outside world, who decides (especially media group)
- How we work with other groups
- Working groups not always represented at gatherings
- How we work at an international level
- Whether our process is dictated by means or ends – can we be flexible for different goals, are some process elements a tradeoff between efficiency and ideology
- Tension between absolute consensus and trust
- Filling of roles is done by self-selection, not deciding who is best / has the capacity to fill role

Limits to our political diversity

- We have some clear limits to our diversity: anti-fascist, much of this is covered by safer spaces policies.
- But some is less clear: our politics.
- “What unites us” from 2009 is the fullest statement of our ideals, but is it too weak and does anyone read it.
- In Bristol this year, groups took on drafting a more complete statement of our politics, but process was never completed.
- Some of the most politically radical camp participants have become disillusioned with it and left (but equally people have left from across the political spectrum)

Key debates surrounding political diversity:

- Are we an anti-capitalist movement that realises that climate change is a good strategy or a climate change movement that realises capitalism is the root cause
- How welcoming are we to people with different politics to our own, is climate camp a space to radicalise or a place to unite people already radical
- How much do we want a really detailed statement or a broader, more inclusive one
- Does having explicit radical politics automatically make us less inclusive
- We're not very demographically diverse: class, ethnicity
- Does our choice of tactics (ie camping) limit the diversity of the participants
- How can we practice solidarity with other campaigns and movements more effectively
- Do we define our politics by our actions or our words, primarily
- Does the membership of certain working groups / roles affect our political diversity (as that's our image)

Reflections on Climate Camp's future direction:

- Three perceptions of climate camp's direction, each embody a different perspective on how social change occurs:
 1. Climate camp as an entry point, springboard for other groups to form
 2. Network of local groups taking action
 3. Climate camp as starting a mass movement that takes a diverse range of interventions (camps, day-long direct action)

Other reflections:

- Climate camp as a space to experiment with sustainable living

- How much is the climate camp about its participants' material needs or how much are we working on behalf of other people's needs
- How much are we an event or a movement
- What groups do we want to make links with and how can we: anti-austerity movements, climate change groups
- How can we practice solidarity with other campaigns and movements more effectively

2. Open Space Discussions

Broad themes:

1. What do we want the climate camp process to achieve in the next year
2. What do we want this process to achieve in the longer term?
3. What can we do to link with other struggles / groups in the climate justice movement and beyond?

Discussion topics proposed (grouped):

- Cuts and climate camp: How do we link with anti-cuts /anti-austerity movements, how are they going to affect us, how can we relate our politics to them, in particular our anti-statist stance.
- How do we relate to a broader anti-capitalist movement. What's our priority: system change or climate change
- How can we facilitate an increase in direct action across the UK
- How can we do what we do with less burnout
- Is there any 'positive solutions' work we could do that isn't a camp
- How to go from materialism to minimalism
- What form should climate camp take: Do we move climate camp to more an entry point for struggles, a network of local groups, a mass movement. To camp or not to camp.
- How can we balance consensus with autonomy within a broad movement
- How do we increase our diversity: gender, class, ethnicity
- How do we respond to the change in police tactics
- What tactical diversity should we take on
- Should we hibernate climate camp for six months (so we can focus on local struggles, re-strategise)

The discussions happened.

Notes from the Cuts (sub-group)

The issues that folk want to talk about:

- How to see anti cuts resistance for action on climate change broadly making links
- How do we oppose the cuts in a specific anti-capitalist way
- What actions do we need to take
- Making the connection between growth and anti-cuts and climate issue
- How do we maintain our identity whilst campaigning about cuts
- A climate camp neighbourhood within a place – a permanent climate camp
- How do we frame our narrative about cuts

Action:

- Climate camp to attempt to do what the MST do in Brazil – to go and squat entire areas, living sustainably, defending the space
- Target billionaires highlighting the inequality and the unequal resource use that accompanies it.
- Do we support UK uncut and their targeting of Vodafone
- Outreach network to support generating an understanding of the cuts as a wider problem

Anti-Cuts story:

- Making links between cuts and wider systemic problems
- Do we get involved in actions that are happening anyway? Do we get involved and try and make sure that the message says something about climate
- Do we need get involved in the politics of austerity

Discussion on mass action linking climate change and the cuts:

- Proposal to coordinate a mass action for before the budget is announced in April that links climate and the cuts. Build a coalition of climate and anti-capitalist groups.
- How do we talk about climate change without 'hijacking' the cuts agenda? We don't want to look opportunistic. Does it matter if we annoy certain groups? We've done something similar with the G20 before, with success?
- Climate change can allow us to link the cuts to a wider political perspective: the effects of our social and economic system.
- Climate change can be linked with austerity – currently causing austerity in various parts of the world, we'll be poorer if we don't act on climate change.
- Governmental or financial target could allow us to talk about both. The connection is simple: they've stolen our money and they're using it to subsidise companies that destroy the planet and make big corporations even richer. RBS still relevant. Government releasing budget (careful to not be radical lobbying). City of London. Eton.
- Climate camp won't be the only group taking action on cuts, we shouldn't limit ourselves to being a catch-all group.
- Our coalition could include CCA, Plane Stupid, Earth First.
- Rather than create our own coalition, could we work with other coalitions: UK Climate Alliance (coalition of grassroots climate change groups that London Climate Camp is participating in), UK UNCUT (small group that coordinated Vodafone action), Coalition of Resistance (riskiest politically but biggest chance of breaking out of our network. Have meeting on 27th of November that we might need to be represented at).
- How would our tactics be limited by interacting with coalition.
- We need to facilitate an action that isn't just a march. We have these skills to make successful mass actions.
- Alternative: Occupy. Inspiration by the Brazilian MST – squatting on farm land to redistribute property ourselves. We could use our network to squat / occupy private land. Are we the right groups?
- Key decisions needed from gathering: whether climate camp is committed to a cuts action, how we relate to other groups, target, what type of action.

Notes from what form should climate camp take?

- Climate camp has always been a collection of individuals with a mixture of ideologies, and strong for its broadness and inclusiveness.

- Climate camp is weak because it hasn't defined its politics. It makes communication of our motive behind our actions difficult. Some people want to know that others are coming from the same place.
- We've clarified our collective position on a lot of issues: authoritarianism, capitalism. Doesn't mean there aren't some people involved in CCA that are still unclear.
- Do we want to police the ideology of those that get involved in CCA. If so, how.
- Our actions speak louder than our words, in terms of how radical we are.
- Our capacity is lacking. This is partly numbers. Also partly we're less able to impassion our participants about putting energy into taking action (and inspiring new people).
- Lots of grassroots movements have failed once they reach a certain size and age. Big groups receive most focus and criticism. Old groups tend to bureaucratise. Politics and tactics get stale. Are we just suffering the same.
- Why does Greenpeace survive. Is it just money. Or clear organisational hierarchy.
- Is our short lifespan necessarily a failure. Could insisting on survival of our current form harm what we've gained.

Proposals:

- To organise a meeting called "Cuts / Climate / Capitalism" that's separate from CCA

Notes from Climate camp hibernation for 6 months

Proposal:

- The climate camp national gatherings is paused until May
- Explicit callout for discussions and decisions
- There's going to be lots of actions by different other groups
- We still have a newsletter and website to communicate between different groups
- We meet up for a networking event in late March
- Working groups can continue if they want, possibly working with local groups

Pros:

- CCA is valuable but has lots of serious problems that it isn't succeeding in overcoming despite lots of "where next" discussions (there's no clear narrative, our local groups are isolated from their local areas).
- By keeping CCA alive and putting on actions with few people we're exhausting ourselves, putting off important decisions about strategy and running CCA to the ground.
- Dissolving the national process will give more space for these discussions and decisions locally. Local groups have more continuity of who is involved.
- Local groups are better at including new people.
- We can experiment.
- We can give other groups space and give people space to get involved in other groups.
- We can rebuild bridges with other groups.
- Launching into action on austerity prematurely could be damaging. Cuts aren't going away.

Cons:

- We could lose 6 months of national climate action
- We could kill the CCA, which has lots of strengths
- Gatherings are good at including new people
- New people could be disillusioned and disempowered if CCA disappears just as they've arrived

- Gatherings provide a structure for strategy discussions, which we should be confident we can overcome
- We're good at organising actions and they unite us nationally
- Gatherings are important for networking and cross-pollination. If they aren't formal, networking will happen informally so less inclusive
- Gatherings give unity and direction to local groups, they often dissolve without national coordination

Points:

- Could we have a halfway house: shorter hibernation, a spokes council of neighbourhood (but does this place unnecessary restrictions on local groups, assume neighbourhood structure is working).
- Should we have a formal mechanism to make sure these discussions happen
- Should we have an indefinite pause and wait for something to rise up in the void that's left
- Is this the best way to strengthen the movement (strengthen local groups, clarify our political identity, increase our demographic diversity)

Other notes typed up later – see end of minutes.

Sunday

3. Proposals and feedback from Open Space

Radical regeneration proposal

- Idea is to take land and regenerate it in a similar manner to the landless movement in Brazil. Proposal is to form a working group to develop the proposal further. Will give progress updates at the next gathering.
- 5 mins discussion on proposal: will be in urban areas. Will need to engage with the local community (very important). When new space is taken, a nationwide group helps take and defend.
- PROPOSAL: To develop the idea of a radical regeneration project (similar to a climate camp neighbourhood)

CONSENSUS (no stand asides, no blocks)

Back to basics discussion (about 5 people)

- Had a discussion about 'climate camp back to basics'.
- Came to agreement on what the base of climate camp is.
- Raising a movement, education, sustainable living and direct action.
- Empowering people to find solutions to climate change in an open and democratic way. Have to think about our vision, what kind of society we are aiming for.

Direct action training discussion (3 people)

- Discussed finding existing groups that haven't done direct action but might be interested and getting in touch with them, to create a network? Idea is to have workshops for people who have not done direct action before.
- Idea is to provide space to (especially if there is not a camp next year) where people can come

and learn about direct action.

- Haven't spoken to action support (idea is to do outreach to groups who aren't already involved in direct action tactics)

Cuts discussion

(will come back to this later in the agenda)

- Encourage people to go to coalition of resistance meeting on 27 Nov (where they will decide their manifesto) , to try and represent our politics etc.

Discussion on 'what kind of form climate camp should take' (about 30/40 people)

- Discussed what we currently are (do the camp, network with other groups, do various other activities)
- Feeling of frustration with previous 'where next' discussions (feeling that they were trying to cover too much)
- Some felt we needed to change name, some not
- Issues about capacity (some people put)
- Some felt we were just going through a natural limit, that many hierarchical organisations do
- We have reached the size where we attract a lot of attention and criticism
- Feeling that it is important to move to on and stay relevant-
- Questions about how much of a shared identity we need to take action together etc.
- Discussed suggestion from other group to have a 6 month break.
- At the end there was a desire for movement and change, but that not a clear idea about what change. Desire to have lots of space on Sunday to discuss this

Feedback from group that discussed climate camp having a break (about 10 people)

- Was discussing possibility of climate camp having a break, to reflect/rejuvenate.
- Proposal is to have a period of time (6months) where we don't ask any big questions, don't do national gatherings. So people have time to reassess, to work with other groups, to get involved in anti cuts stuff etc. Idea is that we will then come back with a better idea about what form climate camp will take and what we are going to do.
- Newsletter and working groups that want to can keep going.
- There was some concern about us not doing anything. Was discussion about what to do in this period to make sure we are using the time usefully.
- Possibly have event/discussions on: non-hierarchical organising; if you are anti-capitalist, what are you for?; how do social movements grow?

Clarifications/questions (will be discussed later):

- Is it just for the national process? (yes, local groups do what they like)
- Is the proposal to organise learning events? (we need to work out what the events will be)
- Still up to local groups if they want to organise a national event. How will we deal with money (ie no national gatherings to decide)
- Won't it actually be a break for 14 months (as if we don't meet till may, will be very difficult to organise an event in summer)
- How will not having meetings sort this problem out?
- May want to reconsider after coalition of resistance meeting on 27 Nov.
- How will we ensure that it doesn't mean climate camp will just stop
- Who is it that thinks because they are tired and that this means we should stop climate camp

- Maybe we should see who thinks we need to change something and who thinks we don't

Will come back to all these points later.

4. Lessons from other movements

- Lots of other movements, struggles etc. have gone through periods of change. Purpose of this session is to look at what has happened in other movements to inform what we do
- Showed graph about social movement theory
- There is increase in movements awareness, followed by an increase in opposition to those in power's ways of organising stuff
- There is a delay however in support for the movement's alternatives. This takes more time.
- The important thing is for movements not to stop when they are in this period
- Reclaim the streets had these periods too.
- First period was quite small, had a pause when road protests were happening, then came back better organised and became much bigger.
- What happened with climate camp movement over the past 5 years, and how is this similar to reclaim the streets and road protest movement.
- Was in a similar political period (Tory government was screwed and were going out of power), got a lot of support because it fitted with the media idea about people being in revolt etc. Perhaps climate camp was going through a similar period of support during end of labour
- Lesson is to think long term and be patient.
- Possibility of switching to another issue and coming back later. But will need to have a good idea about what the other issue is that we can move onto
- Reclaim the streets was making progress in anti car message, but tried to bring down capitalism too quickly (!).
- Did however help to spread a movement around the world
- Was partly the embers from reclaim to the streets that led to climate camp
- Perhaps instead of focussing on an ism (ie capitalism), perhaps we need to work on one thing that represents capitalism. May have to see how 'the cuts' could be interpreted this way.
- Why did RTS lose momentum?
- People didn't feel that things weren't growing fast enough. Also coincided with change in positive atmosphere from the media. Tried to move on to capitalism, but without a clear idea about what the way of doing this was. Don't rush it!
- Also the wider context: roads movement and earth first that fed RTS, won in defeating roads program, so those spaces no longer existed.
- Seattle: RTS created anti capitalist understanding in UK. RTS wasn't able to adapt to the political situation. Things change, groups don't respond and can then die out.
- There is a perception that awareness of climate change is dwindling and that is maybe scaring us a bit.
- RTS hiatus was driven by passion, rather than decision. At the end of reclaim the streets – there's was lots of demonising of RTS in the media – but there was a massive influx of people, but no structure to deal with it. This dovetailed with an ideological, philosophical approach of de-centralisation. This led to lots of other groups forming, but nothing cohesive bringing it together. EF kind of got stuck and couldn't change things.
- Anti capitalist message from RTS was partly continued despite RTS disappearing.
- Someone from Transition Buxton: having a lot of trouble getting land etc. have followed

climate camp and impressed. Feel you need to be supportive of something positive, rather than negative. Perhaps need to get behind a company that could do something positive. Maybe need to support market mechanisms.

- Had wins with RTS when it was pre-election. We have had wins post election, so perhaps there is a different dynamic?
- Wins that we have had were pretty apparent pre-election (Heathrow and Kingsnorth). Greenpeace are also having trouble getting media coverage for climate change at the moment, despite doing quite dramatic things like confronting off-shore drilling.
- We need to realise that it will be more difficult than before, but that we need to stick with it.
- Looking at past movements and how they have worked. Resist mobilising theory: about external factors influencing their growth. New social movement theory is about creating your own factors (and not relying on external ones). For example the cuts have the public consciousness, climate change doesn't, can we find a way of combining the two? New social movement theory says the more successful movements create their own factors.
- Important to keep our nerve. Some of the people who want to take a rest are those that have kept things going. There is something wrong with the way we are organising that has led to this. If we don't want to burn out the most dedicated people we need to address this. We have to have respect for new people, but it is important that those who have been doing most of the work also get a lot of respect. We are at a crunch point, this would be a disastrous point to stop!
- Don't agree about what happened with EF. Activists can get bored of an issue. We have to be ready for this.
- We are also a project/group. Difficulties in non-hierarchical groups as there are various people going through various points in the progressing of a social movement at the same time.
- Part of the problem is that there is an organisational crisis at the moment. Having months off will not solve this.
- Difficult to know how to get involved for new people.
- Having a break can be counter productive, as after the break it is the people who needed the rest who are asked to start everything again.

5. Having a break proposal – part 1

Spectrum line on should climate camp take a break to reorient and restructure?

- Most on the 'no' end

Small groups feedback

Group 1

- Proposal: 3 month period with no actions. In the time between now and then things that need doing
- Re-evaluation of what working groups need and what their remit is. Working groups to manage the 3 month process. The Feb gathering would be to work out what the issues are. Skill-share to make it accessible to step into the working groups

Group 2

- It is a structural problem. We need a meeting to (a) skill up the people for working groups (b) resolve structural issues.

- Need a working group to work on structural issues prior to the meeting
- We need a working group to take forward the cuts work
- We need a space to dream. Maybe this will happen first in friendship group?
- Make it really clear to people that the next gathering is about dealing with structural issues
- Weekend pow-wow to get to the bottom of the lack of vision issue
- Our structure is adapted to dealing with other anarchist groups but we may need to think about how we deal with non-anarchist groups
- If we do have the next pow-wow in Feb we shouldn't see it as a break because it's normal.
- We need to space for change and for new ideas to emerge
- A group should take on this information widely

Group 3

- Issues identified: morale, burn out, lack of strategy, problems with how we organise and draw in new membership, our meetings themselves aren't terribly inspiring
- We need an open event/gathering that involves some (a) learning (b) re-strategising, reorganising, re-visioning (c) how to recruit new members. It should be in a beautiful place
- We need a mapping exercise about who is doing what in working groups – how long they have done it for.
- Worried about missing timely action opportunities

6. Finance Report

- Current funds in the bank: £13,500
- Current available funds: £8,900 (subtracting all expenses claimed but as yet unpaid)
- This is incomplete because still haven't received all the claims from the RBS camp
- The budget for the RBS camp was £33,000, so far we have spent £29,000
- How much have we had in donations? Will find out
- Proposals that have been made for this gathering:
 - Proposals £100 for the travel pool
 - Proposal to support transport from Mexico City to Cancun
 - Proposal: Some nhood mini-buses and other transport for the site take as yet unpaid. Don't have exact figures right now.
- Wales asked for a loan for the camp but Police prevented people from getting to the site and got evicted. Were not able to recoup the money. Would like to request that part of the loan is written off but we need to defer decision on until there is someone at the gathering able to provide a full report.
- We'll come back after lunch with more detail and full proposals.

7. Shout outs

- Happenden Wood in Scotland: extension of the Mainhill camp fighting all open cast-coal mining operations in the area
- Hunterston Power Station (replacement for Kingsnorth). See 'Coal Action Scotland' website
- Huntington Lane. Another open cast coal mine near Telford. In an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Next to SSSI. There is a camp on the site and massive local opposition. They need people to go down. Next weekend they are having an action weekend

- Transition Heathrow: a project in the space where the runway would have been. Squatted community garden called Grow Heathrow. They are about to be evicted. Would like to do full scale resistance and providing training on the full scale resistance
- 20 people on trial for Ratcliffe on Soar action in Nottingham in 2 weeks time. Ratcliffe on trial website
- There is a new campaign being launched on GMO's. Gathering at the end of January
- Earth First Winter Moot in February
- 6th Dec and 21st Dec folk on trail for Manchester airport occupation
Manchesterairportontrial.org
- Crude Awakening was part of a global week of action climate justice/minga global from 12 -16 October. (The 'Minga Global' in defence of mother earth is a day of action called for by indigenous groups from Latin America and elsewhere, reclaiming Columbus Day). Actions happened in at least 20 countries round the world (action reports on the CJA website climate-justice-action.org). Newsletter summary of week of action will be sent round soon.
- Climate Justice Action conference/meeting in Feb somewhere in Europe, probably Paris (will be easily accessible by train). Get involved by joining the CJA organising list, or sign up to the newsletter email: info@climate-justice-action.org
- Portland. There is a new biofuels plant. Those organising resistance would like support from climate camp.

Lunch

8. Finance proposals

- Travel pot feedback – decision was made before RBS camp to fund two people from each neighbourhood – cost about 3 grand – cost a lot of money – perhaps not sustainable to continue this.
- Report on ingoings/outgoings: ingoing was £31744 – outgoing £31555 – this will change by end of year
- Transport costs feedback – one minibus was a national one, not neighbourhood: £350 spend on London, over £900 for East Anglia, and then about £150 on another neighbourhood.
- Request for approval to spend that money – if not given then there is possibility to go back to land group as it was partly their fault.
- Request is to cover £1450 costs for minibuses on land take. Also to go to land group and neighbourhoods to ask for contributions as well (south coast already did this). Consensus reached on this proposal.
- Request for donation towards international anti-COP16 stance (coalition includes Rising Tide amongst many others). Contributions are to cover fares of indigenous communities and subsidise fares of students and youth to Cancun. A contribution would be an effective way of showing solidarity. They hope to raise \$4,000. Question was asked on what would be a suggested minimum.
- Reservations were expressed as these requests have come in before and have previously left us with not much money at the start of this year – but perhaps a one-two hundred pounds not too bad.
- £200 suggested – opinion then expressed that this was not enough. £500 offered as a possible figure.
- Question asked on significance of £500 to climate camp – response was that we have £8000 –

which is not much – so perhaps err on lower contribution.

- Consensus asked for £200 – one stand aside
- Consensus asked for £500 – lots of stand asides
- Consensus asked for £200 – four stand asides – still agreed consensus – agreed to also do call out for contributions
- Final finance call-out for more people to join 'group' – especially those who are still to be signatories do not want to be signatories so more people needed to replace them.

9. Having a break proposal – part 2

- Two issues to resolve: one is forms of organising, second is space for change – bigger questions
- Statement that this gathering demonstrates that it has become evident that we need a discussion on many issues
- Also a discussion needed on 're-visioning' – originally climate camp was an original vision that was made fairly spontaneously, and although there have been some strategising meetings – no real in depth look at it.
- We need to be looking at what we look like to the outside world and what we want to do
- How best to have these discussions – pros and cons presented to gathering
- Organising group to be smaller than visioning group – working over a longer period
- Second group could be much larger and welcoming
- Other opinion is that both could happen simultaneously at a large, extended gathering – much freer form
- Questions like how soon, how long, where, etc... that need to be sorted out – but main question is whether to have one or more events to sort these issues out.
- Spectrum line on the one/two event question to see if can be solved easily
- Concerns over doing it at one event partly due to the time it would take – making it less accessible due to locations, jobs etc... - whereas with two, more people could be catered for.
- Response that having a couple of events still creates as many costs, issues with accessibility
- In support of one – talked about how at Bristol we tried to have 3 days – and that turned out not to be long enough, but was a good idea – if you can commit to it you are saying that you are committed to being a part of it for long-term and have a good idea of what you are committing to.
- Process point – spectrum line on length of such a meeting if it were to be one event – concentration was over four days.
- Would the meeting be able to take decisions – should be considered for this discussion- perhaps have 5 days of retreat and discussion followed by a weekend gathering.
- Concern expressed about finances for a week-long event in the winter.
- If we have a summer event – that means asking for two weeks worth of people's time – therefore not too fair to say to people 'turn up if you're committed enough'
- At three day Bristol gathering-not many people went on Friday – experiment didn't work very well.
- Key issues to be discussed in small groups – decision making ability of retreat, when/where, how much this is a climate camp thing or not – or is it more general than that.
- Break for twenty minutes into small groups to discuss.

Feedback

- Group 1: No proposal put together – partly due to not having enough time.
- Decision making ability – retreat where there wasn't any decision making power, followed by gathering that was. Retreat would be free-form space without time constraints.
- Wanted clarity on what would be going on during retreat – or whether completely free-form.
- Length of time between retreat and gathering- maybe some time in between rather than running straight from one into other – to enable more time to reflect on retreat outcomes.
- When – concern over fact it would be in winter. Concerns over date being later than February would mean summer event would be harder.
- Five days isn't long enough anyway -
- Where – somewhere beautiful, possibly with nice farmer
- How much information people should have at retreat – how much they should be coming with – i.e. what happens between now and then – coming to retreat with info and ideas rather than having same discussion again
- Discussion over name – led to discussion of whether this retreat is internal/external – are we trying to bring new people

Group 2

- When – towards end of February.
- Only one event – people on a journey together
- It should have decision making power – but this should be worked out carefully – i.e. who is invited to the event
- Possibility of climate camp hosting the event – but not dictating it – this means that we could also have ability to invite specific groups
- Some discussion on content of gathering- themes included – horizontal organising, allies, direct action as a tactic, visioning, models for social change, what strategies to we like/subscribe to, skills audit – our own capacity, what is the our narrative, skill-shares and learning, party.

Group 3

- Consensus was reached on having one long meeting – after 5 years of climate camp time for some reflection
- Because this form is so different it would indicate how serious we are about changing and exploring change
- Decision making – probably not a decision making gathering- characteristics of meeting would be better if it wasn't implementing decisions – but have gathering soon after
- When – February half-term (family/student friendly)
- Where – beautiful – sleep inside – stay warm – not insurmountable problem
- How internal/external it is dictates whether or not to use the name
- Reiterate that it is a separate event to the gathering process
- Having a proper information sharing before event – people arrive knowledged-up

Group 4

- Take place somewhere climate focused – like protest site – non-hierarchical and input from non-climate-campers
- Thursday-Monday running – days are open to workshops/actions if wanted
- Somewhere that encouraged a minimalistic lifestyle
- Some days when decisions can be made – within five days there would be two days for chosen topics to be discussed followed by three days to work on chosen agenda

Key difference between groups is:

- Why to have it at a protest site – makes it more open to other groups particularly climate groups
- also enables us to have a few activities/actions/help out another campaign

Against protest site

- need a space for a focused time to explore change, also we don't want to be using energy fighting cold – possibly Hebden Bridge
- Suggestion of protest site in Snowdonia – would be happy to host climate camp – not sure whether it would be indoor/outdoor, in a beautiful space
- If aim of the event is to give ourselves space then we should not be at a space where we have to focus on anything else – like defending a site, getting cold, etc... - looking for a non-pressurize space

Consensus reached on non-protest site. Sub-group goes away to come back with a firmer proposal.

10. The Cuts proposals

Cuts working group

Proposal: Working group will form to work on how we (as climate camp process) relate to cuts, in terms of narrative and ideas for action.

Discussion:

- Fair number of people would want to be involved in working group.
- Working group needs a name, Cuts and climate change proposed.
- Do working groups need consensus on working group formation?
- Is this different to the outreach group? As outreach group is also about building solidarity with other groups.
- Need a specific remit if its a specific working group...
- Remit suggested: Project group that looks at cuts and climate change, and it works with existing groups that connects to media, outreach etc... [so it doesn't surprise anyone with what it does.]

Final Proposal:

- Working group named, Cuts and Climate Change, will work on how we relate to cuts, in terms of narrative and ideas for action. Remit: Project group that looks at cuts and climate change, and it works with existing working groups that connects to media, outreach and other relevant aspects.

Test for consensus, no stand asides, no blocks, agreed!

CONSENSUS

Coalition of Resistance

Participation in Coalition of Resistance conference on 27 November that is looking at a austerity and response to it. This could be controversial as the coalition that is a mix of people including Counterfire (ex-SWP), Labour left, Greens, also lot of Stop the War Coalition people.

Proposal: On 27th some people from Climate Camp go as delegates with position that Climate Camp wants direct action to be clearly named in constitution, that climate change and climate justice are

named in constitution and argue for non-hierarchy as the way in which decisions in coalition are made. And climate camp affiliates and is on a list of groups against cuts on website.

Why?

1. For climate camp to be a part of cuts movement. Which is what we said we'd do in terms of acting in solidarity
2. Direct action and climate change is in the middle of this

Clarifying questions:

- Question about form of conference and negotiations
- Do we step back or not if they aren't up for the things that we're arguing for, ie. direct action, climate justice, non hierarchy etc...
- Do we have to affiliate, does that cost money?

Response:

- Not sure of form, will probably be SWP-style hierarchical and want to get people on board with some who have an agenda.
- Will be a fight to get direct action mentioned, will probably fail.
- Hard to say lines of whether we affiliate or not.

Points of discussion:

- Not sure about CC name, and CC being signed up alongside other organisations, because of institutional branding of groups.... dangerous idea, go to go but not in name of CC.
- Good idea but concerned about this being sole way we deal with cuts issue... important thing is what we are proposing on the cuts.
- DA is flavour of month so probably go with it
- Raise Climate justice
- Undermining ourselves if we get too involved, and if we think this is only way we connect with people at that coalition, e.g. Caroline Lucas etc
- Exciting opportunity to challenge anti cuts movement to be more radical. Not up for affiliation though.
- Involved in this coalition is not just Stop the War Coalition but also ex-SWP members after a split. The leadership don't have a network of people to instruct any more and they are looking for that network... to tell what to do. Currently weekly steering meeting that we can try to go to. Worth going along, but there is not likely to be space to intervene, it will be a rally.
- Intervention points – stronger to go as climate camp, we can leave if it's not what we want.
- Is there proposal for week of action on climate change and the cuts? People should participate in local groups as Climate Camp so that it's represented around country. If proposal for week of action stands we should push for it...
- Interesting to intervene to see how much influence we have, concern about who the delegates are, should be members from the working group and be a planned contribution not single people.
- Getting involved, maybe its not great as we'd be involved with SWP but we're never gonna do what they want anyway.
- In favour think we should get involved
- Can the affiliation be postponed till properly looked at by a gathering?
- We won't be alone in a room of morons, it's important to talk and make connections

- Tricky thing is if you want weight and to argue for our perspective, then bargaining chip is to affiliate... without that we're interfering with a process that we're not a part of... modification is that next gathering decides whether we disaffiliate.
- We get frightened to affiliated with people, afraid of what we're connected to.
- Don't agree with proposal and could be controversial to approve affiliation given number of people in this gathering making the decision.
- We're still discussing how we reform ourselves, we shouldn't be in a rush... don't affiliate...
- Can create our own politics... counter proposal: support people going but not to affiliate.
- Going with demands and affiliating are different things...

Amended proposal: CC agree that people from cuts and climate change working group go to meeting as delegates and mandate it wants direct action, climate change and climate justice in the constitution and non hierarchical ways of organising, and then see what end result is of constitution bring it to gathering and decide whether to affiliate or not...

Stand asides 2:

- They have more influence on us than we have on them.
- How is the public going to see us associating with a group fighting for money, money is causing climate change.

No blocks.

CONSENSUS

11. International solidarity discussion proposal

Proposal: A workshop at the RBS camp requested time be given at a future gathering for discussion of our relationship to international solidarity movements including Tar sands given the repercussions of criminal damage in the action at RBS.

Concerns:

That don't want to guarantee time as not sure if we can.

Maybe cant guarantee at the next but maybe at the next one...

Proposal: CC will discuss our relationship to international solidarity movements including Tar sands given the repercussions of criminal damage in action at RBS in a gathering (perhaps not the next one but in another one if no space...)

No stand asides, no blocks

CONSENSUS!

12. Next event

Proposal: The event will be:

1. Single free form event held with decision making at end weekend
2. Held by Climate Camp but not a dedicated Climate Camp event
3. Not definite about length, 5 or 7 days
4. February half term
5. Needs a working group to make it happen
6. Working group to explore how to involve people who share or have shared ideas with us

Another point about decision making, can make decisions, but no pressure to make decisions... didn't want to rule out decision making...

Discussion:

- Not clear about how open event is... what is ultimate aim?
- Up for groups with similar ideals to come along.
- Is it labelled as a CC thing or not? Is it neutral space?
- It is a CC event, clear remit of working our stuff out, but want others (allies and friends) to come in to help us... (lots of wavy hands)
- Decision making event at end stops it being something different. And maybe pressure might not be off...
- Week could be a journey, we would have a space that we could take decisions but not obliging ourselves...
- Don't think it's useful to tell everyone we are in a difficult position...
- Need clarity on free form-ness
- Up to working group
- Can it be explicit, the agenda created by participants....
- Worried about how to engage others again
- Important for us to decide how we want to make it work, so don't worry about people coming in from outside...
- Contradiction to have gathering at end when we are trying to create something different.
- Suggestion that we set out narrow set of decisions that we have to make... single session at end in which we decide on them.
- Period of time we're together. Decisions can be made if we feel that's necessary (medium hands)
- Working group who's in that what they going to do?
- Is it going to be the same old people left to do the work?
- Timing: now till Feb isn't lots of time... people doing research... would want to go to better weather time of year..
- Important to get working group established... we should allow leeway on practicalities and if you have issues get in touch with working group.
- Re: clarity, working group autonomy and being formed today. Concerns with how they can be steered?
- We thought use the tools available: online, neighbourhoods, working groups. But we understood that's limited. Additional tool is not setting agenda, so that participants do.
- Who is prepared to take this forward? Do we have the capacity?
- Would this event be taking decisions on finance?
- As well as internet, each neighbourhood had a small group and share info...
- Hands on capacity – yes, there is capacity.

Stand asides 1:

It's too rushed not dealing properly with issues we got

No Blocks

CONSENSUS

Discussion:

- Unresolved: 5 or 7 days

- Five days pros less expenses more focus, cons less time
- 7 days pros lots of time, cons, more expensive, less consistency, less focus

Temp check – it's a mix of length of days people up for...

13. Announcements

- Climate alliance : 3 workshops on building climate change movement from below
- Sat 13th November, Leeds
- Sat 20th November, Oxford [now in January]
- Sat 21st November, London
- Alliance for Jobs, Climate and Communities: build better climate alliance, exploratory meetings about what people want from such an alliance...

14. Open space experiment feedback

- It wasn't quite an open space, fine to make decisions, if it's called open space needs to be open space
- Need more confidence in presentation and description of it
- It was good as it was inclusive, bad that in advance we kinda knew the things that needed discussion and we only started this at the end of Saturday
- But actually it worked cos we're all smiling at the end of a Sunday which hardly ever happens!
- On questions that we needed to answer we weren't able to answer them.
- Not been able to discuss what I wanted to discuss which was fossil fuel subsidies, not deliberately, we just didn't get to it.
- Some people who have been heavily involved in organising previous gatherings have stepped back and others have stepped forward so that's cool, it shows we're rotating roles
- Hard to get used to open space, as it requires confidence and quick thinking
- But have enjoyed it and has been innovative
- Open space worked well for first attempt. Problem was that there was one mass group, and other smaller groups...
- People wanted to get stuff off their chests and were able to, but discussions very hard to summarise. But maybe that's fine.
- It's was interesting that 1st time we've done it and there was resistance. What we gained was that we were able to talk about what we wanted to talk about. How to balance the discussions would have be difficult if agenda was pre-organised.

Anti-Cuts Story

Manchester Gathering November 2010

Open space session

- Capitalism destroying planet and taking money from people who need it
- need systemic understanding of cuts
- current anti-cuts movement narrative:
 - Cuts are inevitable, need to balance budget → inherited from Labour
 - But this is not true → ideological, unnecessary
 - 'right to work' campaign (not very systematic)
- Banks – reckless (greed) capitalism
- Media portray climate crisis + austerity as separate
 - Make connections
- Growth + jobs
 - questioning this is a difficult message to get right
- give up independence through debt
- make links structural → everyday people pay price for small number of people making huge profits (effects time time to filter through)
- Subsidies → huge amount of state money for fossil fuel industry, tax breaks, war → despite huge cuts to public spending
- Not market way of addressing climate crisis doesn't rely on subsidies
- Million green jobs
- Opportunity to challenge growth + current 'democracy' and notions of state
- Need to be specific
- If people want to work they should have the right to
 - Need to be careful to to be patronising to 'the working classes'
 - If the working classes feel that their concerns are being addressed it will have a resonance → will succeed
- Cuts would have happened anyway – to benefit 1 group
- Not necessary get away from 'anti-cuts' ideological restructuring of welfare state → private hands
- who are we talking to?
- Money just shifted → not cuts
- 'Nobody's dispensible'. Hunger + homelessness in U.S – level of destitution will be huge
- What to do? Who to talk to?

-Need to relate to people who will be fighting cuts

-bus fares 'can't pay, won't pay' campaign/action idea

Questions:

- Should climate camp do specific thing related to cuts? Or lend weight to support?
- Demonstrate solution
- need focus/target that connects growth/democracy/cuts + our solutions
- Gap to insert selves – crude awaking style?
- Impact on local communities, raising awareness of effects with local people
- climate camp neighbourhoods mobilise around local actions?
- Are there other groups with anti-capitalist approach to cuts?

- Can get involved in other actions (will happen anyway)
 - go in as Climate Camp + make sure current stuff refers to climate change
 - organise our own actions
 - 27th november, london, Coalition of resistance setting their constitution → intervene?
 - Messgaing? Cuts to lead, or climate to lead?
 - “climate camp has to engage with politics of austerity in whatever we do next”
- middling temperature check
- Agreement on not turning climate camp into anti-cuts movement

Radical Positive Solutions

- Moving Beyond reactionary actions
 - Positive illegal direct actions
 - connecting anti-cuts agenda, connecting to community
 - e.g occupying closed library, building a temporary community centre
 - Drawing attention to positive aspects of actions
 - Taking positive steps to create positive things
 - Self-reliance, resilience, solidarity, natural co-operation
 - Easier to work out what you're against than what you're in favour of, easier to get quick results by being negative
 - Do Climate Camp's stated politics interfere with positive actions?
-
- Tipping point at:
 - Kingsnorth (examples)
 - Transition Heathrow
 - East London Sukkah
 - Kew Eco-village (didn't capture peoples imagination)
 - Looking beyond carbon emissions, thinking about social issues
 - Locations for permanent camp? What message?
 - Making productive use of land, sharing skills, Radical Regeneration (a working group formed out of this gathering to look further into the possibility of a squatted urban permanent climate camp, called Radical Regeneration)
 - Need to tap into sense of injustice people are feeling right now → unfair Land ownership
 - Turning unproductive land into productive land (allotments? → in Cornwall)
 - Contributing to community
 - linked to local community
 - providing a positive example
 -
 - Model for long-term climate camp community
 - needs long term commitment
 - Actions
 - Drawing attention to positives in media communication
 - key positive messages, alternative solutions

Form of climate camp

Manchester Gathering November 2010
Open space session

What we want to get out of this meeting?

- To answer questions about form of climate camping
- Address the question of dissolving climate camp
- Develop the discussion about different types and forms of organisation
- How do different groups relate to climate camp?
- What has changed?
- Why do we need to change?

Ideas/opinions on these questions:

- Yearly camp might be achieved in coalition with other groups
- Shouldn't dissolve
- Should dissolve the camp, but keep the network
- Monthly national gatherings have had their time
- Organising climate camp requires a certain type of organisation
- We're moving in a direction of doing other events [other than the yearly camp], need to keep evolving along these lines
- If we didn't have annual camps we have to invent something like them
- Like us to retain the capacity to organise things like camps without necessarily doing it
- Shouldn't throw away what we have gained organisationally
- There's a danger of us losing focus. Better to dissolve than continue like this
- Isn't accurate to describe us as an annual event (any more)
- Can you have a six month pause and restart -it's a big risk
- neighbourhoods are quite active in some places (example, london) but not in others (example, Nottingham)
- Need the national process to gauge the *eff and flow* [*This is what I can make out from the notes...*] of events
- Concerns that we can lose stuff if we dissolve the national network
- We don't have capacity to do everything
- shouldn't be scared to ask the questions if climate camp should dissolve
- In 2009 climate was in the news a lot, as the cuts are now
- In a few years time the cuts won't be in the news so much
- climate is where the focus should stay
- our name restricts us
- Why are we talking about dissolving?
- We may need to change our name
- it's hard because we've built a 'brand'
- Need to have a long term view
- need to understand there are ups and downs in any movement
- We have the global women's strike

The Camp

- camping is a form of occupation
 - we occupy this space for a period of time. We can keep that without being tied to a once a year event
 - Love being outdoors, doing things with people
 - Summer camps are a great space for creating new groups/networks
 - We raised a whole list of challenges we face this morning (*see Evaluation session*)
 - We've had too many 'where next discussions'
 - Is a Temporary Autonomous Zone where we break the boundaries
 - concern that we don't have the capacity to put on a camp next year
 - Doing another camp has a danger of causing burn-out and resentment building up
 - In an era of reduced resources, does it make sense to do it?
-
- If you make decisions, then you can solve the problems that arise from that decision
 - We made an agreement (Bristol gathering 2010) to have two 'delegates' from each 'region' in the process group- which did not follow through into reality
 - We don't follow through some of the important decisions we make
 - Should avoid avoid one more year of talking about issues we can't resolve
 - We should be talking about what we want out of this process – what is the base minimum we need
 - we should keep the camp as long as there is the capacity to do it
 - we need to deal with problems separately because we can't deal with it all at once
 - Idea for a 'Climate Strike'
 - “I don't care about narratives, brands and forms. I care more about the action itself!”
 - The positive way to get about of this argument -ask, what is the important action to take rather than 'what should we be'
 - possibly changing out name is a way of re-engaging with past networks
 - Social movements have to keep moving if they are to maintain their relevance otherwise we become fossilised. We need to evolve in order to maintain our relevance
 - We look into the possibility of organising a camp in conjunction with other groups
 - reduce the number of national gatherings
 - we have less capacity than last year
 - The state we're in is about repairing the damage to our networking
 - If we took a break till march we could loose what we've got

Proposals:

Organise a separate meeting called 'cuts, climate, capitalism;

A Six-Month Hibernation

Manchester Gathering November 2010

Open Space Session discussing climate camp going into a 'Six-month hibernation':

Why?

- CCA is valuable but could be harming itself by struggling on

- process has lots of serious issues we need to overcome: not clear narrative, separate from communities
- We don't have time or resources for proper collective discussion and decision (→ *A space for change!*)
- Putting on actions with not enough time or people is stressful and means we put important discussions and decisions on hold
- Creates space to get involved more in other groups
- Time for reflection and proposals
- Time to experiment + give other groups space
- Time to rebuild bridge bridges with other groups
- New people are more likely to get involved in local groups
- local groups are more stable for these discussions
- Our local groups are weak + isolated from their areas

What?

- No national gatherings till May
- Newsletter survives
- lots of action under different umbrellas
- networking events separated (from the gathering) – in late march
- Newsletter survives
- Explicit call-out for discussion + decisions (proposals) in local groups during the 6 months

Why not?

- Important strategical discussions + decisions will happen better in a structured national gathering (→ *A space for change!*)
- We're good at organising actions and they unite us
- gatherings allow network-creation + cross pollination
- gatherings give unity + direction to local groups
- 6 moths would actually mean 14 months, since it would pretty much rule out a summer camp or event in 2011 (not enough time to organise from may)

Climate Camp: Back to Basics

Manchester Gathering November 2010

Open Space session

- Distinct Agenda: Climate Change
- Finding Solutions to Climate Change (a single solution?)
- Reacting Against Worldwide events
- 1st step – preventing expansion of carbon emitting activities
- corporate responsibility vs individual responsibility
- corporations have been exploiting weaknesses in human nature
- The camp provides space to meet people + learn, gives exposure to groups + new ways of thinking, as well as to explore alternatives, minimalist, low-energy lifestyles, what kind of future do we want

- 4 principles:
 - Direct Action
 - Raising Awareness
 - Building a movement
 - Sustainable living
- Positive campaigning – how to bring about change re: human nature
- Mass movement
- Creating a permanent 'climate camp'
 - low energy
 - minimalist lifestyles
- Direct Actions
 - Disrupting existing systems has potential to put people off, but does raise awareness through media exposure
- Proposals
 - Re-establish core principles (Direct Action, Raising awareness, Building a movement, Sustainable living)
 - Establish a permanent climate camp based on low-energy, minimalist living
 - Emphasise the 'peoples assembly' nature of Climate Camp process
 - Recognise that Climate Camp's main goal is to find solutions to climate change

'Key Issues'

Manchester Gathering November 2010
Evaluation Session (2nd half)

Organising Structure:

- Cost and relevance of national gatherings
- Uncertainty about what makes a decision final
- Agenda setting (who sets it and how)
- Organising as an end in itself
- process group + power
- what is practical and works / what is democratic
- Neighbourhoods + representatives
- Representation of 'us' to the outside world - especially media → not always represented at gatherings (e.g, this one!)
- Role of the 'camp' as the single focus
- relationships of other groups, nationally and internationally
- Tension between autonomy + consensus + trust
- self selecting roles → capability + capacity not taken into account
 - skill shares could spread capability to others

Limits to/of our diversity (political diversity)

- Safer spaces / equal opportunity policy
- How we practice solidarity
- Who is welcome and who is not
- politics explicit from the start, or a process
- statement ends up being lowest common denominator
- are we an anti-capitalist movement or a climate movement first and foremost?
- Disillusionment of radicals?
- Limit to diversity of our demographic → limits our political diversity
- Do we want a manifesto?!
- Tension between specific or open aims
- specific demands – is that just lobbying?
- Radicality / Militancy vs Accessibility
- Student/young people more involved now than before
- politics through action or words
- roles and diversity → skill share

The movement we aspire to be

- Climate Camp as an entry point → Once a year event (we have tried to move away from this over recent years)
- Network of local groups taking actions on climate + capitalism
 - Network for Climate Action
 - Regionalisation of gatherings
- Movement of people making interventions on a scale over and above the local
- Our relationship to the movement against austerity
- Our relationship to other climate groups
- Form and political strategy
 - Theory of social change
- Being the solution → demonstrating alternatives → positive action, not just 'anti-'
- Material needs now vs our abstract needs to prevent future suffering
 - Reducing personal impact vs changing the world