

Camp for Climate Action Gathering

July 4th-5th, Edinburgh

Key Decisions and Notes

Due to a computer hitch, the original minutes for the Gathering have unfortunately been lost. This document is an attempt to rectify this, and to provide neighbourhoods and working groups with the key decisions and notes they require in the run up to the next gathering. We're really sorry this has taken so long. Please send any corrections to process@climatecamp.org.uk.

Key Decisions

1,000 Cancuns

We agree to back the Via Campesina callout for Thousands of Cancuns during COP16: "We have made a call to create "Thousands of Cancuns" throughout the world and throughout Mexico, during the dates when the COP 16 will take place, in which we, the people, will show our complete disagreement with the false solutions of big capital and bad governments and our firm determination to struggle for the real solutions." (Full text at: <http://bit.ly/aerCv5>)

Defence

To adopt the proposal of having neighbourhood-based Defence Teams, with a suggestion that these are teams of 14, but leaving it up to neighbourhoods how they organise themselves. To request that neighbourhoods arrive at the camp having organised themselves into Defence Teams, and review progress at next gathering.

Decentralised Mass Action

We agreed to adopt the model of organising the mass action, whereby the day of action at the Camp includes a 'de-centralized mass action'. The process will work as follows:

- Agree an aim and target(s) for the mass action. Proposals for this can be made to the next gathering.
- Mass meeting on camp to explain the process of preparing for, and taking action.
- Form affinity groups
- Affinity groups meet to come up with ideas for how we could achieve this mission
- Spokes from each affinity group meet to share these ideas, decide on an action plan, and assign each affinity group a MISSION, For example "prevent cars from entering this gate".
- Affinity groups are free to decide HOW to accomplish their mission, and split into smaller units if necessary. Each affinity group will only know the details of their own action.

Police Liaison

The Liaison team are given the following mandate with regards to the Police:

1. To Liaise with the police on matters of site set-up, site practicalities, and tat-down
2. To educate the police on RBS, capitalism, and climate change.
3. NOT to liaise with the police on Direct Action

4. To act as messengers for the Camp, responding to participants changing wishes
 5. To prioritise liaison with other bodies, such as the council
- The Camp for Climate Action agrees to the proposed statement on the police (see below)

Budget 2010

A full budget for the 2010 camp was agreed (see below), totalling £33,605. It was noted that we have only got about half this amount so we need to raise more money fast.

Next Gathering

We have the next gathering from the 31st July to 1st August in Glasgow.

Key Discussions

Workshops

The following three themes for the workshops programme at the Edinburgh camp were suggested:

- 1) Radical economics and politics
- 2) Movement building and movements in struggle
- 3) Learning by doing

The Workshops group will be inviting people to put on workshops, rather than doing a general callout.

Handbook

A separate working group was set up to put together the handbook for the camp.

Target of Mass Action

A proposal was made that there should be a single target for the mass action, but it didn't reach consensus.

Media Key Messages

Some draft key media messages were presented and discussed, with feedback given to the Media team:

- People are facing massive financial cuts and catastrophic climate change because the government is propping up the rich at the expense of communities here and around the world.
- We are targeting RBS because it's investing cash in big fossil fuel companies like Scottish Coal and Shell, who are devastating the lives of communities in the UK, Canada and Nigeria.
- The Camp for Climate Action will be taking direct action against RBS in Edinburgh this August to take back our future, and create a world based on people and planet, not profit.

Big banner

Lots of different possible banner slogans were discussed. There was no overall favourite, but the most popular ones were:

- The Future: Don't Bank on It
- Make Capitalism History
- Our Climate, Not Your Business

There were concerns raised about all of these suggestions, but none seemed to really cause outrage. These will be fed back to the Visuals group.

Working Groups

The Wellbeing, Kids, Welcome & Tranquillity, Medics, and Workshops working groups were set up. The Site, Legal, Defence, Gate, Action Support, Outreach, Media, Website, International, Process and Finance groups held meetings or gave updates. No Entertainment or Meetings groups were set up.

Neighbourhoods

South Coast, East Anglia, Northwesterly and London reported that they'll be bringing a kitchen to the Camp, Thames Valley that they probably will, Scotland & Newcastle that they might, and Yorkshire that they're unsure. Westside won't, Devon & Kernow and West Midlands weren't present and Wales are holding their own camp.

Gathering Notes

Saturday

Welcome

International Feedback

Idea of 1,000 Cancuns was explained – instead of us all descending on Cancun, Mexico for the COP16 summit at the end of this year, Via Campesina have put a call out for 'Thousands of Cancuns' – for simultaneous protests to occur across the world (see <http://bit.ly/aerCv5> esp. point 4.)

Edinburgh Camp: Political Platforms and Aims

Proposal for a Political Platform for the RBS Camp

I would like to propose that alongside our 3 key messages for the media that we also come up with a 10 point political platform that we can use for outreach purposes. It is arguable that activists have a slightly better attention span for this stuff than journos and that we can develop our own analysis that goes into slightly more detail.

** In order to prevent climatic destabilisation we need to stop burning fossil fuels but leave them in the ground.*

** Unconventional fuels such as the Tar sands will if fully exploited certainly lead to global climate catastrophe.*

** British banks such as Barclays and RBS are major investors in conventional and unconventional fossil fuel exploitation, this disastrous investment must stop.*

** Banks and finance institutions are essential to maintaining the social control of capitalism for the benefit of the ruling class*

** The current growth orientated economic system is addicted to burning fossil fuels, to move away from this we need to radically transform social relations.*

** The exploitation of Coal, Tar sands, Oil and Gas affects the health and environments of communities the world over, many are resisting this locally and finding solidarity globally.*

** Any transition from this unsustainable system requires direct community and worker control, the climate justice movement works in solidarity with these struggles.*

** There needs to be a moratorium on building new coal power stations and existing plants must be decommissioned.*

** Resource scarcity such as peak oil will lead to more economic crises, only the building of energy autonomy and community resilience can limit the extent of these shocks.*

** The false solutions offered by governments and corporations will fail to solve these problems, only a grassroots movement for climate justice and democratic control can limit these multiple crises and ensure that people are best placed to adapt to the damage already done.*

Im sure that media messages contain a lot of this stuff but its good I think for ourselves to set it out clearly and explicitly. I'm attempting to present what I see as the bigger picture that RBS can give us a focus on by bringing in related issues. For me targeting RBS only makes sense when contextualised this way. Does this resonate with people? Any suggestions for revision? other points? What this might be useful for?

FEEDBACK FROM SMALL GROUPS:

No consensus on adopting the statement as a platform of our aims – but a warm response to the ideas in it – main suggestions included making it more positive, not referring to it as a platform, some concern over the focus just on coal and not on all extractive industries, some confusion over what its purpose is – suggestion of it going on the website and in the handbook. Questions on whether this should be a FAQ or a statement of Common Ground.

Discussion of local Scottish campaigns

Lots of support for supporting local campaigns as much as we can and educating ourselves about them – suggestion that Scottish struggles form a strong contingent of this year's workshops programme – a concern expressed that we should be trying to build from existing struggles, not choosing a target and then trying to connect things up. Suggestion that people should read-up on existing campaigns before coming to camp.

Announcements

Lunch

Edinburgh Camp: Form of action

Proposal for a De-centralised Mass Action/Co-ordinated Affinity Action

Mass actions can potentially have a huge impact, and they give the action participants an empowering sense of being part of something big. Affinity actions offer creativity, autonomy, and flexibility in the course of action. This proposal is about combining the best of both mass and affinity actions. The benefit of this model is that on their own, each affinity action is a worthwhile action, however it is also part of a greater whole. If one part fails, it doesnt jeopardise the rest.

How will this work in practice?

Before 20th August

1. At this gathering (3 / 4 July) we decide an aim for the action, eg "prevent X from operating for x hours"

2. Action Support do some educated guess work and get some kit.

After 20th August

- 1. - Mass meeting on camp to explain the process of preparing for, and taking action.*
- 2.- Form affinity groups*
- 3.- Affinity groups meet to come up with ideas for how we could achieve this mission*
- 4.- Spokes from each affinity group meet to share these ideas, decide on an action plan, and assign each affinity group a MISSION, For example "prevent cars from entering this gate".*
- 5.- Affinity groups are free to decide HOW to accomplish their mission, and split into smaller units if necessary. Each affinity group will only know the details of their own action.*

If the gathering decides this model for action, it makes sense for Action Support to take on supporting this to happen. Action Support working group will need 10 people to put time into supporting this process before, and during the camp. Their role before the camp would be: Get kit ready, flesh out the details of the process to make it as democratic and simple as possible. During the camp they would help people form affinity groups, explain the process, provide maps and info, provide comms training, legal briefings, general direct action training.

Initial Discussions with no consensus.

- Concerns were raised including security issues, how people who came later would get involved, how the mass element would work.
- There was also discussion over the need for a fluffier option, the capacity of action support, and questions over whether or not to have a closed working group.

Working Group Time

Working Groups divided into the following (not all met or formed)

Practicalities:

- Site
- Legal
- Liaison

Wellbeing:

- Welcome and Tranquility
- Medics
- Kids
- Activist Trauma Support
- Comms
- Look Out/Gate

Movement Building:

- Outreach
- Social Media
- Festivals
- Media
- Alternative media

-Website

Programme:

-Workshops

-Action Support

-Meetings

Ongoing:

-Process

-Finance

-Fundraising

-Skillshare

Spokes Meeting

There was a spokes meeting for all working groups and neighbourhoods. Finance Liaisons for all working groups were confirmed, and questions for other working groups were identified.

Neighbourhoods reported on the current status of their preparations, including whether they were bringing a kitchen and how many people it would cater for:

East Anglia: We have a kitchen - will check how many we can feed.

South Coast: We are coming, we have a kitchen which can feed 200 (general applause)

Manchester: We are coming, we have people but no tat - suggestion to use Leeds kitchen tat, combine to make northern kitchen.

Newcastle: We are coming, with Scotland as before. Have tat, will talk with Scotland about tea kitchen or fire-pit.

Oxford: Coming, unsure about kitchen situation.

London: Coming, with kitchen, will check numbers. Had a special meeting about organising for camp and lots of people got involved.

Westside: not formally coming

Devon & Kernow, not present

West Midlands, not present

Wales: putting on their own camp

Sunday

Welcome & Housekeeping

International

- Announcements and discussion regarding 1,000 Cancuns call out and October 12th day of action
- Should we back the 1,000 Cancuns callout?
- CONSENSUS
- There was an update that the dates for the October week of action are different from what was minuted at the Manchester gathering – they didn't overlap with the 350.org day of action – dates were changed to match the call-out's dates of 12-16th October.

- There was a call out for neighbourhoods to get thinking about what we could do for these days of action, with the suggestion of an action in the north and an action in the south

Media Key Messages presented

- The three media key messages proposed by the media team were read out.

Spectrum line on the Political Platform statement

- Main indicators emerging from it: lots of people more comfortable with it being called 'common ground' or 'our common ground' than a 'political platform'
- Almost everyone keen on it being 'why we're going to edinburgh' as opposed to being called 'our common ground' – one objection that there was no reference to Edinburgh in the text
- a considerable number of people were not clear what this statement would be used for
- quite a few people were keen on the idea of it taking a question and answer format – an objection was raised that there could be overlap with the media q&as, another objection that these weren't q&as as there were no questions for which these were the answers
- not that many people considered themselves to be part of the outreach working group
- end result: some people, taking these decisions on board, formed a group to redraft the statement before the afternoon session on it

Handbooks and Workshops Group

- explanation given of what the Handbook was in 2009
- no one has currently taken on doing the Handbook this year
- discussion of the merits of the handbook: negative: some people have never bothered to read it, it is a lot of work, it costs 1000 pounds
- positive: generally the room seemed keen to have some sort of handbook – good for new people and explaining practical things about the camp – suggestions proposed as to how to pare it down: make it shorter, black and white, cut the stuff covered by the Never Mind the Bankers newspapers
- conclusion: email list sent around for people to sign up to be involved in the handbook – handbook working group formed (although still financially part of workshops group) – group to make a pared down handbook

Workshops proposed a slimmed down workshops timetable (only 36 workshops across three days), with three main strands:

- 1) Radical economics and politics
- 2) Movement building and movements in struggle
- 3) Learning by doing

Responses:

- that workshops group need to work more closely with action support this year, therefore there should be four strands, the 4th strand being action
- that the three strands seemed very broad and may not have actually narrowed the focus of the workshops programme as intended
- there was some dispute over which days workshops were to be held on – some concerns from site group that the first planned day of workshops would overlap with the building the site day – therefore workshops group to reduce the number of

- workshops to 24
- some concern over how the practical workshops work – would site team be too busy setting up the site to teach people how to assemble compost toilets
- need to discuss local Scottish struggles reemphasized, as discussed in the political platform and aims discussion the previous morning
- generally the themes received well – no consensus needed for this discussion

Next Gathering

Proposal:

We have the next gathering from the 31st July to 1st August in Glasgow.

-CONSENSUS!

Defence discussion

-two different models of defending the camp were proposed – uncertainty arose over the differences between the two different models – discussion over the problem of defense all falling to the same people, need to get neighbourhoods to take a more active role – some people were concerned about the militaristic language of the initial proposal so it was amended

Proposal:

To adopt the proposal of having neighbourhood based Defence Teams, with a suggestion that these are teams of 14, but leaving it up to neighbourhoods how they organise themselves. To request that neighbourhoods arrive at the camp having organised themselves into Defence Teams, and review progress at next gathering.

-CONSENSUS!

-Several Stand Asides

Decision that the group would continue working with their proposal to try out this new model, by approaching neighbourhoods to see what their capacity actually is. Then the group will feedback on progress at next gathering, so everyone can see how well it is working so far. Number of stand asides (7ish) noted.

Action at the Camp

Proposal:

We agreed to adopt the model of organising the mass action, whereby we plan a ‘de-centralized mass action’ during the Camp. The process will work as follows:

- Agree an aim and target(s) for the mass action. Proposals for this can be made to the next gathering.

-Mass meeting on camp to explain the process of preparing for, and taking action.

-Form affinity groups

-Affinity groups meet to come up with ideas for how we could achieve this mission

-Spokes from each affinity group meet to share these ideas, decide on an action plan, and assign each affinity group a MISSION, For example "prevent cars from entering this gate".

-Affinity groups are free to decide HOW to accomplish their mission, and split into smaller units if necessary. Each affinity group will only know the details of their

own action.

-CONSENSUS!

There was also a wide-ranging discussion and spectrum lines about whether we could agree whether it should be a single or multiple targeted action, and whether we could agree one of/the target. Proposals were brought forward from the room including one to have the RBS HQ as a part of the mass action, and one to only have one target. However, these did not reach consensus. Instead, further proposals for action could be brought to the next gathering.

Festival spectrum lines

-A lot of people felt that the Edinburgh festivals were important outreach opportunities, but also that there were increased security threats in terms of people drinking
-Generally there was a sense that people would not be turned away from camp if they were not in Edinburgh because of the camp, but that everyone should play an active part in camp life

Lunch

Common ground statement revisited

- changes had been made to the statement, recognising the concerns expressed regarding an emphasis on the negative and the idea of it being a 'platform'
- the statement wasn't taken to formal consensus, but it was made clear that this statement on why we are going to Edinburgh was a resource that different working groups (particularly outreach, handbook and media) could draw upon and that it was a fluid document that would continue to change

Police Liaison team Mandate and Statement

Statement on the Camp for Climate Action and the Police:

The Camp for Climate Action believes that

a) That the police are part of the problem, not part of the solution; illustrated by their classification of the Camp for Climate Action and related protest groups as "Domestic Extremists". Experience has shown that where police intervene in actions and protest groups, their purpose is to protect the status quo, including the Government and corporations which are both causing and failing to act on climate change. Thus we cannot accept their legitimacy.

b) That engaging with the police is to be done solely for the purposes of facilitating the protests of the Camp for Climate Action.

c) That the police have no role to play in our camps, and we reject their interference on our right to protest insofar as it is physically possible.

d) That the police have proven themselves to be untrustworthy in keeping their word,

and therefore our fundamental stance is to mistrust their promises. We do not believe that they respect the right to protest. While they are on the back foot over the events of Kingsnorth and the G20, we do not believe these leopards have really changed their spots.

e) That dealing with the police is a distraction from the aims of the camp in tackling the root causes of climate change.

Thus we empower the relevant working groups as follows:

1) Legal: to continue their work exposing the abusive process of the police; to continue monitoring and analysing the police; and to work with media and police liaison working groups where messages are to be distributed into the public domain.

2) Police Liaison to be the messengers between the Camp for Climate Action and the Police, and to only negotiate on those issues where they have been specifically mandated by the group they are working on behalf of; and to actively facilitate actions and camps only where asked with the purpose of minimizing impact of the police on CCA actions and camps.

3) Media: to report on the work of the liaison and legal groups, but to be careful to not to provide legitimisation for the activities or existence of the police as an institution. To emphasise that action against the root causes of climate change is always going to be more important than laws that defend the polluters and restrict protest.

Proposal:

The Police Liaison team are given the following the mandate

- 1. To Liaise with the police on matters of site set-up, site practicalities, and tat-down**
- 2. To educate the police on RBS, capitalism, and climate change.**
- 3. NOT to liaise with the police on Direct Action**
- 4. To act as messengers for the Camp, responding to participants changing wishes**
- 5. To prioritise liaison with other bodies, such as the council**

The Camp for Climate Action agrees to the proposed statement on the police (see below)

-CONSENSUS!

-2 Stand Asides: One uncomfortable with ideologically condemning the police. One uncomfortable with criticising police for not obeying the law, when we should be critiquing law itself.

Media Key Messages

-Brief discussion on the media messages.

-No consensus reached, but working groups given a steer.

Feedback:

- it's good to refer to capitalism explicitly

- the third one should be more 'come to the camp' than 'we are creating...'

-Media group went away to redraft based on comments collated.

Big Banner Discussion

There was no overall favourite banner slogan, but the most popular ones were:

1. 'the future don't bank on it'
2. 'make capitalism history'
3. 'our climate, not your business'

There were concerns raised about all of these suggestions however:

- Slogan 1 - that it was nihilistic, or confusing
- Slogan 2 - that it was an activist in joke, most people wouldn't get it and that it set us up for failure as poverty was not made history
- Slogan 3 - concerns were raised about the us and them dichotomy and the possible estrangement of RBS workers (as it is also their climate)

Around seven more slogans were also picked as favourites by small groups, but they did not receive as much overall group support as the three above.

- No slogans seemed to really cause outrage

Working Group time and parallel finance meeting

Working group reports back

Media: Thanks for responses to statement of radical media intent and key messages.

Site: New people joined working group - great. Several questions: 1. What number of participants in the camp should working groups be using as a working figure? 2. Hearth and Home - if neighbourhoods aren't bringing a kitchen can they consider bringing a tea-kitchen or having a fire-pit, so that there are social spaces for people from each region to congregate in?

Action Support: We will go away and try and work with the info from this gathering.

Comms: is underway, trainings planned in Bristol.

Outreach: we have newspapers, flyers, potentially stickers, posters coming soon. get in touch to get stuff to distribute.

Welcome and Tranquility: In the process of forming.

Handbook: working group started, crabgrass started to work on it

Finance: we are seriously under budget. do what you can to raise money fast. The following budget was agreed:

Site 27,295

- Marquees 7,000
- Transport 4,000
- Power 3,000
- Kitchen 3,000
- Toilets 1,300
- Liaison 1,050
- Comms 1,000
- Defence 1,000
- Hay bales 750
- Access 500
- Waste 500
- Plumbing 450
- Storage 250
- Timber 200
- Visuals 165
- Grey water 100
- Tools 100

- Consumables 100
- Tat down 100
- Office 100
- Sundries 100
- Washing 30
- Contingency 2,500
- Outreach 2,000
- Workshops 1,500
- Action Support 960
- Legal 300
- Medics 300
- Kids 300
- Activist Trauma Support 300
- Media 250
- Welcome and Tranquility 200
- International 200
- TOTAL 33,605

We currently only have around half of the money that we need for this, so working groups need to economise and everyone needs to fundraise as much as possible between now and the camp