



The Camp for



CLIMATE ACTION

The Camp for Climate Action is a network of people taking direct action against the root causes of climate change: tackling big business, ineffective and arrogant politicians, and the 'techno-fixes' and false solutions they impose to deal with climate change.



Camp for Climate Action 2009 at Blackheath, London. Photo: Rob Leggan

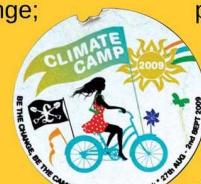
We have set up camps at **Drax** coal fired power station in **2006**, on the path of the proposed third runway at **Heathrow** airport in **2007**, at **Kingsnorth** coal fired power station in **2008**, in the heart of London's financial district during the **G20 in April 2009**, and on **Blackheath** common during the summer **2009**. We then swooped to shut down **Ratcliffe-on-soar** coal fired power station, and turned out en masse in **Copenhagen** later that year. Our numbers have continued to grow, with thousands attending throughout 2008 and 2009. For more information visit:

The Camp for Climate Action has four central aims which guide its actions:

Direct action: taking part in small and large direct action to confront the root causes of climate change;

Sustainable living: explore and experience in practice some of the ways in which a truly sustainable society might function;

Education: raising our own and the wider public's understanding of the problems we face, root causes and potential solutions;



Movement-building: acting in solidarity and forging links with people and groups with common or related interests, including workers and the communities or populations most acutely affected by climate change in Britain and through out the world, to build a movement with the wisdom, diversity and strength to achieve true ecological and social justice.

www.climatecamp.org.uk

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What has happened so far?

Activism against Banks from the UK and beyond

Where banks create chaos, people at the grassroots are fighting back to stop them financing fossil fuel and mining projects, and to create democratic financial institutions that serve the needs of people and sustainability rather than just lining the pockets of greedy bankers. Since the 1980s there have been counter-summit actions against the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the WTO and the World Bank. More recently, people have taken regular actions highlighting the destructive nature of the wider banking system. Here's a few examples:

Barclays Bank

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Barclays Bank provided finance for the racist Apartheid regime in South Africa. Between 1982 and 1984 the bank provided US\$725.4 million. In response, student activists in the UK organised a **15 year boycott** of the bank. The campaign has been credited with causing the banks share of the lucrative UK student market to drop from 27 to 15 per cent, and helping to force Barclays' withdrawal from South Africa in 1986. **12,000 student accounts were closed** during the boycott.



British activists mobilised throughout the 1970s and 1980s for the boycott of Barclays Bank over their investments in the South African Apartheid Regime. Photo: Africa Eye

F★ING ACE!

In 2006 a brazenly unscrupulous bank opened for business in Belgium, advertising "**maximum return for the client**" with investments in human rights and environment trashing projects and companies. Titled ACE, and with a no holds barred approach to profit making, the bank whipped up a media storm. The saga ended at a packed press conference at which Netwerk Vlaanderen, a Belgian NGO focused on banks, revealed themselves behind the elaborate (though highly accurate) hoax. **Their fake bank advertised what other banks do behind closed doors**, shedding light on the \$8 billion invested into companies involved in human rights abuses by Belgian banks AXA, Dexia, Fortis, ING and KBC.

'Ace Bank', the hoax bank created by Netwerk Vlaanderen, demonstrated how banks gamble with both our money and the climate. Photos: Netwerk Vlaanderen

Enric 'Robin Hood' Duran

"I robbed 492,000 euros from those who rob so much more,"



A copy of the 'Crisi' newspaper produced by Enric Duran upon announcing his defrauding 39 banks in Spain, September 2008. Photo: Revista Namaste

Enric Duran has become notorious as the guy who defrauded nearly half a million Euros from 39 different banks over two years, **sending the money to progressive social projects focused on establishing alternatives to capitalism**. His action was announced on 17th September 2008, two days after the collapse of Lehman Brothers, with the distribution of 200,000 copies of a newspaper titled **Crisi** ('Crisis' in Catalan) in Barcelona. The paper laid out a systemic critique of the banking and finance sector, tying it to the ecological crisis. It urged people to establish **self-managed alternatives**.



The 'Battle of Seattle' mobilisations against the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in November 1999. Photo above: isafrancesca Photo left: Spinerin Photo below: sonoazure



A water hydrant cools off the 10,000 strong crowd at the J18 protest in the City of London, June 18th 1999. Photo: MMJ

J18 in the Square mile

A 10,000 strong crowd converged in the City of London at the Reclaim the Streets '**Carnival Against Capital**' on June 19th 1999.

With the slogan '**Our Resistance is as Transnational as Capital**', the protest coincided with the 25th G8 Summit in Cologne, Germany. Many banks were targeted, with a 5-feet breeze block and cement wall built in front of the London International Financial Futures & Options Exchange building to demonstrate '**there is no future in Futures**'.



Activism against Banks Pt.2



ROLL Bank of Canada

The largest financier of the Albertan tar sands, the **Royal Bank of Canada** has been targeted with continued campaigning from activists and First Nation communities within Canada. Since 2007, the bank has pumped more than **\$16.7 billion into companies operating in the tar sands**. As part of a whole string of actions, on 3rd March 2010, over 170 people converged at the bank's Annual General Meeting in Toronto to demand they stop these investments. Inside the meeting representatives of First National communities in Canada challenged RBC's CEO, Gordon Nixon, about the devastating impacts tar sands are having on their communities. The meeting was successfully disrupted, with over half of it spent on the topic of tar sands.

Protests in Vancouver and Victoria, Canada, on March 3rd 2010, demand that the Royal Bank of Canada protect Indigenous rights and the climate. Photos: Rainforest Action Network



Climate Camp & UK actions vs RBS

For years, the **Royal Bank of Scotland** has been targeted in the UK for its financing of fossil fuel projects and companies. Sustained and diverse action has been taken against RBS. Last summer a group of Camp for Climate Action activists successfully disrupted operations at RBS London HQ, blockading the front door and super-gluing themselves to the trading floor. During Rising Tide's **RBS Day of Action** in 2007, there were 34 actions around the UK (see left). In 2009 and 2010 a coalition of groups took the Treasury to court over their failure to stop RBS pumping billions into fossil fuel projects and companies.

Photos on the left: Rising Tide and Indymedia



In 2009 Manchester students occupy the RBS branch on their campus demanding that their lease is not renewed.
Photo: People & Planet



Protests at RBS annual general meeting, 28 April 28th 2010 Photo: Ric James

Run on the Bank

The Dutch bank DSB went bankrupt in November 2009 after depositors withdrew £550m of savings in 12 days. After an aggressive strategy of pushing cheap credit, and landing lots of people in financial difficulties, the bank came under fire from the Dutch Mortgage Grievances Foundation. The run on the bank occurred after their campaigner, Pieter Lakeman, appeared on Dutch television arguing that it was "*in their [customers'] personal and collective interest to take their money out.*"

Argentina

From 1989, Argentina faced "surgery without anaesthetic"

- drastic neo-liberal restructuring in return for IMF 'aid'.



Protesters deface and beat on heavily barricaded banks in Argentina in 2001
Photo: Mark McClure

Debt soared and unemployment hit 20% in December 2001. Thousands of people went unpaid. As industry went bankrupt, workers took control of their factories and huge **piquero road blockades** were set up around the country. A run on the banks was threatened as people increasingly withdrew their money. The government responded by freezing all bank accounts for 12 months permitting only small sums to be withdrawn. On December 17th further cuts were announced, the budget was to shrink by 20%. **Huge sections of Argentine society took to the streets**, food riots erupted and protesters banging pots and pans soon turned their attentions to the banks, causing property damage. They chanted "**Que se vayan todos**" (*All of them out!*), and on 20th December 2001 the president De La Rua fled the country.

The ROYAL Bank of Scotland

So why are we turning our attention to RBS?

RBS has repeatedly revealed itself to be the worst case within this systemic problem. Previously championing itself as '*The Oil and Gas Bank*', it has consistently had the largest fossil fuel portfolio out of the UK high street banks.

Between 2006 and 2008 it pumped **£10 billion into oil** related projects and companies, and **£16 billion into coal** related projects and companies. This included arranging finance for E.ON, the energy giant, to the tune of \$70 billion, at a time when it planned to build **17 new coal fired power stations** across Europe.



RBS Global Headquarters
Gogarburn, Edinburgh EH12 1HQ
Photo: Ewan McIntosh



Climate Camp activists lock-on outside RBS HQ in London, while 20 more are super-glued to the second floor inside, March 8th 2009 Photo: minimouse

RBS are the **biggest funder of tar sands** related projects and companies among the UK high street banks. Pumping billions into nasty corporations and fossil fuel projects without regard, RBS are helping to keep us locked into high carbon emissions, exploitation and ecological devastation for decades to come.



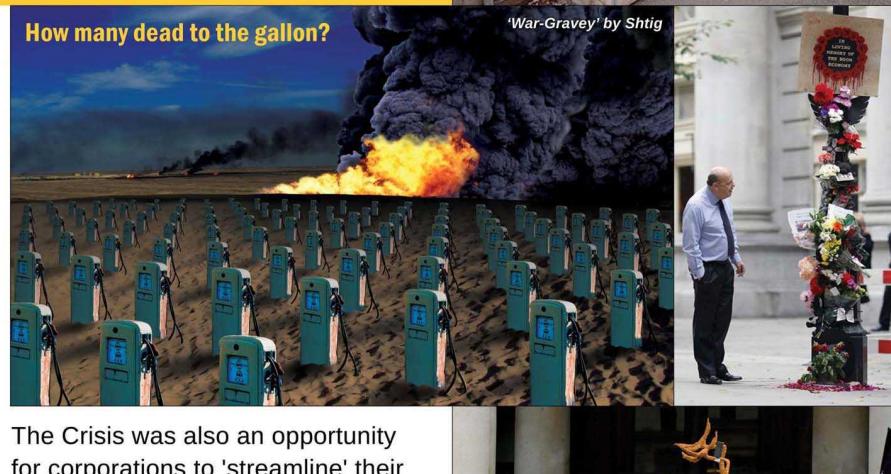
The Camp for Climate Action is declaring a face off with the '*Oyal Bank of Scotland*': this summer we will swarm to **take action against fossil fuel finance!** For more info see our 2010 newspaper or visit the Camp for Climate Action website: www.climatecamp.org.uk

A brief history of the banking crisis

It is two years now since the global financial system was first plunged into crisis. RBS demanded, and received, billions of pounds of public money from the UK governments to keep it afloat. As a result, the bank is now 84% publicly owned. The government has failed to use this public ownership to implement any serious changes at the bank.

At the time of the crisis, many people proclaimed the need to **radically change this system** – to ensure that such a boom and bust cycle could never happen again and, to build something which favoured people and the planet over risky profits generated for greedy bankers. But it seems that we're now **back to business as usual**. Capitalism has remained in tact. This is revealed with impunity in RBS' insistence upon its 'rights' to continue paying **sickeningly large sums in bonuses to its reckless bankers** just months after taking billions of pounds of public money and plunging the country into home repossession, decades of debt and public spending cuts... phew!

So perhaps we should be asking: **what did the crisis cover up and who is really loosing out?** The 'financial crisis' was an excuse for the privatisation of public resources on a scale never seen before.



The Crisis was also an opportunity for corporations to 'streamline' their operations. For example, the RBS financed Kraft-Cadbury takeover in which hundreds of workers lost their jobs – how does this figure? **RBS receives public money to 'save' our economy, but then it's operations help shut down manufacturing and loose jobs.** Banks like RBS are back on track, whilst communities suffer a future of severe cuts to health, education and social services.

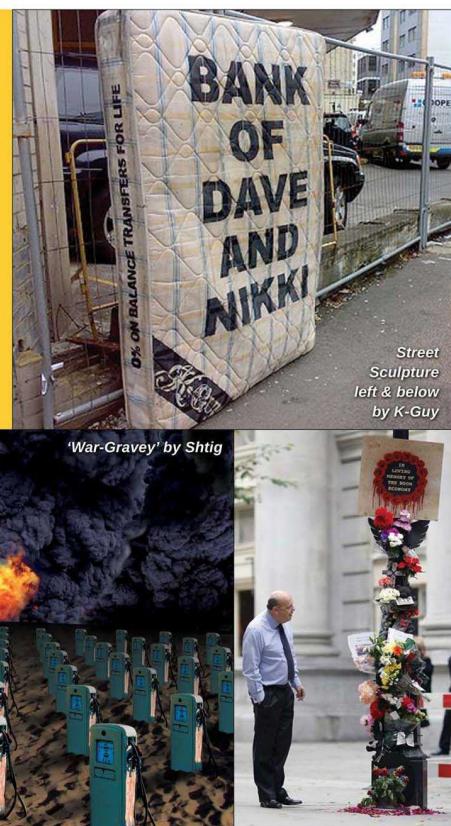


The climate is also loosing out when business as usual means **RBS pouring £10 billion into fossil fuel companies and projects in the six months following its bail out** – that's over a quarter of the bail out money RBS received!

Public money is being used to fan the flames of climate change and ecological devastation, whilst we are denied democratic control over the banks.



Street Sculpture left & below by K-Guy



"Nature doesn't do bail-outs" banner at the G20 Climate Camp, London 2009 Photo: minimouse

RBS: Toxic Investments Pt.1

These are just some of the many examples of dodgy climate and human rights trashing companies that RBS has helped finance over the years.



Camp for Climate Action activists take over a coal-train bound for Drax power station

Hargreaves Services

In September 2009 RBS led a consortium of five banks in providing Hargreaves Services with a £115 million credit facility. This British coal mining, importing and haulage company owns the Maltby coal mine in South Yorkshire which supplies **Drax** power station, the single biggest carbon emitter in the UK and the site of the first Camp for Climate Action in 2006. With this finance, Hargreaves announced that it was taking its first steps into **open-cast coal mining** with an initial £4million investment in the Tower Colliery in South Wales. Its subsidiary **Rocpower** also has **six proposed biofuel power plants** with a combined capacity of 60 megawatts at various stages of approval across Yorkshire and Lancashire, including at Wakefield, Barnsley and Sheffield.

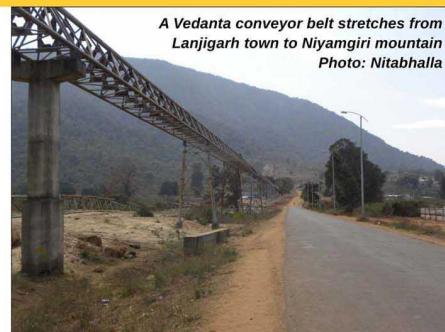
Publicity postcard for the first Camp for Climate Action in August 2006



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Vedanta Resources

RBS or its subsidiaries have provided financial support worth £163 million to Vedanta Resources, a British-owned mining company, since 2004-05. The company runs a large aluminium refinery in Orissa, an impoverished region in central India. An investigation by Amnesty found that the refinery had **flouted the law and undermined the rights of local communities** in the Niyamgiri Hills. Vedanta was accused of displacing landless workers without compensation, and polluting water used by people for drinking and bathing. **Plans by Vedanta to excavate a new 1,700-acre bauxite mine in the area have run into fierce opposition.** The indigenous Dongria Kondh community, who rely on the land for their livelihoods, are trying to stop the mine, arguing that it will bring pollution, destruction and displace them from their land.



A Vedanta conveyor belt stretches from Lanjigarh town to Niyamgiri mountain
Photo: Nitabhalla



Right: Child care centre for displaced children from over 100 families in a 'rehabilitation colony' in Lanjigarh town.
Photo: Nitabhalla
Below: Protesters with a banner resist Vedanta's plans to 'develop' their sacred mountain.
Photo: Rutaspeligrosas



Tullow Oil

In January 2009, RBS helped raise £400 million for the Irish company Tullow Oil, and in March 2009 RBS was part of a consortium of 14 banks that lent a further £1.4 billion. Tullow Oil is involved in the exploration and extraction of oil around Lake Albert on the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Critics of the company have accused them of "**arrogance, environmental damage, collusion in secrecy and indifference to human rights abuses**," and warn that the collaboration between oil companies and military groups is likely to **escalate existing resource-conflicts** in the region.



Tullow Oil work-camp (above), exploration rig (right) and hazardous waste truck (below). These oil operations are in the middle of a nature reserve, near the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has seen 'low-level' conflict for over a decade.
Photos: Taimour Lay



RBS: Toxic Investments Pt.2

A few more of the destructive projects and companies that RBS has invested in:

Arch Coal

In October 2006, RBS took part in providing Arch Coal with an \$800 million overdraft facility. Arch Coal is the second largest coal producer in the US and owns a number of mountain top mines in the Appalachia region. Their use of **'Mountain Top Removal'** (MTR) involves using explosives to destroy up to 1,000 feet of vertical rock and produces vast quantities of coal sludge that is dumped in neighbouring valleys. Arch Coal has been responsible for the **disappearance of more than 300,000 acres of biologically diverse hardwood forests** through the use of MTR.



BAE systems

A report in 2008 showed that RBS had shareholdings worth more than £21 million in BAE, the biggest arms company in the UK, whose clients have included the governments of **Indonesia, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Zimbabwe**. In the ten year period between 1998 and 2008, RBS was the world's leading creditor to the arms sector, having participated in 52 deals over the last 10 years worth £44.6 billion, including loans to producers of **cluster munitions** and **depleted uranium munitions**.



Activists from the Camp for Climate Action joined with thousands of people from around the world at the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 2009. Photo: kris krug

But it's not all doom and gloom! Creativity, humour & community are vital at every Camp for Climate Action:



Lighter moments at the G20 Climate Camp, 2009
Photos: Mike Williams (L) and 'NoOnionPlease' (R)

Cairn Energy

In the year following the banking bailout, RBS facilitated a finance deal worth £116 million with Cairn Energy, a Scottish oil company with wells in Rajasthan in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Tunisia and operations in Greenland where it is "keen to ensure that it is in a position to preserve the option to accelerate its exploration drilling plans."

The company is planning to start drilling in four deepwater wells 200 km off the coast of Greenland this Summer.



CLIMATE CAMP
8 Days of Low Impact Living & High Impact Action
Planet Earth 14-21/08/2007 Safety on board

Do not follow the directions of governments and corporations. They created this emergency!

DIY Adjust your life. Revisit in the joy and power of taking collective action!

Camp for Climate Action Come to the camp near Heathrow this summer and be part of the movement for climate justice taking off!

Participate in dozens of workshops, a managed overnight stay, and making mass direct actions

HEATHROW Camp for Climate Action 14 - 21 August 2007
Brave you now for the adventure. Climate change is an opportunity to radically change our world and build a better future for everyone.
www.climatecamp.org.uk
Tel: 07772861099

Blood Oil: RBS & Tar Sands

As sources of conventional oil start to dwindle, energy transnationals are setting their sights on sources that are much more expensive to extract and exponentially more polluting. Canada's tar sands are by far the biggest of these, containing almost as much oil as Saudi Arabia. Millions of barrels a day are already being extracted in Alberta, creating lakes of toxic waste so huge that they are visible from space, and emitting three to five times more greenhouse gases than conventional oil.

Canadian indigenous First Nations are feeling the greatest impact of tar sands development. They are losing their traditional habitats and ways of life, suffering from rare forms of cancer and auto-immune diseases, and experiencing the fundamental violation of their rights to their traditional territories.

The First Nations in Alberta are calling for a **moratorium** on all new tar sands leases, as they fear for the survival of their communities and also for the health of the planet. Yet Canada's government, and the many corporations which operate in the tar sands and which RBS funds, are ignoring these calls.



In the past year the Camp for Climate Action, along with the **UK Tar Sands Network**, has been working with First Nations communities from Canada to highlight UK involvement in what is being called '**the world's most destructive project**'. This has involved kicking up a fuss about BP's plans to enter this development and challenging Shell's long-standing involvement.

UK oil corporations are not the only ones up to their necks in sticky tar sands goo... British banks are also heavily invested. The most active is the **Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)**. Between 2007 and 2009, RBS underwrote loans to companies operating in the tar sands, to the tune of more than **\$7.5 billion**. Since the initial government bail-out of UK banks in October 2008, RBS has underwritten corporate debt and equity worth nearly **\$2.5 billion** with tar sands related companies. This is more than both Barclays and HSBC. **This is an enormous investment of public money into an energy pathway which is driving us towards climate chaos. And it is being done in our name: by a bank which is 84% owned by the UK government.**



The Suncor plant on the Athabasca River Photo: David Dodge / www.oilsandswatch.org

The grave threat of climate change to people's lives and livelihoods across the globe remains unparalleled, yet investments in tar sands ensures the fossil fuel model responsible for the crisis is further entrenched. We need to invest in renewables and steer quickly away from the climate suicide that the tar sands spell out for us.



Above: Giant dumper trucks wait their turn Photo: David Dodge / www.oilsandswatch.org

Left: Protest banner on tar sands Photo: minimouse

Below: Protesters join members of Canada's indigenous First Nations in London's Trafalgar Square during the London Climate Camp, September 2009 Photo: minimouse



The Camp for Climate Action presents: Break the Bank

In summer 2010 a diverse range of people from across the UK will be converging at the Royal Bank of Scotland Headquarters in Edinburgh. Between Thursday 19th and Wednesday 25th August 2010, a sustainable and collectively organized basecamp will be established nearby.

Train in direct action skills, meet like-minded people, and Run on the Bank.

Dates for your diary:

- ★ Take and set up the basecamp: 19th – 20th
- ★ Four days of training & direct action: 21th – 24th
- ★ Return basecamp to nature: 25th August

Details will unfold on our website.



Monday 23rd August 2010
Day of Action against RBS



RBS HQ
Edinburgh
Photo: Ewan McIntosh