

# ENVIRONMENT

UNISON Scotland Green Network News

Issue 2 January 2009

## Lobby MSPs now for vital Climate Change Bill



**THE AGE OF  
STUPID**

See a film and change the world. Full details on p2.

Scotland's Climate Change Bill was published in December and was welcomed by green activists as a good start for world-leading legislation.

However, it is vital that UNISON branches and members take action urgently to lobby MSPs to strengthen the Bill in key ways.

Thousands of others keen to see Scotland take drastic action on cutting greenhouse gas emissions will be doing the same as part of work by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition members.

Already more than 21,000 responded to the consultation on the proposed Bill last year.

The better we can make the Scottish Climate Change Bill, the greater influence it might have on other countries in a crucial year for action on global warming.

United Nations talks take place in December 2009 in Copenhagen to determine the successor to the Kyoto Treaty.

Scottish Organiser Dave Watson urged UNISON members to email and visit their MSPs. On page 2, we list four ways to push for the UNISON four main 'asks'.

The Bill is being scrutinised by the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee, so we are

especially keen for members whose MSPs are on that Committee to take part in lobbying.

The union is working closely with others in the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition on proposed amendments to meet our four 'asks', which are that the Bill:

- reduces greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050.
- sets statutory targets of at least 3% year on year emission reductions.
- includes emissions from international aviation and shipping in the reduction targets.
- sets strong targets for the public sector to lead by example, with negotiated green workplace agreements.

A Policy & Information Team Briefing on the Bill is on the UNISON-Scotland website at:

[www.unison-scotland.org.uk/briefings/194scottishclimatechangebilldec08.pdf](http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/briefings/194scottishclimatechangebilldec08.pdf)

Dave added: "Climate change already affects the lives of millions of people and if the world doesn't act this year on strong, international legally binding emissions cuts, we risk dangerous runaway climate change.

"Please take the time to contact your MSPs."

## Four ways to lobby MSPs on UNISON's four key 'asks'

1. Make sure that, as a minimum please, you contact your own MSPs asking them to support UNISON Scotland and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland's calls for a stronger Bill. You can find out who they are and email them easily by clicking on the UNISON Green Workplace pages:

[www.unison-scotland.org.uk/green-workplace](http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/green-workplace)

2. Visit your MSPs face to face. This is one of the most effective ways to influence them. Download the SCCS Briefing Pack on Visiting MSPs via the above link as well as information on free SCCS meetings around Scotland. Meetings are in January in Edinburgh, Inverness, Falkirk, Glasgow and Aberdeen, with a public meeting with local MSP Roseanna Cunningham at AK Bell Public Library, Perth, 7pm 23rd Jan.

3. Is one of your MSPs on the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee? If so, please try to visit them, but as a minimum, do email or write to them. If not, please ask your MSPs to contact Committee members from their own party to pass on your comments. The members of the Committee are: (click on their names below to link to constituency and Holyrood contact details on the Scottish Parliament website)

Constituency MSPs: Clydebank and Milngavie, Des McNulty MSP; Glasgow Cathcart, Charlie Gordon MSP; Falkirk East, Cathy Peattie MSP; Regional MSPs: Glasgow, Patrick Harvie MSP; Highlands and Islands, Rob Gibson MSP; Lothians, Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP; North-east Scotland, Alex Johnstone MSP and Alison McInnes MSP.

4. Put the Climate Change Rally and lobby of MSPs date in your diary and check for updates, building up for attending on the day.

This is a brief edition of Environment, aimed at supporting urgent lobbying of MSPs. Please send us news of branch and other local work for future issues. Contact details are on the right.

## Going to the cinema in March can help save the planet - how you and your branch can campaign about *The Age of Stupid*. Join *Not Stupid!*

A climate change film which aims to go global in its political influence hits Scottish cinema screens in March.

Just by going to see *The Age of Stupid* in its first week you can hugely boost its impact in Scotland and world-wide. A parallel campaign called *Not Stupid* aims to inspire 250 million viewers to become virtual or physical climate activists, focused on Copenhagen in December 09, where the successor to Kyoto will be finalised.

Organisers are keen to see local screenings set up by campaigning groups including trade union branches. Oscar-nominated actor Pete Postlethwaite stars, directed by McLibel's Franny Armstrong with Oscar-winning John Battsek as Executive Producer. The 'documentary-drama-animation' has six interwoven human stories filmed in America, the UK, India, Nigeria, Iraq, Jordan and the Alps.

Pete (pictured p1) said: "The opening sequence is phenomenal. It's Spielberg, eat your heart out." He plays an old man in a devastated 2055 world, asking, "Why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?" The stories highlight oil, war, exploitation, inequalities, and 'human stupidity' in ignoring facts. Franny wants the film to "be part of the sea change in awareness which

leads to the greatest ever public uprising which in turn forces the world's Governments to make a binding international agreement to cut global emissions so as to stabilise global temperatures below two degrees and keep the planet habitable for humans and other species."

She says we can all play our part, starting with going to see the film in its first week from 20 March, following a 'People's Premiere' advance one night only screening around the UK, including Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness on March 15. First week figures determine how widely and for how long the film is shown and if it does well here, that will help it snowball to success and influence internationally. 'Indie' screenings can be organised from May 1st and a DVD will be on sale in June/July.

The *Not Stupid* campaign has numerous ideas for us all to get involved and will be 'matchmaking', putting people who contact them, inspired by the film, in touch with local campaigners.

Contact Fiona Montgomery, details below, for further information about getting involved via UNISON.

Full film details and a trailer etc are on [www.ageofstupid.net](http://www.ageofstupid.net)

### Spring into action

On Wednesday 22 April 2009, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is organising a Climate Change Rally and lobby of MSPs. Meet outside the Scottish Parliament, 11am to 2pm. Full details will be on the UNISON and SCCS websites once available. [www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland)



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