

Resolution : Climate and anti-fracking leaflet.

The CCC shall produce a national leaflet on climate change and fracking, based upon the one that was presented at the last meeting of the steering group. (See the attached and it can also be viewed on http://derbyclimate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/frackingCCCdraft_v4.doc) This needs to be done by June 9, when Peter Robinson will be speaking in a debate on fracking at the AGM of the GMB Trade Union.

This leaflet should be made available on the CCC website and as hard copy for centres. Furthermore all local supporters should be encouraged to link arguments around fracking to the climate issue.

Proposed Peter Robinson Seconded Derby Climate Coalition

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Background.

We note that as long ago as last September Derby Climate Coalition suggested to the CCC Steering Group that the CCC ask

***our supporters to organise meetings round fracking where they live
and that
we need a summary broadsheet from the CCC going over the fracking
arguments, promoting first and foremost the climate argument***

We note that the CCC steering group has been unable to sanction the development of such a leaflet. The grounds for not doing so have been:

- That we have already have such leaflets. In our opinion those which have been referred to are inadequate.
- There is no need for such a leaflet as the field is crowded.

Fracking has been accompanied by debates and discussions up and down the country. There are the economic arguments, relating to energy prices, jobs and so on. There are those who argue that fracking is necessary to bridge the energy gap. There are the environmental arguments, and it may be some may not be convinced by the arguments over earthquakes and tap water catching alight. While important and valid as many these arguments are, they don't need to be settled by the CCC; getting locked into them is both problematic and time consuming. The CCC needs to stand back somewhat, just as we have done over nuclear power. Above all there are the climate arguments and as climate campaigners there is a need to focus upon them. We know some people who are not seasoned activists who are against fracking, because of the climate arguments. It is possible to win over 'middle of the road' people.

Caroline Lucas puts it well. For her the big problem with fracking has nothing to do with the risk that it will cause earthquakes, contaminate the water table or pollute the soil. In fact, she thinks it possible that stringent regulations could minimise those risks. *"It's not that fracking itself is necessarily worse than ordinary gas extraction. It's the fact that we're just about to put into place a whole new infrastructure for a whole new fossil-fuel industry, at exactly the time when we need to be reducing our emissions."* (<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/apr/04/caroline-lucas-interview-anti-fracking-balcombe-climate-change-air-pollution>)

In other words the fracking industry needs to be opposed because the new investment a multi-billion infrastructure is a diversion from investment in renewables and related research and development. The addition of more greenhouse gases is in itself is sufficient reason to be against fracking.

The failure of the CCC to produce anything on fracking and climate change means that as campaigners we, in Derby, have been held back. Although Derby is not going to be directly affected by fracking it has, and will continue to be, a big issue here. More than 120 people went to a debate at the University. We have had impromptu meetings and lots of discussions. We have persuaded the Lib Dem Councillors to move a motion to the Council around fracking because they were convinced by climate arguments, first and foremost.

We have desperately wanted a leaflet from the CCC, and eventually had to resort to writing one on behalf of the CCC, only to be told this couldn't be authorised, so we wrote one promoting the CCC, but awkwardly saying it was printed and paid for by the Derby Climate Coalition. We distributed this leaflet [see https://www.dropbox.com/s/drg1w241eedvnjw/frackingCCCdraft_derbyversion1.pdf?n=76787364] at the Transition Town meeting in Wirksworth (more than 55 people there). The leaflet went down rather well (despite its wordiness). The chair of the meeting took the leaflet and distributed it, Others from Nottingham (30 miles away from Wirksworth) reproduced it and distributed it at a couple of events.

It also prompted this letter from Mary Ann Hooper, Wirksworth appearing in the **Matlock Mercury** on April 17:

"....most of the people at the meeting in Wirksworth about fracking were against it.

I have read the case for and against fracking, and I believe the apparent short term advantages of fracking are outweighed by the case against. It does not make sense to go to all the expense, disruption and environmental damage of setting up a new fossil fuel industry. Instead we should be diverting the subsidies and money spent on fossil fuels to make a big push to develop renewable energy sources....

We are in great danger of giving in to the fossil fuel industry giants, who put sheort term profits ahead of long term sustainability and put us at risk of runaway climate change."

Peter Robinson will be speaking at the GMB National conference in early June on a debate on fracking. There is a needs for a leaflet that serves our arguments. There is also speaker at the local Trades Council, the following week and once again we need a CCC leaflet. The lack of a leaflet means that significant opportunities to talk to different audiences around the country, and to build on the ground, have been lost.