How can we save the environment?

MOST SCIENTIFIC and political commentators now accept that the human race has to take action to avert catastrophic damage to our planet and to our societies which depend on its resources.

Stephen Turnbull
Walthamstow Socialist Party

Recently, however, we have had various graphic illustrations of the increasingly desperate and risky methods capitalists are willing to go to in order to acquire the last remaining reserves of cheap energy, such as oil and gas.

The Deepwater Horizon explosion and the subsequent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico exposed the hypocrisy of oil giants like BP who claim that they are 'green'. Hydraulic fracturing of bedrock to acquire natural gas (fracking) is poisoning the water supply and environments of communities across parts of America.

This kind of environmental destruction has long been endemic in the third world. A vivid example comes from the largest exporter of oil to the US, the Niger Delta, where spilt oil and polluted air have helped cause civil unrest.

Ensuring stable supplies of cheap energy is an intrinsic part of governments' foreign policy. The war in Iraq was more about Iraq's oil fields than any threat Saddam Hussein posed to the West.

Increasing political instability, especially in parts of Africa, the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent, has been caused by the lack of clean water. Rivers are poisoned by heavy industry, increased demand is draining aquifers, a changing climate is lessening surface reserves, and the relocation of bodies of water to provide reservoirs and hydroelectric power is damaging local geology.

Issues such as these demand a concerted international response, and a desire to move toward sustainable infrastructure and sustainable living. Under the auspices of capitalist-led agencies, such as the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, this is happening far too slowly, if it can be said to be happening at all.

How the world's environment can be saved will be debated at Socialism 2010. Can the future of the planet be trusted to capitalist governments and agencies? Can energy companies help stop and reverse global warming or will profit always come first? What would a socialist energy plan look like? If you have questions or ideas about building a movement to save our climate, then come to Socialism 2010.

Discussions on climate change at Socialism 2010:

- What will it take to save the environment?
- The Deepwater Horizon oil disaster
- Is the environmental movement becoming mainstream or is it condemned to the fringes?

Socialism 2010 – a weekend of discussion and debate

Hosted by the Socialist Party

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 November
Rallies: Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, NW1 2BJ
Rally speakers include:
Matt Wrack, FBU general secretary
Cindy Sheehan, US anti-war activist
Andros Payiatsos, general secretary, CWI Greece
Peter Taaffe, Socialist Party general secretary
Sessions: ULU, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HY
Weekend: £25/£12 concession. One day: £15/£7 concession.
Saturday night accommodation available.
For more information and to buy tickets online go to www.socialism2010.net or phone 020 8988 8777

Caerphilly leads in sales of The Socialist

CAERPHILLY SOCIALIST Party branch is still leading the way for sales of The Socialist, having already sold 1,388 papers since July.

Sarah Wrack
The Socialist sales organiser

Socialist Party members from the Caerphilly area have reported that their weekly Saturday stalls used to sell an average of 20 papers, but by moving 100 metres to a busier area, they increased to over 100. They have also been selling the paper outside lectures on political topics at colleges and universities.

The Socialist is the only paper that argues that every single cut must be fought. The more people who read the paper, the more they can find out about and get involved in anti-cuts campaigns around the country.

All Socialist Party members should look to the example of Caerphilly and think about what simple steps could be taken to increase their paper sales.

Total sales of The Socialist are on 42% of the July-September quarter target, with the quarter ending on 8 October.

> *The Socialist is the only paper that argues that every single cut must be fought. The more people who read the paper, the more they can find out about and get involved in anti-cuts campaigns.*

Socialist Party members should pay in any sales money they have now and help your party branch work out a plan for reaching its target. Can you do a train station sale on your way home from work? Could you sell outside a supermarket before doing your weekly shop? Or spend an extra hour on the Saturday stall?

As the freshers' fairs begin at universities, a whole number of new students will be looking for socialist ideas. In every area of the country there are anti-cuts protests and industrial battles involving hundreds of people. Sellers of The Socialist should be there to offer a lead on how to fight the cuts.

Labour councillors challenged in Hastings

SOCIALIST PARTY members recently spoke to a couple of Hastings Labour councillors who claimed they were socialists and that they were putting socialism into action in Hastings.

The new Asda supermarket in Silverhill is advertising 350 jobs; 1,600 people applied for them in a single day! Is that socialism?

Hastings Labour council has made 'in-year' cuts of close to £300,000 and is preparing for more cuts after the 20 October comprehensive spending review.

At least two youth centres are scrambling for funding to deal with the cuts already made, and the 43% of people in employment in Hastings who work for the public sector are holding their breath waiting for the axe to fall.

We asked the councillors why they are not making a stand against these cuts and they replied they had no choice. They both argued that if they took a stand their jobs and lifestyles would come under threat - never mind the jobs and lifestyles of ordinary people!

We made it clear that if they set a budget which reflected the local needs of people for jobs and homes, instead of the cuts the government demands, and then wage a campaign to mobilise local people behind such a budget, then they can win concessions.

Jon Redford
South East Socialist Party

Shropshire: showing socialist alternative gets results

THIRTY PEOPLE gathered in Shrewsbury on Thursday 9 September for a Socialist Party (SP) public meeting entitled 'what is the socialist alternative?' with the party's deputy general secretary, Hannah Sell, as the guest speaker.

Hannah discussed topics ranging from the imperialist war in Afghanistan; the proposed public sector cuts; the vicious attack on the working class and trade union movement; to the importance of building the Socialist Party.

Hannah also drew comparisons between the success of Militant in playing a leading role in the 1983-87 Liverpool Labour council that won £60 million from Thatcher's Tory government, the defeat of the poll tax, and the need for the mobilisation of a broad, trade union based movement ready to fight the impending cuts.

Jake Moore spoke about the Youth Fight for Jobs campaign; our perspective on the current economic crisis; and what it means for young workers. Shrewsbury SP branch secretary Jim Reekie chaired the meeting.

Meeting attendees included Shropshire SP members, members of the Shropshire trades council, teachers and students. A finance appeal by the Shropshire SP youth secretary, Sam Morecroft, raised over £150 for the party's fighting fund. Shrewsbury Socialist Party also gained a new member following the public meeting.

Sarah Marshall
Shropshire Socialist Party

datesforyourdiary

www.socialistparty.org.uk/whatson

Haringey & Enfield Socialist Party
Stop the school academies
Tuesday 21 September, 7.30pm
Tottenham Chances, 399 High Road, N17 6 QN

Wakefield
Keep our NHS Public
Tuesday 21 September, 7.30pm
Wakefield Labour Club (Red Shed), Vicarage Street, Wakefield

Nottingham West Socialist Party
Our health service is not for sale
Tuesday 21 September, 7.30pm
YMCA, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FN

Leeds Socialist Students
What is Socialism?
Wednesday 22 September, 5pm
Meeting Room 2, Leeds University student union

Mansfield Socialist Party
The fight against education cuts, fees and for decent jobs
Wednesday 22 September, 7.30pm
Ladybrook Community Centre, Ladybrook, Lane Mansfield

Lewisham Socialist Party
The legacy of Leon Trotsky
Thursday 23 September, 7.30pm
Toad's Mouth Too Café, 188 Brockley Road, London SE4 2RL

Leeds Socialist Party
How do we build a mass fightback against tuition fees and education cuts?
Monday 27 September, 7.30pm
The Adelphi Pub, 1-3 Hunslet Road, Leeds

Leicestershire Against Cuts
Tuesday 28 September, 7.30pm
Y Theatre, off London Road, Leicester, opposite train station

North West Youth Fight for Jobs
Join the protests – for free education, better student grants, and real jobs
Wednesday 29 September
Liverpool, 5pm Derby Square, near the crown courts
Manchester, 5pm Piccadilly Gardens
Salford, 4pm Old Fire Station, The Crescent

Cardiff West Socialist Party
Socialism in the 21st Century
Thursday 30 September, 7.30pm
Koko Gorrillaz, Miskin Street, Cathays, Cardiff

Get involved I'd like to join the Socialist Party ☐ I'd like more information about the Socialist Party ☐

Donate I'd like to donate £ to the Socialist Party **please make cheques payable to Socialist Party**

Subscribe 12 issues £9 ☐ 6 months £18 ☐ 1 year £36 ☐ **please make cheques payable to Socialist Publications Ltd**

Western Europe: 12 issues £16, half year £32, year £50 **Rest of world:** 12 issues £25, half year £50, year £90
Return slip or pay at www.socialistparty.org.uk/subscribe
Name
Address and postcode
tel/email

Return to: Socialist Party, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD or phone 020 8988 8777 to pay by card, to arrange a direct debit, or to join.

Credit card No:
Name: Start Date: Expiry Date: Security Code: Issue No:

SOCIALIST PARTY FIGHTING FUND

July-September 2010 deadline: 8 October

	£ target	£ received
Eastern	1,200	1,485
West Midlands	2,100	2,365
Wales	2,300	2,101
South East	800	696
Southern	1,200	812
South West	1,400	910
North West	1,200	599
East Midlands	1,550	727
Yorkshire	2,900	1,357
London	6,100	2,087
Northern	600	173
England & Wales	3,650	343
TOTAL	25,000	13,660