



Durban Platform leaves world sleepwalking towards four degrees warming

December 12th, 2011 at 4.22 pm.

Negotiators at the UN climate talks have narrowly avoided a collapse, agreeing to the bare minimum deal possible. The plan gets the Green Climate Fund up and running without any sources of funding, preserves a narrow pathway to avoid 4 degrees of warming and gets a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol without key members.

“Negotiators have sent a clear message to the world’s hungry: ‘Let them eat carbon,’” said Celine Charveriat, Director of Campaigns and Advocacy for Oxfam. “Governments must bank the pennies won here in Durban and immediately turn their attention to raising the ambition of their emissions cuts targets and filling the Green Climate Fund. Unless countries ratchet up their emissions cuts urgently, we could still be in store for a ten-year timeout on the action we need to stay under 2 degrees.”

An important page was turned on discussions of the legal form of a future agreement with the EU, US, Brazil, South Africa, India and China merging towards a common understanding. But after weeks of obstruction from the US, negotiators were unable to identify any concrete and reliable sources of money to fill the Green Climate Fund or ensure that new deeper targets for emissions cuts will be forthcoming.

Brazil, South Africa, India and China could have been bolder by joining a coalition of ambition with the EU and vulnerable countries to push for greater and faster emissions reductions. Negotiators may still need to leave the US behind in future talks to pursue the kind of deal that is sorely needed.

“The Durban Platform can only be described as a major disappointment,” said Charveriat. “But the blame for this delay lies squarely on the shoulders of the US and other countries like Canada, Japan and Australia who dragged their feet from start to finish.”

The EU took an important step by signing onto a second period of the Kyoto Protocol, the bedrock of international efforts to fight climate change, and a key demand of African countries. But the new round of Kyoto falls short of what was expected and opens loopholes that weaken it.

The failure to seal an ambitious deal will have painful consequences for poor people around the world. A four degree temperature rise could be one of utter devastation for poor farmers who will face increasing hunger and poverty.

If action is not taken, farmers in parts of Africa could face a drop in crop yields of more than fifty percent within this generation or that of their children. Food prices could more than double within the next two decades, up to half of which caused by climate change. This makes delivering real concrete assistance to ensure the most vulnerable people can protect themselves from a changing climate even more vital.

“We cannot allow the Green Climate Fund to wither on the vine,” said Charveriat. “Governments must identify significant and predictable sources of money for the Fund without delay, such as a tiny tax on financial transactions and a fee on



emissions from international shipping. People who care about the fate of the world’s poor and their own economic future should be angry that governments have failed to take adequate action here in Durban. But anger alone won’t solve climate change. There is still an opportunity to push forward in Rio to raise the level of ambition and cut the kind of deal we need. Those who are unable to negotiate for this kind of outcome should simply stay home.” [Oxfam Media Unit](#) Press Release

‘ We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Over the bleached bones and jumbled residues of numerous civilisations are written on the pathetic words:

Too late.’

Martin Luther King Jr

Greenhouse Space Needed

The Eco-Group is planning a plant sale in June this year and we need some help with greenhouse space. We still have many packets of Sutton seeds and a plant sale is one way we can make good use of this generous gift to the church. If you have a greenhouse and can help us with this project we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact the church office or any member of the Eco-Group: Jean Glass, Margaret Tulleth, Fay Forge, Alex Robertson, Susan Bowie, or Len Gregory.

Thanks a bunch.

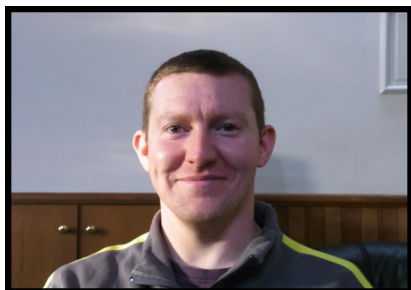


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Energy Officer Appointed.

Colin Dundas has been appointed as Old and Abbey energy officer. The role of energy officer is a new position and Colin's initial duties will be to read and collate all information from our electricity, gas and water meters. Colin will calculate the consumption, calculate the cost and log our carbon footprint. The benefits to the church is that we will be in a position to see any significant changes in what we are consuming and be in a better position to investigate the reasons why.



Eco-Tip:

Replace Disposables: Wherever possible, replace disposable products with reusable ones, (i.e. razors, food storage, batteries, ink cartridges, (buy ink refills), coffee filters, etc.).

The Spotlight Slot



Jean Glass



Q1 Jean, you have been at the forefront of setting up an Eco Congregation. How important are the networks in helping to develop the Eco Congregation movement?

Networks are very important. There are now 213 registered churches of which Old and Abbey is one. Many churches are at varying stages in their Eco-environment journey. Some have been working steadily for two or three years while others are just starting to think about it. To be part of a networking system brings everyone much needed support while assisting individual Eco-congregations to fulfil their missions.

Each Eco-congregation works on a huge variety of different aspects related to caring for God's creation. It could be beach cleans, involving young people or youths through projects on waste, fund-raising for developing world charitable events or being involved in projects such as a community garden.

Each networking system is split into local areas making it easier to meet with other churches and share ideas. Networks also help with the award assessment process.

Q2 How important has your faith been in your involvement with environmental issue?

I am fortunate to live close to beautiful countryside leading to breathtaking walks.

The lovely wide open spaces of grass and sea, the birds singing on a summer morning and even on a winter morning; rabbits in the field and bright rowan berries on the trees. I worry we are taking it all for granted.

Give us the compassion to realise how our actions impact on others. God has given this world to us to look after; therefore we must do all we can to do just that, not only for this generation but for generations to come.

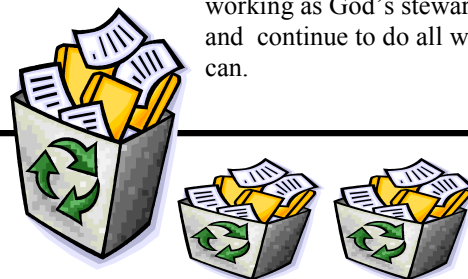
Q3 In your opinion what is the greatest achievement that the Old and Abbey Eco-group has achieved to date?

I would say without a doubt it has to be the setting up of our own Eco-Newsletter. With so many people having access to the internet nowadays it is amazing just how far the Eco-message can be distributed, both locally and nationally.

Q4 Do you think that global warming is a real threat and if so are we doing enough in the Eco-congregation movement to get the message across to our congregation?

Since joining our Eco-group I am amazed at just how much we have achieved in that time. We are a collection centre for milk bottle and plastic tops. We have organised a plant sale, taken a stall at the Seafront Spectacular to sell herb plants in conjunction with the Year Of The Light and to promote Eco-congregation. We have organised a walk or cycle day to church, held two Earth Hour Concerts an Eco-Festival and film evenings. The group has visited A.C.R.O.P recycling centre to give us a better understanding of what happens to our waste and what type of items are recyclable. We have represented the church at the first Annual General Meeting of Eco-congregation held at Bridge Of Allan and set up our own Newsletter.

Global warming is something that is happening now and we must keep working as God's stewards, and continue to do all we can.





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Top Tips For Eco Driving

If you implement these eco-driving tips you could experience a fuel saving of around 15%.

1. Shift to a higher gear as soon as possible.

Driving at lower engine speeds reduces fuel consumption, change to between 2,000 and 2,500 r.p.m.

2. Anticipate road conditions and drive more smoothly.

Rather than last-minute braking, decelerate smoothly by releasing the accelerator as early as possible.

With the car in gear and the accelerator released, a modern car uses almost no fuel at all.

3. Maintain a steady speed in as high a gear as possible.

Driving at a steady speed requires little effort for the engine. Avoiding unnecessary acceleration and heavy braking helps reduce your fuel consumption.

4. Drive a little slower than your normal speed.

Stick to the speed limits and make your fuel go further. Driving at 50 m.p.h. rather than 70 m.p.h. reduces fuel consumption by 10%.

For more fuel-saving tips go to ecodrivescotland.com or call 0800 512 012.

Energy efficiency

Improving energy efficiency is widely recognised as the easiest and most cost-effective means of reducing carbon emissions. Being more energy efficient offers tremendous financial benefits - industry and society can achieve more with less energy, public services are delivered at lower cost, and fuel poverty is reduced.

Better insulated buildings and more energy efficient workplaces cut energy bills for householders and businesses. Reducing demand also puts less pressure on energy supplies. However, this can only be achieved with significant individuals, communities, businesses and the public sector

By providing advice and financial incentives to improve energy efficiency, the Scottish Government is striving to change behaviour and fulfil its own responsibilities to promote a more energy efficient way of life to the people of Scotland.

The government have set an ambitious target to reduce total final energy consumption in Scotland over the period to 2020 by 12%.

To achieve this the government have set out our wide-ranging programme of activity on behaviour change, household, business and public sector energy efficiency, infrastructure, skills, and finance in **Conserve and Save**: The Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Scotland. This was a statutory requirement of Section 60 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009



KIDS CORNER

A little nine year old girl was in church with her mother when she started feeling ill.

"Mommy" she said "Can we leave now?"

"No" her mother replied.

"Well, I think I have to throw up!"

"Then go out the front door and around to the back of the church and throw up behind a bush."

In about two minutes the little girl returned to her seat.

"Did you throw up?" her mother asked.

"Yes" the little girl replied.

"Well, how could you have gone all the way to the back of the church and return so quickly?"

"I didn't have to go out of the church, Mommy" the little girl replied, "They have a box next to the front door that says 'for the sick and needy'."

UK Government's Solar Panel Review

The UK Government has shocked the renewable energy world by proposing to cut the subsidy for solar panels by 50%. The subsidy is provided in the form of a 'Feed in Tariff' or 'FiT' that is designed to encourage the installation of low carbon electricity generation on houses or other buildings, including churches. The scale of the cuts and their speed came into effect on 12 December 2011.

The government plans for massive cuts to the Feed-in tariff, a popular incentive scheme that pays solar panel owners for each unit of power that they generate.

However this isn't a completely done deal – the government was consulting on the plans until late December. However, the way it's been announced has led to people expecting the worst.

The Feed-in tariff (often shortened to FiT) certainly isn't perfect, but it's been incredibly successful at getting panels on roofs. This doesn't just help people reduce their utility bills and carbon emissions .

There's plenty of anecdotal evidence that seeing the panels in action (and reaping the rewards) can [change the way people think about energy](#), and makes them more likely to make climate-friendly choices in other



If you would like a joke or funny story printed, let us know and we will include it in the next edition of the Newsletter.

ECO-AWARENESS

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Winter Edition 2012



What will it take for us to make a difference



Earth Hour 2012: Earth Hour is a beautifully simple idea that's become a massive global phenomenon - successfully uniting an extraordinary number of people across the planet, year after year, in a small symbolic act with a huge, **environmental message.**

Article sourced from WWF WEB SITE.

It's about realizing that the actions we take, from the energy we use, to the food we buy and water we drink, has an effect on the world. We all depend on our amazing planet and need to look after it – not just for an hour a year, but every day.



Candlelight Event

The Old and Abbey will be Joining WWF with our popular Earth Hour Event. **Back By Public Demand.**

Earth Hour Saturday 31st March



Dates for Your Diary

Film evenings:

The Eco-group will present a series of film evenings. The films will have an environmental theme. We can guarantee an enjoyable evening with the opportunity to discuss the content of the film.

Each programme approx 2hrs

February: Sunday 26th 2pm

March: Sunday 18th 2pm

April: Tuesday 24th 7pm

September: Tuesday 25th 7pm

Network Meeting

East and Old Church Forfar, 13th March.

Hundreds of millions take the time to switch off their lights for an hour on the last Saturday in March - fired up by the thought of doing something positive to help tackle climate change and protect the natural world from the impacts of our resource-hungry lives.

What do WWF do?

Each year they encourage as many people and businesses as possible to sign up to Earth Hour. They tour around Scotland explaining what Earth Hour is all about.

They also encourage people to go beyond the hour and to think about how they can make a difference in their everyday lives.

The way we live has impacts that we can't always or haven't experienced directly. From extreme weather changes such as flooding or drought, to food shortages, the loss of species and deforestation.

So Earth Hour is not about saving an hour's electricity, it's much bigger than that.