#GoingBackwards on Climate Change

Submitted by: Campaign Against Climate Change
Friday, 29 April 2016

“Cameron’s government is going backwards on climate change”
Backwards march down Whitehall on 8th May

On Sunday 8th May the Campaign against Climate Change will be joined in London by Vivienne Westwood’s Climate Revolution, families and many others to challenge Cameron to explain to their children and grandchildren why his government has spent its first year in office going backwards on climate change, including dramatic cuts to funding for clean energy and warm homes. The message will be brought home in an original protest style: a backwards march down Whitehall exactly one year after the Conservative government took office.

Other 'Going Backwards' protests will be taking place the same weekend in cities including Bristol, Leicester, Leeds, Nottingham and Manchester.

Protestors in London will be assembling at Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Square from 12pm.

"Record-breaking temperatures and a melting Arctic might seem a long way away from the UK but the impacts of climate change are here now, and we're running out of time to act" said Suzanne Jeffery of the Campaign against Climate Change. "People hit by 'once in a generation' winter floods in Somerset, York, Cumbria, and other vulnerable parts of the UK are all too aware that things are changing."

The action will link together the different ways the government has backtracked on climate action, and the harmful impacts these policies are having today. Colourful performances, staging and poetry, will bring the issues to life and challenge Cameron and Osborne to live up to past promises.

"As the government blocks the cheapest forms of clean energy – onshore wind and solar, other countries are benefiting from new technologies. Green jobs are lost while money is wasted on subsidising dirty fossil fuels. Ultimately this means that as the planet heats up we are missing that vital window to act on climate change" said Claire James from the Campaign against Climate Change.

The protest is supported by organisations including Greenpeace, Biofuelwatch, War on Want, Campaign against Climate Change, Campaign for Better Transport, ClientEarth, Climate Revolution, Fuel Poverty Action, Global Justice Now, HACAN, Plane Stupid, Frack Off London, Reclaim the Power, the Solar Trade Association, Talk Fracking, Time to Cycle. Speakers will include Asad Rehman, Friends of the Earth, Suzanne Jeffery, Campaign against Climate Change, Barry Gardiner, Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change and Green Party leader, Natalie Bennett.

Policy briefing: www.campaigncc.org/backwards

ENDS

Notes:

1. Contact for media: Claire James, Campaign against Climate Change: claire@campaigncc.org; 020 7833 9311; 07939 654914

2. More information on climate policy reversals during the past year at www.campaigncc.org/backwards

3. Planned timetable for the protest:

12.00 Gather under Nelson's Column then moving over to King Charles statue, top of Whitehall 12.25 Hear from those directly impacted by flooding in the UK, including the family of seven-year-old Zane, tragically killed by toxic gas released from a flooded landfill site 12.45 Dismantling of our renewables industry! Find out what this means for jobs and community energy (speakers from Solar Trade Association and a London community energy project) (Corner of Whitehall Place) 12.50 Fracking: bad news for the climate (with support from Talk Fracking, Frack Off London, Vivienne Westwood, Joe Corre) 1.05 Outside Downing Street, activists from Plane Stupid and HACAN will be reminding David Cameron of his personal pledge 'No ifs, no buts, no third runway' with crowd participation. 1.20 Unsustainable transport means we are breathing unsafe air! Families supporting ClientEarth's legal action illustrate what this means for them (Opposite the Department of Health) 1.25 Cuts to warm home funding are wrecking lives and wrecking the climate. Hear from Fuel Poverty Action
1.40 At the Treasury entrance on King Charles Street, we end up at George Osborne's department - responsible for so many of the 'backwards steps'. Presentation of fossil fuel subsidies and messages from opencast coal campaigning in Wales. Finally a positive message - it's Time to Go Forwards! Speakers including Natalie Bennett, Suzanne Jeffery and Asad Rehman with a send off from the Time to Cycle crew. Ending 2pm

4. More information on events outside London at http://www.campaigncc.org/goingbackwards_local

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