

Biofuelwatch Newsletter September/October 2014

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Dear subscriber, this is the September/October edition of Biofuelwatch's monthly newsletter, with UK and international news on our campaigns, campaigns we support and important policy developments.

In this newsletter:

UK Campaign & Policy News

1. Protest outside the Green Investment Bank's Second Birthday Celebration!
2. The London Biomassive - Biofuelwatch's new local group for London
3. Join our free Biofuelwatch training session in London in November
4. Subscribe to our new Volunteer and Supporter Bulletin
5. New Biofuelwatch articles about Energy Policy and the Scottish Devolution debate

International News

6. Global Climate Justice Mobilisations during September
7. Indigenous Environmental Network Campaign to STOP GE Trees
8. Palm Oil in Palawan: Local Resistance Continues
9. Research reveals the scale of CO2 emissions likely from plans to increase logging in the US.



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Interested in a talk about the impacts of biomass power stations, biofuels or large-scale bioenergy in general? If you're in the UK please contact us and we will try and get a speaker.

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1. Protest outside the Green Investment Bank's Second Birthday Celebration in London on the 28th of October

If you're in or near London, please join Biofuelwatch and the new [London Biomassive group](#) for a protest outside the Green Investment Bank's Second Birthday Celebration.

Please meet outside the Bank of America Merrill Lynch, 2

stations.

The protest â€“ an alternative street party with cake - will target the GIBâ€™s non-green investments in big biomass and waste incineration

To find out more about the protest and the reasons for it, please go to <http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/2014/green-bank-2nd-birthday/>. If you use Facebook then please help us spread the word via this events page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1501053843475695/>.

Many thanks.

2. The London Biomassive - Biofuelwatch's new local group for London

There is a new group of people campaigning in London against big biomass: **The London Biomassive**. If youâ€™d like to find out more or get involved, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/LondonBiomassive> or email biofuelwatch@ymail.com if you donâ€™t use Facebook.

3. Free Biofuelwatch training session in London on Saturday the 15th of November

We are organising a training session from 2.15 to 5.30 pm in Central London for anyone interested in campaigning against large-scale industrial bioenergy. It'll be an opportunity to get more background information as well as gain more confidence in speaking about the issues. If you are interested in the event, please email biofuelwatch@ymail.com for more details.

4. Subscribe to our new Volunteer and Supporter Bulletin

This month, Biofuelwatch have started to produce a short â€œVolunteer & Supporter Bulletinâ€ to let people on our volunteer database know about specific volunteering opportunities we have to offer.

- Publicise our work and spread the word
- Engage others by giving presentations about Biofuelwatch and our campaigns
- Take an active role in our protests and events
- Share our news and alerts through social media
- Organise awareness-raising events

If you are interested in being an active Biofuelwatch supporter and receiving the bulletin, please contact us at biofuelwatch@ymail.com

5. Biofuelwatch articles about Energy Policy and the Scottish Devolution debate

Here are two articles related to Energy Policy and the Scottish Devolution debate, written by members of Biofuelwatch:

+ [Lord Devo: Robert Smith is a wolf in sheep's clothing](#) [Note: Lord Smith is the Chair of SSE and of the Green Investment Bank. He has been appointed by David Cameron to head the commission that will put together extended devolution proposals for Scotland.]

+ [Energy revolution & devolution: Does Scotland have the power to clean up its act?](#)

6. Global Climate Justice Mobilisations During September

The UN Climate Summit in New York on 23rd September was the focus of the largest global mobilisations against climate change and for climate justice since 2009.

This included not only the [Peoples Climate March](#) but also a "[Convergence for People, Planet and Peace over Profit](#)", a "[Climate Justice Alliance Summit](#)" and "[Flood](#)

of the New York events, wrote [this reflection about the Summit and the protests](#) just before the event and a subsequent article published by Truth Out, ["Corporations are not Going to Save us from Climate Disruption"](#).



Fran Billie of the Seminole Nation in Florida, points out how real forests "mean life to the People, but GE trees mean death". Photo: PhotoLangelle.org

7. Indigenous Environmental Network Campaign to STOP GE Trees

From 7th to 9th October, the Indigenous Environmental Network Campaign to STOP GE Trees held an Action Camp in North Carolina. The camp focussed on building a network of tribal representatives and community members to share information and mobilise against the threats posed by Genetically Engineered Trees to Indigenous Peoples, their culture, and traditions.

There were presentations by representatives from Biofuelwatch, Global Justice Ecology Project, World Rainforest Movement and the Center for Food Safety, amongst others.

harm their traditional lifeways.

After the camp, participants issued a press release [“Indigenous Peoples Unite to Stop Genetically Engineered Trees”](#) [“GE Trees: Another Form of Colonisation”](#)



Members of the Palawan Campaign Against Land Grabbing

8. Palm Oil in Palawan: Local Resistance Continues

We previously reported about the devastating impacts of oil palm plantations on Indigenous Peoples and on forests on the Philippine island of Palawan. Palawan has been declared a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve because of its unique biocultural diversity.

Oil palm plantations are breaking up the connection between interrelated ecosystems, they are causing dramatic declines in animal populations, in marine life and in non-timber forest products on which indigenous communities depend. These include raw materials needed to build houses and produce artefacts and also medicinal plants. At the same time, small farmers are losing vital agricultural income due to oil palms. Local resistance is continuing and strengthening: Over 4,200 individuals from local communities affected by palm

presented to the Vice-Governor by the recently established Coalition Against Land Grabbing. The next few weeks should see the start of negotiations with government agencies, which will be crucial for Indigenous Peoples and farmers on Palawan.

For more information, see:

<https://intercontinentalcry.org/philippines-local-palawanos-stand-strong-oil-palm-expansion-25775/>

9. US: Research reveals the scale of CO2 emissions likely to be released as a result of plans for increased logging, including for bioenergy

Oregon Senator Wyden (who heads the Senate Finance and Trade Committees) has been championing several bills that would undermine public input on logging proposals, while expanding industry access to wood on public lands.

His plans have come under fire, with prominent scientific research showing that *“Senator Wyden’s proposal for logging on Bureau of Land Management controlled lands in western Oregon would lead to emissions on par with increasing the region’s Boardman [550 MW] coal plant capacity by 50%, adding half a million cars to the road, or burning over 6.3 million more barrels of oil annually.”* The report can be downloaded [here](#). Part of the impetus to open these lands is to provide biomass to several existing and proposed biomass facilities.