



Dear Subscriber,

Here is our long overdue newsletter packed with information about the latest on all our campaigns and important new developments. The newsletter was delayed by the failure of the web server which had hosted our previous email list. Please [click here](#) to find out what happened and about our new email list.

In this newsletter, you will find:

1. Public meeting, London, 25/1: with Pete Dean from Biofuelwatch reporting from his recent visit to the Wood Pellet Forum in North Carolina and film showing of the new documentary "Burned - Are trees the New Coal"
2. Aviation biofuels: Report highlights threat of new market for palm oil - and update from UN's ICAO conference
3. Next phase of the campaign to stop a large new biomass power station in Grangemouth, Scotland
4. Please support important letter-writing appeal by UK Without Incineration Network
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Biofuelwatch reporting from its recent visit to the Wood Pellet Forum in North Carolina and film showing of "Burned - Are trees the New Coal"

Anyone in or near London on Thursday, 25th January is invited to come along to a public meeting with a first-hand account from a Biofuelwatch member who recently visited logging sites for wood pellet production in North Carolina and with the UK's first ever showing of a new film: "Burned - Are Trees the New Coal?".

The meeting will be held at the Friends of the Earth Offices, The Printworks, 139 Clapham Road, London SW9 0HP, from 7pm to 9pm. It's free, but please book your ticket through [Eventbrite here](#), to make sure you can get a seat.

If you use Facebook, then please go to our [events page](#) and help to spread the word. Thanks!

We will be showing a new documentary film by US-based independent film makers, Marlboro Productions, about the burning of wood for energy. The film has already won three awards. It focusses on the clearcutting of forests in the south-eastern US, which are then shipped to Europe. Please [see here](#) for more details of the film.

During September/October, Peter Dean from Biofuelwatch visited North Carolina at the invitation organisers of the civil society [Wood Pellet Forum](#) which was held in Wilmington, a town from which wood pellets are being exported to Drax and other power stations in Europe. He will be reporting back about the evidence presented at the Wood Pellet Forum by communities and ecologists, and about his visit to some of the forests under serious threat of being logged for pellet production. You can see a short video about Enviva and the Wood Pellet Forum [online here](#).

There will be an opportunity for questions and answers and for discussion after the presentation and the film.



2. Aviation biofuels: Report highlights threat of new market for palm oil - and update from UN's ICAO conference

From 11th to 13th October, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a specialist UN organisation, held a high-level conference on 'Aviation Alternative Fuels' in Mexico City. In reality, the only "alternative fuels" on the horizon for aviation are biofuels made from vegetable oils and animal fats. Palm oil is the only potential feedstock for larger-scale use of biofuels in planes which is technically and economically feasible. And the push for aviation biofuels distracts from the urgent need to stop and reverse the growth in aviation if we are to have any hope of stabilising the climate.

In advance of the conference, almost 100 civil society groups worldwide signed an Open Letter condemning proposals by the ICAO Secretariat for extremely ambitious targets for aviation biofuels. [Click here to read the Letter: ICAO's Aviation Biofuels Plans: A Dangerous Distraction.](#)

Biofuelwatch released a comprehensive report: "[Aviation Biofuels: How ICAO and Industry Plans could Lead to Planes Flying on Palm Oil](#)". You can also listen to a [webinar](#) we held about the report.

Fortunately, the conference did not agree on biofuel targets and we believe that this was a great success for the different civil society groups which had worked together oppose them. See [here](#) for a joint press release.

However, the threat of large-scale palm oil use in planes remains and the industry's advocates within ICAO are far from giving up! We won't be giving up either, so watch this space for updates.



3. Next phase of the campaign to stop a large new biomass power station in Grangemouth, Scotland

As we reported in our last newsletter, a new subsidy guarantee (called a Contract for Difference or CfD) was awarded for a large proposed biomass power station in Grangemouth in September. The Scottish Government had approved the planning application back in 2013, despite strong opposition by local residents, Community Councils and local Friends of the Earth Groups whom we had supported in opposing the plans. All of us hoped the plans had been buried in 2014 when the original developer, Forth Energy, announced that it no longer intended to go ahead. The CfD has now been awarded to a startup company, Silva Renewables, with no experience in delivering power stations.

However, all is not lost: we have now published and circulated a [briefing for \(potential\) investors](#) which raises serious questions about both the sustainability and the financial viability of the plant (given the comparatively low level of subsidies awarded). And we are now working with the local Community Council to try and persuade the Scottish Government not to grant an extension to the period during the which planning consent remains valid (before development starts) beyond June 2018. Watch out for more updates in future.



Grangemouth and its oil refinery, Photo: Richard Webb, www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1233455

4. Please support important letter-writing appeal by UK Without Incineration Network

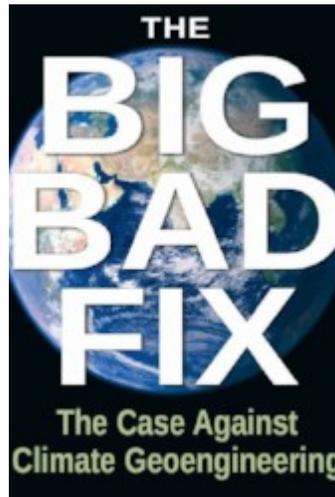
If you're based in the UK, please support the UK Without Incineration Network's Bin the Burners campaign and call on your MP to support a motion for a moratorium on new waste incineration capacity. [Click here](#) for more information and for a template letter.



5. New joint report: Big Bad Fix: The Case Against Climate Geoengineering

On December 6th, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Biofuelwatch and ETC Group

social movements, and other change agents with a comprehensive overview of the key actors, technologies and fora relevant in the geoengineering discourse. It is a call to action for movements to come together to oppose geoengineering as a dangerous technofix for climate change and as a threat to peace, democracy and human rights. Click [here](#) to read the report.



6. Feedback from protest outside the International Bioenergy Conference in Edinburgh

On 4th October, climate and forest campaigners in Edinburgh gathered outside the International Bioenergy Conference to protest against North America's largest pellet producer, Enviva, presenting on "sustainable sourcing of biomass".

Enviva, which supplies wood pellets to Drax and other European power stations, has [been shown to source a large proportion of its wood from the clearcutting of the remaining fragments of the biodiverse coastal hardwood forests](#). Those forests once covered large parts of the south-eastern US. The vast majority were cut down before the current biomass boom started. Now, the remaining forests are facing clearcutting to supply companies such as Enviva, and ultimately UK and other European power stations. They lie at the heart of a global biodiversity hotspot, with a high number of endemic plant and animal species.

We leafletted and spoke with delegates as they entered the building and several stopped to chat and hear our views. Let's keep the pressure up! If your



7. Plume Plotter: New visual shows who's getting polluted by Drax

Biofuelwatch has teamed up with Plume Plotter to produce minute-to-minute details of air pollution caused by Drax, taking account of local weather conditions.

See <http://plumeplotter.com/drax/> for full details, and here for a [2016 animation of Drax's plume](#).

Please note that power station plumes will only show up on the animation when they are close to the ground, i.e. during particular weather conditions and during daylight. No plume doesn't mean no pollution - it just means that pollution becomes dispersed, i.e. that it can harm people much further away.

The Plume Plotter is built using one of the most widely used and respected air pollution modelling systems developed in the United States, to take into account the real terrain in the vicinity of the incinerator, current weather conditions and upper air data. The Drax page uses recent data which Biofuelwatch obtained from the Environment Agency. Plume Plotter's assumptions are conservative, which means that actual local pollution levels could be higher.

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