

# The G8 Way to Climate Chaos

The Summit

facts about the G8 governments

## The Façade

"This is a serious issue and it is going to get worse... because every year we are piling more green house gases in to the atmosphere... There are whole communities that are going to be affected. The time to act is now - Tony Blair\*."

## The Reality:

The UK government has failed to deliver on its promise of a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions, way below the 60% reduction proposed by the InterGovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Whilst claiming to the world to have set the agenda for solutions on climate change, this government is pursuing a somewhat divergent policy. Confused?

### Airport Expansion

Increased airport expansion plans to cater for cheap flights (from 25 million passengers annually to 82 million by 2030), with 12 new runways across Britain despite air travel being a major contributor to climate change globally. Fossil fuel taxes are now lower than in 1997 while aviation fuel remains tax free regardless of government promises to tax polluting industries. (For ways to join in and take action see [www.airportwatch.org.uk](http://www.airportwatch.org.uk), [www.blairportfiles.org.uk](http://www.blairportfiles.org.uk) [www.airportpledge.org.uk](http://www.airportpledge.org.uk))

### More Roads

Over 200 new roads are under construction in a £5.5 billion road building programme, the biggest in 2 decades, despite the government's promise to lower CO2 emissions from transport and a decade of public opposition to road building. This goes hand in hand with an increase in distances travelled from a total of 400 billion kms in 1990 to almost 500 billion kms in 2003. (A diversity of action and protest against this is already happening. If you'd like to get involved, check out [www.roadalert.org.uk](http://www.roadalert.org.uk), [www.roadblock.org.uk](http://www.roadblock.org.uk))

### Publicly Funding Climate Chaos

The UK and other state governments have subsidised the fossil fuel industry with taxpayer's money via the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to the tune of \$1.8 billion since 1993. Together with the World Bank's \$11 billion since '92 gives lifetime CO2 emissions of 60 billion tonnes.

### Export Credit Guarantee Department

The ECGD promotes exports through loan guarantees and insurance using public money. It has approved £500 million of public money for export guarantees to the oil and gas sector per year for each of the last three years. This accounts for 14% of its overall business.

### Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline

BP's socially and ecologically disastrous Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline will produce 160 million tonnes of CO2 per year, equivalent to 30% of the UK's annual emissions, which is ten times the amount projected to be saved by the government's renewable energy programme. 14% of the total building cost (\$500million) is coming from the World Bank and EBRD. This was approved by the Department for International Development (DfID) and underwritten with public money by the UK ECGD.

### Other climate-destroying projects

Projects the UK are involved in like the Sakhalin Oil and Gas Project, and other Fossil Fuel exploration, transportation refining and burning are all of huge destructive consequence to the global climate, local ecology and indigenous communities who are displaced and murdered for the carbon economy. (For further information and what you can do about it see [www.baku.org](http://www.baku.org) [www.nonewoil.org](http://www.nonewoil.org) [www.thecornerhouse.org.uk](http://www.thecornerhouse.org.uk) [www.platformlondon.org](http://www.platformlondon.org))

### Food Freight

28% of road freight in the UK is food. 1.6 billion tons are carried 149 billion ton kilometers a year. £2.1 billion a year could be saved and invested on environmental projects if food was locally sourced. The subsequent reduction in the burning of diesel fuel would have a real effect on UK CO2 emissions. For example, the UK exports and imports 400,000 tons of milk a year - what's that all about? We import food from all over the world. Flying products like peas from Kenya and baby sweetcorn from Thailand is clearly detrimental to the environment and economically unjust.

### Nuclear Energy

The UK government is likely to back nuclear energy as a 'green' substitute for CO2-belching power stations. Martin O'Neill, the chairman of the Energy Select Committee says the Labour Party is planning to publish a White Paper that would pave the way for the construction of new nuclear power stations\*\*. A scenario triggering greater toxic radiation in the environment, serious health hazards and a higher risk of accidents from reactors, waste transportation and disposal. All in all, quite a devastating cocktail. Plus, it would give many more targets to those not best pleased with this nation. Which would you prefer, nuclear catastrophe or climate chaos? Or both? Do you really believe all that 'saved oil' won't be burnt? (For news and action on nuclear energy see [www.corecumbria.co.uk](http://www.corecumbria.co.uk))

## It's not just the climate

Without a doubt, an increasingly inhospitable climate will destroy large numbers of plant and animal species. For human beings there will be reduced land space for living and food production, creating a global increase in people fleeing the devastation and ensuing conflict and repression. A grim future indeed.

However, the fossil fuel industry has always had - and still has - a dire effect on those people who stand in its way. The oil extraction business removes indigenous peoples from their land, destroys and pollutes the environment in which they sustained themselves, pays millions into the pockets

of oppressive regimes who murder and mutilate all who stand in the way of development. In Indonesia, West Papua, Russia, Nigeria, Colombia, Alaska - in fact, wherever they operate, the perpetrators of climate change wreak havoc before the climatic consequences of burning fossil fuels takes effect.

For more information and ways to take action in solidarity with indigenous communities see [www.oilwatch.org.ec](http://www.oilwatch.org.ec) [www.amazonwatch.org](http://www.amazonwatch.org) [www.unii.net/conferiae](http://www.unii.net/conferiae) [www.ecuanex.net.ec/fda](http://www.ecuanex.net.ec/fda) [www.colombiasolidarity.org.uk](http://www.colombiasolidarity.org.uk) [www.jatam.org](http://www.jatam.org) [alaskaactioncenter.org](http://alaskaactioncenter.org) [www.baku.org.uk](http://www.baku.org.uk) [www.khrp.org](http://www.khrp.org) [www.platformlondon.org](http://www.platformlondon.org)

\*[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/3654042.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/3654042.stm) \*\*<http://money.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?xml=/money/2005/01/30/cnnuke30.xml>