

## **Rising Tide Press Release**

Activists occupy Carbon Neutral Company While Carbon Neutral Company Occupies Houses of Parliament, 21.2.07

Three activists from London Rising Tide today barricaded themselves inside the London headquarters of the Carbon Neutral Company. The protest took place to high-light the damage that offset companies are doing in promoting climate complacency in the general public.

London Rising Tide (LRT) had been invited by the Carbon Neutral Company to take part in the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change, which is chaired by the Carbon Neutral Company. But Rising Tide instead chose to occupy the offices of the Carbon Neutral Company as a statement against the CNC chairing a committee which they see as a clear conflict of interest given that they are profiting from climate change.

Speaking from the blockade, LRT activist Sam Chase said that, "The Carbon Neutral Company is today occupying the Houses Of Parliament, so we have decided to occupy the Carbon Neutral Company. They have no business chairing a committee like this. Their livelihoods and profit margins depend on exploiting people's anxiety about climate change, and as such it's a travesty that they are chairing a governmental panel on climate change."

Tony Gordon, who also took part in the occupation said that, "Offset companies are selling consumers a peace of mind about climate change that just shouldn't exist. The whole idea of offsetting is a throw back to the sale of indulgences to guilty sinners in the middle ages – both patently ridiculous and ineffective."

The occupation came the day after a report was published, "The Carbon Neutral Myth – Offset Indulgences for your Climate Sins," that was highly critical of the offsets industry, arguing that not only were supposed climate benefits impossible to quantify, that projects are also being imposed on communities in the global South with little consultation.

Earlier, people from LRT outside the office had unfurled a banner reading 'carbon "offset = climate upset', and symbolically swept coal under a piece of carpet, to symbolise the 'effectiveness' of carbon offsets. The indoor activists left the office voluntarily at about 4.30 having occupied the offices for the entire day.

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