



Don't be a fossil: Fight climate change!

10 demands to get rid of Europe's Carbon Dinosaurs

Man-made climate change is becoming increasingly evident, with scientists agreeing on burning fossil fuels as being its main cause. Climate change will lead to more extreme weather occurrences such as floods, or heatwaves, and may trigger an unprecedented economic, social and environmental disaster. Melting glaciers and dying coral reefs show that nature is already in the process of changing.

We are burning coal, oil and gas for virtually everything we do: drive our cars, heat our houses, run our factories or use our

household appliances. Time has come to leave the "Carbon Dinosaur" era of too intensive and inefficient fossil fuels use behind. The answer lies in using energy in less quantity, from renewable sources, and using and producing it more efficiently. Doing so will not only help save the climate, but also strengthen our economies.

Current EU policies and member states' initiatives are not tough enough to fight climate change. Friends of the Earth therefore calls on European policy-makers to:

1. Reduce total energy use by 1% per year

In the (pre-accession) EU, energy demand rose by about 10% between 1990 and 2000. The first step towards cutting greenhouse gas emissions, is getting Europe's appetite for energy to shrink instead of growing.

2. Produce 25% of Europe's energy from renewable sources by 2020

Many European countries have policies in place to encourage renewables, but more incentives and clear targets are needed to ensure that energy from the sun, wind, biomass and other renewable sources become more viable.

3. Remove public funding for coal, oil and gas

In the EU, fossil fuel use is subsidised with 15 billion Euro of taxpayers' money, annually. This perpetuates dependence on carbon dinosaurs like coal, oil and gas and encourages new fossil fuel investments in Europe and overseas.

4. Reduce industry's emission allowances by at least 10%

The EU is setting maximum greenhouse gas emission allowances for companies. If they wish to emit more, they have to buy additional permits. The total amount of allowances handed out must be at least 10% less than current levels, creating incentives for companies to invest in energy efficiency and clean technology.

5. Tax cars according to their pollution and set minimum efficiency standards

The EU should ensure that environmental damage by transport is reflected in its costs, starting with taxing cars according to their fuel consumption. Furthermore, minimum efficiency standards based on the best available technology are essential to create pressure to develop and apply cleaner technologies.

6. Reduce total transport demand

20% of our emissions come from the transport sector, and emissions are rising rapidly. Policies are needed to increase investment in public transport, minimise transport demand through urban planning and to support renewable fuels.

7. Increase energy efficiency for new appliances by 5% per year

Household and office appliances can be far more efficient. Appliances on "Stand-By" alone, consume 13% of domestic electricity. Incremental minimum energy efficiency standards can help to phase out inefficient products.

8. Introduce energy efficiency standards for buildings

The housing sector is responsible for about 40% of Europe's total primary energy needs. Much of this energy is used for inefficient heating and cooling. Improving insulation and increasing the use of natural ways of heating and cooling - such as the sun or the shade from trees - can drastically reduce emissions.

9. Integrate climate change concerns into agricultural policies

The agricultural sector is responsible for 10% of our greenhouse gas emissions, mostly from intense agriculture with high use of energy, fertilisers and pesticides. Additionally, the amount of greenhouse gases normally stored as carbon in agricultural soils and forests depends on land use practices.

10. Raise public awareness

The public has a crucial part to play in making the right choices about the way we use and produce energy. In order to get public support for effective measures to combat climate change, governments must clearly communicate to the public why they are necessary.

Name	Address	Signature

