



YOUNG Friends of the Earth Europe

Autumn 2012



What is in this NEWSLETTER ?

News from Young FoEE

- * reCAP
- * Summer Camp
- * Qatar in Brussels
- * YFoEE Documentary
- * Steering Group Update

For more info & news check out:

www.foeeurope.org/yfoee

&

www.facebook.com/YoungFoEE

News from the Network

- * Powershift Belgium
- * Ecotopia Biketour
- * Fracking in Ireland

Hello and welcome

... to the Young Friends of the Earth's autumn newsletter! You've all been busy as ever - cooking, picnicking, blogging and taking action for food and energy that won't cost us the earth. Read on to find out what your fellow Young Friends of the Earth folks have been up to - including news from our Steering Group and working groups, our annual summer camp, and the upcoming international climate negotiations convergence in Brussels later this year. Our Food & Agriculture working group explains why our agricultural policy needs a serious face-lift and what you can do to get involved in YFoEE's reCAP campaign, and Jamie from Young Friends of the Earth Ireland reports on the outrageous new 'fracking' technology that is gearing up to drill where no multi-national has drilled before - unless of course we stop unconventional gas before it starts.

We are a European network - including people from over 20 countries, and somehow this seems more important than usual in light of recent events - our economy is in crisis, the EU fails to pass more ambitious climate legislation, our democracies are under attack from big business, and then the EU wins the Nobel Peace prize! Meanwhile, more and more young people are out of work and in debt - and not only in Portugal, Greece and Spain. During the summer I travelled through Catalonia, France and Germany on my bicycle (see Ecoptopiabiketour.net for more info!) - visiting projects that are growing their own food, taking back communal land, and building more resilient communities in the process. I felt at home every pedal of the way - not because I spoke the languages and knew the traditions, but because wherever I went people were identifying the same problems and failings of our economic system, and taking action to build a more equitable future in creative and diverse ways. So whatever you have planned for the next few months in your networks and groups at home, let's use these trying times as an opportunity to build something better - together!

- Natascha, YFoE Scotland



Timeline

**Autumn Newsletter
2012**

Start reCAP

19th September

All over Europe: 50 actions in 50 days

www.foeeurope.org/yfoee/reCAP

End reCAP

7th November

All over Europe: 50 days action period ends

Qatar in Brussels

1st- 8th December

Brussels, Belgium: www.qatar-in-brussels.org

Register as soon as possible if you're interested in one of the limited free accommodation places for YFoEE members

Agriculture Demonstration

19th January

Berlin, Germany: The Young Friends of the Earth Food and Agriculture Working Group will be going to Berlin for this demonstration as well as three days of meeting, learning and training on the topic of Food and Agriculture. Email sophie.manson@foeeurope.org if you want to find out more

Network Gathering

11th- 15th April (to be confirmed)

Croatia: YFoEE annual Network Gathering 2013 to get up to date what is going on in every local group, plan the following year & get to know each other

reCAP

50 days, 50 actions

This autumn, Young Friends of the Earth Europe has been running its first food and agriculture based campaign reCAP.

From 19th September- 7th November we launched a 50 day action period, where Young Friends of the Earth groups and activists from all across Europe have been running 50 actions to promote sustainable farming and reject the intensive and polluting factory farming that is growing in Europe and the world.

There's been a massive response- with so far over 30 actions and activities taking place, and over 100 photographs being sent in, showing the wealth of support for more sustainable food and agriculture in Europe, and our vision of what this can look like. We've had everything from film screenings and debates in Belgium, street actions and post card signature collection in Germany, to occupying car parking spaces and turning them into urban gardens in Croatia. It's also inspired Young Friends of the Earth Austria to only consume vegan and organic food at their future group meetings and events!



Photo gallery:

www.flickr.com/photos/youngfoee_recap

Facebook: www.facebook.com/reCAP2012

Twitter: www.twitter.com/recap2012



We really recommend you take some time to look at the results so far from reCAP, and think about getting involved- you've still got time! We've been publishing lots of news about it on the YFoEE website, as well as creating our own facebook, twitter and flickr pages to spread the results of the campaign. So check out and like the links above...

With all of the results of the 50 days of reCAP we're producing a special booklet with our key messages for food and agriculture reform together with images and messages from young people all over Europe. We're also planning on staging some exciting installations of the pictures. Keep a lookout for more news about this!



reCAPture our future!

Why reCAP?

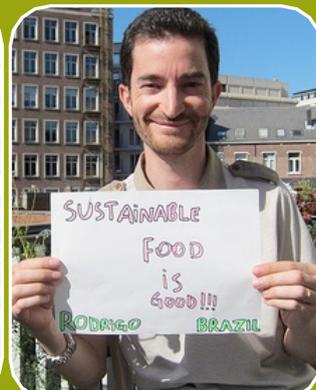
What's going on with Europe's agriculture

Europe's current model of farming and food consumption is destroying the environment and hurting people. Most of the food that we eat is mass-produced and highly chemically treated on factory farms, where irresponsible and profit-driven practices prevail. Furthermore, industrial agriculture damages water supplies, wildlife and rural communities, and is a major driver of climate change. It is not a fair or sustainable system for us, for farmers, for the planet or for the future.

However – another world is possible! One where people eat healthy and nutritious food, grown on small-scale farms with respect to natural production methods, that don't pollute the environment, use harmful chemicals or genetically modified crops. Young Friends of the Earth Europe envisions a food and agriculture system based on small-scale, self-sustaining settlements, balanced within the natural ecosystem, which produce healthy, highly nutritional, affordable, and locally distributed food.

In Europe, the Common Agriculture Policy is a major set of legislation that has for the last 50 years shaped the way that food is produced and distributed in Europe. The "CAP", as it is more commonly known, currently uses up to 40% of the EU's 140 billion euro annual budget. Sadly, the vast majority of this money goes towards subsidising industrial and intensive farming practices, rather than small scale and sustainable

The CAP affects each and every one of us. The policies that are agreed now will be legislation for the next seven years, but will have impacts that last for generations. We want to see factory farming replaced with more sustainable practices that use fewer chemicals and external inputs in general (including fossil fuels, artificial fertilisers and pesticides). We want more balanced, ecologically sound and environmentally sustainable farming, and want to live in a Europe that uses its land wisely, does not pollute water, destroy soil or emit large amounts of greenhouse gas, but rather conserves its biodiversity and curbs its over-consumption.



Coming next from the YFoEE Food & Agriculture working group

Although the reCAP action period will be ending on 7th November, reCAP will still be the focus of our work for the rest of 2012 and start of 2013, when key decisions on this piece of legislation will be taking place in the European Parliament. There are still several actions planned until the 7th November, and as soon as all the reports and pictures are in we'll be collecting them and making some special materials and actions- including a photo booklet, a short movie and potentially some actions in Brussels. With just a few days to go, you still have time to send us a picture and a message. Check the reCAP action pack for more information about what your picture & message could be about.

www.foeeurope.org/sites/default/files/yfoee/recap2012_actionpack.pdf



January 2013

What we're also really excited about is an event we are organising in January next year. Around the weekend of the 19th January, we'll be running a 4 day event in Berlin, Germany for learning, training and taking action!

There will be 15 funded places for YFoEE members, and we'll also be joining BUNDjugend for a massive demonstration on agriculture through the city. More information and the application form will be coming soon!



Summer Camp 2012

Galicia, Spain

14th - 19th
August

This years summer camp took us to the fantastic mountains of north west Spain where we were hosted by Friends of the Earth Spain at their environmental education centre As Corcerizas.

Along with the usual networking and exchanging between activists from across the YFoEE network, at this years summer camp we also took time to explain the background of our new reCAP campaign and got many people and groups ready to take part in this campaign this autumn. We also took some time to not just learn about the theory and politics of the world's problems, but to learn some practical ways that we can go about living in and building a more sustainable society, so we had many workshops, from learning about the renewable technologies that they have developed and installed at As Corcerizas, to learning how to build ovens from rocks and clay. It was inspiring and energising to have this mixture of different activities, and really get a feel for the Galician nature and culture, from visiting nearby traditional villages to meeting local people.



In total we were 35 people from 10 countries, which of course meant we had a lot of fun on the intercultural night, but also highlighted that even though we all come from different countries (some of us 1000's of Kilometers away from each other) many of us are facing the same challenges and struggles in our campaigning work. More positively it showed us that there are lots of things that we are doing well and succeeding in, and that by coming together we can share these experiences and skills and all become better campaigners and act in solidarity with each other in the future. This is really important for keeping ourselves and our work going and feeling part of the bigger picture.



The As Corcerizas centre was the perfect place for our summer camp! The beautiful photos just go to show how much fun we had, and all the interesting and different activities we got up to. For more pictures and news about what went on at this year's summer camp, check out our website and photo gallery:

www.foeeurope.org/magical-summer-camp2012

Summer Camp
2013

Everyone is already looking forward to helping out and taking part in next year's summer camp, due to take place on the Lofoten Islands in northern Norway. Contact Stine from Young Friends of the Earth Norway if you want to find out more! stineo@nu.no



Qatar in Brussels

1st - 8th December

**Join Young Friends of the Earth in Brussels
1st- 8th December!
Registrations are open!**

The last event of Young Friends of the Earth Europe's year is Qatar in Brussels, taking place in parallel to the latest round of UN climate talks. Instead of travelling all the way to Doha, Qatar to follow the talks, we're inviting all of you to come to the slightly closer (though somewhat colder!) destination of Brussels, and join Young Friends of the Earth Europe for a week of learning, training, planning and action to demand climate justice!

Qatar in Brussels takes place at the Waterman Jes hostel in the city centre of Brussels. We've organised and have funding to cover a limited number of places at the event (your food and accommodation, no travel sorry), if you're from a Young Friends of the Earth or Friends of the Earth organisation.

BUT: places are limited, so please make sure to register as soon as possible, and also email Maruska from the organising team marus.mileta@gmail.com. We can then confirm your accommodation.

Much more information about the event, why we're doing it and what you can expect there can be found on our special website: www.qatar-in-brussels.org. We recommend you keep checking back, as similar to last year's Durban in Brussels event, we'll be posting news, blogs, pictures and videos every day of the event.



Not able to come to Brussels?

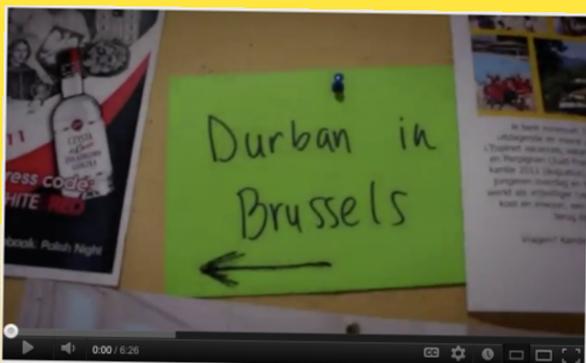
During the event itself we'll be linking up with youth activist every day from the talks in Qatar, and other with other solidarity events and actions taking place around Europe and the world. Please let us know if you're interested in organising your own parallel event or action, and want to link up with us in Brussels.

Qatar in Brussels Webpage

How was the event last year?

Check out last year's video!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=k12n_ssZf6o



YFoEE Documentary

As you might have already seen, two members of Young Friends of the Earth Europe, who also happen to be professional filmmakers, are making a documentary about Young Friends of the Earth Europe!

Job and Ellard, who have been filming Young Friends of the Earth Europe since the network was started in 2007, have now joined forces again and want to document the people, the diversity and the impact that we have had on the environmental scene in Europe. It will be a feature length documentary, launched in 2013, that will follow people who've been in YFoEE over the years, from all over Europe, and telling their stories about Young Friends of the Earth Europe. **Sounds great, yes?**



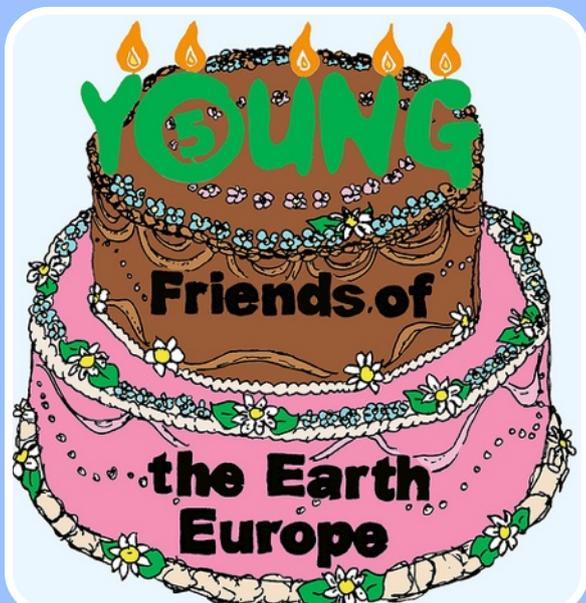
The other really exciting thing about the documentary is that it is going to be crowd funded. In September they launched a sponsorship page and collected over 2,000 euros to start making the film!

Though the sponsor page is no longer active, you can still donate to the project and help us make this happen. You'll get your name in the final credits of the film, and if you can get your Young Friends of the Earth group to sponsor us, will even get their logo in the film.

You can also join the mailing list about the movie, to keep up to date on what's going on. To add your name to this list please email Job at:

job.van.den.assem@milieudefensie.nl

**5 years of Young FoEE!!!
Yippy-yippy-yeah!**



Steering Group Update

The Steering Group of YFoEE have meetings every 2-3 weeks via Skype. These usually have a very tight agenda, and are very productive, but it's where we update ourselves and discuss all the major things that have gone on recently with the YFoEE network and our working groups. Of course the best meetings are face-to-face, so we have an annual meeting over a long weekend, and recently met in Brussels from the 14th- 17th September to do just that! Present at the meeting was Paul (Scotland), Thessa (the Netherlands), Susi (Germany). Tage (Norway) couldn't make it, so Ola stood in as his alternate. Also present were Sophie (YFoEE co-ordinator from the FoE Europe office) and Tina (ex-steering group member).



From the left: Ola, Paul, Maxim; Tina, Susi, Tage Natascha and Thessa holding the banner.

In September we travelled to Brussels and made use of the FoE Europe offices. We covered a broad range of issues, both internal - such as our strategy, the working groups, our relationship with FoE Europe & FoE International, and external - such as our events like Qatar in Brussels, Summer Camp and next year's YFoEE Network Gathering. We also already started thinking about the election and handover to a new Steering Group in April 2013, and some creative ways to encourage and inspire people to take the reins for YFoEE for the next year!

Having the opportunity to meet up and really thrash through some points and give them all the time they deserve is hugely valuable to our work. If you would like to know anything more about our discussions or plans, please feel free to contact us.

Best wishes
Paul, YFoEE Steering Group member



Want to know more about the current steering group?!

www.foeeurope.org/yfoee-steering-2012

People from the Young FoEE network at the 2012 gathering in Switzerland

Powershift Belgium

1st - 3rd December

Young Friends of the Earth Flanders are really excited to announce "Power Shift Belgium": The first edition of a Belgian climate justice event that aims to empower and bring together Belgian youth.

Power Shift Belgium is being organised as a part of world wide Power Shift network and inspired by many amazing events organised by motivated young people around climate justice topics. With Power Shift Belgium we want to create a place where young people can learn about the causes to the climate crisis, strengthening the youth climate justice movement in Belgium.

Power Shift Belgium will be focusing on the power of corporation and corporate capture: Corporations have increasingly more influence on laws and policies, which is a problem since they're motivated solely by profit and completely ignore human rights and values.

We will examine the tools of corporate power and the relationship between policies and corporate objectives. We must send the politicians and corporations in our country a clear message: Young people are fully aware of this misuse of power and we want climate and social justice!



As a cherry on top, Power Shift Belgium will coincide with the "Qatar in Brussels" convergence that young Friends of the Earth Europe is organising 1st- 8th December. We will offer our participants a chance to meet international activists and exchange experiences in several joint sessions, plus take part in an excellent party on the 2nd December.

Visit our website!
www.power-shift-belgium.org

and for the ultimate inspiring sparkle, check out our teaser video!

www.vimeo.com/51025927

Party, party, party!!!
Yeah!





Ecotopia Biketour

6th July - 19st September

Imagine the scene - thirty pairs of legs are peddling up green mountains and hills, passing through lush valleys, and gliding alongside pristine rivers in the European landscape, rejoicing in the overwhelming beauty of our shared continent. Oh wait, sorry - error. Actually, most of the time the views on offer are of industrial landscapes, zombie-apocalypse-ready suburban wastelands and tarmac-smacked tourist flooded coastal lines that look like a robot had been asked to draw a picture of a bunker on a beach. But the Ecotopia Bike Tour does not try to avoid all that - even if frequent mishaps in the route planning lead to circumventing destinations. Rather, a group of people are coming together to build a practical alternative to an all-inclusive trip to the beach by self-organising a tour, year on year, which brings together ideas of sustainability, anti-consumerism and the good ol' cause of justice (however you've repackaged it) - all while traveling on the same concrete-happy roads as the rest of the world.

The Ecotopia Bike Tour wants YOU (to peddle)!

This year, the tour started in **Barcelona** at the beginning of July and, having passed through **Catalonia** and **France**, arrived in Venice this September. Along the way, the tour visited projects which are working towards making a change on many levels, including farming cooperatives, self-sufficient communities, social squats and bike workshops. Here, people lend a helping hand and learn about new tools, ways of organising and what things like perma-culture ACTUALLY ARE. The group also shares all its resources - pooling money, cooking meals collectively, and exchanging knowledge and skills through workshops and presentations. Decisions are made by consensus, and anybody can join along the way.



The Bike Tour is not new - it has been around for over twenty years, undergoing several face-lifts and identity crises along the way. 'What is Bike Tour?' is a question you might hear asked frequently in a variety of accents, especially when activities range from electrifying workshops with very tired people, cooking a hundred meals a day on a rocket stove, making funny hand-signals during 'circles', to the more cycle-and-consume style days spent on the beach. The group is confronted by many issues - how do we organise? How can we take action against the destruction of our planet and the injustice which continues in so many aspects of modern living? And why didn't food group buy more porridge? On an organic farm near Barcelona, the group stood on a field admiring aubergine plants while to the east a cement factory was churning out fumes on a frightening scale, three lane highways were hugging the farm, and a housing development was threatening the land towards the west. It was pretty easy to feel small and cornered. However, here is a sobering thought to share: the bike tour is exactly what we made it into, - we let it develop by practically implementing our ideals every day. When I think of the Young Friends of the Earth Europe network, the issues we take on, it reminds me that we can change things for the better. We just need to put our hands to it.

The Ecotopia Bike Tour will be cycling through Europe **again next year**, exact times and locations yet to be discussed. Check www.ecotopiabiketour.net for updates and get involved!



Written by Natascha Deininger, Young Friends of the Earth Scotland

Fracking in Ireland

Report: Actions by Young FoE Ireland

One blustery, sunny Sunday morning last November, I took a walk with a local person in a community threatened by fracking. Walking along winding country roads, over hilltops and past gushing brooks, she shared with me a little of the rich history and folklore through which we traipsed. We passed ruined cottages whose former inhabitants still occupy the memory of the place and ancient forests which the fairies, mythical creatures of Irish folklore, are said to still inhabit. This sense of folklore, culture and history is very important. In a very real sense the land does not belong to the people- the people belong to the land on which their families have lived for generations. This is why they are fighting against fracking and all forms of unconventional gas extraction which will destroy the environment and tear apart communities.

If fracking takes place then the fairy stories of this beautiful countryside will be replaced by the nightmare of irreversible human health and environmental damage.

Fracking is a process where water, sand and toxic chemicals are injected into the earth at high pressure. The aim of this process is to fracture rock formations deep underground to release shale gas that would otherwise be inaccessible.

A **report by the European Parliament** has noted that fracking causes 'groundwater contamination by methane, in extreme cases leading to explosion of residential buildings, and potassium-chloride leading to salinisation of drinking water is reported in the vicinity of gas wells.'

In Ireland the proposed fracking sites are in areas well-connected to our water table and river network. Ireland and Northern Ireland's largest rivers, the Shannon and the Erne, flow through the areas which fracking is proposed. The EU report also highlights 'unavoidable' high land occupation that fracking requires. The landscape is taken over by drilling pads, parking and maneuvering areas for trucks, equipment, gas processing and transporting facilities and access roads.

Fracking will result in a land grab (or 'compulsory purchase') as it takes over the landscape that is home to thousands of families in hundreds of communities. Many of these communities are sustained by farming and eco-tourism - the two sectors most threatened by fracking.

As a grassroots network of young people, Young Friends of the Earth Ireland, is mobilising in solidarity with communities across Ireland to oppose fracking. YFoE Ireland held its recent **network gathering** on the shores of Lough Allen in fracking-threatened County Leitrim. At the gathering we learned more about how fracking will destroy the countryside from Leah Doherty of **No Fracking Ireland**, campaigner Dr Aedin McLoughlin of the **Good Energies Alliance Ireland**, and Chairperson of the Leitrim Organic Farmers' Association, Tommy Earley.

Saturday 22 September was **Global Frackdown day**. YFoE Ireland held actions in **Dublin**, Cork and Galway to send a clear message to the Irish government that young people do not want their futures destroyed by fracking. Future generations of Irish people must be able to enjoy our beautiful landscape and rich heritage. They might even manage to catch a fairy, as long as they haven't been fracked!



Written by Jamie Gorman

YOUNG

Friends of the Earth Europe

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