

ESG Newsflash



Environmental Safety Group

2007-2008

Dear friends-

As we go to print it we are pleased to confirm that at last we're seeing some results from years of sustained campaigning.. ..

• **big news**, recently, of Government's decision to begin an independent, **epidemiological study**— an issue of great concern to our members and the Gibraltar public in general

CLIMATE CHANGE

• Publication of the 1st report from the Climate Change

Forum , long overdue, and vitally important— However, the ESG will press for an ACTION PLAN and timeline for introducing necessary changes to address global warming ; also believes there needs to be "wider public consultation in the formation of a climate change policy."

• **Recycling bins** for glass and cans finally here ! (to be followed by other materials we hope)

• The sight of **bike racks** around Gibraltar , is also very welcome

Your feedback.....

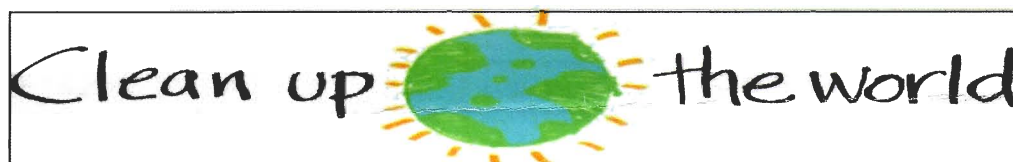
We have held meetings with the new Minister for the Environment to present our concerns on all issues on our membership form. We are pleased to provide you with a progress report and welcome **your feedback and ideas**.

As always, thanks for your support,

ESG Committee

Special points of interest:

- Clean Up Comes Back
- Progress on Epid Study
- NO2PB hits the Rock
- Recycling bins
- In Town Without My Car
- Save Pinar del Rey
- Updates on bunkering, OESCO
- Use the Bins Campaign!!
- Climate Change Forum report
- ESG Greening Agenda



Call us if you have a problem or see or smell something toxic! On: **43156/ 74467/ 78067**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

20TH AND 21ST SEPTEMBER

*The ESG has co-ordinated Gibraltar's participation in the global Clean up the World campaign since 2005. Widespread community support has made this campaign energising, rewarding and effective! • **Call 43156, 71020 or 74467 to register •**

Please note planning meetings will commence in August. Dates will be circulated soon. This year's weekend will again be launched with an exhibition, entertainment and a green parade.

*The ESG has met with the Minister for the Environment on various occasions regarding littering, waste and recycling issues. We have also visited various problem sites tackled during our annual clean-up to ensure greater understanding of the scale of the problems so these can be tackled in a meaningful way.



Victoria Stadium March 2008



Police Recruits in Little Bay May 2008

Action: two separate "spot" clean ups this year —in coastal and green areas. Thanks to Vic Stadium, Bayside, Duke of Edinburgh, St John's Cadets, the Police Recruits and ESG volunteers. Well done to all!!

Illegal dumping at Catalan Bay



Above cleared after ESG report

Results from previous campaigns has seen replacement of old street equipment, removal of shocking mountains of long-term and illegally dumped rubbish; revision of cleaning contracts; better facilities for disposal of controlled waste in some cases and more. However, complete success will not happen overnight and a clean up this year is badly needed. Very pleased to advise that volunteers are already signing up!.

Progress: Gibraltar finally has recycling bins for glass and cans. This is another huge step for the environment. We look ahead to this year's Clean Up with expectations that further progress is possible.

ESG on air !!!

Every other Thursday (1st & 3rd) at 1.15pm on Radio Gibraltar

Speaking of:-

RENEWABLE ENERGY!
RECYCLING

PEAK OIL

ROLE OF NGO'S

CLEAN UP THE WORLD
GIB 2007/8

BUCKET BRIGADE

POWER STATIONS

And a lot more!

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

DAVID DUMAS QC of

HASSANS INTERNATIONAL

LAW FIRM

PROFESSOR BENACH—Public Health Expert

DENNY LARSON - Refinery Expert

FOLLOW LINK FOR ESG POSITION ON VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

http://www.esggib.net/hpage/database/documents/esg_greening_agenda.pdf

IN TOWN WITHOUT MY CAR

www.itwc.ngo.gi

Congested roads and traffic jams are a regular feature of our day to day lives in Gibraltar. To tackle this serious traffic problem, people will need to start using their cars less and rely more on more sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. In Town Without My Car Gibraltar is a European campaign addressing these issues which ran locally for the first time in 2007. It incorporated both National Cycle Week and European Mobility Week, which culminated on the 22nd September with "In Town Without My Car" day. A week of activities leading up to it was organized by the numerous associations that make up the In Town Without My

Car steering committee, including the ESG, GONHS and Friends of the Earth. Education and raising awareness are at the heart of this campaign, and as such a sustained information campaign was carried out to open people's hearts and minds to the possibility of change. The introduction of bicycle racks, one of the main goals of last year's campaign, is now at the final stages of implementation; these racks can be seen at various locations around the Rock already!

The theme for 2008's campaign is "Clean Air for All" and the week of the 16th - 22nd September will once again see a series of awareness raising initiatives

such as films and discussions, culminating on the 21st September with In Town Without My Car Day. Further details of upcoming events will be made public closer to the time.



OESCO, IPPC and air emissions...

We have long campaigned for a reduction of air and noise pollution from our electricity generating stations. The environmental impact from these installations on residents is a **daily reality**. While electricity and water are essential to our needs, not enough is being done to mitigate their emissions.

News that a new, modern power station will soon be built is positive but the fact that it will run on diesel and that nothing significant will be done on *existing* air emissions in the meantime, is not satisfactory-

Update: The IPPC Directive 96/61 has been in force since Nov 07 to radically reduce pollution from plants like OESCO (and the

CEPSA Oil refinery, among others). On receiving its new operating licence post October, OESCO was advised this was conditional upon its coming up with a plan within 6 months to reduce its air emissions -

8 months later...no plan!! ESG pressing for Govt action on this! You can help by writing to Govt and the EAgency asking for action- the more pressure, the better



"...the fact that it will run on diesel and that nothing significant will be done on existing air emissions in the meantime, is not satisfactory-.."

NEWSFLASH!!

Check : www.gibraltairairquality.gi for additional online data which will soon be available- ESG will continue to pressure the authorities for OESCO to invest in pollution reduction technologies



Heavy Refinery Pollution

Epidemiological Studies ..what next??—

The ESG has been publicly lobbying the Gibraltar Government and Spanish authorities (via La Plataforma), for an **independent, cross border, epidemiological study** to be carried out.

We were very glad to see inclusion of such a commitment by the GSD in its last election manifesto and even happier when they recently announced the launch of preparations for such studies.

We would like to thank all our members and the Gibraltar public for helping us collect the 14,000 strong petition along-

side the Spanish communities which clearly helped the campaign.

La Plataforma por El Estudio Epidemiológico, of which we form a part, will now be pressuring the Spanish Govt to join Gibraltar in carrying out these important health studies for the benefit of all Bay citizens.



You can join the ESG with a click of a button - £5.00 subscription www.esg-gib.net Check out our website and simply download a form...the rest is up to you!!

Relentless urban growth in the bay

SAVE!

PINAR DEL REY!!

It is getting clogged up, built up and ugly! Huge land reclamation projects signal ever more activity and cause distress to all who value the health and integrity of the Bay's natural environment. Green areas are being concreted over, wetlands drained and habitats fast becoming but distant memories....so much for Europe's biodiversity and wildlife protection programme!

Pinar Del Rey: A proposed motorway threatens the stability and peace of one of the

remaining green lungs in the Bay. The motorway would tear through the main water source to the woods and devastate the tranquil and richly diverse natural environment enjoyed by many.

We cannot lose any more green areas in our Bay! Contact us if you want to help **stop!** the motorway- send an email or call us and we shall keep you posted of any future actions.



Bunkering and cross border port controls

Bunkering activity is being monitored more closely than ever before. Due to our campaign and public pressure, emission testing has been carried out by Govt agencies. Whatever the results may or may not show (as these figures have not been made public), the fact remains that in certain wind conditions the fumes are intolerable and offensive.

Action: Two years ago we researched and provided Govt with information on vapour recovery technology which could play a major role in reducing fugitive fumes from all fuel handling processes. While other steps

taken by Govt must be acknowledged this vital step ensuring operators use best available technology hasn't and we shall continue to press for action on this.



Stricken New Flame off Europa Point

Cross border Port Controls: This has taken on a new meaning since the early days when we used to protest against the almost daily appearance of oil on beaches throughout the Bay. Accidents such as : The Van Gogh, Samothraki and of course, the infamous New Flame, have exposed the urgency of this issue which has to be addressed practically, at a cross border level, but above all politically. Politics has historically hampered any real progress. While ironic to hear of the storm at the EU over the environmental threat from the New Flame, if this translates to action via the Tripartite forum then we may yet see some progress.

Action: We continue to contact the relevant authorities and hope to meet the new Captain of the Port to present our concerns (yet again!).

Bay Pollution

The **campaign** to reduce industrial pollution and impacts on citizen's health continues with efforts from both sides of the border seeking action from local authorities and the European Commission.

Action: A technical assessment on the **CEPSA Oil Refinery** was commissioned via the ESG by MEP Neil Parish. We invited advisor and GCM Director, Denny Larson, to carry out the inspection. A report was produced which was submitted to both local Governments and directly to the European Environment Commissioner in 2007.

You can download this in-depth report from our website.

Result!: News just in from the Environment Commissioner's office is that they have been in touch with the Spanish authorities over CEPSA.

The Commission is now checking how CEPSA is meeting the stringent air quality stds under Pollution Directive: IPPC 96/61, in force since November 2007. We shall continue to place pressure through this channel.

MEP Parish with Expert
Denny Larson and CEPSA
official during inspection



Oil! Oil! Oil!

We are concerned but not surprised about the current unrest regarding fuel shortages. The ESG has long called for Govt to proactively seek alternatives to fossil fuels precisely because of the global situation and our 110% reliance on this fuel source, when so many renewable options exist.

*Please refer to the **ESG Wish list link** in this newsletter for more details.*

Greenpeace report *An excellent resource*

The ESG welcomes the publication of a shocking Greenpeace International report into pollution in Spain.

● **Targeting industrial and commercial pollution** on the Iberian Peninsula there is a wealth of information useful to any student, campaigner, scientist, or anyone interested in such matters. A section on the Bay covers studies into the impact from hydrocarbon pollution on the marine ecology.

This is not surprising when the largest and dirtiest Oil Refinery in all of Spain is located in the Bay as well as a massive petrochemical complex, all daily discharging toxic chemicals into land, air and water systems.

The Greenpeace report hones in on this and also looks at seabed contamination from long-term exposure to minor, but regular oil spills from bunkering activity.

You can download this report from our website.



ESG: Mailbox Centre, PO Box 561, Suite No. 223,
Imossi Hse, 1/5, Irish Town, Gibraltar.

Tel: 200-43156/71020/74467 **Fax:** 20070885

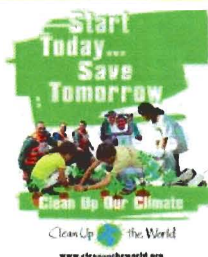
E-mail: esg@gibtelecom.net, howitts@gibtelecom.net

Website: www.esg-gib.net

Useful Sites:

2008 Clean up the World theme

www.refineryreform.org
www.cleanuptheworld.org
www.frogib.motime.com
www.survivethefuture.net
www.gonhs.org
www.stopclimatechaos.org
www.monbiot.com

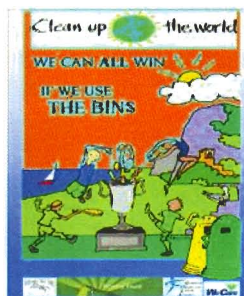


The Environmental Safety Group is a non-profit organization based in Gibraltar, which aims to bring awareness to its community about practices which are hazardous to the health and environment of our fellow citizens and the area which we live in.

Born of the struggle against proposed repairs on the Nuclear Propelled Submarine, Tireless, in 2001 the ESG has over the years engaged in many campaigns aimed at improving the environment which we live in. These include: campaigns for cleaner air; embodied in the Bay Bucket Brigade and the struggle against air pollution from heavy industries in the bay—directly at EU and regional level; and the call for clean energy production locally. Calls also continue for tighter bunkering controls and improved cross border maritime management; the preservation of green areas both in Gibraltar and the Campo area and the fight against the many other environmental hazards which, sadly affect this part of the world. Clean up the World Campaign has since 2005, successfully targeted various local environmental issues and we hope that the 2008 campaign will be as effective. More recently the ESG has supported and helped organise campaigns like In Town without my car and NO2PB, which will also bear positive fruits for our local environment.

POSTER COMPETITION

Under the **Clean Up the World** Banner the ESG and Sports and Leisure Authority are inviting schools to participate in a poster competition—you will soon see these colourful posters splashed around Gibraltar with the generous sponsorship of the **Bonita Trust** and **We Care Programme**



USE THE BINS CAMPAIGN!

Schools are being contacted directly and colourful posters with details will be posted around Gibraltar shortly!!



RUBBISH POSTER •

PRODUCED AFTER LAST YEARS CLEAN UP WITH ADVICE ON WHERE TO DISPOSE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF RUBBISH. DOWNLOAD POSTER FROM OUR WEBSITE—

INFO INCLUDED IN THE NEXT GIBRALTAR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY!!

Plastic bags- A scourge of our time? NO2PB!!

An all out campaign to eradicate the use of plastic carrier bags was launched with a press conference on the 28th of March signalling the birth of yet another group of citizens concerned with the deterioration of our environment, locally and globally. The group is known as No to Plastic bags or NO2PB.

If when reading this you question the need for such a campaign just pause for a moment and give a thought to the following:-

•The five **trillion** plastic carrier bags produced each year start life as crude oil. Plastic bags demand is so high that **0.2 per cent of the world's oil** is used to make them—about 60 million barrels worth, about £3 billion.

•Plastic bags are the cause of severe harmful effects to flora, fauna, marine life and the environment in general.

•Plastic bags and plastic waste kill a million sea birds and 100,000 animals such as whales, dolphins, turtles and seals, each year

•Scientific studies have estimated that some plastic bags may take between 400 to 1000 years to disintegrate and vanish.

•Plastic bags contain chemicals used in printing which can leak and turn into noxious compounds when burned and released into the atmosphere and environment.

The list is endless, this being the reason why the NO2PB campaign is being launched in conjunction with an increasing number of nations worldwide. Watch out for more details of the NO2PB campaign and we hope that many Gibraltarian residents join us in our struggle to make Gibraltar and the world at large healthier to inhabit.



Plastic bags; very much a local problem

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