

ESG Radio newsletter Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November

As we head ever closer towards the festive season various issues tend to dominate the day be it from the political, economic or environmental spectrum.

In today's newsletter we shall talk about a number of important events coming up in the ESG calendar as well as how you can make a huge difference to someone else's Christmas this year.

Our recent screening of "An Inconvenient Truth" and the issues it brought home regarding the harsh and frightening realities behind climate change, for example, needs to remain, in our view, in the spotlight. The ESG is therefore planning a number of public debates on climate change which it will be announcing in the press. Inviting both students and participation from a cross section of our community it is hoped this will help to keep these important matters firmly in the frontline of everything we do and the decisions we make on a day to day basis. Watch out for dates and venue in the local press!!

On a different note is news that due to popular demand the ESG is now making preparations for our third ever "Cycle for Clean Energy" event raising funds for GBC Open Day. The date being set is the 10<sup>th</sup> December and anyone wanting and fit enough to participate is asked to contact Jonathan Scott on 71020.

Now for Xmas and some thoughts for you to consider.

Its quite possible that many of you now, aware of the growing problems with the waste we already generate in the West, will be trying to find ways to reduce the excessive amounts of packaging and frills which many stores are telling us, is all part of how we should celebrate Xmas.

A thought for you to consider is that even leading countries like the UK on recycling can't cope with their own quantities of waste and have to export in bulk to other poorer countries for processing. These processes are often done with little to no regulations or safety protection for the often very young workers. This thought may encourage you to at least refuse plastic bags on your shopping sprees and use a strong reusable bag and "do your bit" for the environment and for those less fortunate.

Another way of possibly making someone's Xmas special and reducing waste could be by giving them a gift which also provides what are basic facilities for us in the West, but for too many, a better chance for survival, often a small miracle in itself.

Orgs like Unicef, Action Aid, thesmileshop, Oxfam, Save the Children and many others, are now offering online facilities to allow us a chance to make a real difference to someone's life. Also environmental NGO's like Friends of the Earth, World Wildlife Fund and others also invite the public to assist in many worthwhile campaigns by purchasing presents online which will provide much needed funds for various ongoing and very important campaigns.

Please look on their websites or contact the ESG for further information.