

ESG Radio Broadcast Thursday 8th March Various

In this weeks slot we'd like to give you a quick round-up of the various projects the ESG has in hand. First, though, we'd like to comment on three issues which have been taking up our attention recently. These are:-

- the upcoming ban on smoking advertising,
 - traffic gridlock and plane concerns ,
 - as well as OESCO Power Station.
- **On smoking advertising**, the ESG is currently finalising its policy paper on smoking with a focus on passive smoking in particular and will be posting this on its website soon. It is positive news that tighter controls are being applied to discourage smoking and it is hoped that legislation against smoking in public and work places will soon follow.
- **On the question of traffic on our streets**, the ESG has also noted with some concern the fragility of our traffic network which, in spite of sterling efforts by the police, collapsed into total gridlock on at least two occasions last week. With an ever increasing number of private and construction vehicles on the road it is little wonder these problems happen. News of further reclamation, concrete cement plants, new constructions and extra flights only deepens the anxiety which exists within the community of the ever declining quality of life on the streets in Gibraltar. It's clear that long term management of our small living area needs to be reviewed and reviewed quickly.
- One last subject to touch upon before moving on to news and information on ESG activities is the **OESCO power station**. We will be issuing a press release on this later today but I wanted South District residents to know that the ESG has been watching the emissions these past few weeks in horror. Apart from numerous calls we have received from affected residents, we have also been monitoring the plant and have seen thick volumes of noxious smoke almost on a 24 hr basis for at least 2 weeks. It has finally calmed down again but the ESG will be asking Govt to obtain an explanation from the plant explaining why it has been polluting so heavily and to make this information public.

Moving on now to special interest news and important dates coming up:-

- You may be very interested to know that some of our hardworking Committee members have formulated an **Eco-calculator** to guesstimate your carbon footprint in a matter of a few minutes!! While governments and industry everywhere have to review their impact towards global warming, it is also important for the individual to do whatever possible and by measuring your unique footprint you can begin taking a personal responsibility on this in a few easy steps. Please check our website www.esg-gib.net/footprint to reach the eco-calculator.
- Other important news is our upcoming **AGM on the 21st March at 8.00pm Charles Hunt Room, John Mackintosh Hall**. This gives members a chance to discuss ongoing projects and campaigns in more detail. We shall also be launching our first 2007 Newsletter packed with loads of information on campaigns, projects and actions undertaken in 2006 and beginning of 2007. This newsletter will be issued at the AGM and will also be sent to the membership. We do urge members to come to the mtg where after a short presentation on group activities, the emphasis will be to hear from the members of their main environmental concerns and aspirations.

For those volunteers who are holding **petition forms for health studies in the Bay** this could be an opportunity to hand in any completed forms. Once again many thanks for your vital help in this worthy campaign.

To finish I would like to refer to the first climate change debate held at the House of Sacarello's a few weeks ago. It really was a community affair and many positive ideas emerged which are presently being developed. The next date we hope will be mid-April and we shall be confirming this and location very soon.

That's it for now, please tune in, in a fortnight's time for our next update.