

## Newsletter ESG Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006

This is likely to be our last 2006 newsletter so I would like to take this opportunity of updating you all on some of the issues most important to us, at a time, when **everything** takes on that extra layer of meaning.....

### CYCLE RIDE

To start with, some of you may be aware of the cycle ride organised by the ESG this last weekend, this being the third year running; both energising and exhilarating it also serves to remind us of the grim reality of Gibraltar's continued use of noisy, dirty and outdated fossil fuel technology to power our electrical needs. Starting off at the local OESCO plant the cycle ride continued through what can only be described as splendid natural environments with magnificent backdrops until one reaches Facinas, and wind farms whose numbers are now multiplying such that it too raises questions of planning and land management in protected areas; this a subject for another time perhaps... Nevertheless, the message was made that years go by and **still** we have no tangible plans for renewable energy systems in Gibraltar and no noise or air pollution improvements at plants like OESCO.

### MAIN ESG CONCERNS

For ESG members and those of you who follow press reports on our work you will know that among the various issues we campaign on some have a wider impact and receive more of our time and resources....

**These include Bay pollution from heavy industry like the Refinery; Local Bunkering Pollution; Need for Renewable Energy in Gibraltar and our ongoing work to try and influence environmental policies for Gibraltar to meet our unique needs and situation and not only follow legislation handed down by the UK or the European Commission. The Ministry for the Environment has made great strides in creating the necessary framework for such planning to be done –but we urge for bold and necessary action to follow from pledges made and signed up to under the Environmental Charter. Given the worlds precarious future due to climate change from global warming it is a moral and urgent responsibility that faces each and every one of us.**

This leads me on to another ESG organised event which was incredibly well attended so I am confident that you will know what I am talking about when I mention the film “**An Inconvenient Truth**” –

**The film** served to highlight in a crystal clear way the reality behind global warming and how this is already causing havoc and widespread catastrophes in various corners of the globe. For us, this film represents a hundred or more documentaries rolled into one – taking from each the most important and vital ingredients and presenting scientific data in a striking and compelling fashion to ensure that no one who sees it is left untouched. This is quite an achievement by Al Gore. However, this is not a film review, and the issue is not over when the film finishes....

**We have to sit up and not only listen, but take action. This is important at an individual level but industries and governments have a huge role to play. What is clear is that to disregard this or do nothing...is not an option.**

**For 2007 we would urge the following recommendations to be added to your New Years list of Resolutions.....:**

- Change a light – use energy saving bulbs!
- Drive less
- Refuse the plastic bag at the store! Take your own!
- Shower more!
- Turn off electronic equipment when not in use!

Be part of the solution and get active at [ClimateCrisis.net](http://ClimateCrisis.net) and locally you can join us at the ESG where we are active on various environmental issues and where we want to hear and hear ideas from everyone who shares these concerns.

**The ESG's New Year objectives will be to review and publish an update of its main campaigns within the first quarter of 2007.**

Here's wishing for a peaceful and happy Christmas for all; a period to recharge, reflect and emerge with renewed energy to meet the challenges which lie ahead for a safer, cleaner, and healthier environment.