

ESG newsletter Thursday 291107

There is justifiably a lot of public debate about global warming, the most important environmental issue of the day seeing as it affects every single living resident of the planet.

Next week the United Nations hosts a very significant meeting on global warming in Bali, Indonesia. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have agreed a blueprint for fighting global warming that warns: governments only have a few years left to avert the worst impacts. This blueprint is the strongest report yet by the IPCC which nevertheless claims there is still time to act and will be put before environment ministers in Bali.

It says that there is a 90 per cent chance that climate change is caused by human activity and may bring “abrupt and irreversible” effects. It warns that deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are needed quickly to avert more heat waves, melting glaciers and rising sea levels.

Many countries are hoping that the Bali gathering will agree a two year strategy to negotiate a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, the main UN plan for fighting global warming which expires in 2012.

Given that the latest report by the IPCC states that the evidence for climate change is “**unequivocal**” I think we all should be hoping for successful results from that very important meeting next week.

In Gibraltar we often comment on how our impact on the world is not significant – still, can we justify our continuous physical expansion and development with ever increasing demands on energy and services while we also **DOUBLE our carbon emissions??** We believe our community is ready and willing to adapt towards a greener Gibraltar. Experts tell us that a number of solutions are required to fulfil this goal namely:

For Governments to agree and enforce targets;
For Innovators to develop low-carbon energy sources and improve efficiency and
For Individuals to do their best to reduce their own carbon footprints.

Given Gibraltar’s size and make-up it’s clear that Government has the responsibility to implement many of the solutions;

- And check for **energy efficiency** throughout our community-
- Replace our **outdated power stations** and phase in renewable and micro technologies
- Ensure that **new construction** complies with green building regulations ;
- Work **closely with the private sector and set feasible targets** to reduce impact
- Invest in **recycling services**
- **Manage and control motor vehicle use** by implementing a progressive traffic model which actively encourages healthier forms of transport – and
- **Carry out information campaigns** to inform, remind and enlighten on how individuals can make a positive difference

- At a personal level you can check your own carbon footprint on our website to see what measures you can take starting today :- **that's on : esg-gib.net.**
- You could also write to Government and other local political parties stating your concerns and asking that an **action plan for climate change with a timeframe** committing Gibraltar to play her part in the global crisis is created and made public with minimal delay.

We would welcome a public statement from Gibraltar's own **climate change forum** on the **IPCC findings in the various reports published throughout 2007.** Very little has emerged from the forum since it was first launched.

Given the mtg in Bali next week and the warnings we are being given on climate change one would hope this would evoke some public reaction from a Government body.

We are all willing to make changes but we urge Government to take a lead on this.

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