

Public Meeting:

The real cost of subsidies for bioenergy

A **free public event** organized by Biofuelwatch in which speakers explore the relationship between the use of bioenergy in the UK and environmental and human rights abuses.

When: Tuesday, 4th October 2011, 6.30-9.30pm

Where: Lumen URC Hall, 88 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RS



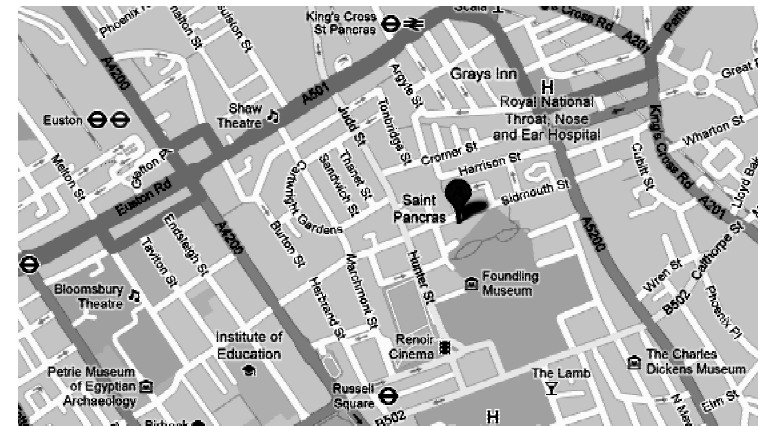
Speakers:

- ✦ Elias Mtinda, Food Rights Coordinator for ActionAid Tanzania, will speak on the impacts of biofuels, including jatropha on communities and food sovereignty in Tanzania
- ✦ Kenneth Richter, Agrofuel Campaigner, Friends of the Earth: What do ROCs for biofuels mean for communities affected by the expansion of oil palm and jatropha plantations?
- ✦ Emilia Hanna, Biomass Campaigner for Biofuelwatch: ROCs for biomass and biofuels in the UK – Impact on power station developments and of biomass effects on forests, communities and climate
- ✦ UK biomass burning and the growth of industrial tree plantations in the South – Speaker tbc

The event coincides with a government consultation about subsidies - Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) - for 'renewable electricity', including biofuels and biomass, which have led to many biofuel and biomass power stations being proposed across the UK. Under government plans, subsidies for these could top £3 billion a year - paid from a surcharge on our electricity bills!

Virtually all of the fuel for these power stations will be imported. This means more industrial tree and crop plantations and more logging at the expense of communities and of forests, grasslands and farmlands in countries such as Indonesia, Colombia, Brazil, the Republic of Congo and Ghana; and more, not less, climate change. Small farmers, Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent peoples are already paying the price. For UK communities, biomass and biofuel power stations mean more pollution and health risks.

After hearing from our speakers, there will be a lively panel Q & A and opportunity for open discussion.



Map of Lumen URC Hall: closest tubes are Kings Cross/St Pancras or Russell Sq

Biofuelwatch is actively campaigning for ROCs to be withdrawn for both biofuels and biomass. Information about how to get involved with our campaign will be available at the meeting.