

**Press Release from Biofuelwatch**

## **Protestors to target Industry and Government Biofuels conference and exhibition**

***They warn that consumers will be forced, from April, to use biofuels that destroy forest, displace people, cause starvation and damage the climate.***

## **PHOTO, TV AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Europe's biggest biofuel conference**

Environmentalists from around the country will be protesting outside the 'Biodiesel Expo' at 1400 on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, at Newark Showground. The protest is to raise awareness of the damage that massive and rapid biofuels development is having on the climate, people, food security and forests.

The NGO biofuelwatch, who are campaigning for EU moratorium on large-scale biofuel production and imports into the EU, say that from April 2008 UK consumers will have no choice about having to buy biofuels at the pump. The biofuels available will be blended from many different sources across the globe depending on commodity market prices.

***From April, consumers will not be able to avoid buying biofuels that may be accelerating destruction of tropical forests, increasing their carbon emissions, causing human rights abuses, and taking land from vital food production.***

The government incentive scheme - the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) – is designed to ramp up the industry and does little to limit and prevent the on-going damage from biofuel production. It only forces reporting for a fraction of biofuels entering the UK fuel supply chain.

The RTFO underestimates the impact on the climate as it does not restrict biofuels that cause climate change. For example, growing most biofuels generates large amounts of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), a very dangerous greenhouse gas, from nitrogen fertilizer.

***This means they damage the climate more than burning fossil fuels – this includes oilseed rape which is 80% of the biofuel grown within the EU. Latest research shows that oilseed rape can create 70% more greenhouse gas emissions than fossil fuel [Ref 1].***

Dr Andrew Boswell from biofuelwatch says "Government civil servants will be explaining inside the conference hall how companies can make big profits from biofuels under the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO). But the RTFO is a leaky bucket. There is plenty of opportunity for biofuels causing rainforest destruction, impoverishment and dispossession of local populations, and starvation to enter into UK fuel supplies. Consumers like the choice to buy 'fair-trade' food, yet the

Government expects them to put up with fuel that damages the climate and hurts people far away."

**Photo, TV and interview opportunities:**

We expect a colourful array of banners and even some Orang-Utans to be present. Protestors are travelling from around the country to raise this issue. Several environmentalists will be available for TV and media interviews including Dr Andrew Boswell and Deepak Rughani from biofuelwatch

The protest will be from 1400-1600, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, at Newark Showground – (for directions see: [http://www.biodiesel-expo.co.uk/getting\\_there.htm](http://www.biodiesel-expo.co.uk/getting_there.htm)).

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**Reference:**

*Recent scientific paper by Nobel laureate chemist Paul Crutzen*

Overview and other links: <http://www.physorg.com/news109581631.html>

*Full Paper in Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*

'N<sub>2</sub>O release from agro-biofuel production negates global warming reduction by replacing fossil fuels'

<http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/7/11191/2007/acpd-7-11191-2007.pdf>

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