

Press release: Protesters to target UK's largest biofuel supplier

- embargoed for Wednesday, 30th January, 0.00 hours -

A colourful banner protest will be held outside the office of Greenergy International, the UK's largest biofuel supplier, on Wednesday, 30th January, between 12.30 and 2.30 pm. This is part of a National Week of Action on Agrofuels in which different groups and organisations across the UK are organising protests against the deforestation, high food prices, human rights abuses and faster global warming caused by biofuels from large-scale monocultures.

Greenergy International is an oil company with large biofuel interests, in partnership with Tesco and Cargill. They supply ethanol from Brazilian sugar cane as well as refining biodiesel from soya, palm oil and rapeseed oil.

Deepak Rughani of Biofuelwatch, one of the organisers of this protest, says: "Across the global South, tens of millions of hectares are being converted to vast monocultures to grow fuel for our cars. This is a disaster for communities, for forests and for the global climate. "

Over 200 organisations from North and South have called for an EU moratorium on agrofuels from large-scale monocultures, and there have been many similar calls, including from a large number of civil society organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The United Nations Special Rapporteur for the Right of Food has described current biofuel production 'a crime against humanity' and demands a 5 year moratorium. The UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee also supports a moratorium on biofuel targets and warns that current 'sustainability standards' will not prevent serious negative impacts from biofuels.

In the UK, mandatory blending of petrol and diesel with biofuels will be introduced on 15th April, under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. Almuth Ernsting from Biofuelwatch states: "From April, people will have no choice but to contribute to the destruction of forests, the eviction of small farmers and rising food prices which will mean more hunger. More and more people now realise the need for a strong movement to stop the destruction caused by the biofuel industry and the legislation which encourages it."

Photo TV and interview opportunity:

30th January, 12.30 – 2.30 outside the Greenergy International office, 198 High Holborn, London. WC1V 7BD

Several campaigners will be available for TV and media interviews including Deepak Rughani and Andrew Boswell from Biofuelwatch.

Contacts:

Andrew Boswell: 07787 127881 (any time)

Deepak Rughani: 07931636337 (any time)

Almuth Ernsting: 07925 364186 (any time)

Notes:

1. For details of the Week of Action and some of the groups involved, see: <http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/actionsjan08.php>
2. The "EU Call for an immediate moratorium on EU incentives for agrofuels, EU imports of agrofuels and EU agroenergy monocultures" can be found at <http://www.econexus.info/biofuels.html>
3. For a links to other declarations against agrofuels from large-scale monocultures and biofuel targets, see: <http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/declarations.php>
4. The Environmental Audit Committee's report can be downloaded from <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmenvaud.htm>