

ACTIONGUIDE 2009-10



DITCH DIRTY DEVELOPMENT

timefora cleanup

Climate change is perhaps the most serious threat we face. If we are going to cut our carbon emissions we must stop extracting fossil fuels and start developing renewable energy.

Fossil fuel extraction doesn't happen without funding. Likewise, the switch to a low carbon economy won't happen unless there's serious cash behind it.

**Students
clean up the
Treasury
which now
owns RBS**



People & Planet students have been targetting RBS (who own Natwest) for years. They remain the UK's largest bank funding climate change. To find out more about the projects and companies that RBS have enabled, download the reports "The Oil and Gas Bank" and "Cashing in on Coal" at

peopleandplanet.org/ddd/order

climatefunding: thebigpicture

Almost everyone now agrees that action on climate change is urgently needed. But funding for fossil fuels is still far greater than investment in renewable energy. Loans to oil, coal and gas projects that run for decades will guarantee massive future emissions. Loans for renewables could secure us a safe energy future. To avoid devastating climate change we must stop funding fossil fuel projects and start investing in renewable energy.

In 2008 the financial system collapsed. RBS-Natwest was one of the most responsible and hardest hit banks. They were rescued by a massive public bail-out and are now 70% owned by the taxpayer through the Treasury. Despite this, the Treasury continues to allow RBS to pump public money into coal, oil and gas projects which will lock us into a high carbon economy for decades to come.

At the start of the recession, a group of experts put together a report calling for a *Green New Deal* to kick start a sustainable, low-carbon economy. This would mean massive investment in green jobs, technologies and infrastructure - for example in projects like insulation, renewable energies and public transport.

The UN and governments around the world have accepted this case: investment is needed to stimulate the economy - this new economy must be low carbon. They've come together at G20 summits and Copenhagen to hammer out new global deals, but with little regard to Green New Deal principles

People & Planet is calling on the government to use RBS and other state-owned banks to fund this much-needed transition to the low-carbon economy and make the shift away from dirty fossil fuels.

Target 1: UK Government

The government now owns 70% of RBS. This means that we – the public – own it. Along with the World Development Movement and Platform, we are taking the Treasury to court over the RBS bailout and funding for climate change. To find out the latest, see peopleandplanet.org/ddd/legalchallenge

It's crucial that we convince the Treasury to clean up RBS through its ownership.

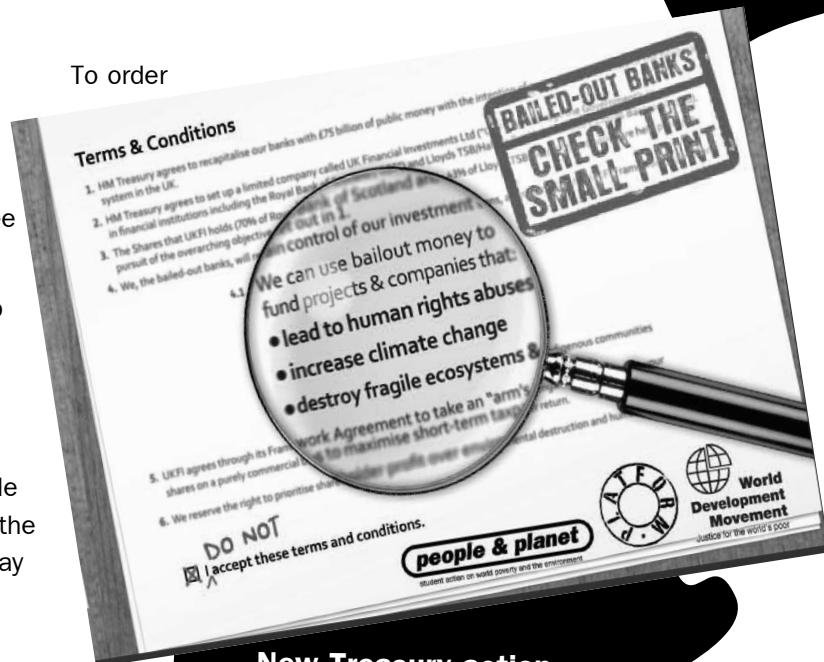
ACTION: Get 1000s of action cards signed.

The Treasury now owns 70% of RBS. They are allowing the bank to fund climate changing projects. We are taking them to court.

Get as many people as possible to fill out the action card for the Treasury. This is a simple way to show the Treasury that masses of ordinary people want them to green up bailed-out banks. You can get cards signed at club nights, stalls or by knocking on doors in student halls.

Send them back to us asap as we'll be organising hand-ins to the Chancellor at strategic points this year.

To order



cards,

New Treasury action cards. Get 'em signed!

lobbyyourMP

To win this campaign we must build crucial pressure for action in Parliament. Your MP has a duty to represent your views and can have significant influence over the Government and Treasury. One of the most powerful things you can do is lobby your MP to get them to publicly support the campaign.

ACTION: This year, we need to win support from as many MPs as possible. As well as contacting your MP throughout the year by email, letter, phone or visits, your group can also take part in a mass lobby in January 2010. Keep an eye on the website to find out more.

Meeting your MP is simple, see our lobbying guide here: peopleandplanet.org/ddd/takeaction/lobbyyourmp

Take along our RBS briefing here: peopleandplanet.org/dl/rbsbriefing.pdf

Leeds P&P lobby Hilary Benn MP



Target 2: RBS/Natwest

student union motions

ACTION: Motions to your students' union general meeting, or a campus-wide ballot, are a great way to

raise an issue and to hit RBS where it hurts. RBS/NatWest have branded themselves as the student bank because they need students. They know that, once someone opens a student account, they are likely to stick with that bank for life. Similarly they need the best graduates to come and work for them.

The very process of bringing a motion to your union, and campaigning to get students to vote for it, will mean talking to thousands of students about RBS' links to climate change. The motions you pass can have a real impact. For example, Edinburgh University Students' Association have recently banned RBS from advertising on campus. Leeds Student Union are also shutting down their account with NatWest. Find examples of what students' unions have done at:

peopleandplanet.org/ddd/action/sumotions

RBS boycott

We have been building up a critical mass of individuals willing to boycott RBS-Natwest.

The RBS bail-out has given us the chance to argue our case in court (see overleaf). In the meantime, we are continuing to build up the student boycott - with a particular focus on institutional boycotters. We need to build up direct pressure on RBS by working with big institutions like unions and universities, calling on RBS to change their ways.

graduate recruitment

ACTION:

RBS will be visiting unis around the country to recruit the best graduate minds.

Recruitment events provide a stage for you to communicate directly with RBS-NatWest and the people they are trying to recruit.

There are loads of ways you can approach recruitment

fairs. Think about what you want to achieve and who you are trying to communicate with. Is your audience students attending the event, RBS-NatWest employees, or the media? What you decide will affect the action you choose to take.

Contact Adam at the P&P office for advice on planning a graduate recruitment action or to book an action planning workshop:

adam.ramsay@peopleandplanet.org or **01865 245678**

Edinburgh students passed a motion to ban RBS adverts from campus.



bloodyoil

American student stunt on the US/Canada border at Niagara Falls



In 2004 and 2006, RBS-NatWest acted as the lead arranger of a US\$800 million loan for a Canadian tar sands project. Canadian tar sands extraction has been labelled the 'dirtiest project on earth'. Tar sands are heavy oil mixed with sand and clay. Extracting oil from tarsands is both dirty and extremely energy intensive. The digging up of tar sands is destroying precious forest, poisoning local communities, and contributing to climate change three-times faster than other types of oil.

The Athabasca tar sands operations are the largest single industrial emitter of CO₂ on the planet. Canadian tar sands are also the second biggest oil reserve on earth. If they are all burned, we have little hope of stopping climate chaos.

ACTION: We'll be working closely with Canadian indigenous communities this year to highlight the impacts of tar sands. Get involved and help raise awareness!

peopleandplanet.org/tarsands

Ditch Dirty Development aims to switch public and private funding away from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The government now owns one of the biggest banks in the world. This provides an opportunity to deliver funding for the transition to a low carbon economy that we need.

People & Planet is calling on RBS-NatWest to:

- Calculate and publish their 'embedded' emissions resulting from loans to oil, gas and coal projects.
- Cap embedded emissions and set annual targets for reductions.
- Commit to an irreversible transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy lending.
- Establish 'no-go' areas for lending: immediately halt loans to unconventional fossil fuels (e.g. tar sands), unabated coal, and those which affect sensitive and irreplaceable ecosystems such as rainforests.

legalchallenge

When the Government bailed out RBS they handed over billions of pounds of public money. They placed almost no conditions on how this money could be used. RBS pumped huge quantities of it into projects and companies which are causing climate change or linked to human rights abuses.

The Government has a legal obligation to consider environmental and human rights criteria when making public spending decisions. We are taking them to court and calling for a Judicial Review because we don't believe they did this properly when they bailed-out RBS.

If we win, a judge will review the Treasury's actions, and could rule that they broke the law. This landmark legal challenge could have huge implications for switching RBS funding away from fossil fuels and towards low-carbon investments.

ACTION: Follow our progress and support the legal challenge at peopleandplanet.org/ddd/legalchallenge

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people & planet

student action on world poverty and the environment

campaignaims



furtherresources

You can order more of the resources in this campaign pack by emailing Adam in the P&P Office.

There's loads more stuff on the P&P website, including news of other groups' campaigns, briefings, downloadable props, campaign updates and online actions: peopleandplanet.org/ddd/order

Send us your stories and photos and we'll feature you on the P&P website too.

Free workshops on the campaign are available for your group too, just email Adam:

ddd@peopleandplanet.org

peopleandplanet.org/ddd