

**Proposal for Corporate Power campaign strand
DEADLINE: 8 December 2008**

peopleandplanet.org/forum/

Your details

Please provide the name of at least one People & Planet group member who is putting this proposal forward (the optional second proposer can be from the same group):

Proposer (Key Contact)

Name	Lewis Bassett
People & Planet group	Roehampton

Second Proposer (optional)

Name	Tom Antebi
People & Planet group	Roehampton

Your proposal for a Corporate Power campaign strand (500 words total)

Title	Food and Corporate Power
Summary of your proposal (no more than 30 words).	We propose to tackle and fundamentally undermine the corporate control of food and its related economic structures which cause serious issues with health, freedom and the climate.

What is the proposed campaign strand?
(Write about your proposal in more detail here.)

Corporations have wormed their way into every corner of our lives, ideas and desires, but arguably nowhere more fundamental than food production. Two large scale corporate commodities, agrofuels and mono-culture cash crops, have had a significant impact on recent food shortages and food price escalation. These are trends set to increase with further use of agrofuels as well as accelerated climate change and the globalised food market's dependency on oil for transportation and petro-chemicals for production.

Seed often native to countries and used traditionally in cultures for generations has been robbed by corporations who's only lawful activity is to maximise profit at the cost of local ecology. We propose that local ecology includes the workforce and community living from that land. Corporations often install large scale monocultures which destroy the local ecology and remove people from their land. Monoculture makes it harder to move back to smaller scale farming. GMO's and other laboratory created species also threaten local environments as do pestdecides and chemical fertilised having a direct impact upon peoples health.

In the UK we have lost all our of apple types, as an example, bar those that seem fit for freight between warehouse, supermarket and carrier bag. The UK imports over half of its food creating a dangerous neo-colonial dependence on other nations as well as avoiding many of the negative impacts mentioned above. If road transport in the UK had to cease overnight our shops in would run out of food in under 2 days.

There is also a direct link between food and behaviour (as proven by Jamie Oilver's School Dinners!) and we believe a cultural and even spiritual connection with food (and through food to the earth) is separated by corporate production which would otherwise help us lead positive lives and increase an understanding in sustainability.

The people proposing this believe food is not a commodity and is in fact a human entitlement. Food production is essential to our wellbeing and survival.

Why are you proposing this campaign strand?

(Use this space to explain how your proposed campaign strand meets the guidelines below).

We have recently started the process for an allotment at Roehampton where as well as growing our own produce we plan to educate people on some of the above mentioned global issues. This campaign can therefore exist on a local and global level. We want independence from fossil fuel intensive food. We want just transition and we wont wait for it to happen, this means we will have to begin by assessing food production in terms of food ecology which would include, importantly, the workers.

We are also taking inspiration from recent campaigns against university food retailers Sedexho who have a history of union-busting and aggressive privatisation.

We don't want supermarkets but we want Just Transition. By gaining a degree of independence from global food trade we can pull out of as well as campaign against corporations involved in the food industry. This campaign therefore has potential to work in global solidarity for local food ecologies.

We would like to see all food consumed in the UK grown in the UK and when home consumption is not possible then Fair Trade only. However we do not propose Fair Trade if it legitimises neo-liberal trade agreements. We propose to set up food co-ops in universities which have the opportunity to form links with the local communities.

We propose the fundamental return of a hundred varieties of apple and the binning of Big Macs and Coke.

Campaign Strand Criteria: Guidelines

An ideal campaign...

- 1.... tackles a root cause of a significant human rights, poverty or environmental injustice. It could link these together.
- 2.... is demanded by those affected or in solidarity with them.
- 3.... has specific, achievable goals or aims at a local, national or international level over its planned lifetime. It could have several interim goals as well as or instead of one big goal.
- 4.... includes a range of possible actions and strategies catering for people with different skills, levels of experience and preference of campaigning methods in the network.
- 5.... is relevant to students, in schools, colleges and universities; both in the existing P&P network and those we seek to engage, particularly in Further Education colleges, newer universities and schools in disadvantaged communities.
- 6.... is relevant to the entire network in the UK, possibly with separate goals and actions in regions with devolved government.
- 7.... works within the autonomous groups structure of People & Planet.
- 8.... can involve the network in planning and running to encourage understanding of the issue and more generally active global citizenship.
- 9.... uses People & Planet's strengths as a student network.
10. ... has opportunities for cooperation with other groups, including those in the Global South, but contributes something unique to their work in the area.
11. ... has a body of research and resources available to us in order to develop the campaign.
12. ... fits in with and draws from current and past People & Planet's campaigns.

If you need any help or advice relating to completing this form please email corporatepower@peopleandplanet.org
or call Juliette at the support office on **01865 245 678**.

When completed, please send this form to corporatepower@peopleandplanet.org