

# MAKE**POVERTY**HISTORY *NorthEast*

together with **PANiC Stations**  
*people against new coal-fired power stations*

*Dear Friend of Make Poverty History,*

I say to you, *with the utmost sincerity*, that the evidence for the occurrence of global warming, and its causation mainly by the use of fossil fuels, is overwhelming. I say to you, *with equal conviction* that climate change poses a greater threat to the world's poor than unjust international trade and taxation, unpayable debt and the denial of aid, all combined. [Though, of course, climate change greatly increases the need for vigorous action on all of these!]

Here in Britain, we've blazed a trail to deal with this challenge. Last year, *Stop Climate Chaos*, the coalition of all our great aid agencies, able and enterprising environmental groups, and many others, with the support of leading scientists and many backbench MPs, persuaded Parliament to pass an excellent Climate Change Bill – the first in the world! We in the NE stirred ourselves mightily to promote this initiative throughout the region. In ten years campaigning, I've never known so complete a victory! So what now? Now we need to...

***'Just Say No' – Say No to...***

## **'Factories of Death'**

**2.30-4.00pm, Bank Holiday Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> May  
St Andrew's Church Hall  
Cambois, near Blyth**

**Because it was a battle we won, not the war!** *Then* the challenge was to turn rhetoric into policy; *now* it's to convert policy into action. First and foremost, we need to *'Just Say No'* to the construction of new *'Factories of Death'*, as Professor James Hansen, America's leading climate scientist, calls 'unabated' coal-fired power stations (i.e., without 'CCS' - carbon capture and storage).

The little village of Cambois has a position of great symbolical and practical importance in the fight against climate chaos. Although the power station would probably be the second to be built if the go-ahead is given, it would be an absolute monster – half as big again as the first, at Kingsnorth in Kent, and would belch out 20 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year! MPH-NE is determined to work with PANiC Stations to block it and to promote practical, sustainable alternatives – by peaceful, law abiding actions of course!

**If you can, please give us your support on 4<sup>th</sup> May!**

*Please see over page...*

## ***“What’s this? Campaigning on a bank holiday, David?”***

It’s a fascinating area! Please come for the afternoon and take time to look around the villages of Cambois and North Blyth, the sea front and the impressive wind farm on the north east side of the River Blyth.

## ***“What’s the connection with the ‘Coal Caravan’?”***

The Coal Caravan is a team of cyclists visiting places throughout Yorkshire and the NE associated with coal production and use, to raise awareness of the damage being caused both globally and locally. Their tour reaches its climax in Cambois on 4<sup>th</sup> May. They will contribute to ‘our’ event, but have various other activities. For more information, including the a free screening of the ‘must-see’ new film, ‘Age of Stupid’ starring Pete Postlethwaite, see [www.coalcaravan.org.uk](http://www.coalcaravan.org.uk)

## ***“How do we get there?”***

It isn’t difficult. From the A189 take the turn-off marked Cambois. Go straight ahead until you nearly reach the sea; turn sharp left (north); and St Andrews Church is a hundred yards along on the left. If you look up ‘Cambois’ on [www.streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk), the church is marked with a cross. [This is one occasion when I can’t exhort you to use public transport! But please car-share if possible.]

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Extract from Open Letter to Gordon Brown, from Professor James Hansen  
[Director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies]

Dear Prime Minister,

Your leadership is needed on a matter concerning coal-fired power plants in your country, a matter with ramifications for life on our planet, including all species. Prospects for today’s children, and especially the world’s poor, hinge upon our success in stabilizing climate... We are now at a point that bold leadership is needed, leadership that could change the course of human history...

Coal clearly emerges as central to the climate problem... [The] solution to global warming must include phase-out of coal except for uses where the CO<sub>2</sub> is captured and sequestered. Failing that, we cannot avoid large climate change... Yet there are plans for construction of new coal-fired power plants in Great Britain, plants that would have a lifetime of half a century or more. Your leadership in halting these plans could seed a transition that is needed to solve the global warming problem.

Choices among alternative energy sources - renewable energies, energy efficiency... - these are local matters. But decision to phase out coal use unless the CO<sub>2</sub> is captured is a global imperative, if we are to preserve the wonders of nature, our coastlines, and our social and economic well being...

Prime Minister Brown, we cannot avert our eyes from the consequences for life on our planet of ignoring these fossil fuel facts. If we continue to build coal-fired power plants without carbon capture, we will lock in future climate disasters associated with passing climate tipping points. We must solve the coal problem now.

[I will say what the Great Man was too polite to say: a go-ahead for these stations would be the greatest act of national folly since the appeasement of Hitler at Munich. DWG.]

**PTO**