

Earth First! Winter Moot 2013

Welcome pack

Welcome!

A big welcome to everyone. Please take a moment to read through the welcome pack and programme. If you've got any questions, please don't hesitate to ask: either at the welcome desk, grab one of the organising collective, or anyone else!

What is Earth First! and what is a moot?

Earth First! is about direct action to halt the destruction of the Earth. We believe we can make a real difference by doing it ourselves rather than relying on leaders, governments or industry. We're a loose network of people, groups and campaigns coming together for ecological direct action and we believe in non-hierarchical organisation. The name *Earth First!* is a banner anyone who shares a similar philosophy can work under.

In the UK people have been taking direct action using the *Earth First!* name since the early 90s – stopping road building, the quarrying of coal, rock and peat, freeing our fields of genetically modified crops, protesting against climate criminals, fighting corporate power and much, much more. If you believe action speaks louder than words, then Earth First! is for you.

Many of us work together on campaigns and take action together throughout the year. We also come together as a network twice a year – at a gathering in summer and at the moot in winter. The summer gathering runs over 5 days and has lots of workshops and skillsharing, and 200-300 people attend. The moot is a bit smaller and only runs over a weekend. It has less workshops and is focussed on discussion and campaign planning.

How to get involved

A special welcome if this is your first moot! The moot is as much about meeting each other on a personal level and making friends/catching up with like-minded people as it is about planning and strategising.

A good time to get to know people is in the evenings and during meal times. Please don't be shy and just start talking to people. Some people at the moot have known each other for a long time, and might spend some time catching

up with old friends – if you are in this position, try to make some time to meet new people as well.

Pick a workshop that you are interesting in and come along and chip in. All workshops and discussions have a **facilitator**. This person's job is to make sure that the meeting runs smoothly, that everyone is able to contribute and that there are concrete outcomes from the discussion. Please help them with their job: raise your hand when you want to speak and wait your turn. Keep your contributions concise and to the point. And ask if there's something you don't understand.

Housekeeping

This moot has been organised by a handful of people from Lancashire and Cumbria. We'll co-ordinate food, programme and entertainment during the weekend but we need volunteers to help with making food for everyone, with washing up and cleaning, providing first aid and staffing the welcome desk. If everyone chips in a bit, then no one has too work too hard. There are rotas you can sign up for on the welcome desk. Or you can always ask for a job in the kitchen. If you see something that needs doing either try and sort it out or tell someone.

Sleeping arrangements

We have two rooms in which people can sleep. The smaller hall is for early sleepers. Please keep noise to a minimum from 10pm onwards. The larger hall will have evening entertainment, and will become a sleeping space from midnight on Fri night and 12.30pm on Sat night. The kitchen can be used by anyone who wants to stay up after that – but please keep the noise down.

There'll be a wake-up call at 8am both mornings, and the programme will get under way at 9.15am, so please tidy away your bedding by then.

Money

We've no funding for the moot, so it needs to pay for itself. That's why we are asking everyone to contribute. Please pay at the welcome desk.

Have a good weekend!

Provisional Programme

Some changes may occur, so check the schedule at the venue during the moot. Detailed descriptions of the sessions can be found at the end of the programme.

Friday	Large Hall	Small Hall	Kitchen
6pm	Introduction to Earth First! (A short workshop about what EF! is all about.)		Meal preparation- please come and help chopping vegetables
7pm	<i>Evening meal</i>		
8pm onwards	Hanging out and chatting. Riveting pub quiz at 9pm!	Sleeping space for those want to go to bed early – quiet please.	Washing up – please come and help
Midnight - 8am	Sleeping space – quiet please.		Late night chatting space – please keep noise at a minimum so as to not disturb the tired people next door.

Saturday	Large Hall	Small Hall	Kitchen
8.00am	Wakey Wakey! Please tidy away your sleeping bags etc, as we will be using all the rooms for workshops		Breakfast preparation
8.30 am	<i>Breakfast</i>		
9.15am - 9.30am	Morning meeting Please all come to this, find out about the programme and volunteer for jobs to keep the moot running smoothly.		Washing up and chopping vegetables – please come and help throughout the day.
9.45am - 10.45 am	Campaign Round-up Our chance to tell each other what we've been up to in our campaigns.		
10.45am - 11am	<i>Break</i>		
11am – 1pm	Sustainability of campaigns A space to reflect and to come up with tactics to make your campaign more sustainable and effective.	Campaign planning - Geo-engineering	
1pm – 2pm	Lunch	Meeting space Space for people to organise extra stuff.	
2pm – 4pm	Campaign planning – Resisting coal mining	Campaign planning - Fighting the new road building programme	
4 – 4.30pm	Tea and biscuits		
4.30pm – 6.30pm	Campaign planning - Fighting Fracking	EF! summer gathering planning meeting Get involved to make the EF! summer gathering happen	
6.30pm	Hang out and socialising space	Campaign cinema Short videos about resistance against road building (Combehaven), airports (Zad, France), coal mining (Hambach, Germany and Australia), quarrying (Sweden)	
7pm	Evening meal		
8pm	Fun and chatting.	Sleeping space for those want to go to bed early – quiet please.	
12.30am	Sleeping space – quiet please.		Late night chatting space – please keep noise down.

Sunday	Large Hall		Small Hall	Kitchen
8.45am	Breakfast			Washing up and chopping vegetables – please come and help throughout the day.
9.30 – 9.45am	Morning Meeting (Please all come to this and volunteer for jobs to keep the moot running smoothly.)			
10 – 11.30am	Campaigning in diverse communities A workshop to explore what happens when a bunch of people from diverse backgrounds and approaches get together to fight a common cause. What are the challenges? How can we use our diversity to make us stronger? How can we avoid issues of different race, class, gender, campaign experience etc getting in the way of working together?		Shared threats from the state – fighting them together?	
11.30 – 11.45	Break		break	
11.45 -1pm	EF! Outreach I A discussion about whether we want/need more unified outreach that backs up and brings together different strands of environmental campaigns.	Outreach II A chance to learn and share skills and experience of how to do successful outreach for a campaign.	Campaign planning - Stop G8	
1 – 2pm	Lunch			
2 – 2.30pm	Closing meeting Feedback from workshops Evaluation of gathering			
2.30 -3.30pm	Space for extra meetings		Space for extra meetings	
4pm	Need to be out of this space			

Introduction to EF!: If you are new to EF!, come to this little introductory workshop to find out what EF! Is about and as well as a bit of history of grass roots direct action.

Morning meeting: We'd like everyone to come to this – there will be a brief introduction to the moot and we will share out jobs such as cooking and cleaning as well as announce any changes to the programme.

Campaign Round up

In this moot wide session we'd like to get everyone together to get an overview of the different campaigns we've been involved in and to share our successes as well as challenges with each other. We'd like to focus it around some strategic questions so we can learn from each other's experiences. If you'd like to talk about your campaign please come prepared to answer the following questions: Over the past year, what were the big milestones in your campaign? What were your successes and how did they come about? What challenges are you facing and how are you planning to overcome them? What are your plans for the coming year? Each campaign will only have a short amount of time so brevity is encouraged!

Sustainability of campaigns

Again, a facilitated session for everyone. This session is not about your personal sustainability or burn-out but about keeping your campaigns active, effective and achieving your aims. We'll split into different groups according to campaigns and look at patterns in our campaigns – highs and lows – and what brings them about. Then we'll look at tactics to make our campaigns more sustainable.

Campaign planning sessions

Most of the afternoon and some of Sat am is given over to giving space to campaigns to analyse where they are at and do planning for future work. If you're not already in one of these campaigns but are interested in joining one, just go along to the session and join in.

The different campaigns will look at: What is happening, what are the aims of the campaign and are they being achieved? Who are the major players (both allies and enemies) and what are their pressure points? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the campaign? What's working well, what isn't? What targets are strategic? What tactics might be effective and realistic? This will be followed by some concrete planning. If your campaign doesn't fall within the five following please speak to the programme co-ordinator so we can find a slot for you.

1. **Resistance against coal-mining**
2. **Fighting Fracking**
3. **Fighting the new road building programme**
4. **Geo-engineering:** Industrial capitalism has led to climate change, but rather than deal with the cause of the problem or reduce carbon emissions, corporations and governments are moving towards 'geoengineering': attempts to engineer the Earth's climate. These proposals, which include simulating volcanic eruptions and changing the acidity of the oceans, risk even more severe climate disruption, most likely in the global South. The UK is a world centre for geoengineering so activists are beginning to organise to prevent these insane 'technofixes' which undermine attempts to cut carbon emissions. The workshop will focus on possible actions against geoengineering trials.
5. **Stop G8: Building a resistance for the G8 in 2013. The Stop G8 network has been organising and meeting since the summer of last year. Various groups around the Uk have set up regional networks in order to mobilise numbers.** This workshop aims to catch everyone up with what has been going on and what is going to happen in the next few months.

EF! Summer Gathering Planning: The summer gathering runs over 5 days in summer and has lots of workshops and skillsharing, and 200-300 people attend. If you can help with organising this, either with a small amount of time or taking a bigger role, come to this session and get involved. So far this year's organising collective has done some ground work, but more is needed and more people to help make it happen. Roles range from designing a poster to promote the gathering, source some compost loos, organise the programme, help put up a marquee or organise a kids' area?

Shared threats from the state – fighting them together? Who the State sends to deal with the people on campaigns... how they get their information, how protests are evicted and how they could be 'dealt' with. An information share and discussion on Police Liaison Officers, National Eviction Teams, Sher security (High sheriff enforcement officers) and undercover cops.

Campaigning in diverse communities

A workshop to explore what happens when a bunch of people from diverse backgrounds and approaches get together to fight a common cause. What are the challenges? How can we use our diversity to make us stronger? How can we avoid issues of different race, class, gender, campaign experience etc getting in the way of working together?

Earth First! Outreach: Do we want to do outreach about the Earth First! Network, our philosophy, ideals and the campaigns/groups that identify as part of the network? Less people are involved in ecological direct action than have been. Do we need to find new and better ways to reach out, beyond our own individual campaigns? What form should this outreach take?

Outreach skillshare

A chance to learn and share skills and experience of how to do successful outreach for a campaign.