

## Friends of the Earth's relationship with Grassroots Campaigners

This document sets out the benefits and support you can expect from your involvement with Friends of the Earth as a grassroots campaigner, and outlines what we can expect from you in return.

### As a grassroots campaigner you will get:

\* A welcome pack:

We will send you a welcome pack with an introduction to the campaign and recent relevant information and contacts.

\* Campaign communications

We will send you at least 4 campaign updates per year with helpful hints on how to take an action forward locally, and information on campaign progress. There may be times when we need to send you urgent updates, however, we will try not to overload you with information.

\* Opportunities to learn about campaigns

We will update you on our position on current campaigns through briefings, mailouts, etc. We will organise training or skills sharing events where appropriate which will provide you with updates on the campaign and information on changes or developments in Friends of the Earth's policy, as well as opportunities to meet and share skills and best practice with other campaigners.

\* Opportunities to network

In addition to face to face meetings as described above, email discussion lists exist on most issues where you can chat with other campaigners on your campaign issues. Grassroots campaigners can also set up their own discussion fora on the Community website (<http://community.foe.co.uk>) on other issues that concern them, or if there is no existing list.

\* Information and support to help develop your skills

We will provide you with printed and online resources to better enable your local campaigns. We produce *Change your world*, the magazine for our grassroots campaigners, which as a Campaigner Network member you can choose to receive. If you need any further information you can also contact Friends of the Earth directly. As a first point of contact for campaign relevant information you can contact the Campaign Assistant. Campaigners can also get generic information and advice from our Activist Information Officer Naomi Hunt.

\* Opportunities to tell us what you think

We will set up systems to obtain and record your feedback and to monitor your satisfaction with the information and processes.

### If you are a member of a Friends of the Earth local group you get even more:

\* Social opportunities

Joining your local Friends of the Earth group is a great way to meet new environmentally-minded people in your area. Our research shows that the majority of people joining their local group did so for social reasons. It also means that you have a group of people who can support you in your campaign and share some of the workload.

\* Policy communications

You will have opportunities to feed in to Friends of the Earth's policy process, through consultations or strategy days where groups are invited to feed in to plans. Friends of the Earth groups also get invited to regional meetings, where regional policy is discussed.

Friends of the Earth local group members can vote for Board members and Motions at the Friends of the Earth Local Groups Conference. They can nominate themselves for campaign/activity advisory groups which aim to provide a local input to national campaign planning.

Friends of the Earth local group members have the right to speak publicly on behalf of and represent Friends of the Earth in their local area, as part of the Partnership Agreement between Friends of the Earth and its local groups network.

\* Financial resources

Friends of the Earth local groups can access the Local Groups Support Fund to aid their campaigns.

\* Belonging to an international network

Friends of the Earth International produces a monthly electronic magazine, which covers the main stories of Friends of the Earth's partners around the world. As a local group member you can sign up to receive this direct to your inbox.

## What can we expect from you?

It is important to recognise that Campaigner Networks are intended for those local campaigners who are, or who are working towards being, active! It is not intended that the Campaigner Networks are used solely as an information source - if you want information on Friends of the Earth's campaigns, it is available through our publications, *Change your world* and the website [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk).

If you are a member of a Friends of the Earth local group it is essential that you feed back to your group about what you receive from the network and seek to actively involve it in the campaign. In some cases you will be the only recipient of the information, so think about how best to share the essentials to give everyone the chance to get involved in the campaign and its activities. Without this key information the group cannot act.

Therefore we would like you to commit to carrying out some of the actions offered in the mailings you get and to let us know you've done them. We would also like you to try to attend the training days on offer wherever possible, so we can meet up with you and check you're happy with the information, and that you have the skills you think you need to take local actions.

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The Friends of the Earth **Partnership Agreement** for local groups lists a number of basic values. As a local group member you are able to contribute to your group meeting these requirements.

- Actively work on at least one Friends of the Earth EWNI campaign
- Ensure that all its activities are lawful and/or in line with Friends of the Earth policies and guidelines. In particular local groups and individuals representing local groups engaging in unsupervised and supervised activities with young people should be aware of and comply with our Child Protection Policy. For copies contact [localgroups@foe.co.uk](mailto:localgroups@foe.co.uk) or 020 7490 1555.
- Have a public profile in its area of activity. For example through local media, days of action, stalls, posters, membership leaflets in public places, a website, a newsletter, open meetings, and networking with other organisations.
- Not endorse any Political Party nor work with any Party during an election period; this does not preclude collaborating with Political Parties on specific campaigns where there are clear, shared goals.
- Not engage in hostile action against any other parts of Friends of the Earth.
- Participate in Friends of the Earth EWNI surveys and consultations whenever possible.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This Partnership Agreement authorises Friends of the Earth Local Group members to speak publicly on behalf of and represent Friends of the Earth in their local area. **Members of campaigner networks who are not Friends of the Earth local group members are expected to uphold the above agreement, although they are not authorised to represent Friends of the Earth publicly.**