

What we do

Friends of the Earth is campaigning alongside partner organisations to stop Europe's drive for biofuels from destroying forests, increasing climate changing emissions, and causing food prices to rise. Our ground-breaking research shows that increasing our use of biofuels to meet EU targets could cause more greenhouse gas emissions than the fossil fuels they replace. We have also exposed how land grabbing by European companies is having adverse effects on people in poor countries, and we are working alongside affected communities to help them fight back.

Friends of the Earth demands:

- Europe must fully account for the greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation caused by biofuel production.
- The UK and EU should scrap targets to increase our use of biofuels.
- Governments should cut transport emissions by encouraging people to walk, cycle and use public transport – and through smarter cars that use less fuel.
- Government subsidies that prop up biofuel power stations must be scrapped. Instead we need a major government push on real renewable energy like solar and wind energy.



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the Earth**

To find out more about biofuels and to take action go to

www.foe.co.uk/biofuels



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the Earth**

**Don't be fooled
by biofuels**

Biofuel production is destroying forests and livelihoods

“Biofuels are made from crops such as soy, oil palm and maize. They are used in fuel for cars, but increasingly they are also burned in power stations. Biofuels companies promote them as a clean alternative to fossil fuel because the crops absorb greenhouse gas carbon dioxide as they grow. This has led some politicians to see biofuels as an easy answer to climate change – and take their eye off the real deal.”

Making climate change worse, not better

Biofuels aren't the magic fix they appear to be. Vast areas of land are being cleared to farm enough biofuels to meet government targets. Flattening forests and other natural habitat to meet UK and EU biofuels targets will release millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. This could mean that biofuels cause more greenhouse gas emissions than the fossil fuels they replace – making climate change worse not better.

Forests are devastated to plant palm oil saplings in Sumatra



Ruined livelihoods

Huge areas of land in poor countries are being snatched to produce biofuels.

This land grab is harming some of the world's poorest people. Indigenous peoples are being forced to leave their ancestral homes to make way for plantations – stripping them of their livelihoods and creating violent conflicts.

Millions of poor people are going hungry because of rising food prices, caused when food crops are replaced with biofuels to feed our cars and power stations.



“I have farmed in this land for the past 25 years and this is the only source of my income and my family's livelihood. All my crops have been destroyed without compensation and my animals were killed. Where do I go from here? I am old and cannot do anything else apart from farming.”

Boya Fataa from the Nkoranza community in Ghana, speaking about his community's eviction without prior notice from the Government, Chiefs or the company which claimed to have bought the land for biofuel production.

Biofuels wreck forests

Producing palm oil for food and biofuels is threatening a whole way of life in Indonesia's tropical forests.

Indigenous peoples have owned the land for generations. But the Government allows plantation companies to steal it. The destruction that follows is bad news for the millions of people who rely directly on the forest. For hundreds of years the forest has provided food, materials, and medicine for the communities living in it. Once it's gone, families often have to take poorly paid work to survive.

All of this is bad for the planet too. Fires, started to clear the land, and CO₂ emissions from deforestation have made Indonesia one of the world's biggest polluters.

As palm plantations replace natural rainforest, orang-utans and other wildlife are being pushed closer to extinction.

An area the size of England, Holland and Switzerland combined is due to be converted to palm plantation in Indonesia.

Government targets and subsidies for biofuels are driving the expansions of plantations and making these problems worse.

Real solutions

There are much better ways to reduce our emissions. We need real solutions that make a difference to people's lives. In transport the government must support better use of public transport, safer routes for people to cycle and walk and smarter cars that use less fuel. In energy production we need a major push for real renewable energy from solar and wind.

Abandoned biofuels plantation in Ghana

