



CHP Plant, Southampton City Centre

Clean up your act

Nuclear power isn't the answer, says Robin Oakley. Here's Greenpeace's suggestion for a clean, efficient energy system

● We need to focus on providing the services people need – warm homes, light, appliances for work and leisure – in the cleanest, most efficient way possible, rather than chasing new supplies of energy to meet an ever-growing demand.

A huge majority of the gas burned in Britain is used in central heating boilers to warm people's houses and hot water. Using less energy by insulating buildings is just common sense, but there are already nine million homes that have been built in the UK with no cavity-wall insulation. We must make sure we only build new homes that are ultra energy efficient.

We can reduce our use of electricity quite simply, too. If every bulb in the country were changed for an energy-efficient one, we'd save more than five million tonnes of CO₂ per year and enough electricity to match the output of the biggest nuclear power station in the country. The government's own research suggests we can massively cut the amount of energy we use – electricity, heat, transport – through measures like these, saving consumers £12bn to boot, all without creating a single gram of dangerous nuclear waste.

The UK's centralised energy system – coal, gas, nuclear power stations – generates electricity that's transmitted on a grid to where it's needed. In this system, two-thirds of the energy generated is wasted as heat, which accounts for 20% of all the UK's CO₂ emissions and is enough to provide all the heating and hot water needs of the entire country. In a decentralised energy system, electricity is generated close to where it's needed. Less fuel is used and emissions are slashed. These local energy generators are called Combined Heat and Power (CHP) stations, and can be up to 95% efficient – more than double the efficiency of centralised power stations. Electricity is generated and the waste heat from this process is used in surrounding homes, offices and factories. Other European countries already use CHP on a massive scale, but Britain has lagged behind.

Finally, we have the best renewable resources in Europe but are second from the bottom in the EU renewables league table. Wind power, and especially wave and tidal power, could mean big business for the UK, but only if government gives them proper support. Simple, clean and efficient power generation is ready to go, but the government's obsession with nuclear power is blocking the way.

Ffi: www.greenpeace.org.uk/solution

BRITISH TRUST FOR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

(BTCV) organises environmental projects, working holidays and training courses involving over 95,000 volunteers. *Contact:* BTCV, Sedium House, Mallard Way, Pottric Carr, Doncaster DN4 8DB. *Tel:* 01302 388888 *Email:* information@btcv.org.uk *Bristol office:* 0117 929 1624 *Email:* avon@btcv.org.uk *Web:* www.btcv.org

CHARITY PEOPLE Recruitment agency serving the 'not for profit' sector. Career opportunities in UK charities. *Contact:* Natasha Waas, 72 Borough High St, London SE1 1XE. *Tel:* 020 7939 7439 *Email:* info@charitypeople.co.uk *Web:* www.charitypeople.co.uk

COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS (CSV) creates opportunities for people to get involved in their community through volunteering, education, training, the media and the environment. *Contact:* Helen Stack. *Tel:* 020 7642 1340 *Email:* hstack@csv.org.uk *Web:* www.csv.org.uk

EARTHWATCH engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education, to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable

environment. Earthwatch supports 130-140 expeditions in 55 countries. Projects that volunteers can join are featured in annual Expedition Guide. All ages are welcome (individuals 18+, teen teams 16+, family teams 10+) and no experience is necessary. *Contact:* Earthwatch Institute (Europe), 267 Banbury Rd, Oxford OX2 7HT. *Tel:* 01865 318838 *Email:* info@earthwatch.org.uk *Web:* www.earthwatch.org/europe

GAP Charity specialising in international volunteering for 17-25-year-olds. An organisation with attitude, they're passionate about the world, concerned about the issues facing us all. *Contact:* 44 Queen's Rd, Reading, Berks RG1 4BB. *Tel:* 0118 959 4914 *Fax:* 0118 957 6634 *Email:* volunteer@gap.org.uk *Web:* www.gap.org.uk

GLOBAL VOLUNTEER NETWORK New Zealand-based organisation that places people in community projects throughout the world. Volunteers have the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational, conservation and community aid programs. *Tel:* (freephone) 0800 032 5035 *Email:* info@volunteer.org.nz *Web:* www.volunteer.org.nz

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORY Guide that provides essential information on UK-based voluntary organisations working in the developing world. Published by the Directory of Social Change. *Contact:* The Directory of Social Change, 24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2DP. *Tel:* 020 7391 4800 *Email:* enquiries@dsc.org.uk *Web:* www.dsc.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE recruits skilled personnel to undertake development work with communities in West Africa, Latin America and Palestine. *Contact:* International Service, Hunter House, 57 Goodramgate, York YO1 7FX. *Tel:* 01904 647799 *Email:* is@internationalservice.org.uk *Web:* www.internationalservice.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE Peace organisation working for the sustainable development of local and global communities throughout the world. *Contact:* IVS England, Oxford Place Centre, Oxford Place, Leeds, LS1 3AX. *Tel:* 0113 246 9900 *Email:* ivsengland@ivs-gb.org.uk *Web:* www.ivs-gb.org.uk

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (NCVO) Membership organisation of over 1,000 voluntary organisations which works to increase the effectiveness of the voluntary sector and encourage new initiatives. Publishes a magazine, provides a range of services and campaigns on issues affecting charities and voluntary organisations. *Contact:* Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints St, London N1 9RL. *Tel:* 0800 279 8798 *Email:* helpdesk@askncvo.org.uk *Web:* www.ncvo-vo.org.uk

OXFAM Get active for trade justice: volunteer with Oxfam. You can do this by joining a local group (listed in the directory) and helping to organise events that bring these issues to the attention of a wider audience. *Tel:* 0870 333 2700 *Web:* www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/volunteer/index.htm

PEOPLE & PLANET involve students in campaigns on world poverty, human rights and environment. Volunteers wanted to help PAP work (together with Oxfam) to establish and support campaign groups in Bristol schools. *Contact:* 51 Union St, Oxford OX4 1JP. *Tel:* 01865 245678 *Email:* people@peopleandplanet.org *Web:* www.peopleandplanet.org/mentors

REACH finds part-time expenses-only opportunities for experienced managers and professional people who want to use their skills to help voluntary organisations with charitable aims. This free service is available throughout the UK. *Contact:* David Moakes. *Tel:* 0117 942 1938 *Email:* mail@reach-online.org.uk *Web:* www.reach-online.org.uk

REDR-IHE (Engineers for Disaster Relief) relieves poverty, sickness and suffering by training, providing and supporting competent and committed people to humanitarian programmes, worldwide. *Contact:* RedR UK, 1 Great George St, London SW1P 3AA. *Tel:* 020 7233 3116 *Email:* info@redr.org *Web:* www.redr.org

TIME BANKS UK National umbrella charity, founded by Dame Anita Roddick, linking and supporting time banks across the country. Time Banks link people locally to share their time and skills. *Contact:* Time Banks, City Works, Alfred St, Gloucester GL1 4DF. *Tel:* 01452 541439 *Email:* info@timebanks.co.uk *Web:* www.timebanks.co.uk

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS The UN focal point for promoting and harnessing volunteerism for development (V4D), to make distinctive contributions to the effectiveness of development. *Contact:* UNV, Postfach 260 111, D-53153 Bonn, Germany. *Tel:* +49 228 815 2000 *Fax:* +49 228 815 2001 *Email:* information@unvolunteers.org *Web:* www.unv.org

VACATION WORK PUBLICATIONS publishes a number of guides to vacation work and travel, including the International Directory of Voluntary Work, Work Volunteers and Green Volunteer. Available from bookshops or *Contact:* Crimson Business Ltd, Westminster House, Kew Rd, Richmond TW9 2WD. *Tel:* 0208 334 1600 *Email:* info@crimsonpublishing.co.uk *Web:* www.vacationwork.co.uk