



Political engagement

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UK Government

Mandatory Greenhouse Gas reporting

The Government has a legal obligation under the Climate Change Act to ensure mandatory reporting by 2012, or to explain to Parliament why it has not been introduced. Its introduction would improve the transparency of oil companies, discourage investment in high carbon fuels such as tar sands and encourage a shift to low carbon alternatives.

In October 2010, The Co-operative and WWF worked with MPs to table 'Early Day Motion 799 – corporate reporting of carbon emissions'. The EDM was tabled with cross-party support and calls for the introduction of mandatory reporting by 2012. A key ask of our Toxic Fuels campaign is that you now [contact your MP](#) to request they sign the EDM and raise the issue with relevant Ministers.

After tabling the EDM, The Co-operative and WWF met with Lord Henley, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to advocate a positive decision from the Government. The Co-operative also participated in an All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group policy debate on the issue.

In July 2010, The Co-operative Bank, Insurance and Investments and WWF wrote to Lord Henley at Defra and Ed Davey at the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) following the formation of a new Government to call for the introduction of mandatory greenhouse gas reporting by 2012. We also enclosed copies of our report 'Toxic Fuels – Toxic Investments: why we need mandatory greenhouse gas reporting'.

In November 2009, The Co-operative Bank, Insurance and Investments and WWF wrote to Hilary Benn, Secretary of State, Defra and Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State, BIS expressing concern about the Government's failure to commit to mandatory reporting following its consultation on the issue earlier in the year

In September 2009, The Co-operative Bank, Insurance and Investments, and WWF organised fringe events at the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat party conferences in support of our Toxic Fuels campaign and to mobilise political support for improved greenhouse gas reporting from high emitting companies, such as those operating in Canada's tar sands.

In August 2009, The Co-operative Bank, Insurance and Investments, and WWF submitted a response to the Government's consultation on greenhouse gas reporting stating that it should introduce mandatory reporting for business as soon as possible and require the reporting of long-term carbon liabilities from UK listed companies operating in Canada's tar sands.



In April 2009, an Early Day Motion (EDM) on carbon liability disclosure was tabled with cross-party support in the House of Commons, at the request of The Co-operative Bank, Insurance and Investments and WWF. A key ask of our Toxic Fuels campaign was for supporters to contact their MP to sign the EDM. By November 2009, almost 5,000 of you had done so (thank you if you were one of them!) and the EDM had attracted 200 MP signatories with support from all the political parties. The EDM highlighted the high greenhouse gas emissions resulting from tar sands and called for improved reporting on the issue. Click [here](#) for the EDM wording and to see whether your MP signed.

In February 2009, as part of the campaign launch, representatives from our campaign and the Beaver Lake Cree Nation met a number of Members of Parliament to highlight the risks tar sand developments pose, both globally in terms of dangerous levels of climate change and locally in terms of First Nation and wildlife impacts.

The MPs we met included members of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Canada; the All Party Parliamentary Group on Tribal Peoples; the Government's Envoy on Carbon Markets; the Liberal Democrat Shadow Climate Minister; and the Climate Change Adviser to the Conservative Energy and Climate Change team. Following the meetings MPs tabled parliamentary questions on the issue.

Downloads:

- ['Toxic Fuels – Toxic Investments: why we need mandatory greenhouse gas reporting' report](#)
- [Letter to Lord Henley and Ed Davey July 2010](#)

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European Commission and Parliament

EU Fuel Quality Directive & Low Carbon Fuel Standard

In April 2010, it came to light that the European Commission's proposals for the EU Fuel Quality Directive had been watered down to remove all reference to tar sands following lobbying by the Canadian Government and the oil industry. Article 7a of the Fuel Quality Directive - Europe's Low Carbon Fuel Standard - sets a mandatory 6% reduction target for the greenhouse gas emissions of EU transport fuels by 2020. However, by treating tar sands oil the same as conventional oil the increased emissions from tar sands will go unreported, potentially cancelling out the emission reductions being claimed and doing nothing to restrict imports into Europe of the world's most climate hostile transport fuel. The emissions from using tar sands oil is between 18 per cent and 49 per cent higher than the average for European conventional oil. We are campaigning to make sure fuels derived from tar sands and oil shale are sufficiently penalised in the Fuel Quality Directive and effectively banned in the EU.

As part of the [Tarnished Earth](#) street gallery we have incorporated an innovative photo petition to 'keep tar sands out of Europe'. Launched in September 2010, the petition will be presented to the European Parliament in spring 2011, hopefully with tens of thousands of faces – ['add your face' to the petition](#).

In September 2010, The Co-operative, WWF and Greenpeace met the Minister of State for Transport advising of the inadequacy of current Commission proposals.



In July 2010, The Co-operative signed a letter to the European Commission with 11 other international environmental and civic society groups calling for the Fuel Quality Directive to be strengthened.

In June 2010, The Co-operative formed a coalition with WWF, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and Transport and Environment to campaign to “Keep tar sands out of Europe”. A joint briefing paper was sent to the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and EU Member States setting out the changes required to the Fuel Quality Directive, if it is to meet its objectives of encouraging the use of lower emission fuels and reducing the emissions of fossil fuels. The Co-operative and Transport and Environment also had face to face briefings with key MEPs and The Co-operative drafted questions for the European Parliament Environment Committee to put to the Commission.

In April 2010, The Co-operative and WWF wrote to the UK Minister of State for Transport and key MEPs to highlight the issue and ask that they put pressure on the European Commission to reverse its decision and penalise the tar sands for their higher carbon emissions.

Downloads:

- [Detailed coalition MEP briefing paper](#)
- [Letter sent to Commission from 12 international environmental and civic society organisations](#)

In December 2008, The Co-operative wrote to Members of the European Parliament asking that they vote in favour of the EU Fuel Quality Directive and its Low Carbon Fuel Standard (Article 7a). The Co-operative highlighted that the proposed Low Carbon Fuel Standard would require suppliers to reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of transport fuels, with reductions of at least 6% achieved by 2020 compared with the 2010 average. It was passed by the European Parliament but key issues on the implementing methodology for measuring the emissions of fossil fuels remained unaddressed, although draft proposals did recognise the much higher emissions resulting from tar sands oil.

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Other

As part of the campaign launch outside the Canadian Embassy in February 2009, representatives from The Co-operative Bank, Insurance and Investments, and WWF delivered a letter of protest to the Embassy and met with the Canadian High Commissioner regarding tar sands expansion, highlighting the climate change threat this exploitation represents and its impact on pristine boreal forest and local indigenous communities.

In February 2009, The Co-operative Asset Management co-signed a collaborative investor and environmental NGO letter to the US Securities and Exchange Commission regarding its new requirements for oil and gas reserve reporting. The letter called for it to adopt a disclosure framework for reserves that have higher than average lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, such as tar sands. It requested disclosure of geographic location and carbon intensity, highlighting the increased exposure to regulatory and litigation risk such unconventional oil reserves have.

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