

# ***The Climate Threat*** and *the co-operative response*

Bob Burlton

[www.actonclimate.coop](http://www.actonclimate.coop)



**ACT!** - Addressing the Climate Threat

COOPeRATIVES  
europe

# Outline

- The climate threat
- Its importance to co-operatives ?
- **ACT!** –  
co-operatives addressing the climate threat
- 2012 ?
- Housing co-operatives



**ACT!** - Addressing the Climate Threat

“Climate change is the greatest emerging humanitarian challenge of our time, causing suffering to hundreds of millions of people ”  
– Former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan.



“Climate Change  
is the biggest  
global health threat  
of the 21st Century”

– The Lancet, May 2009

Not always known for overstatement ?

[Show film](#)



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europe

Why ? ----- because !



# What is fair about climate change?



# Meet Flynn ----- 12 april 08



So, what's this  
got to do with co-ops ?

# The crises we face – have common roots

*Living beyond our resources –  
Greed, short-termism and a lack of social responsibility*



Economic !



Climatic !

So, what about  
the co-operative values of  
equity and social responsibility ?

*Are they just words, or  
are they values that we do live by?*



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COOPeRATIVES  
Europe

# 4 things coops can do

Measure & reduce own CO<sub>2</sub>

Promote production / use of renewable energy

Inform & motivate our members

Lobby and campaign

Many energy reductions ... 25% less by 2012



# Leading the way in energy



The **co-operative** has over 4,000 branches powered by renewable energy.

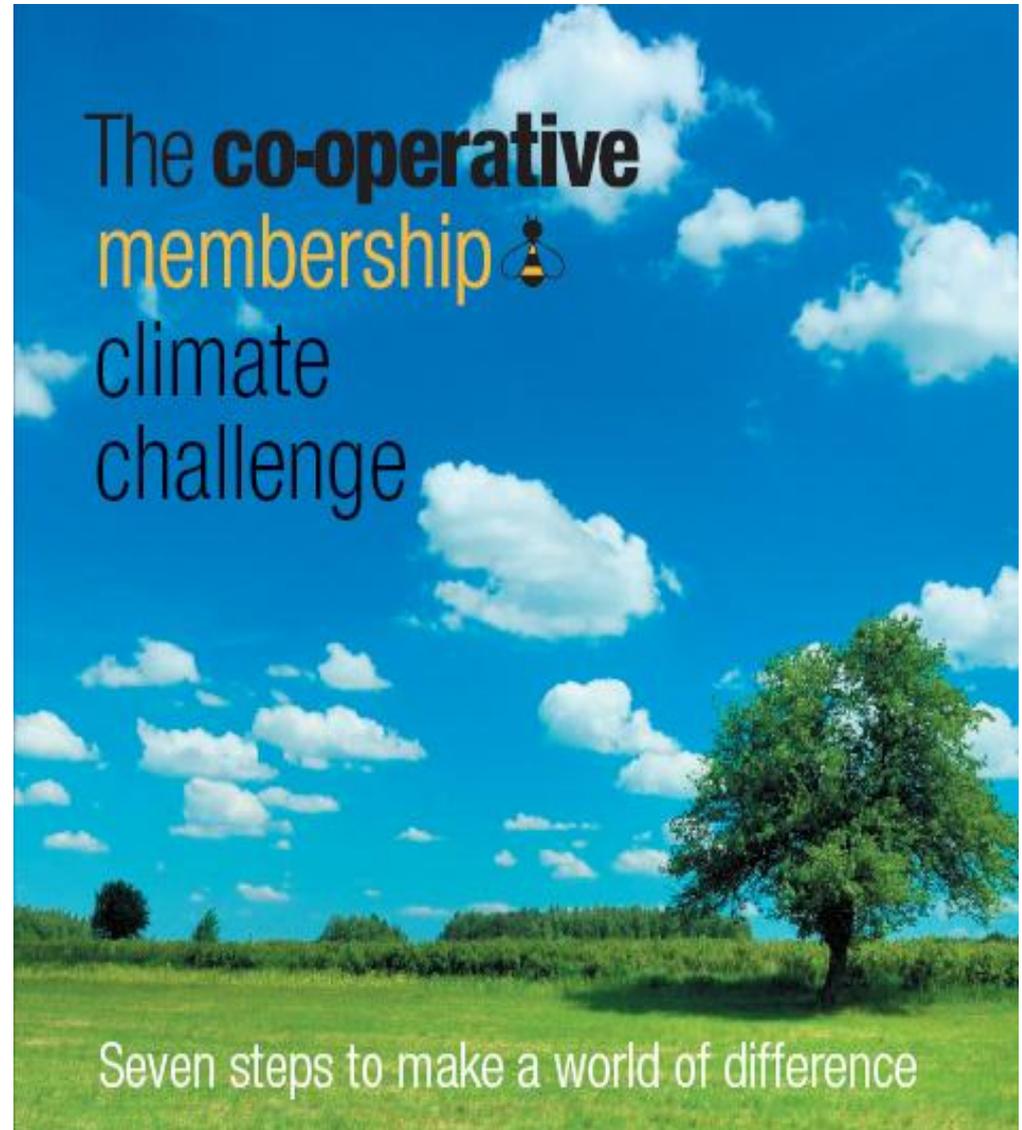


THE QUEEN'S AWARDS  
FOR ENTERPRISE

# Inform & involve our Co-op members

- 2m members asked to sign the climate challenge
- Climate pledge of 7 small changes to make a big difference
- Member events throughout UK

The **co-operative**





**CO-OPERATIVES UK**



[www.greenertogether.coop](http://www.greenertogether.coop)

The **co-operative**

# 3 Key Areas



Energy



Waste



Personal Transport

# Funding creates resources

The image shows a website mockup for 'Greener Together' and a large illustration below it. The website has a green header with the title 'Funding creates resources'. The 'Greener Together' logo features a stylized tree with leaves and the tagline 'the co-operative way'. Navigation links include 'about', 'get involved', 'apply now', and 'contact'. The 'get involved' section contains text about the project's focus on energy, waste, and transport, and a call to register details by 25th March 2010. Below the text are links for 'Read more' and 'follow us on twitter'. The illustration depicts a sustainable community with a 'Community Shop', wind turbines, people recycling, a person on a bicycle, and a sign asking 'GOING FAR?'. A thought bubble with 'CO2' is also present.

**Greener Together**  
the co-operative way

[about](#) [get involved](#) [apply now](#) [contact](#)

Welcome to Greener Together - *the co-operative way*.

Greener Together is an ambitious and dynamic project. The core focus is to engage, support and provide the means to share lifestyle changes that reduce members' and customers' environmental impact in the areas of energy, waste and personal transport. The Project enables member organisations of Co-operatives<sup>UK</sup>, the Confederation of Co-operative Housing (CCH) and the Plunkett Foundation to work with their members and customers in achieving greener behaviour.

[Read more](#)

[follow us on twitter](#)

**get involved**

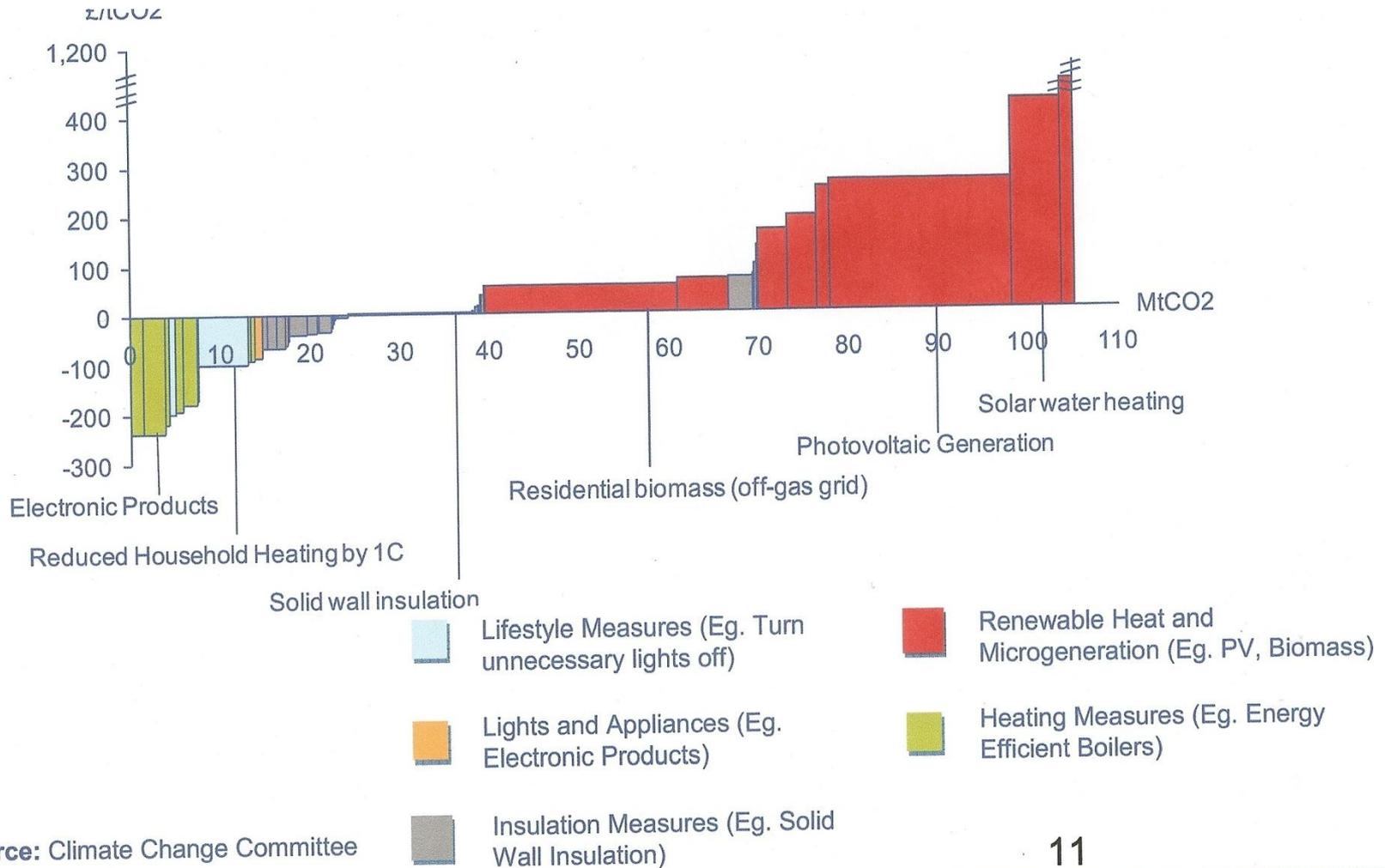
Members or customers from participating organisations will be able to **register** their details from **25th March 2010**.

Community Shop

GOING FAR?

CO<sub>2</sub>

# Emissions reductions costs (£/tCO<sub>2</sub>)



# Importance of lobbying & campaigning

Home - Customers Who Care - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Refresh Print Mail Stop

Address <http://www.co-operativecampaigns.co.uk/toxicfuels/> Go Links »

## Toxic Fuels

Toxic Fuels, our campaign in partnership with [WWF-UK](#), aims to raise awareness of an emerging global trend to extract oil from unconventional fuels, such as [tar sands](#) and [shale oil](#). Such exploitation threatens global efforts to avoid dangerous levels of climate change and risks local ecological disaster.

Find out more and get involved:

### In the news:

WWF-UK and The Co-operative launch report: 'Unconventional Oil: scraping the bottom of the barrel?'; 29/07/08. [\[Read more\]](#)

### Photo story

See the destruction caused by tar sand developments in Canada.



### Take action

Contact your MP



### Beaver Lake Cree Nation





Start Bob Burlton - Inbox ... Home - Customers ... Microsoft PowerPoi...

Internet 14:07

# But, let's do it together

## **6<sup>th</sup> Principle:- Co-operation among co-operatives**

*Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures*

# *The launch of ACT!*

COOP*e*RATIVES  
urope

*Is proud to launch*



***ACT!*** – Addressing the Climate Threat

# *What is ACT!*

- A self-funding unit within Co-operatives Europe
- Will encourage more co-ops to do more
- Will support co-ops fighting the climate threat with information and guidance

# *The importance of the EU*

- *EU laws affect many countries*
- *Also, EU carbon emissions targets*
- *Combined EU voice at Copenhagen and successor events (Cancun Dec 2010)*
- *Potential source of funds*

# ACT! An information resource

Address the Climate Threat Blog - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites RSS Mail Print W Address http://blog.actonclimate.coop/2009/10/italys-legacoop-to-give-major-boost-to.html

## co-operatives addressing the climate threat... together

HOME PETITION 10:10 PLEDGE CLIMATE INFO CAMPAIGNS ABOUT US COMMENTS CASE STUDIES BLOG

Tuesday, 20 October 2009

### ITALY'S LEGACOOP TO GIVE MAJOR BOOST TO COOPERATIVE EUROPE'S ACT !



The world-renowned Italian APEX group, Legacoop proposes to give a major boost to the efforts of Co-operatives Europe's **ACT!** to address the climate threat.

"Cooperambiente" is Legacoop's overall project to address the climate threat, including a focus on the production and use of renewable energy, objectives that it shares with **ACT!**

Cooperambiente has arranged an exclusively co-operative facility in the main Italian Event on the environment and climate change, Ecomondo taking place in Rimini, Italy October 28-30th, and which will be addressed by Sir Nicholas Stern, author of the Stern Report. (See <http://www.cooperambiente.it/> )

Now, Legacoop has arranged a special event on the 30th October for Ecomondo delegates and the Italian media under the title:-

"Let's **ACT!** now; Environment Is Our Business, Who Can Do Better Than Us?"

#### BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▼ 2009 (10)
  - ▼ October (9)
    - Eurocoop Environment Chair; Why a Cross Sector, In...
    - Hungarian Co-operatives pledge their support to Co...
    - Kathy Bardswick, President and CEO of The Co-opera...
    - Italy's Legacoop to Give Major Boost to Cooperativ...
    - Co-operative Group Sponsor Transition Town Event I...
    - Legacoop President Shares His Views On Climate Cha...
    - Co-operative and mutual insurers worldwide support...
    - American co-ops show strong support for Cooperativ...
    - UNCCUE show Spanish support for ACT!
  - September (1)

Done

Start Address the Climat... Document1 - Micros...

Internet

13:00

Blog items

# ACT!

# there will be more

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "Case study - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar contains the URL: <http://resources.actonclimate.coop/BestPractice/Casestudies/Casestudy/Default.aspx?recordId=3>. The main content area features a blue sky background with white clouds. The page content includes:

## Case study

[Click here to return to the list of case studies.](#)  
[Print this form.](#) [Save this form as a PDF.](#)

### Legacoop, Cooperambiente

**Country:** Italy  
**Sector:** Other

### Brief description

Legacoop is an Italian multisectoral national cooperative organisation established in 1886. Today gathers over 15,000 cooperatives active all over Italy and in all the economic sector, with 8,3 million members and over 472,000 employees. The turn-over of Legacoop cooperatives sums up to 56,2 billion Euros (45% of the Italian global cooperatives turn-over).

### Main reasons

Italian cooperatives have always been very committed to environmental responsibility and sustainability. In some sectors, Legacoop member cooperatives have been pioneers in awareness rising campaigns on these crucial issues as well as in adopting an environmental sustainable approach to their business activities.

### Aims and objectives

As a multisectoral national organization, Legacoop, through the project COOPERAMBIENTE, launched in 2008, wishes to promote the coordination, the visibility and joint projects among different sectors devoted to highlight the commitment of Legacoop member cooperatives and the best experiences to share, at European and international level.

### How the project or case study helps fight climate change

A brief overview of the different types of activities carried out by our member cooperatives working in various sectors:

- 1) The housing and building cooperatives, promote bio-climate planning (architectural planning and home intervention) ; energy efficiency ;

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open windows including "Case study - Micro...", and a system tray with the time 13:01.



# ACT! achievements

- Being born !
- Raising 100,000 euros
- Built [www.actonclimate.coop](http://www.actonclimate.coop)
- 3000+ signatures for climate call
- United the ICA General Assembly (nov 09)
- Strong & growing support from sectors
- A co-op letter to Copenhagen



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Yvo de Boer  
Executive Secretary  
United Nations Framework Convention  
on Climate Change  
P.O. Box 260124  
D-53153 Bonn  
Germany

01 December 2009

Dear Mr. de Boer,

I am writing to transmit to you and the UNFCCC the resolution passed by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) during its recent General Assembly with regard to Climate Change.

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is an independent, non-governmental organisation, which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide. The ICA was founded in 1895 and has 233 member organisations from 89 countries, representing nearly one billion individuals worldwide. It holds general category Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

You should be aware that the leading 300 co-operative enterprises have a combined turnover equivalent to the 10<sup>th</sup> economy of the world and thus the Co-operative Movement represents a formidable partner to address Climate Change.

The ICA General Assembly was held on 19-20 November 2009 at the Geneva International Conference Centre in Geneva (Switzerland). Under the theme "Global Crisis – Co-operative Opportunity", the Assembly addressed the challenges that the global economic crisis, energy needs and climate change present to co-operative enterprises and to the world as a whole. In particular it passed a resolution, as attached, calling on the United Nations and the governments of all countries participating in the Conference of Parties (COP) 15 Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, in December 2009 to secure a fair, ambitious and binding agreement at the global climate negotiations by:

# Housing co-ops, the ICA & the climate threat

- An important ICA sector
  - *scale, organisation and influence*
  - *climate threat impacts*
    - *Scope for energy reduction and renewables*
- Some significant cases to date
  - HSB climate strategy & Climate Agreement
  - CECODHAS – Power House Europe
  - this conference
- However, scope to do more co-operatively !

# • Climate Threat & year of co-ops 2012

- 2012 is end for current Kyoto protocol
- also, UN International year for co-operatives
- Important opportunity to project co-op model
- Yes, economic/business model is crucial
- But also important to show values basis
- How better than focus on climate threat
- Consider alternative of not

# **ACT!** now - time is short

- co-ops to focus on own activities
- Inform/motivate workers and members
- Lobby and campaign
- Support renewable energy
- Together please –  
to max co-op impact & benefit
- **ACT!** Needs your help now – please?

# The essence of co-operative values

“We must be  
the change  
we wish to see  
in the world.”

Gandhi