



DIARY NOTICE: Saturday 15th September 2007

STOP BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPANSION CAMPAIGN WELCOMES CUT THE CARBON MARCH TO BRISTOL

Campaigners from Stop Bristol Airport Expansion (SBAE) will join Christian Aid's Cut the Carbon marchers at a rally on College Green, Bristol on Saturday 15th September from 12-2pm, to call for greater action to reduce the region's contribution to climate change.

Campaigners will be highlighting the growing impact of greenhouse gas emissions from flights and calling for a halt to Bristol International Airport's expansion plans.

The airport is expected to submit plans to expand this autumn, with passenger numbers predicted to grow to 9 million per year by 2015, if not sooner given current levels of growth.

Aviation is the fastest growing source of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK, contributing some 13 per cent of the UK's global warming impact [1]. Scientists have now confirmed that growing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are affecting the Earth's climate – resulting in extreme weather conditions, like this summer's floods [2].

Each airline passenger travelling from Bristol to Glasgow emits an average 310kg of carbon dioxide – compared to 67kg if the same journey is made by car [3].

SBAE campaign spokesperson Hilary Burn said:

“We're delighted that the Cut the Carbon march is visiting Bristol to draw attention to the growing threat of climate change. Aviation is the UK's fastest growing source of carbon dioxide emissions - more flights mean more floods and other extreme weather events, putting our homes and businesses at risk. We need to cut the carbon and do everything we can to reduce that risk and that includes calling a halt to airport expansion in Bristol and elsewhere in the UK. Our climate cannot afford anything else.”

The Cut the Carbon March has been organised by development charity Christian Aid. Eighteen marchers from across the UK and parts of the developing world are walking from Belfast to London to highlight the need to cut carbon dioxide emissions and tackle climate change. They arrive in Bristol on Friday 14th September, and are holding a picnic and rally on College Green, Bristol on Saturday 15th. For more information see:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/stoppoverty/climatechange/march/index.aspx>

ENDS

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Notes:

- [1] Answer to Parliamentary Question 2 May 2007. This figure includes the greater damage done by aircraft emissions at high altitude (the radiative forcing effect), but excludes the damage caused by the formation of cirrus clouds. See <http://www.aef.org.uk/downloads//CO2statementMay07.doc>
- [2] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Fourth Assessment Report, WG1 www.ipcc.ch
- [3] Carbon Calculator, Mark Lynas, Collins 2007