

## **Quakers in Yorkshire**

**Workshops on Sustainability held at Harrogate on 22 April 2017**

Carbon Footprint of Food

Fossil Free Disinvestment

Quakers and Fracking

Personal Carbon Tracker

To download a free copy of the personal carbon tracker spreadsheet go to: <http://personalcarbontracker.weebly.com>

## The Carbon Footprint of Food – Pete Redwood

I have spent the greater part of my working life in the food industry and the past ten years delving into some of the murkier corners of the industry.

Today we are looking at sustainability from the point of view of our carbon footprint because this is the easiest indicator of how our individual lives are affecting the world around us. So why am I talking about food, the most essential part of our lives? Simply because, next to the amount of energy that we use in our homes - and possibly our car and travel use, if we use a lot – food is the next largest component in our carbon footprint.

Modern methods of farming, manufacture, distribution and retailing create a huge carbon footprint. Farming in the UK today is controlled to a very large extent by the demands of supermarkets who exert considerable pressure to get the lowest possible price.

Somehow producers have to make a profit, so they use bigger and heavier, carbon intensive diesel monsters to get the job done with less labour and they turn to chemicals in an attempt to higher yields. And of course, the manufacture of those chemicals also contributes a sizeable amount to the final carbon footprint of the food.

Of course we don't have to worry about all those pesticides. They are all tested as safe aren't they. Aren't they?

Let me tell you a little story. On odd occasions over the past ten years I have been able attend sessions of the Pesticide Residues Committee. This is the body that tests and supervises the use of pesticides in this country. On one occasion a representative from one of the largest carrot producers in the UK was giving an address. He explained that, using sophisticated computerised equipment, he has to ensure that just the right amount of chemical is applied at just the right time so that, when the carrots are finally harvested, the pesticides levels in those carrots come JUST below the legal maximum. I repeat, JUST below. Because if he didn't, he couldn't guarantee that every single carrot was totally 100% blemish free, which is what the supermarkets demand. He could not afford to have one single carrot amid several hundred tonnes with a single bite mark!!!!

Nobody has any idea what effect our pesticide laden food is having on us, because no work has ever been done on the cocktail of chemicals on our plate. We are told that such research is too expensive. What we do know is that more and more people are suffering from an increasing variety of debilitating ailments – diabetes, cancers, food allergies etc etc that is putting immense strain on our health service.

The other effect which the purely commercial side of the industry is ignoring is the effect all the chemicals are having on our environment. A recent report by the Soil Association showed that over 60% of our prime agricultural land is biologically unfit for purpose! It will only grow anything if soaked with synthetic fertilisers. Which means the creatures like hedgehogs, who rely on the wildlife in the soil are having a hard time in certain areas. Similarly by eliminating all the soil pests and insects, the birds are being robbed of their food supply.

This then impacts on the whole food chain because many animals that rely on predation are losing their food supply. Similarly with wild plants. Biocides sprayed to destroy weeds mean that in many areas on the most aggressive plants survive – the nettles and the hog weed for example which suppress all the less aggressive plants and bring about their demise.

That's the depressing side of modern food production. We are talking about carbon release. Every stage of food production now is centralised. Which means quite often, that food produced just down the road has to travel miles across the country to be processed and packaged, then shipped somewhere else to a distribution centre, and possibly from there to another company's distribution centre, before it finally finds its way onto your local supermarket shelves. At each stage, the carbon footprint increases.

And I haven't even mentioned meat. Possibly the largest part of the carbon footprint of any meal. It is estimated that if the average meat eater suddenly gave up meat completely they would reduce their carbon footprint by nearly twice as much as giving up the car!. Food for thought.

The simple solution is to avoid meat, or if you must eat it, ensure that you only buy grass fed, free range, organically produced meat from a local farmer. And for everything else, avoid imported food which is invariably brought in by air, buy as local as possible, buy organic and avoid pre-prepared food and ready meals where possible. I know they are convenient, but they also have a large carbon footprint.

That will do for now. A huge amount there to think about. Come along to the workshop and we'll try and tease out some helpful ideas.

## Fossil Free Divestment



Stopping our money from fuelling the climate crisis



## DIVESTMENT

### Powerful campaign tool for climate action

·Call on institutions to disinvest from companies involved in the extraction of fossil fuels

## 'Do the Math'



Therefore: 80% or more of known fossil fuel reserves cannot be burned!

## UK Government

“Between 70-75 percent of known fossil fuels would have to be left unused in order to have a 50% chance of limiting global temperature rise to below 2° C”.

Nick Hurd, Minister for Climate Change & Industry, December 2016

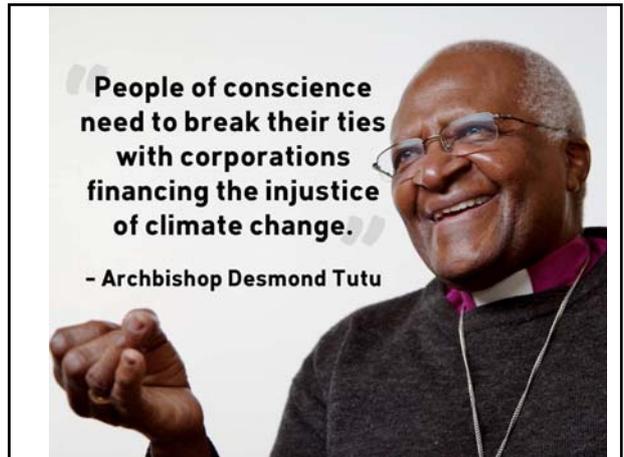
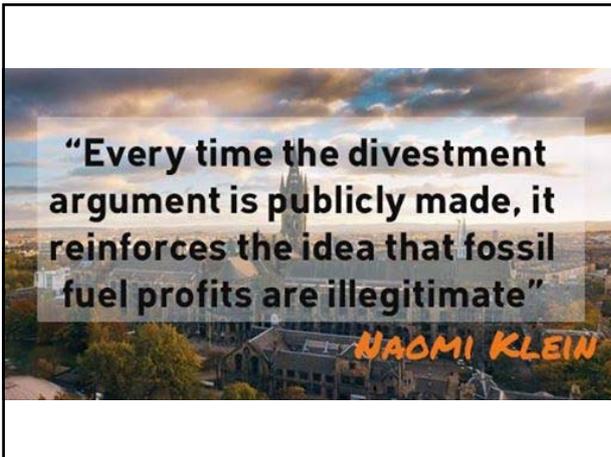


**"THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY'S BUSINESS PLAN AND A LIVEABLE PLANET ARE SIMPLY INCOMPATIBLE."**

– May Boeve, Executive Director of 350.org

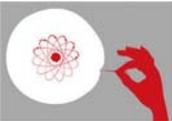
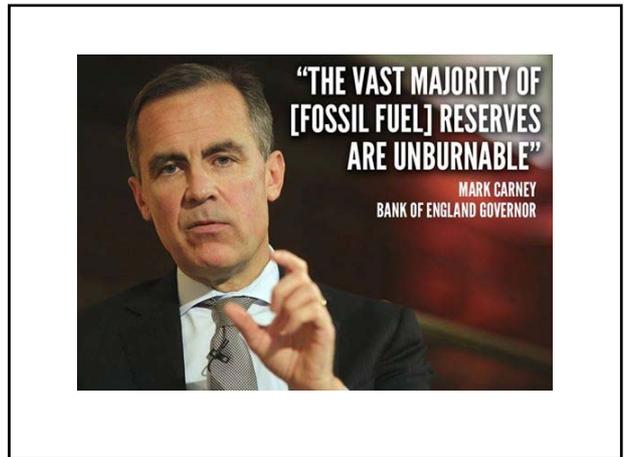
## Why Divest?

- New tactic for climate campaign – 'keep it in the ground'
- Challenges the dominant ideology & raise awareness of unburnable fossil fuels
- Takes away the social license and legitimacy of the fossil fuel industry, weakening their political power
- Will create uncertainty about the viability of the fossil fuel industry's business model.
- Effective tactic – used successfully in campaigns against apartheid & tobacco
- Local & global action



### Beware the ‘Carbon Bubble’

**Financial risk**  
Shareholders risk being left with stranded assets – worthless fuel stocks that regulation will prevent from being burned

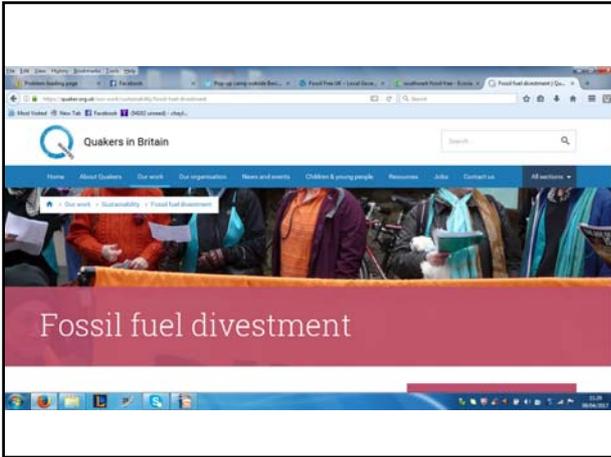
### UK Fossil Free Divestment campaigns

- . **Churches:** Bright Now campaign
- . **Universities:** People & Planet
- . **Council Pension funds:** Friends of the Earth
- . **Banks:** Move your Money
- . **Utility bills:** UnFracKMe & renewable alternatives
- . **Arts & sports sponsorship:** To BP or not BP etc
- . **Fossil Free UK** - coordinates




### Next steps

- . Divest Meeting House finances & utilities
- . Personal divestment
- . Support local Fossil Free campaigns as a Meeting and individually
- . Join an action during Global Divestment mobilisation 5 – 13 May



## Churches & faith groups

**WOW!**  
**The World Council of Churches  
 will divest from fossil fuels.**

## Bright Now

Operation Noah's recent report, Bright Now: *"For the sake of humanity's survival, we cannot afford to invest in fossil fuels any longer."*

**Bright Now:**  
towards fossil free Churches

## Quakers in Britain divest

In autumn 2013 Quakers in Britain announced the decision to disinvest its £21 million investments from fossil fuels.

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
 DIOCESE OF OXFORD  
 JUST VOTED TO  
 DIVEST  
 FROM FOSSIL FUELS**

**HUDDERSFIELD QUAKERS**

**DIVEST** ✓

## How to divest: Check your investments

Dear XXX

Huddersfield Quaker Meeting has recently made the decision to divest from all investments involved in fossil fuel extraction: <http://gofossilfree.org/uk/huddersfield-quakers-divest/> This means that we have to screen all our investments to ensure that they do not invest in fossil fuel companies (screening out fossil fuel companies as defined by Carbon Underground 200 'no buy' list: <http://gofossilfree.org/top-200/>) Huddersfield Quaker Meeting has combined investment of £XXX invested in XX. and would like to ensure that this is fossil free.

Please could you get back to me by XXXXX at the latest outlining your position on fossil free investments etc.

## Current campaigns



- Faith groups can support at local & national level
- Fossil free banking & savings

## Church of England

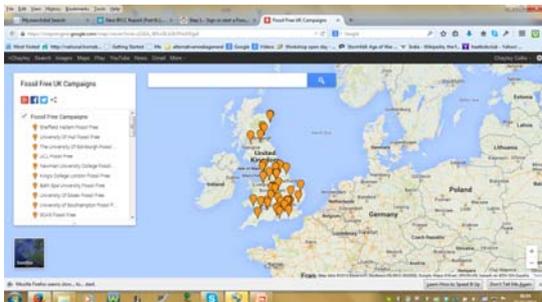


## Universities



- Students
- Staff
- Alumni

## Current campaigns: UK universities





### MPs' pension funds



### Local authority Pension Funds

Campaigns across the UK including:

- .West Yorkshire
- .South Yorkshire
- .Gtr Manchester

The 10 UK authorities with the highest % pension investment in fossil fuels are:



## Banks



## Barclays: Stop Fracking Yorkshire



## Utility bills

Do you pay bills to any of these guys?



If so, you are supporting fracking and paying too high a price for your energy. You can switch to a better supplier in 3 minutes.

[www.UnFrack.me](http://www.UnFrack.me)

## Good Energy offer for Quaker MHs



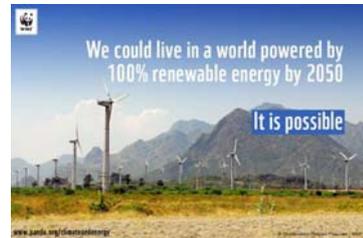
## Arts & sports sponsorship



## Quakers at British Museum

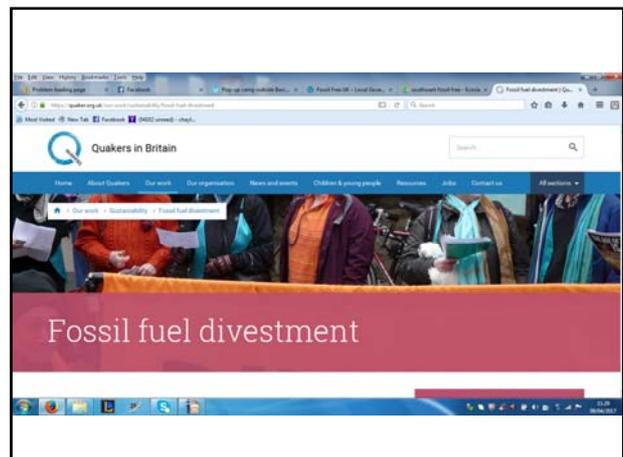


## Fossil Free Possible!



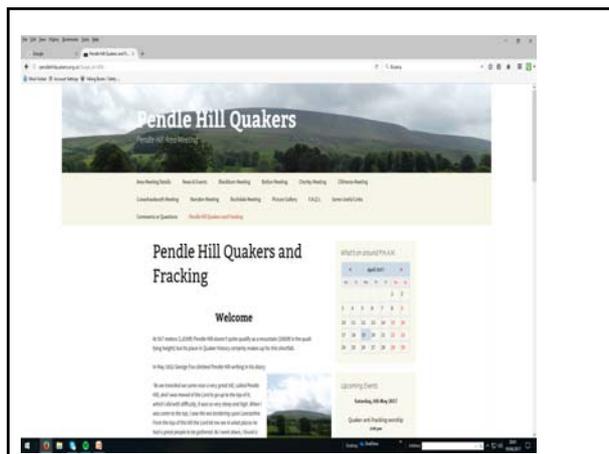
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## Quakers & Fracking

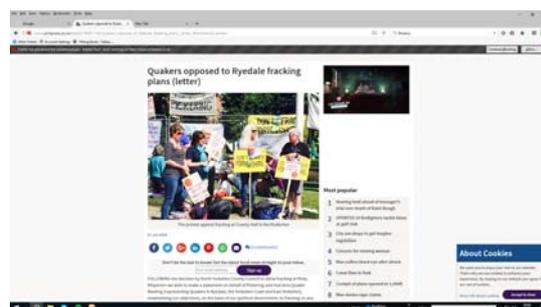
*"We have faith that we can tackle climate change and build a more sustainable future, but we know this is only possible if fossil fuels remain underground."*  
[Meeting for Sufferings](#), February 2017.



## Quaker worship at fracking sites



## Letter from Malton + Pickering AM



## Kirby Misperton, Nr Malton



## Preston New Road, Nr Blackpool



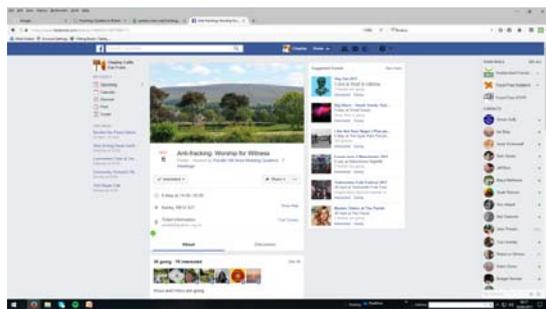
### Preston New Road, Nr Blackpool



### No Faith in Fracking: Fri 28 April



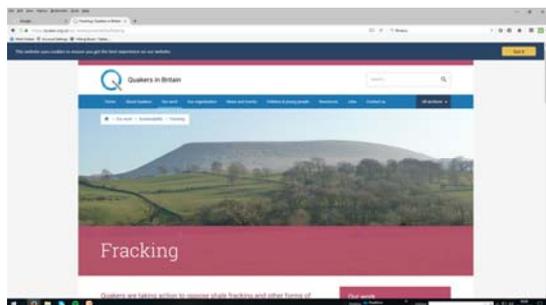
### Anti-fracking: Worship for Witness 6 May



### Boycott Barclays



### Resources



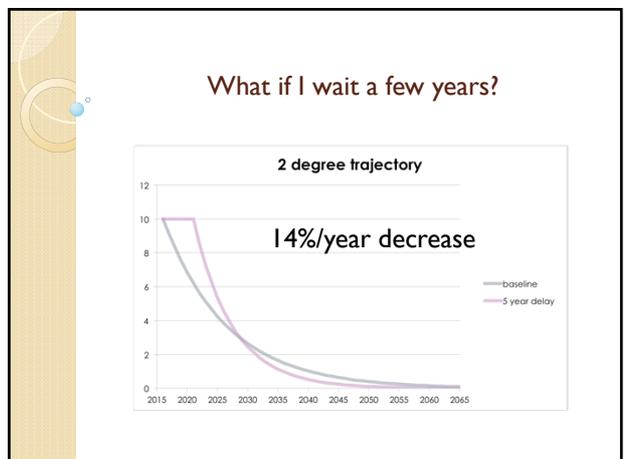
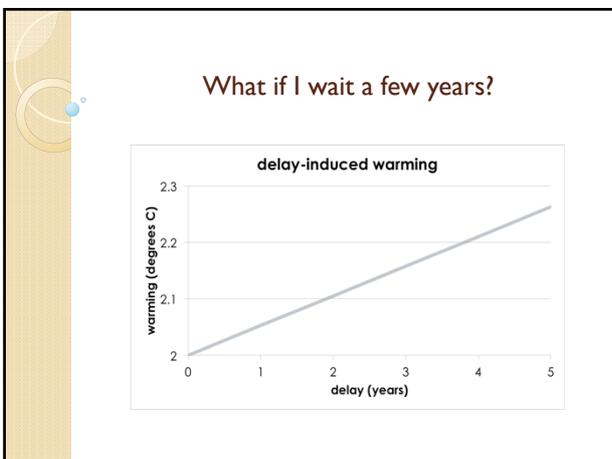
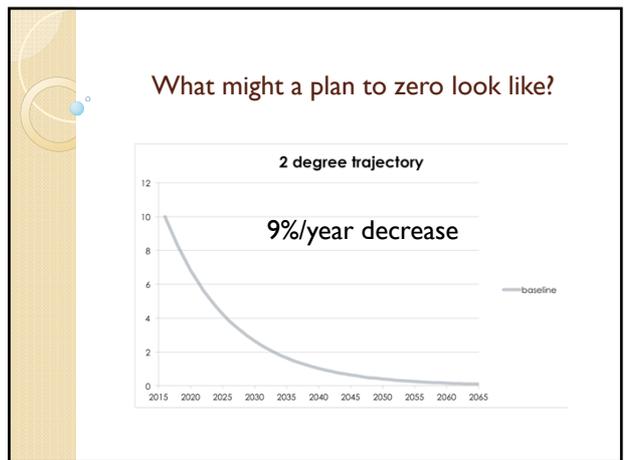
# Personal Carbon Tracker

keeping track of your lifetime CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

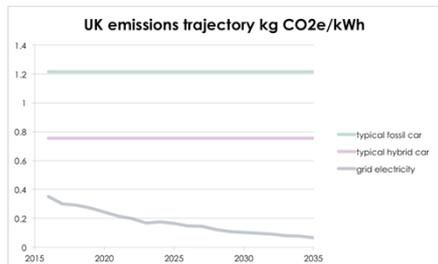
Anna Marie Byrne  
Peter Land  
Pete Gathercole



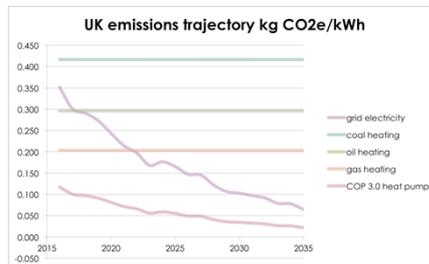
- Average UK emissions 10 tonnes/year
- This will be gone in ~11 years, after which temperatures will continue to rise
- Each of us needs to get to near-zero, the sooner the better but definitely by 2050
- What's your 33-year plan to zero?



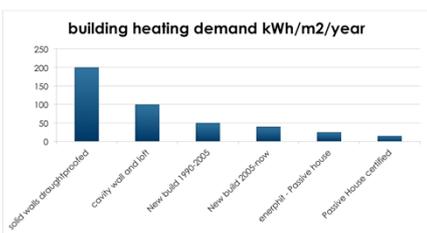
### Key decisions: buying a car



### Key decisions: heating your home



### Key decisions: buying/renovating your home



### Easy wins

- Get a ~£50 eco-kettle
- Shower smarter (eco-head/shorter/cooler/better heated eg solar)
- Draughtproof (but beware of mould!)
- Fly less/smarter (avoid short legs, choose efficient planes, fly economy)
- Eat less red meat/farmed salmon/dairy

#### Size of household

in year: 2016

How many people in your household now: **4 People**

Or fill in what percentage of household energy use you are responsible for: **%**

Will this change in the future? **yes**

In year: **2027** there will be **2** people. [more detail](#)

#### Household

**Electricity** fill in per household Current use

What is your Household Electricity Use? Typical use

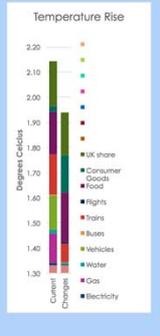
Choose units: **kWh** per **Year**

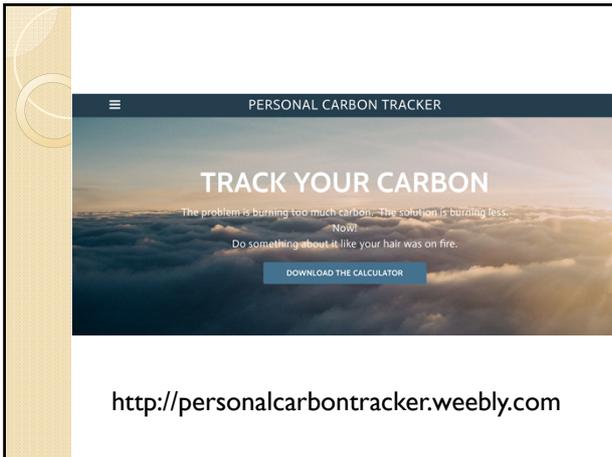
**1,195** kWh / Year

Temp rise from electric **0.01 °C**

#### Temperature Rise

	Current	Changes 1
Already caused	1.33	1.33
Electricity	0.01	0.00
Gas	0.12	0.00
Water	0.01	0.01
Vehicles	0.14	0.00
Buses	0.00	0.00
Trains	0.16	0.07
Flights	0.07	0.00
Food	0.17	0.20
Consumer Goods	0.02	0.15
UK share	0.18	0.17





The image shows a screenshot of a website. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with the text "PERSONAL CARBON TRACKER" and a hamburger menu icon on the left. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a sunset over a sea of clouds. Overlaid on the banner is the text "TRACK YOUR CARBON" in large white letters. Below this, in smaller white text, is the quote: "The problem is burning too much carbon. The solution is burning less. Now. Do something about it like your hair was on fire." At the bottom of the banner is a blue button with the text "DOWNLOAD THE CALCULATOR" in white. Below the banner, on a white background, is the URL "http://personalcarbontracker.weebly.com".