

# **A World to Win – there's a climate for change**

## ***ENERGY & TRANSPORT WORKSHOP***

### ***DISCUSSION NOTES***

1: The discussion within the Energy & Transport Workshop ranged included the following points:

- a: Need to develop policies that get us beyond the anarchy of fossil fuel use.
- b: Policies need to break society's current 'in human' relationship with nature. This includes the way capitalism distorts true energy/ transportation costs & it doesn't account for environmental damage etc.
- c: Many considered the scale of action needed to be daunting – which some suggested pointed to adopting policies that started at the local level (reflection of 'think globally, act locally').
- d: Policies should encourage individuals/ communities to take control of energy & transportation decision making. This could empower communities to make real decisions towards an environmental stewardship approach.
- e: Some suggested that decentralising energy production could help save on wasted energy by being more efficient, reduce expensive infrastructure, but could also be a way of putting the decision making process into the hands of democratic local community & regional assemblies. This is a bottom's up approach.
- f: It was considered necessary to have clear & concrete reasons to persuade people to use cars less. There are too many current social/ work pressures pushing people into greater car use (e.g. the dislocation of employment opportunities & where people live on our current society).
- g: Whilst there was need to encourage people to use cars less taxation can unfairly penalize those on lower incomes & those who need to use cars for work etc. The reduction in car use needs to tie in with a new relationship with work & home.

h: There was agreement that new non-fossil fuels were needed for transportation. Research was needed into ecological viability of the application of bio-fuels & hydrogen fuel cells.

i: Investment needed into providing cheap effective public transport (including most ecologically effective fuels). Funds for investment can be created by drastically reducing current military spending & disbanding all nuclear weapon capability (e.g. £20billion commitment for Trident)

j: To tackle growth of air travel would require tackling social drivers that fuel the demand.

2: The workshop summarised their discussions as follows:

a: Many members of the group considered the first step needed for agreeing policies in relation to energy & transport was to agree a vision for how we wanted energy & transport to be organised in the future.

b: So no concrete policies were proposed at this stage, these would come from the agreed vision.

c: Many considered it was important to change attitudes towards energy & transport, which would require both small scale changes as well as large scale changes.

d: It would be necessary to give people confidence to co-operate to implement necessary changes for moving towards a process of environmental stewardship.

e: It would also be very important how changes would be communicated. It was felt that this would need to especially involve young people.