

SMALL IS THE FUTURE

ECOLOGIST

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Bristol Energy Cooperative

A word from our sponsors

Energy has come to define our times more than ever before – not just our unprecedented reliance on energy supplies for basic needs like shelter, food, clothing, health and security, but also our mental health. A fixation with economic growth has driven fossil fuel extraction to a point where we are facing the possibility of irreversible climate breakdown and an age of extinction. This pile-up of disaster can trigger a feeling of fatalism and hopelessness, and, ironically, enervation. But there is another way. We can build a system which gives back as much as it takes away – and the good news is, it's already happening. Community-owned renewable energy empowers people to take control of their energy supply, reduce bills and support local projects. We need to share these stories of how we can do things differently so we can focus our energy on what work needs to be done. As sponsors of SMALL IS THE FUTURE, we are proud to be part of the conversation.



WELCOME

We are experiencing crises in almost every aspect of our lives. The increase in food prices alongside bloated gas and energy bills; the seemingly permanent wars in Europe and around the world; the increasingly stark warnings from climate scientists. The crises are multifaceted but the cause of each is singular. The extractive, exploitative and growth-fuelled economies of the world are driving us ever closer to the cliff edge. SMALL IS THE FUTURE offers the community in Bristol and beyond an opportunity to come together to discuss the crises – and also the solutions. We are bringing together activists, authors and academics to share their lived and learned experiences of the current crisis and to develop our understanding of what change needs to happen so that we can secure a safe future for ourselves and for future generations.

This event has been organised by The Ecologist with The Schumacher Institute, and has been sponsored by Bristol Energy Cooperative. The event is being held to celebrate 50 years since both the publication of E.F. Schumacher's bestselling *Small is Beautiful* and the foundation of The Ecologist.

Brendan Montague

Editor, The Ecologist

Ian Roderick

Director, The Schumacher Institute

10.00

EXPERIENCING THE CRISIS

The environmental, social and economic crises affect each of us differently. We have invited a panel of speakers to share their experience of living in a time of crises, and to discuss how we might respond collectively.



CHAIR

Brendan Montague
The Ecologist

SPEAKERS



Yaz Ashmawi
XR



Yasmin Dahnoun
The Ecologist



Charlie Hertzog Young
The Ecologist

11.40

PREDICTING THE CRISIS

Mainstream economists have been blindsided by the current crises. But some of us did see this coming. We hear from campaigners who, relying on systems thinking and other methods, have warned of today's events for many years.



CHAIR

Marsha Doran
The Schumacher Institute

SPEAKERS



Satish Kumar
Resurgence &
Ecologist magazine



Andrew Simms
Rapid Transition
Alliance



Ian Roderick
The Schumacher
Institute



Helen Browning
The Soil Association

14.00

UNDERSTANDING THE CRISIS

A clear understanding of the drivers of ecological and economic crises is necessary for us to take impactful action. We discuss in more detail how international trade agreements, regenerative city planning and a sound understanding of economics can steer us in the right direction.



CHAIR

Ian Roderick
The Schumacher Institute

SPEAKERS



James Meadway
Macrodose



Herbert Girardet
World Future Council



Ruth Bergan
Trade Justice Movement

15.40

SOLVING THE CRISIS

The solutions to the crisis don't have to be complex, or gargantuan. We hear from practitioners and economists how community energy generation, a nationwide Green New Deal and/or a shift to a degrowth economy can build a brighter future.



CHAIR

James Meadway
Macrodose

SPEAKERS



Andy O'Brien
Bristol Energy Coop



Ann Pettifor
The Case for the Green
New Deal



Gareth Dale
Brunel University

10.00

THE FUTURE OF NEWS

Hosted by Eliz Mizon from The Bristol Cable

The British mainstream media is dominated by billionaire proprietors, who gate-keep how the world is reported and explained. We need robust and thriving journalism. However, even multi-million-pound news organisations are struggling to survive. The Bristol Cable explains how new, small media teams can support, and be supported by, the community, workers and activists.

11.40

DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS

Hosted by Rob Shorter from DEAL

The ideas of Doughnut Economics - and its proposed goal of meeting the needs of all within the means of the living planet - have since its publication in 2017 captured the imagination of people worldwide, from policy-making to business design, community organising, education and more.

Rob Shorter from Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) will in this workshop introduce the Doughnut in an interactive and experiential way and will share how these ideas and methods are building bridges, both in how people connect with the ideas, and how they work together for systemic change.

14.00

UNEARTHING: MOVING TOWARDS COLLECTIVE CHANGE

Hosted by Rachel Sweeney, Schumacher College

We share practical and embodied tools adapted from social permaculture principles to explore interconnections and intersections unearthed through reflective writing, embodied responses, deep listening and collective and collaborative actions. We explore methods of working towards collective change.

WHERE TO FIND LUNCH

There are 250 people at today's event - all needing lunch. There are limited options in the immediate area, so the following information should help the search for sustenance. Do consider taking lunch at 12 noon to miss the queues.

The nearest venue is **Bocabar**, immediately above us, which can seat 60.

The Bristol Eats fast-food Airstream should be just over the road.

Eat Your Greens, a really nice vegan cafe, is an eleven-minute walk away.

Other venues can be found on Google Maps, and there are of course a range of food delivery options. Please do not eat food inside the venue.

There will be more than two hours between the day conference and the opening of the Cinema Climatic film showing at 7pm. This should allow people enough time to find somewhere in Bristol for dinner.

THE CINEMA CLIMATIC



Organised in partnership with the social justice organisation Platform

The stories we tell could define whether we can respond to the climate crisis. It is vital that we hear from the communities most impacted: those who work in the energy sector and those who are adversely impacted by those industries. Yasmin Dahnoun of The Ecologist introduces the first Cinema Climatic to showcase two films that do just that.

19.00

OFFSHORE

Directed by Hazel Falck

Offshore is an independent documentary that tells the story of working offshore producing oil and gas – and renewable energy. It explores what a fair transition would mean for workers and communities around the UK North Sea: how they have been impacted by past industrial decline, the risks workers face in an increasingly precarious industry, and how they can organise for the future.



20.00

THE OIL MACHINE

Directed by Emma Davie

The Oil Machine explores our economic, historical and emotional entanglement with oil by looking at the conflicting imperatives around North Sea oil. Oil has been an invisible machine at the core of our economy and society. It now faces an uncertain future, as activists and investors demand change. Is this the end of oil?



THE ECOLOGIST WRITERS' FUND

**AMPLIFYING A DIVERSE RANGE OF VOICES
FROM ACROSS THE ENVIRONMENT MOVEMENT**



MAGID MAGID, THE FORMER LORD MAYOR OF SHEFFIELD,
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