

YOUNG

Friends of the Earth Europe

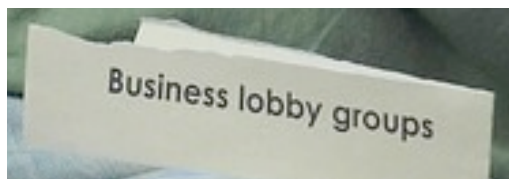


ACTION **BIO ±20** PACK

This June 20-22, world leaders and UN agencies will be meeting in Rio to discuss our future. To challenge the influence of big business and the false solutions being promoted as 'green', communities and groups across the world are speaking up for the 99%, and a truly sustainable economy.

Young Friends of the Earth Europe is getting involved - read on and join us!

RIO+20: A CORPORATE VISION OF GREEN ECONOMY



What is Rio+20?

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) will be a gathering of world leaders, UN agencies and other interested parties in Rio de Janeiro to respond to the continued destruction of climate and environment. Marking its twentieth anniversary, the summit promises to acknowledge that environmental protection and development are inseparable, and claims to work in a democratic and transparent manner to reach international agreement in addressing the ever-increasing threat of ecological collapse. The summit from June 20-22, will focus on the idea of building a 'green economy' - although exactly what is meant by both 'green' and 'economy' remains vague and threatens to be hijacked for the benefit of big business.

Rio is likely to be a battle-ground between two visions: the corporate 'green economy' and truly sustainable development which puts people before profit.

Despite the official UN rhetoric, expectations for Rio+20 are low. In the the past, these negotiations have been far from democratic and lacked transparency – the agenda often being hijacked by corporate representatives and the interests of Western countries.

During negotiations, delegates will build on and discuss a document currently called the 'Zero Draft', which outlines the summit's declarations. While this draft contains some positive points (such as reaffirming the human right to food and water), it does not cement any practical solutions. Even worse, it describes the 'green economy' as a system which would lead to an even greater corporate takeover of our planet, by giving banks and companies the power to

commodify nature. Big business has been invited to Rio to advise the UN and act as a 'corporate shepherd' of our shared resources.



To challenge the corporate 'green economy', communities and campaigning groups are challenging the big-business rhetoric and calling for environmental justice - meaning equal access for everyone to the world's resources. Rather than handing even more power to the corporate 1%, people across the world should be empowered, while we transfer to an economy which is not based on mass-consumption, and addresses needs instead.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?



The way Rio is discussing a 'green economy' is meant to sound like a positive thing - but in reality it means that big business and the financial sector are allowed even greater control over our common resources. They argue that only by putting a price on nature and turning them into tradable products can we 'value' and protect the environment.



To put it bluntly, the corporate vision of a 'green economy' amounts to selling nature by claiming that only by turning forests, rivers and species into property can

we protect them. It essentially equates things like clean water and species survival, with money that can be put into a bank, traded, sold and speculated on.

While these solutions can sound very rational and clever, they lead to scenarios where countries and companies can buy their way out of trashing the planet. Even worse, it means that common goods – such as climate, forests, and common land – are handed to profit-driven firms, while communities are forced to pay for access to previously common resources.

The corporate 'green economy' takes us further away from environmental justice

ALTERNATIVES

Instead of handing the safety of our planet to corporations and banks while turning our common resources into private property, people should have the power to determine their own development. This is why we are calling for the UN to live up to its democratic credentials by expelling corporate influence and handing power back to communities (Friends of the Earth International has released a [statement](#) your group can endorse). A truly sustainable economy would see our environment (including the climate) protected through strong regulation, and the democratization of our food and energy systems.



TAKING ACTION: WHAT YOU CAN DO

Speak Up for Environmental Justice

Luckily, the corporate version of the green economy is not the only option we have - there are alternatives. To challenge the power of big business and question their attempts to 'green the economy', campaigning and community groups will be planning actions, events and briefings for Rio+20. As Young Friends of the Earth Europe, we have a special interest in speaking up for the world's youth – who will have to bear the brunt of a trashed planet, and face losing access to shared resources altogether.



**ACTION
DAYS**

We are calling on Young Friends of the Earth Europe to take action between June 5-22 - and regardless of which part of the world you find yourself in, be part of a [wider movement](#) towards a truly sustainable future!

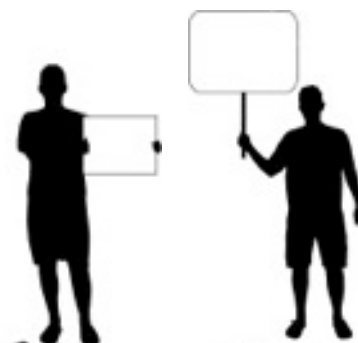
CONTACT US telling what your action will be, when and where. We'll then publish this information on a special page of the YFoEE website.

Once you've finished your action please send us photographs and a short summary (1-2 paragraphs) of what you did, where you were and how many people you were, and what response you got to your action. We'll celebrate your action stories on the YFoEE website and make a short action report. Click [here](#) for the YFoEE Rio page.



If you need a little help getting started, here are some action ideas to help you along the way...

ACTION IDEAS



Action days are 5/06 - 22/06

Remember to tell us about your action and send us pictures - that way we can feature you on our website

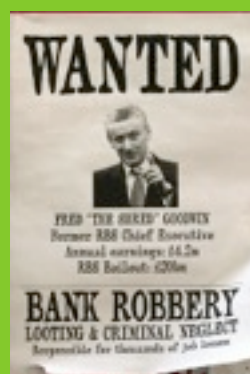
Easy and Quick

Friends of the Earth International has issued a statement opposing the corporate capture of the UN. Groups can read and endorse it by signing up to it here: <http://www.foei.org/en/get-involved/take-action/end-un-corporate-capture>

Get a bit of cardboard, make a banner that sends your message and submit the picture to the YFOEE website - we'll collect RIO+20 messages from all over Europe

Find out who is representing your country at the UN conferences - and send them a letter with your demands .

Take Some Planning

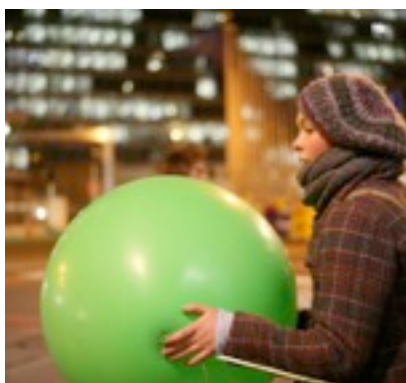


Banks and corporates love to seem green - that's how they're able to pretend to want a 'green economy'. Why not expose them? You could hang a say-all or spoofing poster outside the offices, headquarters or shops of the relevant target. See [here](#) for some inspiration.



Challenging

To highlight the true meaning 'green economy', you could do a bit of street theatre - like dressing up as bankers and auctioning away a forests and people's drinking water. If you do it in the street where there are a lot of people passing by, you can get their attention and hand out flyers. See [here](#) a [here](#) for some inspiration.



MESSAGES! Some suggestions for what you to put on your banners, posters, stickers...

- Recapture the UN!
- The 'Green Economy' agenda is a smokescreen for the same old 'greed' economy
- Life is not for sale
- The Future we want needs System Change
- Our Cimate is not Your Business

Find out More about Rio+20, the 'green economy', and its alternatives

Friends of the Earth International:

[Rio+20 overview](#) and recent Rio-[press release](#)

La Via Campesina (International Peasant Movement):

Outline Rio+20 in their [call for action](#), and have plenty of materials on [corporate capture](#), and [climate change and agrofuels](#)

World Development Movement:

[Briefing](#) for activists

Danny Chivers, New Internationalists:

[Interview](#) (article to appear online soon)

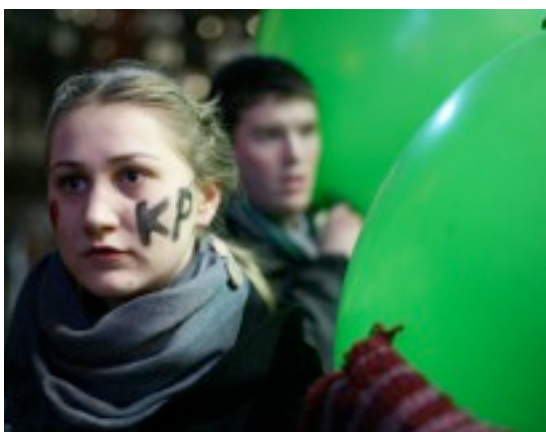
ETC (Erosion, Technology and Concentration) Group

[Who will control the green economy?](#) Report

Any Questions? Want to get more involved? Get in Touch!

To tell us about your action, contact Sophie Manson in the FoEE office in brussels:

sophie.manson@foeeurope.org



If you want to get more involved with organising the action days and keeping people informed about the Rio+20 summit, then join the Rio working group and subscribe to the email list. Contact Marco Cadena: marco.cadena@foe.co.uk



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