



In this guide:

- [Global day of action against fossil fuels](#)
- [March in Edinburgh on 16th September](#)
- [Organise a local outreach event](#)
- [Other action ideas](#)
- [FAQs or how to speak to people in the street about fossil fuels!](#)

Global Fight to End Fossil Fuels

On 15th-17th September, when world leaders meet at the United Nations in New York, people on every continent will mobilise for the largest day of action against fossil fuels. <https://fightfossilfuels.net>

In Scotland there will be a mass march in Edinburgh, meeting at The Mound at 11:00am, to demand a phase out of fossil fuels and a proper just transition plan for workers and communities most impacted. [Find out more and let us know you're coming here!](#)

We need the conversation about phasing out fossil fuels and a real just transition to be happening in every community in Scotland. That means you need to host one in your area. This guide will give you all the information you need!

Edinburgh march to End Fossil Fuels

Saturday 16th September

11:00am, The Mound

Why march?

The UK Government is pressing ahead with plans to licence 100 new oil fields in the North Sea, locking us into decades of climate pollution. The Scottish Government is yet to speak out against the looming Rosebank oil field - the biggest undeveloped oil field in the North Sea, or against a new gas power station in Peterhead.

Yet this summer's extreme heat has rampaged causing droughts and wildfires demonstrating the need for urgent and ambitious action to tackle climate chaos. Fossil fuels are the biggest contributors to this crisis.

In September, as world leaders meet at the United Nations in New York, people on every continent will come together to demand governments transition away from fossil fuels.

We are facing another winter where people in Scotland can't afford their energy bills to heat their homes. More oil and gas sold on international markets will not benefit us, what would save us money is a mass roll out of home insulation and investment in cheaper green energy such as wind farms.

Workers in the offshore oil industry have [developed a plan](#) for a fair transition to a renewable energy system - let's march to demand that our governments take them seriously and put it into action.

Organise a local outreach event

We are looking for people across Scotland to organise a local outreach event (that could be as simple as standing on the street with some flyers!) to bring the discussion about fossil fuels into as many communities as possible and encourage people to join the march in Edinburgh on Saturday 16th September.

Why hold an outreach event?

By moving away from the fossil fuel economy, we are asking for significant and far reaching changes in how the world currently works. This means reducing emissions, but it also means we could have an energy system that works for people instead of the profits of fossil fuel companies - where everyone has enough to heat their homes and cook their meals.

As with any big social change, it's important that there is widespread public support and people feel informed and involved. This makes it more likely that our Governments' will take bold action, and it also means that there is less risk of a push back from people who feel like this is being imposed on them.

The good news is there is already widespread support for moving away from fossil fuels. Recent polling shows that over half of the Scottish population (53%) support a move away from oil and gas. We need to be speaking to these people, answering any questions and concerns they have and getting them involved in the movement to make this happen.

We also need to bring more people on side. The best way to do that is through having conversations with people in a relatable way, making it seem like an issue that is relevant to their lives and that the change will impact them in a positive way. Also by showing that through collective action, it is possible to achieve.

Right now we have an opportunity to speak to people about fossil fuels in a way that is relevant:

- Many people will have seen the devastating wildfires across the world this summer - they may be starting to understand the immediacy and risk of the climate crisis in a new way.

- The UK Government has announced they are going hard on new oil and gas. Many people may be angry at these announcements.
- Everyone will be acutely aware of the astronomical price of energy bills, and may be concerned about the impact this will have on them and their neighbours this winter. We must counter the misinformation that new oil and gas will help this situation.
- There has been more outrage over oil and gas companies' huge record profits this year than ever before, while regular people can't afford to heat their homes - this makes it very clear that their business model does not work for the public good.

We encourage you to hold your outreach events in your local area. Often protests or events about phasing out fossil fuels happen in 'activist' spaces, in city centres or outside oil and gas offices or government buildings. But we need to be bringing these conversations into our communities and reaching beyond the people who are already attending our events.

What could you do?

Hold a '100 oil fields' outreach event

We are trying to get 100 oil fields in 100 communities before the march in Edinburgh on Saturday 16th July.

All you need to do is **create a visual representation of an oil field** (or an oil spill) - this could be a paddling pool with water and black food dye, a piece of black fabric on the ground, an image of an oil field, or anything else you can come up with - feel free to get creative!

Get a few friends together, you can do this with two people or as many as you like!

Gather your materials. Print your own leaflets or get in touch with us by emailing activism@foe.scot and we will send you some. We have leaflets to promote the march on 16th September and leaflets about energy bills and fossil fuels. You could also make your own if there is a message you think would work well in your local area! You could also think about activities for children that you could bring along - e.g. chalk.

Find a location. We encourage you to stay local - a public park, outside some local shops or any public space. You could also see if any local faith institutions or cafes would let you set up a stall there.

Practise your opening lines. It's worth having a few catchy opening statements or questions to get people's attention as they're walking past. Try some out and see what works best. There are some suggestions at the end of this document and answers to common questions you may get. You don't need to have all of the answers but it's worth being as prepared as you can be!

Head to the streets! Set up and start talking to people. You don't need permission to have a stall and flyer people in most public places in Scotland - just make sure you're not blocking the pavement.

Keep an eye on each other. Have a buddy and check in with each other regularly. You may get a range of reactions from people - many may not want to stop and talk, some people will be really interested and some people may not support you and could get angry based on their previous perceptions of what moving away from fossil fuels means. If you see your buddy in a difficult conversation make sure they're OK afterwards.

Keep your tone friendly and open. Try to avoid getting into an argument - most people are not persuaded by this anyway and you may make them more hostile to our message. Find common ground if possible and answer questions honestly. Some people are not going to be persuaded whatever you say and that's OK.

Debrief afterwards. Take a few minutes to speak to each other about how it went, what worked and what didn't. How are you feeling? Did you learn anything? Are there any next steps? If you have questions or feedback, or you just want to chat to someone following your event please feel free to get in touch at activism@foe.scot

Other action ideas

Write to your MP

Edinburgh Climate Coalition have written a draft letter you can send to your MP to ask them to speak out against the UK Government's plans to open 100 new oil fields. Find the letter and your MP's contact details here:

<https://edinburghclimatecoalition.org/no-new-oil-and-gas/#page-content>

Show that Rishi Sunak is pandering to big business

Get some people together and go to a public place or your MP's office. Print off some masks of Rishi Sunak, some fake money and something that represents oil (e.g. treacle works well!). You could also have people dressed as business executives with fossil fuel logos on them. Act out the characters greedily revelling in their oily money. This could be pouring oil and themselves and each other, throwing money in the air... etc.

You could also hand over a large cheque from the UK Government to fossil fuel companies, for example [£80billion since 2015](#), or [£500million to Equinor](#) specifically for the new Rosebank oil field.

Take some photos, put them on social media and send them to us!

Deliver a thank you from the oil and gas industry

Write a spoof thank you letter from the oil and gas industry to the UK Government. You may want to mention things like how they appreciate the support to continue making record profits, even if it means our planet becomes uninhabitable. How they're grateful the Government isn't listening to all the people whining about their energy bills. Or how they're thankful the Government is backing them up in their lies about Carbon Capture and Storage, because even though it doesn't and may never work, it's going to allow them to keep extracting oil way into the future!

Deliver this to your MP's office if relevant, a UK Government building like Queen Elizabeth's House in Edinburgh, or post it on social media and tag the UK Government

How to talk to people about fossil fuels

Opening line ideas:

- Have you heard about the Rosebank oil field?
- Did you hear that the UK Government is trying to licence 100 new oil fields in the North Sea?
- Do you think fossil fuel companies should be making billions in profits while regular people struggle to heat their homes?
- What is your opinion on drilling more oil and gas?

Key facts, information and FAQs for street outreach

The **Rosebank oil field** is the biggest undeveloped oil field in the North Sea. If it was to go ahead it would produce 500 million barrels of oil - more than the 28 lowest income countries' annual emissions combined! That means one UK field would create more emissions than 700 million people.

Through subsidies, the UK Government will be paying £500 million to Rosebank's owners to develop the field. This is money that could be going to help people pay their energy bills - but instead is going to a company that made more than \$22 billion profit in 2022.

The UK Government is set to approve Rosebank, although through public pressure this decision has been delayed for almost a year. The Scottish Government have not yet spoken out decisively against the field. Although the power to make a decision about Rosebank does not lie at Holyrood, it would be powerful for Humza Yousaf to speak out against the field. In fact, not long after Nicola Sturgeon voiced her disapproval of the Cambo oil field in 2021, a key partner in the project pulled out.

Go to www.stoprosebank.com for more on the campaign to stop this field.

Just Transition

A Just Transition is a move away from an economy based on fossil fuels to one that is greener and fairer. This means that workers and communities currently reliant on the fossil fuel industry are involved in decision making around the move away from oil and gas and what comes afterwards, and that investment is put into creating green jobs and thriving communities.

Currently neither the UK Government nor the Scottish Government have a plan for a phase out of North Sea oil and gas, instead it is being left to the industry to decide the pace and structure of an 'energy transition'. Workers are not involved and are being left in the dark about changes to their work and working conditions. Earlier this year offshore workers developed their own ten step plan for a just transition for the North Sea: <https://foe.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Our-Power-Report.pdf>

How fast do we need to/ can we phase out oil and gas?

Recent research from Manchester University has said that for a 67% chance of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees celsius, a wealthy nation like the UK should phase out oil and gas production by 2031. [Read here.](#)

What about carbon capture and hydrogen?

Technologies like carbon capture and hydrogen are often supported by the oil and gas industry in a bid to continue with fossil fuels.

Relying on carbon capture is a gamble we can't afford to make. Despite billions of pounds of investment, there are no carbon capture plants anywhere in the world that work effectively at scale. Yet the fossil fuel industry, and our Governments, continue to promise that capturing carbon will allow us to continue producing oil and gas while reducing emissions.

Three quarters of the world's hydrogen is made directly from fossil fuels - so it is not an alternative but simply a continuation of the same industry.

I've seen climate activists on the news and I don't agree with your methods!

While you may not agree with all of the actions people are taking to create change on climate and fossil fuels, every year we are seeing emissions continue to rise and the impacts of this on people's lives becoming ever more apparent - you probably saw the wildfires in places like Greece this summer. And this has been happening in countries in the Global South for a lot longer. Many people feel desperate at the situation we are in, and that they need to go to more extreme lengths to make the change we all need.

We're asking people to join us on a family friendly march, and by coming together we can send a strong message to our Governments that they need to take action.

We need fossil fuels to keep our economy going!

You're right we can't turn off the taps overnight and we're not expecting anyone to do that! We have the solutions to create a society not based on fossil fuels - such as

renewable energy, better reuse and recycling of products and mass investment in home insulation - but we need a proper plan for what this looks like. At the moment, the 'transition' is being decided by private businesses who are looking after their bottom line, not the workers in the industry or any of us.

The Scottish Government is already against fossil fuels, but we can't do anything while the UK Government makes all of the decisions.

The Scottish Government has said some good things in the last few years - largely because of public pressure from events like the march on September 16th. Yet they haven't spoken out against fields like the Rosebank oil field which would put extra pressure on the UK Government to scrap it. And in areas where they do have devolved powers e.g. onshore like Peterhead or creating green jobs they haven't lived up to their promises.

I don't approve of wind farms because the turbines kill birds.

It's true that the blades of wind turbines kill some birds. But vastly more birds and other animals are being killed by the environmental impacts of climate change, which is caused by burning fossil fuels. Not just individual birds but entire species are under threat. Of course it makes sense to reduce our energy use in the first place through things like better home insulation, which means fewer new turbines will be required, and to think carefully about where we put the ones we do need to minimise their effect on wildlife.