

Item 16: Motions on Notice.

1 Financial Transactions Tax (Proposed by Councillor Bob Price, seconded by Councillor James Fry)

This Council declares its support for the introduction of a Financial Transactions Tax across the European Union and G12 economies as an important contribution by the banking and finance sector to the funding of public investment in education, housing, infrastructure and social security.'

2 Tar Free Oxford (Proposer by Councillor Sam Hollick, seconded by...)

This council notes that: Canada's tar sands are the biggest energy project in the world. Already, millions of barrels of tar sands oil have been extracted from the Canadian wilderness, decimating the landscape and producing 3.2 to 4.5 times more greenhouse gas emissions than conventional oil extraction (as calculated for example by the US Government's National Energy Technology Laboratory). Nearby First Nations communities are also being devastated by the loss of their traditional lands and access to food and medicine. In 2008, Alberta Health confirmed a 30 per cent rise of cancer rates between 1995 – 2006 in Fort Chipewyan, a nearby community.

Although tar sands oil hasn't yet arrived in the UK in significant quantities, its large-scale import is highly likely as Canada attempts to find new markets for export. Opening up Europe and the UK to tar sands would be a green light for more reckless expansion of this huge industry.

This council also notes that the City Council's Carbon Management Plan states that the council "places environmental sustainability and carbon reduction at the heart of everything that the Council does", and believes that an important part of the city's responsibility in "provid[ing] wider leadership...in reducing the overall carbon footprint of the City" is rejecting tar sands for the carbon-intensive fuel that they are.

This council therefore resolves to:

1. Rejects tar sands as an acceptable source of liquid fuel, and declare Oxford a 'Tar Free City';
2. Include measures in its future liquid fuels procurement policies which will ensure that tar sands will not be part of the fuel mix it purchases for its vehicle and plant fleet.

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