

## NEWS RELEASE, 25<sup>TH</sup> June 2009

North Campaigners lead again with:

***‘Coaches from every city and town in the North East’***

Historic national gathering to

**‘Stop Climate Chaos’**

**London, 5<sup>th</sup> December**

The North East is the first region in the country to ‘throw its hat into the ring’ in support of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition’s national mobilisation in December, in the run-up to the international conference in Copenhagen. David Golding describes this as being the setting for *“the most important negotiations in the history of humanity”*.

Stop Climate Chaos, a coalition of over a hundred organisations, with a combined membership 11 million strong, states that: *“Time is running out to keep us safe from climate change. At the UN climate summit in Copenhagen this December world leaders will decide how to tackle global warming. They must deliver a fair international deal that keeps global warming under 2 degrees C and protects the poorest and most vulnerable people.”*

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that, *“The impacts of climate change will fall disproportionately upon developing countries and the poor... within all countries”*. Veena Khaleque, Director for Practical Action in Bangladesh, says *“I find it almost impossible to image how the poor of Bangladesh will cope”*, given that tens of millions of them will be displaced by rising sea levels. It is clearly imperative that we all *“work together to find sustainable solutions to avert a catastrophe that will exacerbate human suffering to a magnitude that perhaps the world has not yet seen”* (Desmond Tutu).

We have fewer than 100 months to reverse the growth in carbon emissions, otherwise global warming will almost certainly exceed 2 degrees C, and there will be no way back. 2009 is the year we can put things right. We want you to vote with your feet and join us in London on 5 December 2009.

If we stand united, this could be *our* time – and the time for the world’s poor and for our children and grandchildren. *“Never have we faced such a global threat”*, said Lord Robert May, President of the Royal Society. But never have we been offered such an opportunity to bring such benefit to humankind, as that presented by the current challenge to close the centuries-long chapter of carbon profligacy and open a new chapter of environmental responsibility!

Put the date in your diary; plan now to join us; and let everybody know about it! Details of timing and booking instructions will be available in September.

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