



# Forest Friends Ireland



WE PLANT TREES ...

IN THIS ISSUE

## Summer's gone ....

Well, we've left Lughnasa behind and we are moving through the Autumnal Equinox towards the great festival of Samhain, marking the end of the harvest and the beginning of Winter. The leaves are changing colour and the days are beginning to look just a little bit shorter but we still have a lot of work to do so let's jump right in to this season's newsletter. We have a lot of ground to cover.

### Saving Mother Earth - Page 2

Bolivia is further advanced than most with regard to adopting a model for saving Mother Earth and has now established laws pertaining to the 'Law of Mother Earth'.

### The Wake and Death of Capitalism - Page 7

A team of researchers from various academic institutions throughout Finland published a **Global Sustainable Development Report** which is a sobering assessment of the planet's future.

All rich Western countries have based their societies on an abundance of cheap energy, which the scientists say, is no longer a reality.

### Projects Update - Page 8

Forest Friends Ireland/Cáirde na Coille have prioritised three main projects. The "Neart" project is well underway.

Some elements of the **Cross Border Project** are already in place. The **Centre for Forest Biodiversity** is a project at the initial stages. This issue summarises our progress this season.

### Carbon Offsets For Urban Trees - Page 10

Urban trees improve air and water quality, reduce energy costs and improve human health, and offer the benefit of storing carbon. But in cities across the world, they are disappearing.

You probably noticed the felling of trees in your own locality and U.S. Forest Service scientists report that metropolitan areas in the U.S. are losing about 36 million trees each year.

### LYCS Zero Waste - Page 11

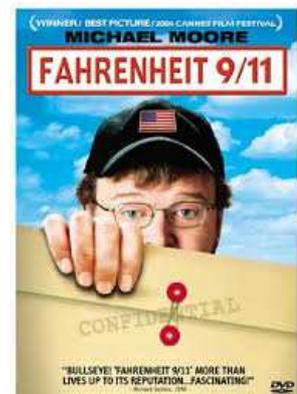
We have a hard working Zero Waste team here in Dublin working hard on events in 2018 who are part of the Zero Waste International Alliance.

### Draft constitutional guidelines for Forest Friends Ireland branches - Page 17



### Saving Mother Earth

In this article John Houghton examines the Bolivian model for the conservation of Mother Earth as a desirable starting point based on a deep ecological perspective at the bedrock of environmental conservation.



### Fahrenheit 11/9 page 12

".. I have spent the better part of this year constructing a film that will not only explain how the @#&% we ended up with Trump but also help show us a way out ..."

# Saving Mother Earth

by John Haughton

## OBJECT AND PRINCIPLES

**Article 1. (SCOPE).** This Act is intended to recognize the rights of Mother Earth, and the obligations and duties of the Multinational State and society to ensure respect for these rights.

**Article 2. (PRINCIPLES).** The binding principles that govern this law are:

**1. Harmony.** Human activities, within the framework of plurality and diversity, should achieve a dynamic balance with the cycles and processes inherent in Mother Earth.

**2. Collective Good.** The interests of society, within the framework of the rights of Mother Earth, prevail in all human activities and any acquired right.

**3. Guarantee of the regeneration of Mother Earth.** The state, at its various levels, and society, in harmony with the common interest, must ensure the necessary conditions in order that the diverse living systems of Mother Earth may absorb damage, adapt to shocks, and regenerate without significantly altering their structural and functional characteristics, recognizing that living systems are limited in their ability to regenerate, and that humans are limited in their ability to undo their actions.

**4. Respect and defend the rights of Mother Earth.** The State and any individual or collective person must respect, protect and guarantee the rights of Mother Earth for the well-being of current and future generations.

**5. No commercialism.** Neither living systems nor processes that sustain

them may be commercialized, nor serve anyone's private property.

**6. Multiculturalism.** The exercise of the rights of Mother Earth requires the recognition, recovery, respect, protection, and dialogue of the diversity of feelings, values, knowledge, skills, practices, skills, transcendence, transformation, science, technology and standards, of all the cultures of the world who seek to live in harmony with nature.

## MOTHER EARTH, DEFINITION AND CHARACTER

**Article 3. (Mother Earth).** Mother Earth is a dynamic living system comprising an indivisible community of all living systems and living organisms, interrelated, interdependent and complementary, which share a common destiny.

Mother Earth is considered sacred, from the worldviews of nations and peasant indigenous peoples.

**Article 4. (LIVING SYSTEMS).** Living systems are complex and dynamic communities of plants, animals, microorganisms and other beings and their environment, where human communities and the rest of nature interact as a functional unit under the influence of climatic, physiographic, and geological factors, as well as production practices, Bolivian cultural diversity, and the worldviews of nations, original indigenous peoples, and intercultural and Afro-Bolivian communities.

**Article 5. (LEGAL STATUS OF MOTHER EARTH).** For the purpose of protecting and enforcing its rights, Mother Earth takes on the character of collective public interest. Mother Earth and all its components, including human communities, are entitled to all the inherent rights recognized in this Law. The exercise of the rights of Mother Earth will take into account the specificities and particularities of its various components. The rights under this Act shall not limit the existence of other rights of Mother Earth.

**Article 6. (EXERCISE OF THE RIGHTS OF THE MOTHER EARTH).** All Bolivians, to join the community of beings comprising Mother Earth, exercise rights under this Act, in a way that is consistent with their individual and collective rights.

The exercise of individual rights is limited by the exercise of collective rights in the living systems of Mother Earth. Any conflict of rights must be resolved in ways that do not irreversibly affect the functionality of living systems.

## RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH

**Article 7. (RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH)**

**I. Mother Earth has the following rights:**

**1. To life:** The right to maintain the integrity of living systems and natural processes that sustain them, and capacities and conditions for regeneration.

**2. To the diversity of life:** It is the right to preservation of differentiation and variety of beings that make up Mother Earth, without being genetically altered or structurally modified in an artificial way, so that their existence, functioning or future potential would be threatened.

**3. To water:** The right to preserve the functionality of the water cycle, its existence in the quantity and quality needed to sustain living systems, and its protection from pollution for the reproduction of the life of Mother Earth and all its components.

**4. To clean air:** The right to preserve the quality and composition of air for sustaining living systems and its protection from pollution, for the reproduction of the life of Mother Earth and all its components.

**5. To equilibrium:** The right to maintenance or restoration of the interrelationship, interdependence, complementarities and functionality of the components of Mother Earth in a balanced way for the continuation of their cycles and reproduction of their vital processes.

**6. To restoration:** The right to timely and effective restoration of living systems affected by human activities directly or indirectly.

**7. To pollution-free living:** The right to the preservation of any of Mother Earth's components from contamination, as well as

toxic and radioactive waste generated by human activities.

## STATE OBLIGATIONS AND SOCIETAL DUTIES

### Article 8. (OBLIGATIONS OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE).

The Plurinational State, at all levels and geographical areas and across all authorities and institutions, has the following duties:

- 1. Develop public policies** and systematic actions of prevention, early warning, protection, and precaution in order to prevent human activities causing the extinction of living populations, the alteration of the cycles and processes that ensure life, or the destruction of livelihoods, including cultural systems that are part of Mother Earth.
- 2. Develop balanced forms of production** and patterns of consumption to satisfy the needs of the Bolivian people to live well, while safeguarding the regenerative capacity and integrity of the cycles, processes and vital balance of Mother Earth.
- 3. Develop policies to protect Mother Earth** from the multinational and international scope of the exploitation of its components, from the commoditisation of living systems or the processes that support them, and from the structural causes and effects of global climate change.
- 4. Develop policies to ensure long-term energy sovereignty**, increased efficiency and the gradual incorporation of clean and renewable alternative sources into the energy matrix.
- 5. Demand international recognition of environmental debt** through the financing and transfer of clean technologies that are effective and compatible with the rights of Mother Earth, among other mechanisms.
- 6. Promote peace** and the elimination of all nuclear, chemical, and biological arms and weapons of mass destruction.
- 7. Promote the growth and recognition of rights of Mother Earth** in multilateral, regional and bilateral international relations.

## DUTIES OF THE PEOPLE

### Article 9. (DUTIES OF THE PEOPLE)

The duties of natural persons and public or private legal entities:

- 1. Uphold and respect** the rights of Mother Earth.
- 2. Promote harmony** with Mother Earth in all areas of its relationship with other human communities and the rest of nature in living systems.
- 3. Participate actively**, individually or collectively, in generating proposals designed to respect and defend the rights of Mother Earth.
- 4. Assume production practices** and consumer behaviour in harmony with the rights of Mother Earth.
- 5. Ensure the sustainable** use of Mother Earth's components.
- 6. Report any act that violates the rights of Mother Earth**, living systems, and/or their components.
- 7. Attend the convention of competent authorities** or organized civil society to implement measures aimed at preserving and/or protecting Mother Earth.

## DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

### Article 10. (DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH).

Establishing the Office of Mother Earth, whose mission is to ensure the validity, promotion, distribution and compliance of the rights of Mother Earth established in this Act. A special law will establish its structure, functions, and attributes.

Refer to the Executive Branch for constitutional ends.

It is given in the Assembly Hall of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, on the seventh day of the month of December two thousand and ten.

Sen. René Oscar Martínez Callahuanca

PRESIDENT CHAMBER OF SENATORS (ENDS)



Bill Ottman has summarised the Bolivian 'Law of Mother Earth' as follows:

"The Law of Mother Earth ("Ley de Derechos de La Madre Tierra") holds the land as sacred and holds it as a living system with rights to be protected from exploitation, and creates 11 distinguished rights for the environment. It was passed by Bolivia's Plurinational Legislative Assembly.

This 10 article law is derived from the first part of a longer draft bill, drafted and released by the Pact of Unity by November 2010. Can we please spread this law?

There has to be a way for the free market to interoperate with reverence for this planet. Period.

In accordance with the philosophy of Pachamama, it states, "She is sacred, fertile and the source of life that feeds and cares for all living beings in her womb.

She is in permanent balance, harmony and communication with the cosmos. She is comprised of all ecosystems and living beings, and their self-organisation."

*"It makes world history. Earth is the mother of all," said Vice-President Alvaro García Linera. "It establishes a new relationship between man and nature, the harmony of which must be preserved as a guarantee of its regeneration."*

## SEVEN SPECIFIC RIGHTS

The law enumerates seven specific rights to which Mother Earth and her constituent life systems, including human communities, are entitled to:

**To life:** It is the right to the maintenance of the integrity of life systems and natural processes which sustain them, as well as the capacities and conditions for their renewal

**To the Diversity of Life:** It is the right to the preservation of the differentiation and variety of the beings that comprise Mother Earth, without being genetically altered, nor artificially modified in their structure, in such a manner that threatens their existence, functioning and future potential

**To water:** It is the right of the preservation of the quality and composition of water to sustain life systems and their protection with regards to contamination, for renewal of the life of Mother Earth and all its components

**To clean air:** It is the right of the preservation of the quality and composition of air to sustain life systems and their protection with regards to contamination, for renewal of the life of Mother Earth and all its components

**To equilibrium:** It is the right to maintenance or restoration of the inter-relation, interdependence, ability to complement and functionality of the components of Mother Earth, in a balanced manner for the continuation of its cycles and the renewal of its vital processes

**To restoration:** It is the right to the effective and opportune restoration of life systems affected by direct or indirect human activities

**To live free of contamination:** It is the right for preservation of Mother Earth and any of its components with regards to toxic and radioactive waste generated by human activities"

## THE CRIME OF ECOCIDE:

Running parallel with the establishment of the Bolivian model for saving planet Earth has been the important process identified by **Polly Higgins**.

She has been working strenuously in order to have the crime of ecocide recognised as such with appropriate sanctions to follow its identification:

## THE CRIME OF ECOCIDE- PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ROME STATUTE

Ecocide is the extensive damage to, destruction of or loss of ecosystem(s) of a given territory, whether by human agency or by other causes, to such an extent that peaceful enjoyment by the inhabitants of that territory has been or will be severely diminished.

In 2010, the proposal to amend the Rome Statute to include an international crime of Ecocide was submitted by Polly Higgins into the International Law Commission (ILC).

The ILC is the UN body 'mandated to promote the progressive development of international law and its codification'. The submission was published as Chapters 5 and 6 in her first book, **Eradicating Ecocide**. [1]

The purpose for creating the offence of Ecocide as the 5th international Crime Against Peace is to put in place an international law at the very top level. 122

nations (as of 2015) are State Parties to the Rome Statute. International Crime (which is codified in the Rome Statute) applies not only to the signatory States. If and when a person commits a Crime Against Peace, the International Criminal Court has powers to intervene in certain circumstances, even if the person or State involved is a non signatory.

The Rome Statute is one of the most powerful documents in the world, assigning 'the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole' [2] over and above all other laws. Crimes that already exist within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court under Article 5 of the Rome Statute are known collectively as Crime Against Peace. They are:

Article 5(1) The jurisdiction of the Court shall be limited to the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole.

The Court has jurisdiction in accordance with this Statute with respect to the following crimes:

1. **The Crime of Genocide**
2. **Crimes Against Humanity**
3. **War Crimes**
4. **The Crime of Aggression**

**To be added:**

5. **The Crime of Ecocide.**

The inclusion of Ecocide law as international law prohibits mass damage and destruction of the Earth and, as defined above, creates a legal duty of care for all inhabitants that have been or are at risk of being significantly harmed due to Ecocide.

The duty of care applies to prevent, prohibit and pre-empt both human-caused Ecocide and natural catastrophes. Where Ecocide occurs as a crime, remedy can be sought through national courts and the International Criminal Court (ICC) or a similar body.

Currently there is no overriding mandatory duty of care (sometimes called a fiduciary duty) to prohibit, prevent significant hazards or harm, or to pre-empt by assisting to those who are facing Ecocide.

Governments, business and finance are not legally bound to be accountable for some of the biggest Ecocides, despite the risk to both humans and nature.

By creating a crime of Ecocide, the enforcement of a global primary duty (to

stop activities that cause significant harm) ensures that all subsequent decisions are made whereby people and planet are put first.

By criminalising Ecocide at an international level, a global duty of care is created.

Ecocide, the extensive destruction of ecosystems, is occurring today. For example:

Large-scale land use that causes the direct destruction of habitats – as is the case with deforestation in most tropical rainforests;

Significant pollution – for example, excess greenhouse gases from the industrial activities of the top Carbon Majors;

Dangerous industrial activity where entire landscapes are destroyed – such as unconventional oil extraction.

All of the above examples are human caused Ecocides. There are also naturally occurring Ecocides, such as rising sea levels. The legal duty of care that is created here is to give assistance to such territories.

Evidence of the cumulative impact has led to researchers proposing critical planetary boundaries; transgressing them could be catastrophic: see the Stockholm Resilience Centre: 9 Planetary Boundaries Research.

Look also to evidence here: UNEPs Global Environmental Outlook, Healthy People Healthy Planet reports, which examine the severe anthropogenic impacts on the Earth system.

## Ecocide Law

Ecocide law has 'legal teeth.' Whilst we have many international agreements – voluntary codes of conduct, UN Resolutions, Treaties, Conventions, and Protocols etc – the harm escalates. Not one of these international agreements prohibits Ecocide.

The power of the Law of Ecocide is that it creates a legal duty of care that holds persons of 'superior responsibility' to account in a court of law (both criminal and civil).

## WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF SUSTAINABLY SAVING PLANET EARTH GIVEN THE PRESENT STATE OF PLAY: SEARCHING FOR A SUSTAINABILITY PARADIGM

Environmentally it is true to say that we are in a bad, in fact very bad place. Firstly we have a species, Homo sapiens who are out of control.

He has departed the web of life the very yeast and leaven that kept it all together. He has created a world that arguably is fast becoming a hell on earth for all species including his own.

**No species is safe from his predation. So the species, Homo sapiens needs to be reeled in. The question is how and by whom. It would have to be by himself.**

The male human being has become a symbol of destruction. The female of the species has traditionally been and still is the life giver and the carer.

The role of healer was dented when the male of the species decided to inflict the greatest wound at the times of the 'witch hunt' burning the healers at the stake in a blunt effort to assume the power that was in the healing but which the male could not countenance or understand. It is only in the eventuality of an age of enlightenment that the earth could be saved and the 'destroyers' healed. It is possible but in present trends arguably unlikely.

The great Native American Chief put it very well when he said "**All things are connected like the blood that unites one family. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. This we know**"

So mankind has, as it were, stepped outside the 'web of life'. What is needed is a re-examination of the fundamentals of mankind's role Vis a Vis all other forms of life.

## BLOCKAGES TO ACHIEVING A SUSTAINABLE MOTHER EARTH:

There are many blockages and factors militating against the development of successful program for saving Mother Earth:

The first blockage arguably, is in the way power is attained, by who, and how it is exercised. Also power over what and over whom? Here is a resume of where power lies and is exercised from:

**1% controls all major resources, including land finance, media**

**4% do the bidding of the 1%**

**5% see and know what is wrong in the system but can't effect change**

**90% don't know what is happening and/or don't care.**

See the very fine book, "**The Growth Illusion: How Economic Growth Has Enriched the Few, Impoverished the Many, and Endangered the Planet**" by Douthwaite, Richard.

Douthwaite points out that the idea that growth is beneficial underlies the economic strategies of capitalism.

He argues on the contrary that the reality of recent years is that the negative effects of growth have far outweighed the positive ones, engendering unemployment, significant increases in crime, and the breakdown of family life networks.

For example, the idea that growth is beneficial underlies the economic strategies of all major political parties in Great Britain the growth illusion has led to an eightfold increase in crime, the breakdown of family life and a deterioration in general levels of health and education.

Richard Douthwaite's "**The Growth Illusion**" exposes the real nature of undirected economic growth, driving people from the land into urban slums. He exposes the real nature of undirected economic growth. in the context of the free market.

## ENERGY AND POWER

The fossil fuel industry the main source of energy on the planet is a source of conflict worldwide and environmental pollution. Vested interests block the development of renewable energy. Wars are conducted in order to secure or acquire new energy resources. Renewable energy is clean on the other hand and does not do serious damage to the Mother earth.

## OUR OXYGEN SUPPLY

Our main source of oxygen is phytoplankton which exists in the oceans and is managed by whales. these account for 70% plus of our oxygen. Forests account for 30% and are being depleted at an alarming rate. A mature tree supplies sufficient oxygen for up to ten people.

A mature tree stores about a ton of carbon one of the main causes of climate change and the warming of the earth. The economic value of a single mature tree is in the region of \$200,000 when all its functions are valued. The rate of forest destruction is devastating.

Hemp is a plant which has multiple uses, can play a major role in preserving forests. Hemp should be planted universally. Uses

include construction, clothes, medicinal, paper, etc. It grows much faster than trees. Its growth is blocked by vested interests.

Biodiversity of species has an economic value of trillions.

## MONOPOLIES

A small number of corporations control seed sources, provide most of animal feed, manufacture pesticides and fungicides, spend trillions worldwide in lobbying governments and paying off politicians.

With international trade agreements they are playing greater parts in determining outcomes and influencing operational standards. As these companies, small in number merge they obtain a greater stranglehold legally internally and in effecting changes in standards, with new legal procedures affording them a role in determining the outcomes of disputes.

The nation state is becoming less powerful in establishing and maintaining acceptable standards for and protecting its citizens. Examples of trade agreements which will give large corporations increasing power are the TTIP and CETA.

There are some legal cases in existence where some of these corporations are taking states to court on the basis that decisions taken by governments can affect their economical expectations.

**Bees the important pollinators** are being detrimentally affected by the use of dangerous herbicides and fungicides. Poor standards in control of these are proving detrimental to pollinators and humans. Roundup, with active ingredient glyphosate has been shown to be carcinogenic by a WHO research project.

Yet the EU has extended its licence and this despite the fact that 1.3 million people across the EU have signed a petition to ban the use of glyphosate.

The big corporation **Monsanto**, who manufactured *Agent Orange* with devastating effects in its use as a defoliant in the Vietnam War, was the manufacturer of Roundup. Monsanto is also the leading producer of genetically modified seeds. The merging of big corporations, including Monsanto and Bayer give cause for greater concern and increasing threats to the environment.

Cargill is the leading producer of animal feed in the US. Other major US based agribusiness companies are Dow Chemicals, and DuPont. Another major corporation is Syngenta. Syngenta AG is a

global Swiss agribusiness that produces agrochemicals and seeds. As a biotechnology company, it conducts genomic research. It was formed in 2000 by the merger of Novartis Agribusiness and Zeneca Agrochemicals.

As of 2014 Syngenta was the world's largest crop chemical producer, strongest in Europe. As of 2009 it ranked third in seeds and biotechnology sales. Sales in 2015 were approximately US\$13.4 billion, over half of which were in emerging markets. International regulators have approved the firm's acquisition by ChemChina, a Chinese state-owned enterprise (Wikipedia).

## MILITARISATION

Militarisation results in the increasing manufacture, promotion and use of military equipment, bombs, guns etc. and their use, with the main people suffering the consequences of their use, civilians rather than war combatants.

People are becoming desensitised with regard to the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction. The mass murder of almost a quarter million civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the dropping of two atomic bombs by the US when the war was in effect over indicates what may be in store for the citizens of North Korea with President Donald Trump recent dictate, stating that, the military might of the US is 'locked and ready'

## LOBBYING

Lobbying is a fundamental problem resulting often and inevitably unless properly controlled in decision makers being 'bought off' in one way or another. In the case of Capitol Hill it is contended that the elected representatives generally are linked in one way or another with the fossil fuel industry and the gun lobby.

It appears that in Ireland also a small number of large lobbyists including the agribusiness and the motor industry have the inside track when it comes to access to decision makers.

In the case of the US where statistics are available agriculture companies and trade groups spent \$32.7 million lobbying Congress in recent years. Of this Monsanto spent \$4.6 million and American Farm Bureau \$3.8 million.

Related to the negotiations between the US and the EU with regard to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) the agribusiness industries have played the key role in

lobbying the European Commission. In the preparation of EU legislation big corporations are playing increasing roles in formulating new legislation.

## HOW CORPORATIONS AND BANKS ENSLAVE NATIONS

The World Bank and the IMF have been known to offer big loans to relatively poor countries with resources such as oil.

They put the country into debt that they cannot pay back except by making their oil or other resources available to them. The banks set up infrastructure which results in additional and insurmountable debt.

The loans cannot be paid back as the country is too poor. Only the rich gain and the country is forced to sell off its public services and privatize them including even education and prison service.

### Jeremy Bentham

There have been important analysts who have come up with solutions which could with benefit be revisited today. The greatest happiness of the greatest number was the principle promoted by *Jeremy Bentham* (15 February 1748 – 6 June 1832).

He was a British jurist, philosopher, and legal and social reformer. He is best known as an early advocate of utilitarianism and animal rights. This appears to be an excellent starting point. However at this point in time the interest of a minority is the determining factor as they, the 1% is in the driving seat.

The greatest happiness of the greatest number is a long way off.

Theoretically philanthropy could save planet Earth but there are very few philanthropists insufficient to make the major changes needed to save planet earth and her species from the human caused extinction catastrophe, now looming, the sixth mass extinction, but the first cause entirely by man's actions.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Based on the situations that pertain with regard to the issues outlined in this presentation one cannot be optimistic with regard to outcomes under virtually any and all of the subject matter of the expose.

If as it would appear decision makers are effectively controlled or subject to undue influence in lobbying by big corporations who are gaining more and more power, as evidenced in negotiations with regard to

international trade agreements and in the making of EU and other legislation, there is little hope that sustainability is the criteria determining outcomes.

Saving Mother Earth it would appear is not a main factor in the process. Instead exploiting the Earth and the species that dwell therein, in one way or another, appears to be 'par for the course'.

The Bolivian model "*Law of Mother Earth*" if universally rolled out would save planet earth. But it is unlikely to be so done and Bolivia itself could easily fall to the pressures of Western Ideology from within or without.

The establishment of the crime Ecocide appears to be the way forward. However some countries have traditionally opted out when it comes to safeguarding self interest.

A good example of this is the US pulling out of the Paris Agreement, the Iran nuclear agreement and Human Rights agreements generally.

There are forces of self interest which ignore the needs of Mother Earth This quote of Pete Seeger is very opportune in identifying the context within which we could begin to understand some of the underlying problems when he wrote:

*"Oh sacred world now wounded, we pledge to make you free/ Of hate and war and hunger and selfish cruelty/ And here in our small corner we plant a tiny seed/ And it will grow to beauty to shame the face of greed".*

Planting a tiny seed is the genesis the beginning of what must turn out to be a great revolution of the Earth's conservation.

The lack of coherence in conservation strategies make the control systems that would guarantee the sustainability of mother earth look not un-like an aircraft, pilotless and out of control

The extensive and very diverse and wonderful actions of the many just don't add up to the sustainability of saving mother earth. There are too many forces undermining the perfectly good activities and projects.

The well worn mantras of capitalism are starting to wear thin however as the millennial, cultural creatives and indigo generations begin to make their presence felt.

The definition of 'Progress' that 'Greed is Good 'the' Profit Motive as a main

motivation The emphasis on competition and the relegation of cooperation as a main driving force. We should be long past the use of the terms right and left as the defining characterising of politics. We need new concepts and new languages to express values aspirations and policies, based on multiculturalism rather than race.

The new age should be one inspired by empathy and respect rather than ideologies.

The age whereby countries can arbitrarily opt out of international agreements, for example the US opting out of the Paris Agreement and the Iran nuclear weapons agreement should fast become a thing of the past.

Climate interference as witnessed by many facets of geo-engineering and chem/trailing are disturbing the balances which nature had established and are having serious consequences creating more extreme weather patterns.

**John Houghton**  
 Chairman, Acting CEO  
 Manager of Forest Friends Internship Program  
 September 2018

# The Wake and Death of Capitalism

*(EDITOR'S NOTE, 8/28/18, 3:34 PM ET: This headline was amended from "UN Scientific Paper Says Capitalism Has to Die in Order for the Planet to Be Saved" to "UN Scientific Paper Suggests Capitalism Has to Die in Order for the Planet to Be Saved.")*

**Capitalism and global sustainability** are incongruous with one another, according to a recent paper for the UN's 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report.

The team of researchers from various academic institutions throughout Finland who wrote the report gave a sobering assessment of the planet's future if the current economic order continues unabated. Namely, that all rich Western countries have based their societies on an abundance of cheap energy, which the scientists say, is no longer a reality.

"Economies have used up the capacity of planetary ecosystems to handle the waste generated by energy and material use," the paper reads. "Dominant economic theories as well as policy-related economic modelling rely on the presupposition of continued energetic and material growth. The theories and models anticipate only incremental changes in the existing economic order.

Hence, they are inadequate for explaining the current turmoil."

Scientists argued that worsening climate change is having a drastic impact on ecosystems and biodiversity, and that symptoms of unchecked capitalism like rising inequality, unemployment, and debt are also contributing to the destabilization of society.

In order to guarantee that humanity is able to have a good quality of life on earth for future generations, the paper's authors argued that new economic systems will have to be created, rather than the standard band-aid approach governments have taken in the recent past.

"Central banks in the US and the Euro zone have resorted to unconventional measures such as negative interest rates and buying up significant amounts of public debt," researchers wrote. "This has

**TOP FIVE ENVIRONMENTAL STATS**

- 1** RECYCLING ONE ALUMINUM CAN SAVES ENOUGH ELECTRICITY TO POWER A TV FOR THREE HOURS  
ALUMINUM CANS CAN BE RECYCLED AN UNLIMITED NUMBER OF TIMES
- 2** IF EVERY NEWSPAPER WAS RECYCLED, WE COULD SAVE ABOUT **250,000,000 TREES EACH YEAR**
- 3** RECYCLED PAPER REQUIRES **64% LESS ENERGY** THAN MAKING PAPER FROM VIRGIN WOOD PULP
- 4** RECYCLING ONE GLASS BOTTLE SAVES ENOUGH ENERGY TO RUN A **100-WATT LIGHT BULB FOR 4 HOURS**
- 5** **75% OF EVERY VEHICLE IS RECYCLABLE**

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relieved some economic pressure, but ... It can be safely said that no widely applicable economic models have been developed specifically for the upcoming era."

While the paper didn't endorse any specific economic system to be used in lieu of capitalism, scientists said it would be necessary to "transform the ways in which energy, transport, food, and housing are produced and consumed" with the goal of attaining "production and consumption that provides decent opportunities for a good life while dramatically reducing the burden on natural ecosystems."

Early in the paper, researchers said it would be necessary to implement a global Marshall plan, as Harvard University atmospheric chemistry professor **James Anderson** proposed earlier this year. Ideally, such a plan would mean cooperation between countries around the globe to collectively restructure society with the end goal of eliminating carbon dioxide emissions entirely.

Researchers gave a deadline for the United States and Europe to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2040, and for the rest of the world to be at zero emissions by 2050.

In order to meet this goal, however, scientists cast doubt on the ability of renewable energy sources to be able to sustain humanity's current energy consumption rate.

The only viable solution to attain a goal of zero emissions is, according to the paper, for humanity to use substantially less energy.

Scientists are calling on state governments with forward-thinking leaders to test radical solutions at the macro level, like a job guarantee — similar to what Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) has proposed in the past.

"The most suitable jobs for the program would be those that almost anyone can do with limited training. The jobs could be modelled to serve the transition to sustainability and to build capacities to adapt to climate change: for example, installing decentralized energy solutions and preparing for floods," scientists wrote. "In addition to triggering the transition, the job guarantee would ensure full employment. It would lessen insecurity and the need to compete for environmentally destructive jobs on the individual and the collective level."

Researchers' ideas for how to phase out capitalism will likely be included in the UN's Global Sustainable Development Report, which will come out in 2019.

Scott Alden is a freelance contributor covering national politics, education, and environmental issues. He is a proud Toledo University graduate, and lives in the suburbs of Detroit.

By: Scott Alden

Land-Water-Air | August 28, 2018

**Plastic Straws**

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT & FACTS

It's no secret that plastic straws and plastic in general are bad for the environment (especially marine life). Here are some facts and statistics about the environmental impact of plastic straws.

**500 Million** ... The number of straws used by Americans daily. That's enough straws to circle around the Earth 2.5 times!

Plastic straws are the 11th most found ocean trash (2017).

It takes up to 200 years for a plastic straw to decompose, and they can't be recycled in most places.

Each year, 1 million seabirds and 100,000 marine animals die from ingesting plastic.

**DO YOUR PART:**  
Stop Using Plastic Drinking Straws

Infographic Brought To You By: **GetGreenNow** get-green-now.com

In Partnership With: **One Less Straw PLEDGE** OneLessStraw.org A campaign brought to you by **ONELESSSTRAW.ORG**

Visit **OneLessStraw.org** and take the pledge to stop using plastic straws.

# FOREST FRIENDS IRELAND - PROJECTS UPDATE

John Haughton

## CHAIR 18A- Menu of Projects and Tasks.

The following is an update on projects and tasks that need attention, in preparation for the Annual General Meeting of Forest Friends Ireland.

Examples of seasonal projects are tree plantings during the dormant season November to March, seed collections in the late autumn/October, the National Tree Week tree planting/March and the National biodiversity week program preparation for implementation in May. Also Heritage Week in August and Culture night in September.

Forest Friends flagship projects include:

**A) The Peace Forest Ireland project** - a unique project whereby peace trees are planted in the border counties on an ongoing basis.

The border separates the Republic of Ireland from Northern Ireland, two separate jurisdictions. (The latter is British controlled)

**B) A world Peace Centre** - to be located along the border between north and south of Ireland. It can be based on the model of the world peace centre **Auroville in Tamil Nadu Eastern India**

**C) The setting up of a trust** to manage the Peace Forest and World Peace Centre projects.

**D) Plan design and establish** a main centre of forest biodiversity with a full range of activities associated with continuous canopy sustainable forestry based on principles of silvaculture, agroforestry and permaculture.

This centre can be incorporated into the World Peace Centre

**E) Examination of the possible role** of environmental philanthropists in the sponsoring and financing of specific Forest Friends' projects.

## FFI Purpose

A primary function of Forest Friends Ireland is to lobby governmental agencies for the replacement of monoculture forestry with one based on the biodiversity of our native broadleaf hardwood trees and resulting in continuous canopy over time, with selective wood extraction while keeping the canopy intact, using only organic methods.

We make submissions in response to public consultations and planning processes.

We plan, design and establish partnerships to achieve specific objectives. We have an established partnership with the Rotary organisation.

We establishing co-operatives and other appropriate organisational structures in order to achieve specific objectives.

We carry out seed collections in October each year

Our Tree Planting programmes are carried out November to March.

We source land as required for Forest Friends initiatives

The Forest Friends Ireland Young Ecologist project is one which challenges students to develop their ideas to promote ecologically based initiatives in schools and communities. See the first phase of this project which was piloted in Dublin North East secondary schools

We manage the Forest Friends Ireland Facebook, Twitter, Instagram social media channels and preparing inputs for our website.

We also develop marketing strategies as required for all aspects of Forest Friends work.

### Merchandise:

-T-shirts- providing for a range of different designs. Use our logos and other designs

-Carrier bags using same designs as for t-shirts

-Poetry book-forest friends has its own poetry book 'Seeing the Wood and the Trees'

-CD **Emmanuel Nsor** of Forest Friends Ghana and Rainforest Friends Ghana composed a very fine song '**Forest Friends Rise up**' it is one track only. We aim to commission Emmanuel to compose a full range of tracks for the CD.

-Posters- we have a range of posters for marketing designed by one of our interns.

-Pens and pencils- We have invested in pens in the past. So let's commission National Pen Company for new designs.

Our medium term goals are :

- Membership and volunteer recruitment programs.

- To leverage ethical advertising in our web site as a source of finance.

- Plan promote and manage a major public event showcasing the work of Forest Friends

- Identify a range of possible fundraising projects. Utilise Pay Pal and Go Fund Me.

- Developing and managing Forest Friends organic, biodiversity, and herb and healing gardens

- Schools, colleges and communities outreach environmental educational programs.

- Preparing and updating our public information packs

- Set up and maintain new membership scheme and records, based on the needs and aspirations of junior, youth, adult and senior cohorts. Recruiting recording and servicing the aspirations of existing and new members.

- Set up Young Forest Friends initiative for third level students. Promote idea by preparing an information pack and present to students of Dublin City University, Trinity College Dublin Institute of Technology and the Teacher Training College Drumcondra. Set up appropriate structures for students at every level. Forest Friends former interns should be offered the opportunity of becoming life members of Forest Friends for free.

- Composing and circulating press releases to the media on a regular basis.

- Designing posters leaflets flyers and publicity information. Disseminating information with regard to the value of and developing a culture of trees forests and environmental conservation.

- Research and surveys including studies of deficiencies in the biodiversity in the local areas and making recommendations with regard to improving these. House to house biodiversity survey of the local area.

- Orchard project: This involves FF buying hundreds of apple and other fruit trees,

gifting them to householders and FF taking part in their planting with the householder.

- Preparing for and taking part in radio and TV programs, local national and international

- Prepare programmes or events:

A) for the National Biodiversity Week (May);

B) National Heritage Week (August) and C) Culture Night.

- Organise seed collections in October

- Assist with Forest Friends Irish Environmental Network (IEN) work.

- Assisting in the development of emerging Forest Friends branches, throughout Ireland and internationally, with successes already in Africa, including Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. Reorganising Forest Friends Ghana and Rainforestfriends Ghana on a sustainable basis. Consult with Felix

- Tree Watch]: suggestion to set up a facebook project into which people can post details of problems they are having in trying to preserve trees in their communities and elsewhere with a view to getting support for their endeavours.

- Monitoring planning applications and making representations where there are proposals to fell trees. This would involve members examining planning applications each week in their areas.

Finally the following management aspects needing attention:

1. Set out spending program
2. Get a Forest Friends new phone number
3. Suggestions welcome for new structures for Forest Friends.
4. Meeting with Woodland Trust and Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland-suggested location Dundalk or Newry-Sean/Samantha to arrange.
5. Press subcommittee- Donna, Sean, Holly, Samantha
6. Finance subcommittee: Charlie, Peadar, Samantha, Sean, Holly
7. AGM agenda to include approving new directors, committee members in accordance with FF Articles of Association.

# Carbon offsets for urban trees are on the horizon

*This story was originally published by CityLab (<https://www.citylab.com/>)*

A recent paper by two U.S. Forest Service scientists reported that metropolitan areas in the U.S. are losing about 36 million trees each year.

The paper (<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/04/180418141323.htm>), by David Nowak and Eric Greenfield, was an expansion of the same researchers' 2012 study that found significant tree loss in 17 out of the 20 U.S. cities studied.

This arboreal decline is happening even in some areas that promote "million-tree" campaigns, Arbor Day plantings, and street-tree giveaways.

Cash-strapped municipalities just can't find enough green to maintain the green. Additionally, many cities are adjusting to population booms, and to temperature increases and drought due to climate change — both conditions that can be hard on trees (while increasing their value as sources of cooling and cleaner air).

There's also a growing recognition of the inequity of tree canopy distribution in many cities with lush cover in wealthy neighborhoods and far fewer trees in disadvantaged areas.

To find more funding for urban trees, some local governments, including Austin, Texas, and King County, Washington (where Seattle is located), are running pilot projects with a Seattle-based nonprofit called **City Forest Credits** (CFC)

(<https://www.cityforestcredits.org/>).

The nonprofit is developing a new approach: generating funding for city tree canopies from private companies (and individuals) that wish to offset their carbon emissions by buying credits for tree planting or preservation.

The vast majority of forest carbon credits worldwide have been issued for trees in tropical rainforests and other forests far from urban areas.

A study released last year of the forest offsets in California's cap-and-trade program found that they are effective at reducing emissions.

The new credits aim to quantify not only the carbon benefits of urban trees, but also rainfall interception, energy savings from cooling and heating effects, and air-quality benefits.

CFC has no role in marketing or selling credits for specific projects, but maintains the standards (protocols) and credentialing for other organizations that sell them.

A third-party firm, Ecofor, verifies compliance for tree-preservation projects. Tree-planting projects are either third-party verified, or, for smaller projects that cannot afford that, verified by CFC with peer review, using Google Earth and geocoded photos.

To be eligible for the credits, city tree projects must follow protocols created specifically for urban forests rules governing such specifics as the location and duration of a project and how the carbon will be quantified.

The new credits "are specifically catered to the urban environment and the unique challenges and possibilities there, so they differ from traditional carbon credits," said Ian Leahy, director of urban forestry programs at the nonprofit conservation group American Forests, and a member of the CFC protocol board. "I think the work is innovative and potentially game-changing," said Zach Baumer, climate program manager for the City of Austin. (Baumer also serves on the protocol board for CFC.) "To harness the market to create environmental benefits in cities is a great thing."

## Austin

The City of Austin aims to be carbon neutral in government operations by 2020. To get there, it has been reducing emissions through energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative fuels, and hybrid and electric vehicles.

But the city will still need offsets to claim neutrality. If governments and businesses choose to purchase these credits, they could help fill that gap, and they can keep their dollars local.

Austin is running two pilot projects this year with CFC: a riparian reforestation project near a creek and a tree-planting project on school-district land.

The City of Austin is purchasing the credits for both projects from the nonprofit **TreeFolks**, via CFC.

The fact that credits can cover both stream-side plantings and trees on school property illustrates the complex task of developing a city credit — the protocols and quantification methods must work for the disparate tree species and stewardship strategies of an urban forest, in contrast to the more controlled setting of an industrial plantation.

CFC is eager to road-test the protocols in Austin, said its founder and executive director, Mark McPherson, a Seattle lawyer and businessperson who has dedicated pro bono hours throughout his career to city tree issues.

"Even though you have a national drafting group that put the protocols together, that brings together lots of expertise, they're still cooked in the lab, if you will," he said. "They have to be tested in the real world."

The effort is being helped by McPherson's older brother, E. Greg McPherson, a prominent scientist in the field of urban forestry who helped develop the protocols.

## King County

Another piece of the puzzle is a pilot project in King County, where a new land conservation initiative (LCI) targets protection of 65,000 acres, spanning urban areas to farmland.

"We really want to maintain this intact landscape — what I'd call our natural infrastructure — that is the foundation of the quality of life we have here," said Charlie Governali, the land conservation projects manager at King County's Department of Natural Resources & Parks. King County has been working with CFC over the last year, piloting a carbon program to help protect about 1,500 acres of currently unprotected and threatened tree canopy in and around urban communities

(<https://registry.cityforestcredits.org/project/king-county-urbanforest-preservation-program/>)

The county will consider expansion to a full-blown program by the end of 2018. Governali said there are already businesses interested in buying credits.

One of the first commitments made through CFC is a planting project on a rare parcel of open space in the City of Shoreline, just north of Seattle, funded by Bank of America through American Forests.

According to a study by the nonprofit Forest Trends (https://www.foresttrends.org), in 2016, \$662 million globally went toward the purchase of carbon offsets for the protection or restoration of forests and other natural landscapes.

The usual model is that for-profit carbon project developers work with landowners to qualify large forests for credits.

Doubters have questioned whether city trees offer enough scale to be worthwhile, McPherson noted. "Carbon developers are thinking they want to lock up 10,000 acres of forest land, so they don't see the scale or the volume in what we're doing."

But Governali said that for King County, the carbon protocol offers something different — a way to protect a lot of urban green space cumulatively by selling credits over time, and for many small green spaces. Urban credits will be expensive — many times what a commodity credit for carbon might cost.

Urban land is not cheap, and urban trees are costly to plant and maintain compared to those on forest land.

However, urban trees offer more public benefits.

"Compared to one additional tree left standing in a far-off industrial forest, each additional urban tree we protect has an outsized human impact," argued Governali, because these trees bring cooling on hot days, better air quality, and even improved mental health.

Finally, he noted, the sale of carbon credits from urban trees can help a municipality buy the underlying land and make it a public park, "a place for families to gather, relieve stress, get some exercise, relax, and for children to play and learn."

At the outset, the work adds to already full urban-forest workloads and stretches budgets, at least until credit revenue from buyers can support the programs. "We're good at planting trees, but documenting the work to create an official carbon credit is new for us," said Austin's Baumer.

However, generating credits is one more way to stall or reverse tree loss at a time when people are just starting to understand how critical trees — whether elms, oaks, Douglas firs, or cedars — are to a city's health and economy.



## What is Zero Waste?

In the words of the Zero Waste International Alliance:

*Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.*

We have a hard working Zero Waste team here in Dublin and they contacted us to give an update on events in 2018.

Hi everyone,

Hope you are all well and are still active in the area of Zero Waste and waste reduction. It is great to see so much more momentum in Ireland on these issues, but what with the aftermath of the Electric Picnic where tonnes of tents were left behind and will end up in landfill, the need for this work is still very present.

LYCS has a few more Zero Waste Educator Trainings lined up in Dublin, Greystones and Tipperary so if you haven't done one already, now may be the opportunity! If you have, we would be very grateful if you could spread the word on the upcoming trainings.

- DUBLIN SEPTEMBER 2018 MIDWEEK WORKSHOP: 10am-4.30pm, Tues 18th & Wed 19th September 2018, Carmelite Community Centre, 56 Aungier St, Dublin 2. This is a two day training, but participants can opt to do the first day only if preferred.

- DUBLIN DECEMBER 2018 WEEKEND WORKSHOP: 10am-4.30pm, Sat 1st & Sun 2nd December 2018. This is a two day training, but participants can opt to do the first day only if preferred.

- GREYSTONES MIDWEEK 1 DAY WORKSHOP OCT 2018: Details to follow



shortly. Contact [racheldempsey@lycs.ie](mailto:racheldempsey@lycs.ie) with expressions of interest.

- **TIPPERARY MIDWEEK 1 DAY WORKSHOP NOV 2018:** 10am-4.30pm, Thursday 22 November, Knockanrawley Resource Centre (KRC), Tipperary Town. Application details to follow soon.

Please do also let us know if you go on to do anything with the training/ideas/inspiration you got in the LYCS workshops.

I would also like to let you know that we are running a low cost Fetac Level 6 course in Global Development in October and November. This creative and dynamic training will give you a broader perspective on the issues that relate to sustainability such as trade, power, inequality, globalisation, food, waste and ultimately aims to empower participants to become more actively engaged in combatting inequality, injustice and environmental degradation.

There is an amazing event coming up next year. It is the **CLIMATE CHANGE & CONSCIOUSNESS: OUR LEGACY FOR THE EARTH**, at the Findhorn Foundation, North Scotland, April 20-26, 2019, will be a unique conference about surviving and thriving in a climate changing world and post-carbon economy.

The event will feature some of the clearest and most passionate voices for the Earth ever gathered together in one place. There will be a group of us going and we will be running related events before and after the event.

There will also be hubs contributing to the event from Ireland, so whether you can make it over to Scotland or not, this is a great opportunity to start getting involved with the conference and to start linking the issue of healing ourselves and raising our consciousness to that of climate change. Email me if you're interested.

Lastly, Zero Waste week has begun and if you're in Dublin here are some fabulous events organised by Zero Waste Festival Ireland, check them out here <https://www.zerowastefestival.ie/>

Many thanks, keep in touch and hope to see some of you soon at various events,

**Rachel Dempsey**  
Development Education Officer  
LYCS, Sean McDermott St, D1  
<https://devedlycs.wordpress.com/>  
[racheldempsey@lycs.ie](mailto:racheldempsey@lycs.ie)

## Fahrenheit 11/9

Michael Moore Plays His Trump Card: A New Movie, Modern Fascism and a 2020 Prediction

by Gregg Kilday

September 05, 2018

He's America's most successful documentarian and one of the few on the left who predicted the 2016 election upset. Now, as Moore readies his anticipated polemic 'Fahrenheit 11/9' for its Toronto film festival debut, he takes aim at Trump (and Nancy Pelosi ... and Harvey Weinstein ...) and those actually responsible for the president's rapid rise to power (hint: Gwen Stefani).

The first time Michael Moore encountered Donald Trump, the filmmaker uncharacteristically held his tongue. The two had been booked as guests in 1998 on Roseanne Barr's afternoon talk show, *The Roseanne Show*, taping at New York's Tavern on the Green.

Trump's *The Art of the Deal* had been published in 1987 while Moore had already earned a reputation as a cheeky provocateur out to puncture capitalism's balloon with his 1989 doc *Roger & Me*, and so when Trump spotted Moore, he threatened to walk.

One of the show's producers pulled Moore aside: Could he convince the skittish real estate developer to stay? Agreeing to help, Moore introduced himself to Trump and promised he'd keep the chatter light.

"We did the show. I did not bring up anything political, financial, anything that would have upset him," Moore recalls, settling into a chair in the conference room of his Manhattan production offices on a recent late-August night. "It wasn't until I saw him running for president that I realized I'd been played."

That he got his way. And I thought, 'Wow, he manipulated that whole situation. This guy is not stupid.' Lesson learned."

This time out, as Moore, 64, readies his newest documentary, **Fahrenheit 11/9**,



which will kick off the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 6, he's not holding back. "Trump is our Frankenstein and we are Dr. Frankenstein," he declares.

"We have helped to create a situation that has allowed us to end up with Trump. The dumbing down of our society through the media, the lack of education through poor schools, allows for a dumbed-down electorate, and for him to be able to actually get 63 million votes." In the opening moments of his new film, as the comedy curdles into horror, Moore asks bluntly, "How the fuck did this happen?"

The movie comes at a key moment for both Moore and the republic. His 2004 anti-Bush diatribe, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, remains the top-grossing documentary of all time domestically (with \$222.4 million worldwide), but his last major film, 2016's *Where to Invade Next*, got only a perfunctory release. He's looking to ride the current boom in documentary film and a crescendo of anti-Trump fervor to turn his new movie into a come-to-Jesus moment for depressed progressives and a rallying cry for insurgent politicians lining up for the midterms.

Moore's not prepared to say a Democratic takeback of the House, let alone the Senate, is a *fait accompli*, but he predicts, "There's going to be a tsunami of voters — especially women, young people and people of color. If there are candidates worth voting for, there will be a shellacking the likes of which the Republicans have never seen."

As for 2020, Moore adds, "As things stand right now, everybody should operate as if it's a two-term Trump," but if the Dems are to unseat him, "we need beloved figures running. Say what you want about Trump, but tens of millions watched his show. We need Tom Hanks, Oprah, Michelle Obama. Who would not vote for Michelle Obama?"

*Fahrenheit 11/9* — its title reworks that of his biggest hit by referencing the actual date when the 2016 election was called, in the early morning hours — may start with Trump, but it then ranges across a larger panorama, from the Flint, Michigan, water crisis to the growing resistance movement as exemplified by the striking West Virginia school teachers and the Parkland, Florida, students who organized the March for Our Lives in Washington.

"If people think this is Michael Moore's Trump film and that they're going to get two hours of Trump, Trump, Trump, I'm

sorry but I'm not going to give you a simplistic film like that," Moore says. "Yes, I will show you some stuff about Trump that you haven't seen, but if you're coming to see the pee tape, you're going to the wrong movie."

Thom Powers, Toronto's documentary programmer, who saw a first cut in July and immediately booked it as the festival's opening-night doc, says, "Michael has a real skill for subverting audiences' expectations," promising them laughs and then delivering a thoughtful, impassioned analysis. Onscreen, Moore's persona as a shambling, quixotic everyman ("I don't play a character, that's who I am," he insists) may make him an easy target for the right-wing outrage machine led by Fox News ("Bring it on," he dares them), and he still occasionally resorts to stunts like spraying the mansion of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder with contaminated Flint water, but, Powers continues, "Michael's work has grown to be less about confrontational stunts and more the work of someone who has thought long and hard about American politics."

In effect, Moore has become a public intellectual for the modern media age — where literary lions like Norman Mailer and Gore Vidal once worked the talk show circuit while mixing it up in the political arena, Moore, though he has eight books to his credit, primarily uses film and social media (he has 6 million Twitter followers) to inject himself into the national debate.

It's midnight as Moore, sipping on a Burger King soda, holds forth during a break in the film's final editing.

The later the hour grows, the more energized he seems to become. With the movie's debut just two weeks away, the offices are buzzing with activity.

Other staffers are gearing up for the return of *TV Nation*, his satirical news show, which originally ran for two seasons (first on NBC, then Fox) in the mid-'90s and is coming to the airwaves on TBS later this year.

While Moore frequently bursts into incredulous laughter at the absurdities in which America finds itself, he is also deadly serious about the dire state of the nation.

He was one of the few who warned of a possible Trump victory, accurately predicting in July 2016 during one of his many visits to Bill Maher's *Real Time* that the upstart candidate could take Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The audience booed, but Moore shook it off — after all, he'd been jeered before, most famously during his 2003 Oscar victory

speech for his anti-gun doc *Bowling for Columbine*, when he excoriated George W. Bush for launching the Iraq War.

Moore had been in England in the weeks before Brexit passed and saw how the polls and media misread the anger behind that vote, and he'd also seen how lawn signs for Trump vastly outnumbered those for Hillary Clinton in his home state of Michigan.

"Michael is one of the few liberals who truly understands the Trump voter," Maher says. "Having been with Michael in lots of places and seen how people react to him, there is literally no one more beloved by working men and women.

As his Trump prediction shows, it would be great if for once people listened to him before it was too late."

Still, Moore wasn't quite prepared for his election-night predictions coming true. "I just felt, 'What is wrong with me that I could not communicate to people that he was going to win these three or four states and that we had to get out en masse?' It really bothered me." Afterward, he returned to his home in Traverse City, Michigan, where he spends half his time.

Over the next few months, he took long walks, mulling over recent events. Now single — he and his wife of 22 years, Kathy Glynn, divorced in 2014 — he counts the buddies he grew up with as among his best friends.

With whatever free time he has, he hits one of the two movie theaters he owns and helps program in Traverse City, where each August he hosts a film festival, which this year attracted the likes of Dick Cavett and Jane Fonda.

The son of a Flint, Michigan, assembly-line worker and a secretary, Moore has long family ties to the labor movement, and, after dropping out of the University of Michigan - Flint and working briefly in the alternative press, he found his voice with his first documentary, 1989's *Roger & Me*.

In his very personal look at the plight of the autoworkers, Moore, dressed in what would become his trademark cap and rumpled jacket, set out to confront Roger Smith, then the CEO of General Motors.

After its rousing Toronto Film Festival debut, Warner Bros. offered \$3 million for the film, and Moore, who'd been struggling on unemployment, embarked on a career as a cinematic polemist, bringing his buoyantly acerbic take to hot-button issues like gun control (2002's *Columbine*), the Iraq War (2004's *Fahrenheit 9/11*), health

care (2007's *Sicko*) and the social safety net (2015's *Where to Invade Next*).

Fahrenheit 11/9 is his attempt to fully understand the forces that fueled Trump's rise. Moore, being a humorist at heart, can't resist starting with a mordant joke or two.

Yes, he acknowledges factors like Russian President Vladimir Putin and former FBI head James Comey, but asserts that the person most responsible for the Trump presidency is ... Gwen Stefani. "You hadn't heard that before, have you?" Moore asks, delighted with the audacity of the claim.

Moore posits that when Trump realized Stefani's performance fees as a coach on *The Voice* were larger than his own on *The Apprentice*, he staged his now-infamous Trump Tower campaign announcement to prove his popularity to NBC, which aired both shows.

Says Moore, "He'd been talking about running for president since 1988, but he didn't really want to be president. There's no penthouse in the White House.

And he doesn't want to live in a black city. He was trying to pit NBC against another network, but it just went off the rails." After Trump's accusation that Mexico was sending rapists across the border, NBC cut ties with him. But Trump, suddenly finding himself cheered on by massive crowds and an indulgent media, figured why not make a serious run for the highest office in the land?

Moore does offer some begrudging respect for Trump's skills as a showman. In *American Dharma*, one of several political documentaries also debuting in Toronto, Moore's fellow documentarian Errol Morris positions alt-right firebrand Steve Bannon as the architect of Trump's victory.

Moore doesn't dispute that — although he notes that Bannon didn't join the Trump train until August 2016 — but likens it to Colonel Tom Parker coming aboard to steer the career of Elvis Presley.

"Trump knew how to play Elvis, and Bannon knew how to play the Colonel," he says. "One can't work without the other. Nobody is ever going to vote for Steve Bannon, but Trump can't do this on his own."

Moore also credits Trump for outflanking rival Clinton on the left by trumpeting his opposition to the Iraq War — even if he exaggerated how early he'd actually voiced it — while also threatening to tax hedge-fund guys.

"He hates Wall Street because they hate him," Moore says. "He has never been let into the billionaires' club. He is treated like a mook from Queens." Moore contends that Trump's positions, which the president abandoned once he got into office, helped suppress the vote for the Democratic candidate.

Fahrenheit 11/9 is at its most provocative when it veers away from Trump's ascension to recount Adolf Hitler's rise, with an emphasis on how the media in the 1930s, from *The New York Times* to the Jewish press, normalized the Fuhrer.

Moore insists he isn't making a direct comparison between Trump and Hitler but rather making "a serious point about fascism," he explains. "It comes from a book, *Friendly Fascism*, by a philosopher named Bertram Gross.

He talks about how the fascism of the 21st century would not be like the fascism of the 20th century. It would not come with concentration camps and swastikas, but with a TV show and a smiley face.

The fascists of the 21st century will convince the people to go against their own interests by using television and branding. I don't think we should be afraid to call this out for what it is."

Moore doesn't spare Trump's Democratic opposition, either. He faults Bill Clinton for realigning the party with corporate interests, and the congressional leadership of Charles Schumer and Nancy Pelosi for failing to get their act together.

Moore stumped for Hillary in 2016 but he still sees himself as an outsider whom the establishment Dems view warily. "They come to me when they can use me, because the people who follow me are just the number of votes that they need to get put over the top," he complains. "But otherwise — Nancy Pelosi and the party infrastructure, they see me as a huge threat."

Asked to cite an example, Moore pauses, almost censors himself, and then begins to recount one particularly nagging slight. Back after the 2004 election, as he tells it, he organized a dinner in New York with then-comedian Al Franken and his wife, Susan Sarandon and her then-partner, Tim Robbins, Bob Balaban and a few other Hollywood leftists.

The purpose was to convince Franken to return to his home state of Minnesota and run for the Senate. Franken heard Moore out, and a few days afterward called back to say he'd decided to do it.

"I was so excited," Moore says. And when, a few months later, Franken called to ask him to serve as a fundraiser, Moore readily agreed. "There's just one problem," Franken said, according to Moore. Instead of sending any checks directly to his campaign, could Moore send them to the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor party, because — here Moore imitates Franken — "it won't look good when it comes out that Michael Moore and his lefty friends are contributing to my election." Moore says his heart sank, he didn't send a check, and it was nearly a decade before the two talked, when they bumped into each other at the Academy's 2012 Governors Awards honoring documentarian D.A. Pennebaker. (Franken did not respond to a request for comment.)

By contrast, the renegade filmmaker has been embraced by the newer generation of insurgent politicians, like Bronx, New York, congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Detroit congressional candidate Rashida Tlaib, who are featured in his film. Without any support from her local political establishment in her successful primary bid, Tlaib had no reservations about welcoming Moore's support, saying, "You get a sense of strength from him as someone who hasn't sold out and who still believes in change."

And, during the course of filming, he joined her in door-to-door canvassing. "Though it wasn't as productive as we'd hoped," she says. "We planned to hit 15 to 20 doors, but we did about three since the first door we knocked on, the whole family came out to meet Michael."

Moore's first attempt to make a Trump doc hit a wall.

In May 2017, Harvey Weinstein and his brother Bob announced in Cannes that, having backed the first Fahrenheit, they were reteaming with Moore on a new film.

Their relationship was complicated: In the wake of the success of Fahrenheit 9/11, Moore sued the Weinsteins in 2011 for \$2.7 million in profits he claimed he was owed. (The suit was settled out of court.)

But then, as Moore was gearing up to begin filming that August, the Weinsteins' commitment — a reported \$2 million — failed to materialize. "Of course, now we know what the problem was," says Moore.

Five weeks later, *The New York Times* published its first story with allegations of Harvey Weinstein's long history of predatory sexual abuse. "We laid off

everybody and had to bury the film." Moore says he was unaware himself of Weinstein's behavior: "Harvey being the evil genius that he is, found a way so that people did not know, but eventually people like him don't get away with it.

And that's going to be true of Trump, too."

In retrospect, Moore says, he's glad that first effort was abandoned because it would have focused on the early, chaotic days of the administration.

"Ha-ha, we got a doofus in the White House and don't worry because he's not going to be able to get anything done. Well, that film should have been buried," Moore admits.

"Because now we know what Trump really is and all the promises he's kept to his class." But doesn't Moore, a self-made man whose wealth has been estimated at as much as \$50 million, belong to the same one percent who've benefited from Trump's tax cuts?

"It depends on what year you ask me," he says with a laugh. "Last year, no. This year, I probably will." But he adds, "My class is the class I was raised in. I have trespassed into the one percent, and I'm here to do damage."

When *Fahrenheit 11/9* started up again, on a \$4 million to \$5 million budget with private financing, it had a new focus: the rising resistance, presented as evidence of Moore's belief that the vast majority of Americans support a progressive agenda, even if Democrats have been ineffective at translating that into electoral wins.

Faced with what Carl Deal, one of the film's producers, calls "a fucking carnival of scandals with Donald Trump," the biggest challenge Moore and his team faced was not losing focus. Explains Deal, "We wanted to cover what was happening week to week and respond to it, day to day, tweet to tweet, but you also didn't want that to control the conversation that we are trying to have with this film. We didn't want to respond to what Donald Trump was saying day to day but to understand why he was saying it and what it really means for the rest of us. I have never seen Michael on such a clear mission to wake people up."

For the movie's release, Moore is partnering with Tom Ortenberg, the former CEO of Open Road Films, who is launching a new company, Briarcliff Entertainment. During an earlier stint at Lionsgate, Ortenberg worked with Moore on the release of the first *Fahrenheit*, and he says, "*Fahrenheit 9/11* certainly benefited from a moment in

time — if you opposed the war and you opposed Bush, one way to vote was to buy a ticket.

And *Fahrenheit 11/9* also comes at a specific moment in time. If you oppose Trump and you oppose the Trump agenda, one way to express that is to buy a ticket." AGC Studios' Stuart Ford, who plans to launch foreign sales once the movie debuts, says, "Awareness among foreign distributors is already sky-high. Michael is definitely a brand as a filmmaker and as a philosopher."

But is Moore prepared for the inevitable 6 a.m. Trump tweetstorm once the movie opens? Curiously, he notes, he hasn't been on the receiving end of many of the president's attacks. Last summer, Moore took his anti-Trump campaign to Broadway, appearing in a one-man show, **The Terms of My Surrender**, in which he held forth on the issues of the day. Trump, taking notice, lobbed a tweet: "While not at all presidential I must point out that the Sloppy Michael Moore Show on Broadway was a TOTAL BOMB and was forced to close. Sad!"

The show had actually played its scheduled 100 performances, and Moore tweeted, "You must have my smash hit of a Broadway show confused with your presidency — which IS a total bomb and WILL indeed close early. NOT SAD."

But Moore also has a theory. While shooting the film, he made a clandestine trip to Mar-a-Lago and, as a hidden camera followed him, planned to ask to meet with Don Jr. and Trump himself, if he was there.

But as he approached the club's dining room, a number of guests recognized and surrounded him, eager to say hello to a visiting celebrity. He actually lasted about 15 minutes before security escorted him out.

"But even until the very end, I was not given the bum's rush. The Trump Organization had made a decision to tread lightly," he says. He notes that Trump has claimed, falsely, on Fox News that the two have had dinner together in the past. "I'll tell you why I think that is," Moore says.

"He knows that his base and my base have a lot of crossover in Middle America. And to go after me in any way that would upset people who might vote for him in the so-called white working class, a lot of those guys might go, 'Why are you fucking with him? He's also on our side, fighting for us.'"

# Draft Constitution guidelines for Forest Friends Ireland Branches

27/8/18

Name of branch.....

Address of branch.....

## The following shall be incorporated into the constitution of Forest Friends Ireland Branches:

- The officers shall be recruited from the local area of the branch
- The officers can be initially a group of interested people who decide to form the branch, to be named the ..... branch and shall agree a strategy and aim to fill the posts mentioned above.
- The branch’s primary consideration shall be to operate in its own area but can become involved in forest issues national and international.
- Promote a culture of trees and forests.
- The branch shall meet regularly and ideally at least once per month.

## The Branch shall:

- Establish a membership base with an agreed process of application and joining fee
- Adopt the Forest Friends Articles of Association as the guidelines in determining the ethos of the branch. It shall adopt the main objectives set out in the articles of association and have them written into their constitution.
- Write up the branch’s constitution and have it formally adopted by the branch.
- Organise the branch’s own affairs in an autonomous manner in such a way as not to involve Forest friends Ireland in the day to day activities of the branch.
- Take out a comprehensive insurance policy in order to provide full cover for the branch’s operations.
- Hold an annual general meeting AGM each year notifying the membership of the date, time, and location of the meeting with adequate advance notice.
- Provide for the holding of special general meetings when requested by a representative number of the membership.
- Nominate a representative to go forward as a director of Forest Friends Ireland.

- Manage its financial affairs in such a way as to avoid going into debt itself or placing Forest Friends Ireland in a debt situation.
- Agree the number that will constitute a quorum for meetings.

## Branches shall also do the following:

- Take steps to protect trees under threat in the branch’s area from whatever sources and lending support to local communities in their efforts to protect trees
- Examine the planning application register of the local council on a regular basis in order to identify trees and woodlands and other ecologically important habitats under threat and to work with local communities to protect trees and habitats under threat in planning proposals.
- Source adequate funding for specified branch activities, identifying environmental philanthropy sources.
- Carry out research depending on the branch’s resources as follows: a) establish the percentage tree cover in the area b) identify the woodland areas with the most significant biodiversity c) study and record the biodiversity existing in different parts of

the area: d) carry out attitude surveys of people in the area towards trees and the environment generally.

- Identify local people with expertise and enthusiasm who are prepared to work with the branch in developing appropriate projects
- Develop a range of schools and community outreach projects in the local area.
- Establish a better understanding of the importance of and roles of trees
- Collect tree seeds and plant and grow them on.
- Educate the community and schools on all aspects of environmental conservation applicable to the area, and involving them in the activities of the branch.
- Promote and plant native Irish hardwood trees based in the principles of biodiversity, Sylva-culture continuous canopy and perma-culture.
- Lobby national forest agencies to move from the present system of monoculture forestry to a sustainable one based on biodiversity and sound ecological principles
- Use only organic methods without the use of herbicides and insecticides.
- Participate in the Forest Friends Peace Forest Ireland Project
- Establish where possible a centre for educational

purposes, with a range of facilities for members and citizens. The branch shall promote the conservation of the rainforests and old growth forests as they are the areas richest in tree biodiversity and forest and ecological sustainability.

- Maximise the use of social media in order to achieve agreed objectives
- Provide for a volunteering corps and establish a clearly defined role for both members and volunteers.
- Provide for a conflict resolution process, with provision for initial determination and appeal process with provision for independent third party involvement in the resolution of conflict.
- Organise such partnerships as will enable it to achieve its defined objectives. Such partnerships shall only be with individuals or organisations with sound ecological and humanitarian principles.
- Celebrate the Celtic seasonal festivals of Imbolg, Bealtaine, Lughnasa and Samhan as well as the Solstice festivals.
- Promote as far as possible the transition to a vegan way of life as an alternative to using animals as food sources.
- Promote initiatives to protect endangered species.

Branches may also do the following:

- Select which aspects of Forest Friends Ireland's remit it will concentrate on. For example the healing medicinal or spiritual aspects of trees. It may decide to specialise in the Celtic origins and value systems which included the Ogham alphabet, place names, sacred trees and their location and importance in the spiritual and folklore value systems that underpinned Celtic civilisation.
- Organise fundraising events
- Acquire or rent land in order to achieve the branches objectives.
- Provide for, where possible, internships and or summer schools either organised by the branch or operated in partnership with other branches and Forest Friends Ireland.
- Provide for educational courses and projects utilising sustainable methods
- Promote a culture of gardening based on biodiversity, the planting of plants for pollinators, the provision of nesting sites for a variety of wildlife, providing them with food sources, establishing habitats for wildlife.

- Establish where possible demonstration projects in food production, food sovereignty, organising where practicable gardening, tree production and herb courses.

The branch shall aim to establish and fill the following posts for the proper functioning of the branch:

Signatories:

Chairperson.....

Secretary.....

Treasurers.....

PRO.....

**This draft has been prepared by John Haughton- Chairman Forest Friends Ireland**

For consideration of the Forest Friends Directors with a view to their at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting due to be held in November 2018

# Forest Friends Ireland

40 Drumcondra Road Lr.  
Dublin 9, Ireland

Forest Friends Ireland were founded in May 2000 to provide an alternative to a rampant monoculture forestry policy. We value forests because of their essential role in maintaining the fragile ecosystems which preserve the earth's rich biological and cultural diversity.

We are guided by our Strategic Objectives to plant our native trees, insist on the preservation of our native woodlands, and see to it that our native trees are planted in preference to the present Government policy of planting monocultures of non-native exotic species.

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