



Folkestone & Hythe **World News**

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Save the planet, share the Earth

- ▶ Climate change is real and is a serious problem for all of us
- ▶ Climate change has resulted from human activities, more exactly the activities of a minority privileged class of capitalists
- ▶ Capitalism by focussing on the short-term is unlikely to take the longer term, and hence the environment, into account
- ▶ Capitalists and corporations will seek to distort the facts of the matter so they can carry on as usual
- ▶ Capitalists are ideologically blinkered against climate change since it exposes the dangers of capitalism as a threat to the environment

Therefore, we cannot expect the problem to be solved within capitalism. All the signs point the opposite way. Consider the fact that this has been on the international agenda since the 1970s and nothing much has been achieved; emissions have even increased over previous decades. The agenda of all environmental activity groups, who seek to change things without completely scrapping this system, will prove to be futile.

Ultimately the issue of the environment is an issue of power, of who has the power to determine what happens to this planet. Only in a society where we have the power to determine what can and cannot be done will we be able to stop this headlong rush to environmental devastation. That means a world of common ownership and democratic control. Anything else which anyone offers is merely using band aids to seal a volcano.

Radical change is necessary, a change in our thinking leading to a radical change in our socio-economic system. To save the Earth, life and human civilization, we have to replace existing, profit-based, exploitative, oppressive, manipulative, disruptive and dehumanizing capitalist society with long-overdue socialist society.

A worldwide association of humans irrespective of nationalities, race, ethnicity, and sex has to be organized, which will function on the basis of participatory democratic principles.

This socialist, resource-based sustainable economy, with democratic control over the means of production and distribution, will produce things as per social needs. Preserving ecological balance is only possible in a world, socialist society. The most serious barrier to doing this is the prevailing capitalist mode of production. It's the responsibility of the working class, who create and sustain human civilization, to protect it by establishing world socialism democratically with the force of our immense majority.

The exact class which is actively cranking up the global thermostat that threatens to inundate 20 percent of the world's population currently controls the United Nations and the parliaments of the different nations. So, we, the working class, should expect nothing from the ruling minority capitalist class but should rapidly organize ourselves into a political party of our own on a global basis, with the aim of establishing socialism worldwide, democratically. This is the only way out for humanity.

There can't be many people who have not seen flytipped rubbish on pavements, in fields or even dumped in the middle of roads preventing vehicles from using them. Like other parts of the UK, Folkestone and nearby towns and villages have had all manner of waste chucked away, necessitating someone else clearing it up.

Apart from everyday household food waste etc collected by refuse collectors weekly or fortnightly, other rubbish is meant to be taken to a household recycling centre, like the one at Ross Way, Folkestone, or to a transfer station if it is business and commercial waste. However, KCC applies charges for various kinds of rubbish to keep their costs down. If you've an old ceramic bathroom toilet, sink or bath, some tiles, rubble etc, then you will have to pay to dispose of it. In the case of commercial waste, businesses have to buy a licence to dispose of waste at a transfer site plus a charge depending on the quantity of material being disposed of. You can also arrange to have old furniture, TVs etc collected by Folkestone & Hythe District Council — again, for a charge.

But when individuals or businesses are short of money, this can result in rubbish being dumped illegally. To counter this, cameras are put up to try to deter dumpers, or covert cameras are hidden in remote locations to identify flytippers.

There is no reason to believe the amount of flytipping is going to decrease. Continuing financial restraints on councils and rising charges for disposal will probably result in it getting worse.

Flytipping is just one of numerous problems that exist because outdated capitalism still exists. But the way rubbish is dealt with (or dumped) does not have to be determined by taxes, charges, market forces etc. All household and industrial waste could be collected and disposed off properly without any flytipping at all. The number of recycling and disposal facilities, and their ability to handle different kinds of rubbish, and recycle, compost or turn it into fuel, could all be improved.

The technology to reuse and recycle much of what we throw away exists, but its use isn't encouraged enough by our current money-driven economic system. For a far more sensible and practical approach to disposing of rubbish, capitalism itself needs to be thrown on the scrapheap.

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SOCIALISM *noun /'səʊʃəlɪzəm/*

The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of the whole community.

