

Environmental Heroes and Zeros of 2006

The Conservative Party has put together a list of some the year's environmental heroes and zeros. The list, which includes Sir David Attenborough, the Women's Institute, and The Sun's page three girl, Keeley Hazell, amongst its Heroes, aims to highlight the hard work of groups and individuals who have worked to improve the environment in 2006, while also bringing to light those who have continued to ignore threats to the environment.

Shadow Environment Secretary, Peter Ainsworth said:

"2006 was the year when the environment took its rightful place at the centre of British politics. It became a fact not worth disputing that climate change is an enormous issue requiring urgent action if we are to prevent an ecological, economic and social catastrophe, and if the UK is to reap the potential rewards of green growth."

He added:

"This list is by no means comprehensive, but takes a look at some of those who have been a part of the solution in 2006, and some who are still part of the problem – in the hope that they will do better next year."

Notes to Editors

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Heroes	What they did
The Women's Institute	For its campaign against needless packaging and for launching its <i>Projects for a Healthy Planet</i>
The Stop Climate Chaos Coalition	For its successful campaign for a Climate Change Bill and for a rally attended by 20,000 people
Al Gore	For his film <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i> , which brought home the threat of climate change to millions of people
Sir Nicholas Stern	For authoritatively placing an economic cost on the threat of climate change and for asserting the need for action in the clearest terms
Sir David Attenborough	For, at the age of 80, becoming a late convert to the science of climate change and for promoting the "moral duty" to cut emissions
HRH Prince Charles	For speaking out on climate change; for creating one of the organic movement's flagship brands - <i>Duchy Originals</i> - and donating the profits to charity; for helping businesses to go green through his <i>Business and the Environment Programme</i> and

	for this year becoming the first member of the Royal family to begin the systematic reduction of their household's environmental footprint
John Bird, founder of the Big Issue	For the <i>Wedge Card</i> , which offers discounts and special offers from hundreds of local shops and independent businesses with the aim of "re-vitalising local communities by offering an affinity scheme to customers using local shops and services" _
Keeley Hazell, Sun Page Three girl	For going Green in 2006 and for offering helpful tips on how to help fight global warming_
Arnold Schwarzenegger	For making California the first US State to put greenhouse gas reductions into State law
Colin Challen MP	For his energetic work as Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group

Zeros	What they did

Exxon Mobil	For continuing to fund "think tanks" which deny that human activity is contributing to climate change
Michael O'Leary, Ryanair	For refusing to face up to aviation's impact on the environment. Quote " I am far too busy doubling Ryanair over the next few years to be joining any carbon emissions trading scheme" and "A lot of lies and misinformation has been put about by eco-nuts on the back of a report by an idiotic economist"
The Competitive Enterprise Institute	For responding to Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" with an ad campaign with the strap-line " Carbon Dioxide: they call it pollution. We call it Life"
Kate Barker, The Barker Review of Housing	For disservices to the countryside and for thinking that houses are an instrument of economic policy rather than places where people live
Thames Water	For missing its leakage targets for the third successive year at the same time as recording a 33% rise in pre-tax profits
The Government of Iceland	For re-instating whaling despite the existence of an

	international ban
Bayer AG	For failing to prevent the release of an untested variety of GM rice to be unlawfully sold in the UK and Europe and for lobbying against the REACH Directive, which is aimed at improving protection against toxic chemicals
The National Environment Research Council	For closing down important biodiversity research laboratories, despite objections from the scientific community and Government Agencies_
Douglas Alexander MP	For an aviation policy that is totally inconsistent with the Government's supposed attempts to tackle climate change

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