CEC Network Wednesday Webinar Report 20261118

The Biggest Climate Fight Now: Stop Rosebank!

Date: Wednesday 18 November 2026
Speaker: Victoria Rainbow, Fossil Free London (standing in for Robin Wells)
Host: Climate Emergency Centre Network (CEC Network)
Facilitators: Phoenix and Jen
Website: https://fossilfreelondon.org/

About this report

This report is an AI-assisted summary of the Climate Emergency Centre Network webinar held on 18 November 2026, prepared from the Zoom transcript, chat record and meeting summary.

Its purpose is to provide an accurate and accessible account of the presentation and subsequent discussion, including the arguments, questions, opinions and information shared by participants.

It is not a verbatim transcript, nor is it an independent fact-check of claims made during the webinar. Statements and figures are reported in the context in which they were presented and should not necessarily be understood as independently verified facts.

Personal contact information and private communications have been excluded.

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1. Webinar overview

Victoria Rainbow of Fossil Free London presented an account of the campaign to prevent the development of Rosebank, the largest undeveloped oil field in the North Sea.

Her presentation described the environmental, economic and political objections to the project, the successful legal challenge against its original approval, and the continuing efforts of campaigners to prevent further fossil fuel development.

Victoria explained Fossil Free London's approach to campaigning through creative direct action, public demonstrations, disruption of fossil fuel industry events and strategic use of mainstream and social media.

The subsequent discussion explored government decision-making, fossil fuel subsidies, employment and energy transition, parliamentary accountability, public education and international climate justice.

A recurring theme was that opposition to fossil fuel development involves several complementary approaches, including legal action, direct protest, research, public communication, political engagement and collaboration between organisations.

2. Main presentation — Victoria Rainbow

2.1 Fossil Free London

Victoria introduced Fossil Free London as a grassroots organisation campaigning against the fossil fuel industry and its influence on government policy.

She explained that London is strategically important because major corporations, including Shell and BP, have headquarters or substantial operations there, alongside financial institutions and other businesses supporting the fossil fuel industry.

The organisation's objective is to make London an increasingly inhospitable place for fossil fuel corporations.

Its principal methods include:

- Creative and visually distinctive public demonstrations.
- Direct action and disruption of industry events.
- Demonstrations timed to coincide with political decisions and major announcements.
- Publicising the role of fossil fuel companies in climate change.
- Maintaining political pressure through media coverage and public attention.

Victoria explained that Fossil Free London does relatively little conventional lobbying or public education. Instead, it concentrates on mobilising people and attracting attention through collective action.

The organisation has been centrally involved in the campaign against Rosebank for several years.

2.2 What is Rosebank?

Victoria described Rosebank as the largest undeveloped oil field in the North Sea, containing an estimated 500 million barrels of oil and gas resources.

The field lies west of Shetland and has been the subject of considerable controversy.

She explained that Rosebank had been majority owned by Equinor, the Norwegian state-controlled energy company, with the remaining interest held by Ithaca Energy.

She discussed the subsequent combination of Shell and Equinor's UK offshore businesses into Adura and criticised the tax arrangements associated with this restructuring.

Victoria also raised concerns about the connections between Ithaca Energy and Delek Group, including Delek's reported involvement in Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory.

She situated these ownership arrangements within her wider argument that multinational fossil fuel companies benefit financially while the environmental and social costs of their operations are borne more widely.

2.3 Environmental objections

Victoria outlined the anticipated environmental consequences of Rosebank.

Climate emissions

She stated that burning the oil and gas extracted from the field could generate more than 200 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

She placed this figure in the context of global efforts to limit warming, arguing that continued development of new oil and gas resources is incompatible with the reductions in emissions required to address climate change.

Victoria referred to scientific assessments indicating that limiting global warming to 1.5°C was becoming increasingly difficult and argued that immediate reductions in fossil fuel consumption were essential.

Marine ecosystems

Rosebank is close to the Faroe-Shetland Sponge Belt, a marine protected area containing fragile deep-sea ecosystems and habitats supporting a variety of marine species.

Victoria warned that proposed pipeline infrastructure could damage this environment.

She argued that the ecological consequences of the project therefore extend beyond the emissions generated when the extracted oil and gas are burned.

2.4 Energy security and household bills

Victoria challenged the argument that Rosebank would significantly improve British energy security or lower household bills.

She explained that much of the oil would be exported and sold on international markets, where prices are determined by international supply and demand.

Consequently, she argued, development of the field would not necessarily produce lower energy prices for British households.

She also referred to the costs of public subsidies and tax relief associated with fossil fuel development.

Victoria maintained that continued dependence on oil and gas exposes households to international price volatility, geopolitical conflicts and economic uncertainty.

She argued that a transition towards renewable energy would provide a more sustainable approach to energy security.

2.5 Employment and a just transition

Victoria acknowledged concerns about employment in the North Sea oil and gas industry.

She argued that the industry was already declining and that attempts to prolong fossil fuel extraction would not provide a secure long-term future for workers.

Instead, she advocated investment in renewable energy, retraining and support for workers moving into new industries.

This formed part of a broader argument that a successful energy transition must address employment and economic security as well as climate emissions.

2.6 The legal challenge against Rosebank

Victoria outlined the sequence of legal and regulatory developments affecting the project.

Rosebank was originally approved by the Conservative government in September 2023.

Greenpeace and Uplift subsequently challenged that decision.

She explained the importance of the Supreme Court's *Finch* ruling in 2024, which established that environmental impact assessments must consider emissions generated when extracted fossil fuels are subsequently used.

These downstream emissions are commonly described as Scope 3 emissions.

Victoria explained that previous assessments had concentrated on emissions associated with extraction, without necessarily accounting for those arising when the oil and gas were burned.

The legal precedent contributed to a successful challenge against Rosebank's original approval in January 2025.

The developers were subsequently required to pursue further environmental assessments and regulatory approval.

Victoria described a succession of submissions, requests for additional information and consultations.

At the time of the webinar, campaigners were expecting a further government decision around mid-December 2026.

The legal victory was celebrated as an important achievement, but Victoria emphasised that the campaign remained active.

2.7 Jackdaw and government climate policy

Victoria discussed the government's recent approval of the Jackdaw gas field.

Although smaller than Rosebank, Jackdaw was presented as another significant fossil fuel development with consequences for greenhouse gas emissions.

She criticised the decision, particularly in the context of extreme heat and other climate-related events during the preceding summer.

Victoria referred to estimates of the potential climate-related economic and human costs of the project.

She also expressed concern about pressure on government from the fossil fuel industry and the Treasury, arguing that such influences could undermine the government's stated climate commitments.

The approval of Jackdaw intensified the campaign's concern that Rosebank might also receive approval.

2.8 Creative demonstrations and direct action

A substantial part of Victoria's presentation described Fossil Free London's campaigning methods and illustrated them through photographs of recent demonstrations.

Examples included:

- Demonstrations outside Parliament using red swimwear, fans and heat-related imagery.
- The slogan "Andy, don't burn them", directed at Prime Minister Andy Burnham.
- Funeral-themed protests featuring flowers and mock gravestones representing things threatened by climate change.
- Halloween-themed demonstrations targeting Shell.
- A large petrol pump installation outside the American Embassy, with protesters covered in treacle.
- A giant cooking pot and lobster illustrating the metaphor of people being gradually boiled.
- A theatrical presentation contrasting the possibilities of renewable energy and a liveable future with continued fossil fuel expansion.

Victoria explained that these actions were intended both to communicate messages to the public and to attract media coverage.

She reported that a series of seven demonstrations over 20 days had generated around 80 media mentions, while the organisation's wider campaigning had attracted more than 800 media mentions over the summer and autumn.

She also explained that photographs from demonstrations sometimes appeared in wider media coverage of heatwaves, wildfires and climate change.

Alongside public demonstrations, Fossil Free London organises disruptions of fossil fuel industry conferences and other events.

These actions may attract less conventional news coverage but can be filmed and distributed through social media.

Victoria emphasised the creativity, commitment and rapid response capabilities of the volunteers involved.

2.9 The campaign ahead

Victoria explained that the campaign was entering an important period ahead of the anticipated Rosebank decision.

Fossil Free London intended to maintain pressure on politicians, government departments and fossil fuel companies.

Demonstrations had targeted the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Treasury and Parliament.

Victoria said further actions were planned if Rosebank received approval.

She described Fossil Free London's weekly in-person meetings and encouraged London-based participants to become involved.

Those living elsewhere were directed towards the wider Stop Rosebank coalition, which supports local action, digital campaigning and engagement with MPs.

She emphasised that the movement brings together different organisations using complementary methods, including Fossil Free London, Greenpeace, Uplift, Parents for Future and Mothers Rise Up.

3. Questions and discussion

3.1 Positive alternatives and the just transition

Phoenix asked about the organisations and initiatives working towards alternatives to the fossil fuel economy, including employment opportunities for workers moving out of oil and gas.

Victoria discussed Uplift and the wider Stop Rosebank coalition, noting the importance of different campaigning approaches.

The exchange highlighted the need to combine opposition to fossil fuel developments with practical and positive alternatives.

3.2 Government decision-making and fossil fuel lobbying

Bee questioned why the government might approve Rosebank despite the arguments against it.

The question referred to parliamentary opposition to the project, the economic case for approval and relevant international legal developments.

Victoria expressed concern about the influence of fossil fuel lobbying on government decision-making.

She argued that the economic justifications for continued extraction were unconvincing and questioned the extent of political influence exercised by the industry.

The discussion did not establish a definitive explanation of the government's decision-making process.

3.3 Decoupling economic development from fossil fuel extraction

Asani Olumide, participating from Nigeria, argued that opposition to individual oil and gas projects should be accompanied by a wider strategy for reducing economic dependence on fossil fuels.

Asani asked how Britain could achieve such a transition and whether it would be possible to participate virtually in Fossil Free London's weekly meetings.

Victoria agreed with the need to move away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy.

She explained that the group's regular meetings were held in person, partly for security reasons, although occasional online events were advertised publicly.

Phoenix suggested that Asani and Victoria might establish direct contact and referred to campaigning against Shell in Nigeria.

3.4 Explaining fossil fuel subsidies

Helen Hart asked how the financial support provided to fossil fuel companies could be explained clearly to the public.

She observed that people often associate subsidies with renewable energy while being less aware of the support available to oil and gas companies.

Victoria acknowledged the difficulty of making these arrangements accessible.

She referred to information about Rosebank on the Stop Cambo website but said that fossil fuel taxation and subsidies were complex subjects.

Helen invited others to share useful explanations through the chat.

The exchange established public understanding of energy economics as an important area for further work.

3.5 Communicating large financial figures

Diane S, who is involved with Fuel Poverty Action, discussed the difficulty people face in comprehending very large financial figures.

She suggested that visual comparisons could help communicate the difference between millions and billions, particularly when discussing fossil fuel company profits and subsidies.

Diane offered an example comparing these quantities with periods of time.

Victoria welcomed the suggestion and acknowledged that communicating the scale of corporate profits is an important part of public campaigning.

3.6 Community campaigning and parliamentary engagement

Christine Curwen, from Derbyshire Dales, described involvement in local climate campaigning, MP Watch and public communication about Rosebank.

She referred to engagement with her constituency MP and community activities associated with the People's Emergency Briefing.

Christine asked whether Victoria's presentation slides could be shared and adapted for further public communication.

Victoria welcomed this work and agreed to share the presentation materials.

The exchange illustrated how local research, parliamentary engagement, public meetings and information sharing can support national campaigning.

3.7 Responding to a possible Rosebank approval

Jane Smith asked what campaigners intended to do if the government approved Rosebank.

She suggested that Labour Party members opposed to the development could exert political pressure by threatening to resign their membership.

Victoria confirmed that Fossil Free London was preparing further demonstrations and other actions in response to a possible approval.

The discussion emphasised the importance of maintaining political pressure during the decision-making period.

3.8 International cooperation and climate justice

Gavin Sealey raised the international dimensions of climate change and fossil fuel dependence.

He suggested that addressing these problems required global cooperation rather than exclusively national responses.

He was particularly interested in how campaigners might work with communities in countries where fossil fuel extraction is economically significant and where the consequences of climate change may be especially severe.

Victoria described Fossil Free London's solidarity with Filipino campaigners pursuing legal action against Shell over damage associated with Typhoon Odette.

She also referred to connections with environmental justice campaigning in Nigeria.

Victoria acknowledged the importance of international cooperation and solidarity.

The discussion highlighted the possibility of developing stronger relationships between communities facing different but interconnected aspects of fossil fuel extraction and climate change.

4. Summary of Zoom chat discussion

The chat provided an additional space for participants to share information, campaign experiences, questions and resources.

4.1 Networking and participation

Participants introduced themselves from locations across Britain and Ireland, with additional participation from Uganda and Nigeria.

Organisations represented or mentioned included Greenpeace, Extinction Rebellion, climate alliances, local environmental groups, Fuel Poverty Action, MP Watch and community projects.

Phoenix encouraged participants to share their locations, organisational affiliations and public websites to help connect people working on related issues.

4.2 Climate emissions and the scale of fossil fuel expansion

Participants discussed the relationship between planned fossil fuel extraction and the emissions compatible with climate targets.

A contribution concerning the quantity of already approved fossil fuel production led to further questions and clarification in the chat.

The discussion reflected concern about the scale of fossil fuel development relative to the remaining global carbon budget.

4.3 Household energy costs and renewable energy

Participants discussed the influence of gas prices on electricity bills and referred to Greenpeace's Great Gas Rip Off campaign.

Contributors expressed frustration about continued dependence on fossil fuels and suggested that renewable electricity could provide financial and environmental benefits.

Questions were also raised about the implementation of changes to electricity pricing.

4.4 Subsidies, taxation and public expenditure

The discussion of fossil fuel subsidies continued in the chat.

Participants questioned why highly profitable fossil fuel companies should receive tax relief or other financial support.

Global Justice Now research was shared, including a reported estimate of £17.5 billion in annual UK fossil fuel subsidies.

Contributors also discussed the possibility of directing public resources towards renewable energy, public services and other social priorities.

4.5 Making complex information understandable

Several participants supported Diane's suggestion about using visual comparisons to communicate large financial figures.

Illustrations comparing millions and billions were proposed.

There was also a suggestion that mathematician Hannah Fry might be able to help communicate such information.

Energy literacy was identified as an important subject for public education.

4.6 Political engagement and accountability

The chat included discussion of the positions taken by Labour MPs on Rosebank.

A parliamentary tracker was shared, along with information about MP Watch.

Participants discussed contacting MPs, encouraging opposition to Rosebank and increasing political pressure on the government.

4.7 Coordinated campaigning

Participants described local protests and other campaigning activities.

Climate Camp Ireland and Climate Camp Scotland were mentioned as examples of cooperation between groups.

Contributors shared information about local climate organisations and ways of participating in the Stop Rosebank campaign.

4.8 International connections

Participants from Uganda and Nigeria contributed to the webinar.

The chat also included an explicit call for international cooperation in moving away from fossil fuels.

These exchanges complemented the spoken discussion about climate justice and solidarity with communities affected by fossil fuel extraction elsewhere in the world.

4.9 Appreciation and solidarity

Participants expressed appreciation for Victoria's presentation and Fossil Free London's campaigning.

Several contributors praised the creativity and energy of the demonstrations.

Others expressed support for continued coordinated action to prevent Rosebank from receiving approval.

5. Links and resources shared

The following public links were shared during the webinar or included in its introductory information.

Fossil fuel campaigning and Rosebank

- **Fossil Free London:** https://fossilfreelondon.org/
- **Stop Cambo / Stop Rosebank:** https://www.stopcambo.org.uk
- **Uplift:** https://www.upliftuk.org
- **Uplift — Rosebank Oil Field: The Complete Guide:** https://www.upliftuk.org/post/rosebank-oil-field-the-complete-guide
- **Greenpeace — Uplift and Greenpeace Rosebank Legal Case:** https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/uplift-greenpeace-rosebank-legal-case/
- **Politics.co.uk — Labour MPs Opposed to Rosebank:** https://www.politics.co.uk/2026/11/tracker-the-labour-mps-opposed-to-rosebank-oilfield-as-rebellion-mounts/

Energy justice, economics and accountability

- **Global Justice Now — UK Fossil Fuel Subsidies:** https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/news/uk-government-subsidises-fossil-fuels-by-17-5-billion-every-year-new-research-reveals/
- **Fuel Poverty Action:** https://www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk
- **Platform London — Energy Justice:** https://platformlondon.org/project/energy-justice/

- **MP Watch:** https://www.mpwatch.org

Climate organisations and networks

- **CEC Network:** https://climateemergencycentre.co.uk
- **CEC Network Centres Directory:** https://climateemergencycentre.co.uk/cec-uk-network-2/
- **CEC Network WhatsApp Group:** https://chat.whatsapp.com/KlkZHHr57TPF1siU9StZCy
- **National Emergency Briefing WhatsApp Network:** https://chat.whatsapp.com/Eok3Gc7ZFU1BsATA7nu9RB
- **CEC Network Donations:** https://co-sy.org/co-spaces/climate-emergency-centres-cec-network--mUXq5UBvGSp5TFQwCkpL/pages/donate
- **Climate Camp Scotland:** https://climatecamp.scot/
- **Climate Camp Ireland:** https://climatecampireland.ie/
- **Wiltshire Climate Alliance:** https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/
- **Ryecroft NRC:** https://www.ryecroftnrc.org
- **Newham Mosaic:** https://newhammosaic.org/

Campaigning methods and educational resources

- **Gene Sharp — 198 Methods of Nonviolent Action:** https://commonslibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/GeneSharp_198Tactics.pdf
- **Who Killed the Electric Car? — Trailer:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k96tIRjxzw0

6. Concluding themes

The webinar demonstrated how a campaign opposing a particular oil development can encompass wider questions of climate policy, economics, employment, democracy and international justice.

Several themes emerged from the presentation and discussion:

Complementary approaches to change

Fossil Free London's direct-action campaigning operates alongside legal challenges, research, parliamentary engagement and community organising undertaken by other groups.

Economic arguments and public understanding

Questions about subsidies, taxation, energy prices and employment formed a substantial part of the discussion. Participants expressed a need for accessible information that could support public understanding and engagement.

Creative communication

Victoria's examples of visual demonstrations and the discussion about communicating large financial figures demonstrated the importance participants placed on creative and understandable communication.

Positive alternatives

The need for renewable energy, economic transition and secure employment was discussed alongside opposition to further fossil fuel extraction.

International cooperation

The participation of campaigners from outside Britain and references to climate justice campaigns in the Philippines and Nigeria raised the importance of international relationships and cooperation.

Continuing collective action

At the time of the webinar, campaigners were awaiting a further Rosebank decision and preparing to respond. Participants were encouraged to become involved through national and local organisations.

The webinar brought together examples of campaigning, questions for further investigation and opportunities for communication and cooperation across the wider climate movement.

CEC Network Wednesday Webinar — 18 November 2026. AI-assisted report prepared from the recorded meeting materials.