



**The Foundation for the Economics  
of Sustainability**



**Annual Reports  
2014 and 2015**

# Annual Reports 2014 and 2015

Feasta, the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability, aims to identify the characteristics (economic, cultural and environmental) of a truly sustainable society, articulate how the necessary transition can be effected, and promote the implementation of the measures required for this purpose.

*Cad a dhéanfaimid feasta gan adhmaid?*

*Tá deireadh na gcoillte ar lár*

*What will we do in the future without wood?*

*The end of the forests has come*

# Contents

Introduction	1
Climate Group	2
Currency Group	4
Food Security	5
People's Energy Charter	5
Water	5
Networking	6
Fundraising	7
Publications	7
Events	8
Website	11
Press Releases	15
Submissions	16
Feasta in the News	16
Staff and Management	17
Training and Capacity Building	18
Interns	18
Environmental Pillar	18

# Introduction

by chairperson **Mark Garavan**

2014 and 2015 were years in which the reality of an unsustainable world became ever clearer. Global average temperatures breached the one degree Celsius threshold; it was the hottest year on record; the highest levels of carbon in the atmosphere in modern times were reached; global migration patterns of fleeing humanity finally reached critical point. The dysfunctions of a non-viable economic system have become apparent to all.

Along with many others Feasta has long predicted and attempted to analyse this broken system. Our late co-founder Richard Douthwaite wrote a number of pioneering books seeking to explain the nature of this dysfunction and chart a way forward from it. Many Feasta publications have followed.

The world is now seeking new answers and new ways to inhabit our shared planet. Old solutions

no longer apply. In 2014 and 2015 Feasta and the many collaborative networks in which its members participate have continued to apply themselves to the task of thought, analysis, design and proposal. Feasta has a readily available toolkit of responses to the challenges of our time in multiple areas such as basic income, liquidity networks, cap global carbon and food security. We continue to publish original material in books and on our website. In this way Feasta continues to see itself as a home within which new thinking on our system can take place and as a resource for ideas and proposal for radical economic and social change. These roles are more necessary than ever. Our hope is that the Paris Climate Summit may at least at a minimum have conceded the reality of climate change and that business as usual is not an option. 2016 may mark the beginnings of an openness to begin to implement the necessary changes. Feasta will be very much part of that common project.



# Climate Group

The Feasta climate group is a large group with active members in several different countries. The group concentrated mainly on four complementary projects in 2014 and 2015, which are described below.

## (1) CapGlobalCarbon

 This campaign, spearheaded by Feasta co-founder John Jopling, was launched by five Feasta climate group members (Robert Hutchison, Laurence Matthews, Mike Sandler, Erik-Jan Van Oosten and Caroline Whyte) during the COP-21 conference in Paris in December 2015. The campaign goal is to establish a global climate commons trust which will implement a global version of Cap and Share, independently of governments, providing a backup to the existing UN-FCCC negotiations.

Cap and Share is a commons-based framework for managing emissions that was first developed ten years ago by

Richard Douthwaite, Will Howard and other Feasta climate group members. It was a major focus of Feasta's 2012 book *Sharing for Survival*. The scheme would ensure that global greenhouse emissions are steadily reduced to zero, and that this is done in a way that supports climate justice and reduces inequality.

Following a series of skype meetings that were initiated in July 2014, the CapGlobalCarbon team launched a website, [capglobalcarbon.org](http://capglobalcarbon.org), in January 2015. The website contains a considerable amount of background information including a video explainer on Cap and Share created by Laurence and Alison Matthews. It gathers quotes from like-minded organisations around the world to demonstrate the campaign's common ground with them. We intend it to evolve into a discussion platform for the further development of CapGlobalCarbon.

Members of the Feasta delegation attended the full two weeks of the COP-21 conference. Their goal was primarily to forge contacts with other NGOs, particularly from the Global South, and those with a focus on equity. Our delegation also applied successfully to give a presentation in the Blue Zone, despite stiff competition. The presentation took place on Saturday December 5 and had a good audience response, with stimulating questions asked. It was made in collaboration with Columbian human rights NGO *Dejusticia* and a California-based NGO promoting Community Choice Energy, and was entitled "Climate Justice: Coal and Human Rights in the South, Community Choice Energy, Global Carbon Pricing". Several members of the delegation wrote reports on COP-21 which you can read on the CapGlobalCarbon website.

Plans for 2016 include a two-day meeting with a focus on CapGlobalCarbon which will be held in Cloughjordan in June.



*Outside the UN Green Zone at COP-21 in Paris, Dec 7 2015: Feasta delegates Mike Sandler, Erik-Jan Van Oosten, Robert Hutchison, Caroline Whyte and Laurence Matthews*

## 2. Legal action



For the past several years Feasta climate group members have been exploring the possibility of pursuing legal action against fossil fuel companies or governments in order to trigger effective and robust action on climate change. Legal cases on climate have already been initiated by several NGOs and pursued successfully in a number of countries including the Netherlands, the Philippines and Washington State in the USA. This movement is growing, with new campaigns in Belgium and France. However, these legal victories, important as they are, do not ensure that governments will actually eliminate greenhouse gas emissions: they simply require governments to honour their existing commitments to emissions cuts. If CapGlobalCarbon were to be used as part of a court ruling, governments or fossil fuel companies would be provided with a clear framework to ensure that they will become 100% fossil-fuel free within the time-frame that the science demands.

Feasta climate group members' initial plan was to hold a mock trial in the UK against a fossil fuel company which would be filmed and might provide an initial step towards a real trial. However, in August 2015 it was decided that a mock trial might be counter-productive as it could prejudice a (later) real court decision, and it might also reveal to the fossil fuel industry the kinds of strategies that would be used in a real trial. The focus now is instead on exploring avenues for pursuing a real trial in the UK. Feasta climate group members are in touch with some of the more prominent legal experts who pursued the existing legal campaigns worldwide. A public meeting of these experts and members of several

NGOs, including Feasta's David Knight, has been organised for February 2016 to discuss ways forward.

## 3. Fracking

Since its earliest days Feasta has been concerned to show that what is called "economic growth" is, on balance, really uneconomic. In one of the earliest Feasta annual lectures Herman Daly explained uneconomic growth as a development in which costs, or harms, exceed benefits. Feasta members have centrally been concerned to draw out the implications of depleting supplies of oil and gas, climate change and the dysfunctionalities of the finance sector and money system. All of these themes come together when "unconventional" techniques are used to extract oil and gas. In recent years Feasta members in Britain and Ireland have been concerned to raise awareness of the implications of "extreme energy" - particularly the dangers of the oil and gas industry seeking to extract gas from shale by the use of high volume, high pressure hydraulic fracking. Fortunately it has been possible to draw on a growing volume of good quality scientific information - peer reviewed studies of the very negative public health, environmental and climate implications of developing unconventional gas fields drawn from the US experience and that of Australia.

In Ireland, North and South, the threat is in parts of Antrim, Clare, Cavan, Leitrim and Fermanagh. In Britain parts of Scotland, large parts of the North of England both sides of the Pennines, as well as parts of southern England have been licensed for exploration and development. In all of these areas campaigns have grown very rapidly and there has been a clamour to hear the case against fracking as well as to organise debates against managers from would be fracking companies For ex-

ample, Feasta member Brian Davey has now addressed 15 local public meetings and debated frackers or their representatives on 3 occasions. He has also reviewed books on fracking and put up some of his talks on the Feasta blog. More recently, as fracking companies in the US go bust Brian is researching the connections between the credit crisis and unconventional gas and extreme energy, as well as looking into the human rights implications.



In Ireland Seán Conlan has been involved in Leitrim. From small beginnings a formidable community group, which calls itself Love Leitrim (Cuisle Liatroma) has been established, and has been successful in challenging the national agenda on energy using fracking in Ireland. In particular they have been instrumental in raising awareness of the implications of fracking among the local population and its political leaders. The core people involved in Love Leitrim are actively involved in a number of community resilience and energy projects in the local area. It is a good example of 'Feasta in action'.



*Barnett Shale gas drilling rig, Texas.  
Photo by David Tribble.*

## 4. Climate Conversations



*Tommy Tiernan and Theresa O'Donohoe at the Climate Conversation in the Abbey Theatre, May 10 2015*

**F**easta and its members took a central part in helping to organise and participate in the so-called 'Climate Conversations' held during 2014-15. A number of organisations came together to organise this series of conversations and debates in various locations in Dublin. Following publication of the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) there was little room for doubt about climate change and the long-term risks that it brings for all our people. Despite that clear message

from the scientific community there is a lack of public confidence regarding our ability to play our part in addressing this challenge.

The purpose of the Conversations was to promote greater understanding of what a low carbon future might bring for Ireland. The collaboration between organisations, who themselves are focused on economic development, labour rights and social and environmental justice, was symbolic of the greater cooperation needed to change our response to the issue. Feasta's Willi Kiefel contributed significantly to the creation of the Conversations, the themes, structure and above all the insistence on making it as inclusive as possible. He took the role of 'ideas provider' and at the same time tried to get as much buy-in as possible to get everyone involved. This seemed very effective and there was a good response, so much so that all partners expressed a wish to continue with the Conversations after the General Election in Ireland.

The series explored what cultural and social changes are needed, what costs and opportunities may arise and what economic model will best serve all our needs in making this transition. The series was inclusive of a wide range of individual stakeholders and citizens, who need to be part of the conversation, not just the institutions supporting this initiative but every institution and every citizen with an interest in the future of this island and this planet. A safe space was created where different views could be expressed and shared.

Events took place in Liberty Hall, Trinity College, The Guinness Hopstore, Christ Church Cathedral and the Abbey Theatre and involved a rich combination of the arts, presentations, discussion and audience participation, with leading thinkers from a broad range of perspectives. One of the unexpected outcomes of the Conversations was the participation in the journey to Paris COP21. This led to a final Conversation post Paris in Trinity College at the end of the year with an assessment of its impact, particularly on those who made the journey.

## Currency Group

**T**hroughout 2014/15 Feasta continued to articulate the view that the dysfunctional monetary system is at the heart of our converging ecological, humanitarian and economic crises. Feasta takes a twin track approach to these difficult issues, on the one hand supporting and promoting the monetary reform agenda of Positive Money and Ireland's Sensible Money, and on the other attempting to explore what a new post growth monetary and financial ecosystem might look like.

Guest lectures and workshops were

held with international monetary reformers Mary Mellor and Thomas Greco (see pages 8 and 10.)

Co-operation took place with UCD's Coding Value Project with a view to exploring the social potential of cryptocurrencies.

Blog articles addressed the issues from a variety of perspectives: Money as a Commons, Ethical Money, Restricted Scope Currencies, the Bank-State Bargain that underlies the privatisation of money-as-credit, Basic Income, Localism

and motivations for designing new currencies (see pages 11-15).

Feasta provided input to Claiming our Future/ NERI on their Financial Tax Transaction campaign - our angle on this being the potential for disclosing (and then differentially taxing) the casino economy.

The online Feasta Currency Group Forum grew to 182 members. Around 200 people follow our 'Intentional Currency' twitter account.

# Food Security

The work of the Food Security Group focused on the development of *A Framework for Analysing Agricultural Policy Options for Mitigating Climate Change*. This work culminated in the production of a discussion document which analysed a wide variety of policy recommendations through the lenses of economic viability, social viability, climate mitigation, climate adaptation, environmental sustainability, food security, and resilience. The potential

impacts of initiating 11 different policy approaches will be scrutinized through these criteria. The policies we will assess range from ones which are environmentally (e.g. Biochar, No-till) and economically-focused (e.g. Agriculture 2020 Food & Fishery), to ones that are more health-based (e.g. Meatless Monday).

Possible conclusions will include ways in

which a policy can shift in order to address all target areas. Having balanced policy recommendations that prioritize mitigating and adapting to issues caused by climate change in Ireland is the overall goal of this project. Megan MacLeod and Bruce Darrell are hoping to create a forum or event in order to receive feedback about their methodology and possible impacts of specific policies in the future.

# People's Energy Charter

Feasta members have been involved with coordinating the People's Energy Charter. PEC is calling for comprehensive public participation in the National Energy Transition Plan. We have been engaging with the national consultation for the white paper on energy which was published in December 2015: Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future. There is no doubt that the policy aspires to greater public participation in the decisions about powering Ireland.

We analysed the way the energy policy system operates in Ireland and highlighted many changes that need to be made in order to create an energy transition that should be acceptable by the people of the country. The bottom line is change can only be done by including communities in making the decisions - a key transition concept Feasta has endorsed for many years. The new energy policy for 2015-2030 is more of a framework for change with wider consultation intended on specific items.

There will also be a national energy forum where stakeholders will get to have a say in Ireland's energy transition. The need for dialogue and greater consultation were acknowledged.



# Water

Feasta member Féidhlim Harty, who has an environmental consultancy based in County Clare, produced a report for the IEN in December 2015 on closed-loop agriculture. Financial support for his research was provided by the IEN's Biodiversity Policy Funding.

Closed loop agriculture is farming practice that recycles all nutrients and organic material back to the soil that it grew in - particularly nutrients and biomass currently flushed down our toilets. Féidhlim argues that a shift to this type of agriculture would not only stop the waste of nutrients to watercourses as pollution, it would also stop the high en-

ergy inputs needed for artificial nitrogen production and could go a significant way towards reducing overall agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. Closed loop agriculture has direct benefits for biodiversity also, within the soil itself, in the aquatic environment, and within the context of climate change.



# Networking and Partnership Development

Work has continued during 2014/15 to develop an explicit partnership process in accordance with the Feasta ethos, and also to make practical approaches to prospective partners. Significant groundwork has been carried out particularly with German organisations. One of these partnerships with FEST (Forschungsstätte der Evangelischen Studiengemeinschaft) is of particular note, as it is planned to continue partnership development during 2016 in the area of GDP/Well-being (Welfare) analysis between Germany and Ireland.



In November 2015 Willi Kiefel was accepted as a member of the International Expert Group on Earth System Preservation. He has attended some of their workshops and conferences and has submitted a Position Paper for their forthcoming workshop on Sustainable Risk Management, entitled "Managing Risk Responsibly", to be held in April 2016. One of the suggestions he made (in order to make society more resilient) was a switch of emphasis from "as many jobs as possible" to "as much education as possible". As a support measure for such a switch he has referred to Feasta's Basic Income proposals. Other points he made dealt with the social obligations of Private Property, Participatory Democracy / Citizen Engagement as an alternative to our current representative democracy models, and Solidarity to be on par with freedom (he has felt for a long time that fraternity has become the stepbrother/sister of liberty).

Willi is also in contact with Professor Michael Reder from the Institute for So-



cial and Development Studies (Institut fuer Gesellschaftspolitik Muenchen) on the general subjects of alternative democracies (alternatives to representative democracies), governance models in support of the ambitions and commitments under COP21, and also on Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter "Laudato Si: on care for our Common Home". The specific discussions with Prof. Reder center around the latest thinking on concepts such as Participatory Democracies and Governance for Global Common Goods. Prof Reder and his colleagues published in late 2014 a book entitled *Future of Democracy- End of an Illusion or Move to New Models?*. In Willi's view it is an excellent analysis of the pitfalls and inadequacies of current representative democracies and governance models.

Collaboration has continued on the development of the Viable Systems Model as an organisational platform for Feasta itself, but also in partnership with other initiatives and organisations such as EHFF (European Health Futures Forum). The focus of the networking development has continued to be in the following areas:

- Alternative democratic governance models and sustainability
  - Resilience and sustainable development
  - Consensus and Commons
- Contact has also continued with:
- German Congress of Trade Unions

- Institute of Advanced Studies (Munich)



*Caroline Whyte with Yeb Saño, November 13 2015*

Caroline Whyte had the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with prominent Filipino climate activist Yeb Saño in November 2015. Yeb Saño was formerly part of the Filipino delegation to the UN's climate change conferences (and gave a much-covered speech to the UN during the Warsaw COP summit in 2013), but stepped down from his government position after becoming disillusioned with the intergovernmental negotiations. He has now been appointed director of Greenpeace in South-East Asia and is advocating civil society-based action on climate change. He undertook a 'people's pilgrimage' on foot from Rome to Paris, along with a group of supporters from the Philippines and elsewhere, which passed through Caroline's home town of Cluny, France. Caroline had the privilege of being able to join briefly in their walk.

There has also been much collaboration with Basic Income Ireland and Feasta members have helped to organise several events that focused on basic income (see pages 8-10).

### • European Health Futures Forum webinars

Feasta trustee Seán Conlan is the EHFF Director for external relations. He facilitated this series of webinars, whose objective is to explore the current and future transformation of healthcare and education. The overall approach is based on systems thinking, the Viable Systems Model, and transformative

change principles. The objective of the webinar series was to bring together leading thinkers from a variety of domains to converse on their experiences of transformational change. The series was recorded and made available to the public after the events.

1. **Perspectives on Transforming Education and Healthcare** with Matthias Zwier, Brian Mulligan and Ian

Kendrick: 28 February 2014

2. **'Over the edge...'** with Dave Cormier, Allenna Leonard, Jon Walker and David Somekh: 28 November 2014

3. **Healthcare & Empowerment - a Case of Digital Design....?** Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous, Professor Daniel Steenstra, Shawn Day, Introduction by David Somekh (EHFF Founder) 12th June 2015

# Fundraising

**F**undraising activity in 2014 and 2015 focussed largely on attracting donations from individuals via the website and events. Additionally, in the latter half of 2015 a funding campaign was launched to help finance the Feasta climate group's attendance at the COP-21 conference in Paris, which met with some success.

Feasta benefited from core funding from the Irish Environmental Network, as in previous years. A number of much-appreciated recurring donations are made via the Feasta paypal site.

Future plans for core fundraising include a rehaul of the donations facility on the website and inclusion of easy-to-

use links for donations in every mailout. Those involved in the CapGlobalCarbon campaign and climate litigation projects are planning to apply for project-based funding for their specific goals.

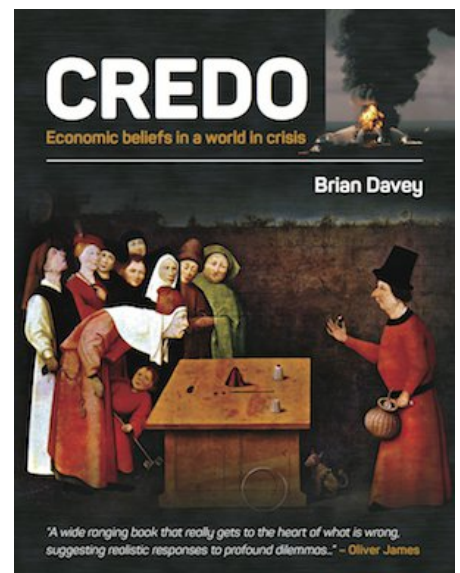
# Publications

**2**015 saw the publication by Feasta of Brian Davey's book *Credo: Economic Beliefs in a World in Crisis*. The 450 page, large-format book arose out of a short series of 6 lectures on economics, environment and ethics for non-economists which Brian, a freelance ecological economist, gave at Dublin City University in 2013. Brian has contributed to many of Feasta's other publications and is one of the convenors of the Feasta climate group.

He writes in the book's preface that "preparing the Dublin lectures was a learning experience not just for the students but for me. It forced me to go back to the foundational ideas of economics in order to re-examine them. This review helped me to make sense of current ecological, economic and social

difficulties. It seemed to me that the way economists think about issues is, in large part, a root cause of what is wrong." He goes on to argue that the best way to learn about economics is to take the approach that a young child takes to learning a language - i.e., make an effort to understand what is going on in the economy here and now, rather than memorising a series of terms and rules.

The book has received numerous favourable reviews in publications ranging from *The Ecologist* magazine to the *Journal of Critical Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy* and the *Environmental Values* journal. It is available in print and e-book format. Its website, <http://www.credoeconomics.com>, is regularly updated, and chapters of the book are gradually being uploaded



to it so that eventually the entire text will be available for free online reading.

# Events

## Feasta-led and Feasta-partnered events

- **Permaculture Taster:** Bruce Darrell, with David Philip of Cultivate.

January 21 2014. A one day introductory workshop in Cloughjordan on how we can live more sustainably, grow food intensively and strengthen the resilience of our communities using Permaculture Design. Organised in collaboration with Cultivate.

- **Lecture & Discussion: Creating & Directing Public Money** by Mary Mellor

25th April 2014. This event picked up where Feasta's May 2013 conference, *The Money Mess*, left off, and was co-facilitated by Feasta's Graham Barnes and Paul Ferguson of Sensible Money. Mary Mellor is Emeritus Professor in the School of Arts and Social Sciences at Northumbria University in Newcastle. One of her primary interests is in developing radical alternative models of money, finance and economic develop-



*Bruce Darrell at the permaculture taster, January 2014*

ment. Mellor is the author of *The Future of Money* and is working on a new book : *Debt or Democracy? The Necessity of Public Money*. The powerpoint slides from her lecture are available on

the Feasta website. –

- **Discussion: We're Feked, What Now? What Can a Community Do?**

August 23 2014. A short scenario planning discussion, hosted by members of Feasta living in the Cloughjordan EcoVillage, around the theme of collapse and possible community responses.

- **UN COP-21 Paris Side Event: "Climate Justice: Coal and Human Rights in the South, Community Choice Energy, Global Carbon Pricing"**

December 5 2015. This presentation by Feasta climate group members was given in the Blue Zone of the COP-21 summit. It formally launched the CapGlobalCarbon campaign. Speakers included Feasta's Erik-Jan Van Oosten, Mike Sandler and Caroline Whyte. It was organised in collaboration with the Columbian NGO Dejusticia and the Sequoia Foundation, based in California.

Please see also the section on *Climate Conversations*, page 4.



*Panelists at the COP-21 side event on December 5 2015: Shawn Marshall (Lean Energy), Krizna Gomez (Dejusticia), Greg Regaignon (Business and Human Rights Resource Centre), Dawn Weisz (MCE Clean Energy), Erik-Jan Van Oosten (Feasta), Caroline Whyte (Feasta), Mike Sandler (Feasta)*

# Other organisations' events with Feasta participants

- **Complexity, Systemic Risk, and the Perils of Risk Management.** David Korowicz

27-29 January 2014. Two talks in Bratislava, followed by a day-long seminar in Brno on tying things (financial, energy, food, human ecology, systems stress, collapse) together with a view to helping us be positive but realistic about our emerging future.

- **Basic Income Ireland Summer Forum 2014**

June 6th, 2014. The Basic Income Ireland first annual summer forum was co-organised and hosted by Feasta's Anne B Ryan. The keynote speaker was Yannick Vanderborght (Saint-Louis University Brussels & Louvain University), who spoke about transnational cooperation in the campaign for basic income and on recent developments in the theory and politics of basic income. His presentation was followed by a participatory discussion, facilitated by Anne.



- **Beyond Globalization: The Legacy of Richard Douthwaite (1942 - 2011) for a Degrowth Economy**

August 2014. Feasta's Willi Kiefel delivered this paper at the Degrowth Conference in Leipzig, Germany. It was one of three contributions in a special workshop dedicated to the work of Richard Douthwaite, and focused on his contribution towards a Material Degrowth Society in Ireland. The text was compiled by Willi Kiefel in collaboration with Seán Conlan and Caroline Whyte, with testimonies and contributions from other Feasta members.



*Willi Kiefel with Hans Diefenbacher in Leipzig, August 2014*

- **Irish Doctors' Environmental Association Public Meeting 2014**

November 1 2014. Feargal Duff of Feasta gave a talk entitled "The Ecosystems Approach to Environmental Problems" during this event.



- **Presentation on intentional currencies and money as a commons**

November 14 2014. Graham Barnes gave a presentation and participated in a panel session at Open Here in Dublin. Open Here was "a 3-day international festival and conference where online practices such as sharing, peer-production and open source meet real world material economies."

- **Paper on progressive education responding to contemporary societal needs**

Feb 15th 2015. Feasta trustee Anne B Ryan was a keynote speaker at the President's Education Forum at Maynooth University. Her paper asserted that a key aim of political economy today must be the achievement of high levels of human wellbeing combined with low energy and resource use, healthy ecosystems and deeper democracy. Her focus was on how a diversity

of work – paid and unpaid – is essential in the cultivation of higher degrees of personal, community and national resilience. She outlined how an enabling state can put structures in place to support such diversity. She concluded with an examination of how progressive education, responding to real societal needs, can also contribute to that project.



- **Paper on basic income as a facilitator of community economies and diversity in work: Basic Income Ireland (BII) think-in**

Feasta trustee and BII coordinator Anne B Ryan presented a short paper on the ways that work is central in constructing new paradigms of sufficiency, low-carbon lifestyles, sharing, participation, care, equality and democracy. She explored possibilities for moving towards low-carbon, democratic and inclusive futures, how these require a polyculture of economic activity, includes thriving local-community economies. The central premise of the paper was that basic income can enable such a transition. Several papers were presented, followed by a facilitated discussion.

- **Fossil Free Wageningen & Sustainable Consumption**

30 March 2015. The CapGlobalCarbon project was presented to the local Fossil Free group in Wageningen, the Netherlands, as a possible strategy to adopt. In a course for Wageningen students on sustainable consumption the CapGlobalCarbon project was presented by Erik-Jan Van Oosten as a way to make sustainable consumption easier and more transparent.

• **Commons against and beyond capitalism? A Thinkery with Silvia Federici, George Caffentzis and Anne B. Ryan**

May 28th 2015. In the afternoon session of this day-long seminar organised by Community Development Journal, University College Cork, UNIDEV and Kimmage Development Studies Centre, Feasta's Anne B. Ryan discussed her work on the radical concept of 'enough' and its capacity to contribute to the concept and practice of commoning. She also outlined her practical experience of Community Supported Farming, with particular reference to Derrybeg CSA - of which she is a founder member and co-director (with Feasta member Micheal Walsh) - as a commoning enterprise. As part of this presentation, Caroline Whyte also made a short input on her work with CapGlobalCarbon. The presentation can be watched online.



*Anne B. Ryan speaking at UCC, May 28 2015*

• **Basic Income Ireland Summer Forum 2015**

June 13th, 2015. Anne B Ryan of Feasta and coordinator of Basic Income Ireland was an organiser and host of the second annual Basic Income Ireland summer forum in Dublin. The main speaker was Enno Schmidt, instigator and activist for the Swiss referendum on basic income (taking place on June 6th, 2016). Representatives of the German Meingruendeinkommen group and of Basic Income UK also participated.

• **The Environmental Dimension Of Growth in Frontrunner Companies**

August 2015. Erik-Jan van Oosten's MSc. thesis explored how frontrunner companies that are radically changing

their business model and reducing their environmental impact deal with the negative impact of growth. In this presentation an overview was given of the growth debate with an emphasis on the pioneering role of the early Feasta research. Dealing with the issue of growth has become a new frontier in environmental CSR efforts. During this presentation the different dilemmas facing companies that want to do the right thing with regard to the environment were discussed and several options for future research were identified.

• **The Liberation of Money and Credit**

28 August 2015. This lecture given in Dublin by Thomas Greco was followed by a panel discussion. Greco gave a presentation entitled "The Liberation of Money and Credit",



*Thomas Greco*

outlining the fundamental importance of reclaiming the credit commons and showing how communities and businesses can reduce their dependence on bank borrowing and conventional, political forms of money. The event was hosted by CONNECT at their Dublin city centre venue and supported by Feasta. Feasta's Graham Barnes was on the discussion panel.

• **Think-In On Basic Income & Sustainability**

12 September 2015. Basic Income network members and friends discussed the links between basic income and sustainability. It was co-organised by Feasta trustee and Basic Income Ireland coordinator Anne B Ryan. The think-in began with short inputs from Feasta's Theresa O'Donohue and Eimhin Shortt. A facilitated discussion followed, with opportunities for all present to contribute and to learn together.

• **Fast for the Climate: COP-21 and**

**CapGlobalCarbon**

1 October 2015. Caroline Whyte was invited to speak about the thinking behind CapGlobalCarbon to a group of climate activists in Cluny, France who were participating in the monthly Fast for the Climate, in the run up to COP-21. René Becker, the president of the non-profit 'Terre de Liens', which provides financial support for sustainable agriculture, also gave a presentation.

• **The Dutch environmental movement training weekend**

October 2015. During the training weekend in the lead-up to the COP21 in Paris organised by the dutch environmental movement coalition of Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Greenpeace and Groenfront, the CapGlobalCarbon project was discussed by Erik-Jan Van Oosten in a workshop together with "de kleine aarde" who are promoting Tradeable Energy Quotas (TEQ) as a solution.



• **COP21 Recap**

December 2015. After attending the COP21 climate conference in Paris as part of Feasta's delegation, Erik-Jan van Oosten presented his analysis of the event for Climate-KIC in Utrecht, the Netherlands. After a critical assessment of the climate treaty the CapGlobalCarbon project was pitched as a remedy for many of the shortcomings that were identified in the climate agreement. This was followed by a lively discussion on how to move forward with both the CapGlobalCarbon project and, in a broader sense, the climate movement.

# Website

Since the exchange of ideas is so fundamental to Feasta's work and since Feasta emphasises the global nature of the challenges we face, the website is an important focus for our energy and time. We aim to regularly provide high-level analyses of current events along with specific recommendations, which we broadcast as widely as possible. To this end, we publish regular original commentary pieces on our website along with our more detailed reports, and make frequent use of the social networks and our mailing list to disseminate them. We also use these tools to pass on ideas from other NGOs that we find useful and relevant, via the 'News Digest' section of our website, along with notifications of events.

The reports and papers mentioned elsewhere in this Annual Report are all available for download, in addition to powerpoints from several presentations. Other uploads to the Feasta website (and its sister websites capglobalcarbon.org and credoeconomics.com) in 2014 and 2015 include:



**Hope in the Face of Disaster:** a version of this paper by John Sharry was presented to the Social Justice Ireland

Policy Conference on 19 November 2013. It explores the many crises that civilisation and humanity will face over the coming decades, some of which are already starting to have an impact. The paper proposes a central cause to these crises and particularly explores the widespread psychological inertia in the face of these vast problems. Some potential constructive choices that individuals, communities and nations could

yet make are outlined.



**Over-financialisation: the casino metaphor.** Graham Barnes critiques the widespread use of the casino metaphor as a description of the phenomenon of over-financialisation.



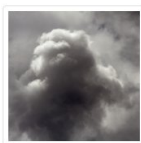
**Our hope for a community across Europe.** Romanian Feasta members Adela and Dan Fofiu-Sanpetreanu explain how they have migrated from a world of reactionary activism to 'a world of creative reconstruction'.



**Getting real about regulation: why it won't make fracking safe.** Brian Davey argues that in the light of all the evidence the only safe way to manage fracking is to ban it altogether as has happened in a number of countries.

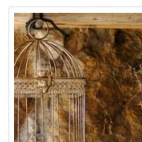


**An ethical altcoin?** Graham Barnes sets out a draft vision of how a cryptography-based currency, or altcoin, that is designed to give priority to positive aspects of living neglected by the financialised economy might operate.



**Lessons learnt from the not-so-radical Tyndall emissions conference.** Several Feasta climate group members attended the Tyndall Radical Emissions Reduction conference in December 2013. Three of them - Nick Bardsley, Brian Davey and Laurence Matthews - have shared their reactions to the way

the conference was organised. You can also download posters that were displayed at the conference by John Jopling, Nick Bardsley and Brian Davey.



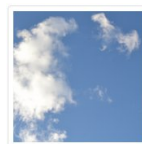
**How to be trapped/anger and complicity in a time of limits.** A two-part transcript of an interview by Alexander

Ac with Feasta's David Korowicz in Brno, Czech Republic, 29 January 2014 (with subsequent re-editing). Given time and resource constraints and the reality that we depend upon a delocalized networked system without central control, how do we change the system while ensuring we do not collapse its essential functions?



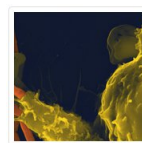
**Notes from Nowhere.** Foreword of a book by Feasta member Patrick Noble. He argues that living by ordinary ethics

within ordinary laws of physics may enable us to reclaim the happiness that comes from living within ordinary human nature.



**Making the most of climate change??** There's a pervasive assumption that climate change policy can never achieve

anything more than damage control. But what if we were to think much bigger than this? A commentary by Caroline Whyte.



**Fit the first.** In a second extract from his book, Patrick Noble provides a glimpse of how the future economy could look along with some unusual ideas about how we might get there.



**Ethical money and the great separation** by Graham Barnes. A two-part commentary. As the 99% become progressively aware of embedded unethical and unfair systemic values, might monetary disengagement become a key part of a trend to separate and distance ourselves from the mainstream economy – a Great Separation?

As the 99% become progressively aware of embedded unethical and unfair systemic values, might monetary disengagement become a key part of a trend to separate and distance ourselves from the mainstream economy – a Great Separation?



**Peak oil revisited.** Brian Davey presents evidence that the peaking of conventional 'legacy' oil production back in 2005, and its subsequent decline, is inexorably leading to a transfer of resources from discretionary consumption to investment in energy infrastructure throughout the industrialised world. He believes that there is no way out of the Catch 22 within the growth economy model and that this is why de-growth is needed.

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**Powerpoint and posters on unconventional gas.** These were prepared by Brian Davey for Frack Free Notts (an anti-fracking campaign in Nottinghamshire in the UK). They provide a succinct overview of the problems with fracking. A second set of posters provides information and support for the agricultural community, while a third poster focusses on the ethics of fracking.

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**The deprecated domain: the pros and cons of designed exclusion.** Graham Barnes makes a case for progressively withdrawing from the more undesirable elements of the mainstream financial system.

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**Community energy in Ireland.** This three-part article by Erik-Jan Van Oosten, a product of his internship with



Feasta in 2013, argues that the community energy paper which was recently produced by a group of 18 Irish organisations including Feasta is an important step forward but that there are nuances and aspects that deserve further attention.

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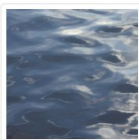
**Two reports from the Savory Institute conference on grassland management.** Alan Savory, a former Feasta lecturer and recipient of the Buckminster Fuller award, has developed a holistic system of management which, applied to rangelands, allows increased stocking of cattle with benefit to soils vegetation and wildlife, and potential for climate change mitigation benefits too.

Feasta's Nick Bardsley and Martin Peck attended a conference which explored these themes in August 2014 and have contributed reports to the website.



**Money as a commons.** Graham Barnes argues that we can see money as an aspirational commons - a Common Pool Resource backed by our collective efforts, that with the right governance regime could be managed equitably and to mutual benefit.

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**Sustainable water use.** How can we break our water supply's current dependency on fossil fuels? Féidhlim Harty provides some suggestions at the local, community and wider levels.

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**Report from the Fourth International Degrowth Conference.** Seán Conlan was very impressed by the spirit of enquiry and creativity at the 2014 degrowth conference, which he atten-

ded in Leipzig along with Willi Kiefel and Brian Davey.

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**Schools of thought on degrowth.** Brian Davey argues that "the diversity between the left and the greens [within the de-growth movement] can give rise to complementary relationships rather than being sources of deep division and antagonism."

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**Capital without capitalism: a currency design perspective.** Graham Barnes points out that the recent surge in interest in the design of new currencies is partly informed by a creeping realisation of the unfairnesses of the so-called free-market and its associated monetary dysfunction. Re-engineering money offers us the chance to imagine and create a more sustainable economic infrastructure.

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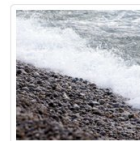
**Ebola and the management of mass psychology.** Brian Davey argues that the attitude of industrialised countries to health crises such as the Ebola virus outbreak is dangerously complacent.

is dangerously complacent.



**You've been framed.** An overview by Feasta members Laurence and Alison Matthews of their new book *Framespotting*. If we all want cars, or to fly, then climate change is all our fault, really, isn't it? Or is it?

If we all want cars, or to fly, then climate change is all our fault, really, isn't it? Or is it?



**The psychological dimension to sustainability.** Mark Garavan explains why sustainability must include not only the social, political, economic and ecological but also the psychological. The new language and praxis of a sustainable politics must include well-being –

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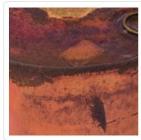
focusing on the welfare of all of us.



**CapGlobalCarbon:** a global response to a global problem. In an article originally published by Scientists for Global Responsibility, John Jopling provides a succinct overview of CapGlobalCarbon, which he describes as a radical back-up plan for curbing global carbon emissions.



**The oil price collapse and climate policy.** Brian Davey explains why, despite current shifts in the oil market, the need for a global carbon cap imposed in an equitable fashion is still as strong as ever.



**Divestment from fossil fuels: a critical appraisal.** David Knight argues that divestment can help to bring about changes needed to tackle the negative impacts of fossil fuel production and use, but it cannot substitute for concerted and rigorous action at international and national governmental levels to keep fossil fuels in the ground.



**Response by Giorgos Kallis to Brian Davey's review of his book on degrowth.** We published Giorgos' detailed and thought-provoking comments as a guest post, and subsequently published Brian's response.



**The Fracking 'Matrix': which 'frame' gives the more relevant picture?** In this presentation given to Derby City Council on January 13th 2015, Brian Davey identifies some of the ways in which fracking has been framed in order to make it seem innocuous.



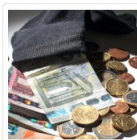
**The mainstream money mess: three aspects, and what they mean for new money forms.**

This article by Graham Barnes looks at three of the most poisonous aspects of Mainstream Money from the perspective of a currency designer exploring new money-forms.

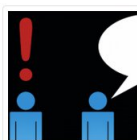


**Reflections from the Rights of Nature conference, February 2015.**

Brian Davey discusses some of the differences between indigenous and non-indigenous people and how this affects global ecological politics.



**Greece and the Eurozone Crisis.** How should the Greek government approach its mandate to end austerity? What pitfalls need to be avoided? Brian Davey has some suggestions.

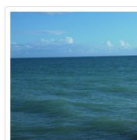


**Introduction to the Climate Conversations** by Willi Kiefel and Seán Conlan, and a reflection on the first climate conversation by Seán Conlan.



**The bank-state bargain.** Graham Barnes discusses the multi-billion pound/ dollar subsidy that banks receive,

which he believes break the basic rules of capitalism. What is perhaps even more surprising is that there appears to be no explicit description of the 'bargain' underlying this important arrangement.



**Migrant shipwrecks, land grabs and the commons.** Caroline Whyte asks us to imagine a world where the

centuries-long wealth gap between

Europe and Africa, which has so much injustice at its root, was finally addressed in an effective way.



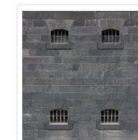
**Basic income and intentional currencies.**

This article by Graham Barnes looks at the rationale for Basic Income and at implications for currencies that incorporate Basic Income as one of their currency issuance mechanisms.



**Framing the Paris climate change summit.** Caroline Whyte suggests some re-framing of the climate crisis in order to

reveal possibilities for action on climate change that could have widespread positive effects.



**Greece to be a debtors' prison: a satirical exchange of emails by Brian Davey, Graham Barnes and Caroline**

Whyte.



**The Greece and Eurozone crisis made simple.** Brian Davey argues that the missing component in most discussion of the

Eurozone crisis is the fact that it is linked to energy supply and the limits to growth.



**Preventing a humanitarian catastrophe in Greece - by issuing state IOUs.** In a second commentary on Greece,

Brian Davey writes "there is a point where [the Greek government] must act to create substitute financial instruments - if they are called IOUs it is up to the ECB to prove that they are another currency and against the rules."

**Can the law protect us from climate change?** Erik-Jan Van Oosten comments



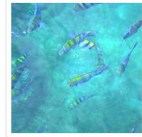


ernment.

on the 2015 victory in the Dutch courts of the NGO Urgenda (with which Feasta has links) against the Dutch gov-

CapGlobalCarbon is not by any means the first global-level initiative to be led by civil society, and that important lessons can be learnt from past experi-

10 year review periods.



**New currencies and their relationship with fiat currency.** Graham Barnes writes that "creating and maintaining a currency without any interaction with fiat is clearly a challenge....but if we consider the main forms of interaction with fiat, some clues as to the management of the difficulties may emerge."



**An introduction to ecological economics.** This updated essay by Brian Davey explains where economic growth comes from, rival understandings of it in economics and what problems it causes.



**Cap and Share in the run-up to Paris.** Laurence Matthews makes some practical suggestions as to getting the word out about Cap&Share (the mechanism behind CapGlobalCarbon).



**What if Janet Yellen joined Todd Stern in Paris?** Mike Sandler argues that the only way to get a binding cap on fossil fuel extraction onto the agenda in Paris is to add a few key people to Todd Stern's entourage, starting with Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen and President Obama's economic advisers.



**The four questions we should ask about emissions cuts, and CapGlobalCarbon's answers.**

Caroline Whyte provides some answers from the CapGlobalCarbon perspective to a series of stimulating questions asked by Griffin Carpenter on the New Economics Foundation website.



**Motivations for new currency design.** Those developing new currencies will want to explore the various motivations behind what they're doing and set out for themselves - ideally explicitly - their balance of motives. Graham Barnes identifies some of the main 'flavours' of motivation.



**Why negotiations and the IPCC are unlikely to make sure we'll be safe.** Erik-Jan Van Oosten explores the reasons why the current negotiation process is unlikely to succeed before going on to propose a Plan B: CapGlobalCarbon.



**Is localism a sufficient focus for intentional currencies?** Graham Barnes anticipates some architectural aspects of a new monetary ecosystem. How much emphasis should be placed on stimulating local economies?



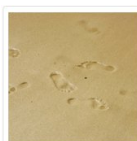
**The Paris agreement: a Christmas truce, or a new beginning?** Caroline Whyte expresses concern that unless back-up measures are implemented, the Paris agreement may prove as ephemeral as the soldiers' truce during World War 1.



**Environmental NGOs: be more specific for Paris.** This article by Mike Sandler, which was cross-posted in the Huffington Post, makes the case that the NGO community should be calling for a Global Climate Trust that will keep the fossil fuels in the ground and give humanity a chance to stabilise the climate.



**Living in the anthropocene: a framework for new activism.** Mark Garavan argues that human aggregate activity is now the single most decisive force shaping the planet.



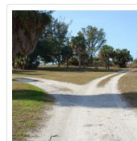
**Not a fair COP: a report from Paris by Robert Hutchison.** Robert, one of the participants at COP-21, writes that "Climate change remains everyone's issue; we need to tread more lightly, more softly, while listening and responding to the most vulnerable."



**Precedent for CapGlobalCarbon: the international campaign to ban landmines.** Caroline Whyte points out that

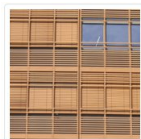


**The Paris agenda: leave fossil fuels in the ground, auction permits, return funds to people.** Mike Sandler writes that the math is clear: there is a carbon bubble. The science on climate change indicates that there is no time for low initial national "contributions" with "ratcheting up ambition" after 5 or



**The forks in the road after the Paris agreement** by Mike Sandler. "The only thing missing from the Agreement is who, what, and how," writes Mike. "Like a zen koan, the Agreement is a riddle that just leads to more questions."

In addition, we uploaded several excerpts and two updates for Brian Davey's book *Credo* (see page 7):



**Employment in theory and in real life: Services and Government in a world in difficulties.** Brian examines

the true nature of service-based work, which accounts now for about half of the world's employment. He describes the problems inherent to work in which appearances frequently count for more than actually getting on with the job, placing these issues in the broader context of the extreme instability of the world economy.



**The attention seeking economy, information and the manufacture of ignorance.** Brian describes how much of

what we take for granted is actually better understood as 'consensus trance'.



**Concepts for a fenced off world.** Brian writes that "Private property in land means enclosure

and exclusion. Economists typically assume that economic choices involve inevitable trade-offs. However...not all choices are rivalrous".



**Commoning.** Brian explores the features of sustainable commons and the extent of commons today. He describes the practice of commoning as a possible response to the ecological crisis.



**Austerity and degrowth - dealing with the economic crisis and the ecological crisis together.** In this updating article

Brian explores the relationship between degrowth, one of the themes of *Credo*, and the kind of austerity policies that we are seeing imposed on Greece.



**Approaching a global deflationary crisis?** In a second update to *Credo*, Brian describes four processes that he believes to

be driving a deflationary crisis.

The website also featured several book reviews: a review by Graham Barnes of *13 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism* by Ha-Joon Chang, a review by Caroline Whyte of *This Changes Everything* by Naomi Klein, another review by Caroline of *Framespotting* by Laurence and Alison Matthews, reviews by Brian Davey of *Degrowth: a Vocabulary for a New Era* by Giorgio Kallis and of *Shale Gas and Fracking: the science behind the controversy* by Michael Stephenson, and a review by Seán Conlan of *Septic Tank Options and Alternatives* by Féidhlim Harty.

Finally, we also featured a number of articles from our archives which are relevant to the present day. They included discussions of community-owned energy, an overview of the commons-based economy by James Robertson, interest-free banking, the supply of money in an energy-scarce world, a critique of the European project, an article by Molly Scott Cato on the freedom to be frugal, and Indian activist Stan Thekaekara's 2004 Feasta lecture on justice in a global economy.

# Press releases

**Feasta climate group response to the Working Group 3 contribution to the IPCC's fifth assessment report**

April 14 2014. We find the latest IPCC report's emphasis on climate as a "global commons problem" helpful and constructive. However, the economy must break its dependency on GDP growth in order to achieve emissions reduction without economic collapse. Fortunately the potential exists for significant co-be-

nefits from climate mitigation, including poverty alleviation and reduced inequality. Grassroots legal action could help give teeth to the international institutions needed for cooperation.

**Combining climate safety with justice: CapGlobalCarbon.**

Dec 5 2015. This press release was sent out immediately before the Feasta delegation's presentation at the COP-21 summit and provides an overview of the

CapGlobalCarbon framework and the reasons why we believe it is a necessary backup to the UNFCCC negotiations.

**Paris climate agreement needs strong reinforcement.**

Dec 12 2015. In reaction to the Paris agreement, this press release from the CapGlobalCarbon group emphasised the need for climate action to satisfy the demands of both science and justice.

# Submissions

## Submission to Public Consultation on Development of Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas

March 6 2014 This submission was made by Feasta to the Irish Department of Agriculture regarding "Sustainable Food Production and Processing" and "Food for Health". It describes 10 high level goals that we believe can and should be progressed. It goes on to out-

line the proposed research that would further these goals, and to explain what the expected results would be and how they could be measured.

## Submission on the public consultation document on Significant Water Management Issues

December 18 2015 This submission takes a broad approach to addressing

water management issues, recommending the application of a range of economic instruments along with a shift in the assumptions that are generally made about funding possibilities for environmental protection.

# Feasta in the News



At the Green Awards in Dublin on April 10th 2014, Feasta co-founder Davie Philip was awarded the inaugural "Green Awards Duncan Stewart Award". In his acceptance we were delighted that he remembered both Feasta and our late colleague Richard Douthwaite:

"I would like to start by thanking everyone at the Green Awards for hosting such a fantastic networking opportunity. In these challenging times the work that you are all here being praised for is so important. Keep it up and lets go a lot further. Duncan himself is one of the most important communicators and advocates for environmental protection and sustainability this country has and I am humbled and honored to be the recipient of this inaugural Duncan Stewart Award.

As my work has been focused on how we collaborate to ensure that the

places we live in are vibrant, innovative and resilient, I want to accept this award on behalf of everyone working on cooperative approaches to making our communities more sustainable. I want to thank all my colleagues and members of Cultivate, the cooperative that I have been working through since 1999. I'm so grateful to everyone at Feasta and all the NGO's in the Irish Environmental Network for working so hard to protect and progress the sustainability agenda. Thank you Minister for supporting that network. I would also like to remember Richard Douthwaite who was an inspiration to many of us here.-

My friends and neighbours at Cloughjordan Ecovillage where I live and work deserve a special acknowledgement for the effort they have made to put Tipperary on the map internationally for sustainability and community resilience. And thanks to the thousands of Transition Town initiatives around the world who have taken an idea germinated in Ireland and are helping to make their communities flourish.

I want to thank everyone at Cloughjordan Community Farm that now feeds 60 families in our community; to every-

one at Grow It Yourself Ireland who are ensuring that we relearn the skills to grow our own food; and to everyone everywhere who are getting involved in collaborative initiatives that can help us reconnect to each other and to our environment.

This really is a period of extraordinary change, and it's not just climate change. Institutions that we have depended on are failing us and anxiety levels are going through the roof. But let's not lose heart there is a new world emerging and we are all part of that transition. No one can predict the future but we can create it, and we need to create it together."

Other media appearances by Feasta members included an interview on Czech radio with David Korowicz in January 2014, a transcript of which is available for reading on the Feasta site. The CapGlobalCarbon group were featured in an article on the Wild Culture blog. Many Feasta articles were also reposted on the resilience.org and zero-hedge.org blogs, and Mike Sandler made regular contributions to the Huffington Post.

# Staff and Management

In September 2014, Feasta ended the employment contract of Morag Friel. This was due entirely to lack of funds. Despite every effort, no new continuous funding had been forthcoming though we are continuing to pursue new avenues for funding (see page 7). While Morag's role officially was that of members' co-ordinator, her contribution to Feasta went far beyond that and extended to the core administration work of the organisation. Morag's attention to numerous issues, her work on many projects, her liaison with outside bodies and, not least, her constant stream of emails to members with updates, memos and appeals were an important glue in giving Feasta its internal identity.

As a result of Morag's departure a number of changes in Feasta's internal operation were necessary. Bruce Darrell provided a number of key administrative services. Caroline Whyte continued in her role managing the website and communications. Feasta entered into formal contracts with Caroline and Bruce, with six-month reviews periodically carried out.

With their support, Feasta continues to operate as an open network that facilitates like-minded people to work together on issues of sustainability and new thinking in economics and society.

## Trustees

As a non-profit, Feasta's overall strategy is steered by its Trustees. On November 21st 2015, John Jopling, a former chairperson who was instigative in the foundation of Feasta in 1998, attended his last Feasta meeting as a Trustee. Mark Garavan (the current chairperson) paid a very special tribute to John. As well as supporting Feasta in the delicate days of its infancy, John collaborated closely with Richard Douthwaite and together (with many others) they created what was a very novel organisation at the time.

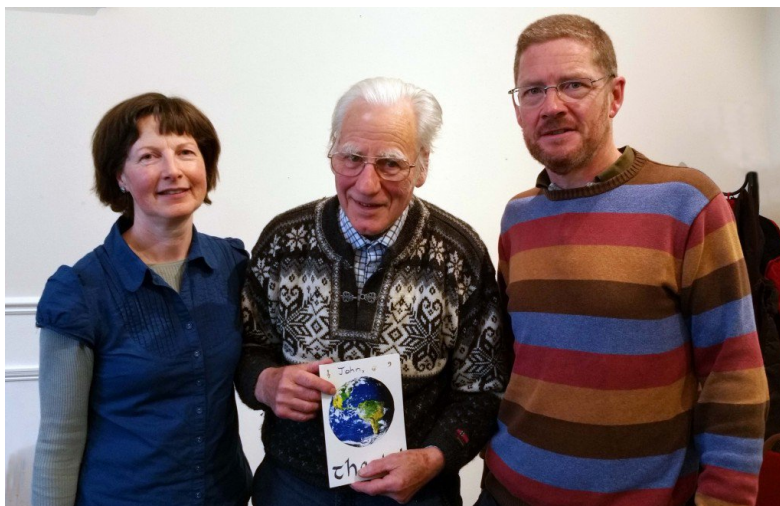
Over the years John has made a remarkable contribution to Feasta's publications including *Sharing for Survival*. His current projects include the CapGlobalCarbon campaign and the Climate Litigation Project.

made to John, and all present wished him well.

We were very pleased to welcome four new trustees on board during the November 21st 2015 AGM. They are Graham Barnes, a *Fleeing Vesuvius* co-author and frequent contributor to our blog who has organised several Feasta events on currency, Michele Brady, who has considerable experience in finance and corporate governance and is actively involved in Credit Union management, Willi Kiefel, a retired engineer and long-time Feasta supporter who has devoted much time and energy into networking with other NGOs and contributed significantly to the Climate Conversations, and John Sharry, a psychologist and regular columnist for the Irish Times who also contributed to *Fleeing Vesuvius*. They join existing trustees Mark Garavan, Anne Ryan, Seán Conlan, Michelle Murphy and Cóifin Nunan.

A meeting of the trustees, along with Feasta website editor Caroline Whyte, was organised for January 2016 in Loughbrickland, County Down, to facilitate planning for Feasta's future. -

In conclusion a small presentation was



<sup>1</sup> Anne B. Ryan, John Jopling and Mark Garavan at the 2015 AGM

# Training and Capacity Building

As in previous years, week-long Feasta gatherings took place in 2014 and 2015 at Rossbeigh, County Kerry, facilitated by John Jopling. Additionally, several members of the Feasta climate group held a weekend meeting in Kilkenny in early November 2014 to develop their ideas, with the much-appreciated support of Sadhbh O'Neill.

As described on page 17, four new trustees were appointed to Feasta in 2015. The new trustees bring a considerable amount of experience in charity governance and budgeting, along with other valuable contributions such as networking skills.

Caroline Whyte, who manages the Feasta website, made use of the presentations from IEN communication officer Ian Carey's media workshop in November 2014 to help improve out-



At Rossbeigh, Co. Kerry, July 2015. From left to right: Bruce Darrell, Jon Walker, Graham Barnes, Anne B. Ryan, David Korowicz, John Jopling, Angela Espinosa, Brian Davey, Seán Conlan, Martin Peck

reach on the Feasta website. The workshop was also helpful for the design of the CapGlobalCarbon and Credo websites.

The Trustees and the CapGlobalCarbon

group have adopted Slack as their main communication platform, gradually moving away from emails, as this makes it easier to keep track of projects and communicate efficiently with dispersed groups.

## Interns

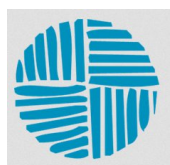
In spring of 2014 Megan MacLeod, a master's student at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, Italy, did a 3-month internship with Feasta. Megan was based in Cloughjordan working with Bruce Darrell on a project

for the IEN. The project aimed to provide a comprehensive assessment of approaches to food and agricultural policy in Ireland (see page 5).

Right: Megan MacLeod and Davie Philip at the 2014 Feeding Ourselves conference. Photo by Grace Walsh.



# Environmental Pillar



Feasta held the convenor position with the Environmental Pillar Climate Change and Energy Group apart from a 3 month break in early 2015. During

that time we led numerous submissions including the Affordable Energy Consultation, the National Climate Mitigation Plan, the Role of Bioenergy in the EU Climate and Energy Post 2020, and the Green Paper on National Energy

Policy."

We also contributed to many press releases and media interviews, and met Ministers to advance the policies of the Pillar.

