



BUT WE ALL DRIVE CARS, DON'T WE?

Some people think that campaigning against oil drilling is hypocritical. They say,

"You use oil, so how can you protest against oil drilling?"

OR

"You don't think it's OK to have oil drilling here in New Zealand, but you're happy to have it somewhere else."



Oil Free Wellington is here to answer these challenges...



All of us on the planet operate within the world as it is, even as we work to change it. We did not invent the private automobile, or society's heavy dependence on petroleum products. We have inherited the world with all its limitations and possibilities. That doesn't mean that we think everything in the world is OK, nor does it mean that we can totally avoid being a part of it. That just isn't possible.

However, as a group, we are committed to advocating and organizing for a

fossil-free future.

We think that the government's focus on fossil fuel extraction has serious opportunity costs for other ways forward for our society. Just as an example, the government has committed \$14 billion for its 'roads of national significance' while committing just \$4 million to public transport. This is despite a public opinion poll that shows most people would use public transport if it were reliable and convenient.

As individuals, members of Oil Free Wellington work to limit our carbon footprint, and we use bikes, trains, buses and yes, private cars. We don't think the answer to climate change and our fossil fuel addiction is individual lifestyle changes, although those are important; rather, we need to urgently change our whole system to provide real alternatives to a fossil-fuel economy.

Oil Free Wellington is committed to **climate justice**, not just stopping deep sea oil drilling off our coast. We aren't just NIMBYs (Not in my backyard). Climate justice recognises that the root causes of climate change must be addressed including social inequality and racism, and that those who are at greatest risk from climate change are those with the least power in society.

So while we struggle in our own community here in Aotearoa against deep sea oil drilling, we also stand in solidarity with the Ogoni of Nigeria who have been fighting for decades against the destruction of the Niger River Delta by Shell Oil, and alongside the First Nations people of Canada who are 'Idle No More' against the wholesale destruction of their lands and waterways by world's largest and dirtiest oil extraction project, the Tar Sands. Climate change is global, and we are most effective in working to address what's going on in our own communities.

It isn't hypocrisy to fight for a fossil-free future. It's a rational, realistic and sane response to the urgent crisis of climate change that we must all confront.

