

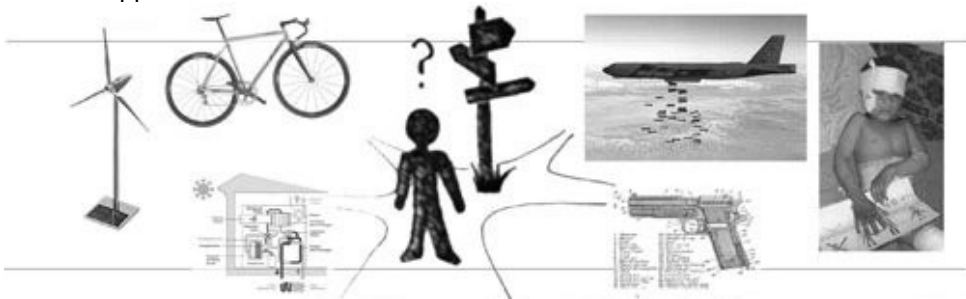
Careers Fairs & Ethics: A Guide

Welcome to the Careers Fair! You're about to be offered a vast array of seemingly interesting opportunities. Unfortunately some of the companies present may be involved in activities such as arms manufacture, environmental destruction, corruption, and human rights violations.

Do you want to be part of a company involved in these kinds of things? Or do you want to use your education and skills to have a positive impact on the world?

Some Issues To Consider

- Companies at careers fairs are trying to recruit. If they are involved in immoral activities, they are unlikely to want to confront these issues or be honest with you about them.
- It's worth spending a little time after the fair checking out the other side of the story. You can find more information on the ethical credentials of most big companies at websites like www.corporatewatch.org.uk.
- Remember, you don't have to work for a big company at all! There are loads of different organisations out there where you could make a real difference to the world, and where your skills and ideas would be valued and appreciated.



Some Typical Arguments You May Hear

“If we didn't do it, somebody else would” - This lazy old argument has been used to defend all sorts of things throughout history, from the slave trade to supplying apartheid South Africa. It may be true in the immediate term, but imagine the long-term global impact if, say, BP switched entirely to wind and solar power or Rolls Royce stopped manufacturing weaponry.

“Join us, and change things from the inside!” - Most graduates who work for large companies soon get frustrated by how little effect they can really have on the practices of huge profit-driven corporations. Meanwhile, if you're part of an organisation, you are directly supporting it and helping it to function. See Corporate Watch's excellent report “What's Wrong With Corporate Social Responsibility?” (find it with a web search) for more about this.

Spotlight on E.ON

At today's careers fair you may well come across this quote from E.ON:

“Tackling climate change isn't something that's tacked onto our agenda. It's at the heart of our business.”

This doesn't quite square with their intentions to build the first new UK coal-fired plant in thirty years at Kingsnorth in Kent. If built, this power station would produce **the same amount of carbon dioxide as the world's 30 least polluting countries combined.**

E.ON say that as soon as “carbon capture” technology becomes available, they'll use it to clean up the plant – but that won't be possible for decades, if ever (according to scientists, engineers and the UK government). Meanwhile, if global greenhouse gas emissions don't start to fall by 2012, we're all in big trouble. According to the UN, 150,000 people a year are already being killed by climate change; if we don't act fast, by 2050 **one billion people in Asia will have lost their water supply from glaciers, malaria will have spread, and hunger massively increased.**

E.ON also like to point to all the renewable power they're producing. However, **only 2% of the energy they generate comes from renewable sources** (61% is coal, the rest is nuclear and gas). Building wind turbines and solar panels can only help us if they're *replacing* fossil fuels – we need to be closing coal and gas plants at the same time, or we'll still be producing as much climate-trashing CO₂ as ever.

E.ON are *not* doing this – they want to build more coal plants!

That's why campaigners around the world are saying: “E.ON: F.OFF”. Why not visit their stall and ask them how planning to build an **extra 17 coal as gas plants across Europe and Russia by 2010** makes them a leader on climate change? Then walk away and find something better to do with your life.

Thames Valley Climate Action meets every Monday, 7pm, upstairs at the East Oxford Community Centre. Why not join us? For more information email oxford@climatecamp.org.uk, or visit <http://tvca.atspace.com/>



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**Make a career.
Tell E.ON to F.OFF**

