

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Issue 2, July 7 2008

Stern words will be spoken - and soon!

A high-level report on Climate Change and Greater Manchester is due to be released within the next two weeks. A first for any city in Britain, it will look at how economic growth in the North West will be affected by new laws and policy around climate change.

One of those laws will be the Climate Bill, which is currently in its second reading in the House of Commons, and is expected to demand 3% annual reductions of carbon dioxide emissions. Manchester City Council has already committed to adopting these targets, and possibly even going beyond them.

Known as "the Mini-Stern," the review has been commissioned by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (www.agma.gov.uk). Manchester Enterprises (www.manchester-enterprises.com), the economic development agency for Greater Manchester, has paid for the research costs. The work has been done by Deloitte, one of the largest professional services firms in the world.

The Mini-Stern's purpose is to help the region's decision-makers in their efforts to keep the costs of dealing with climate change down and identify opportunities for "low carbon innovation and growth." The basic thread of the argument appears to be that there are advantages to being "early adopters" and innovators of new clean technologies, and that there is a stark choice of "pay now, or pay a lot more later."

The Mini-Stern will feed into the "Manchester Independent Economic Review" (MIER), (www.manchester-review.org.uk), a £1.35m study which aims to "help key agencies to identify measures required to help the city realise its full economic

potential."

If the methodology of the Stern Review is followed, then the study would look at the financial costs society will incur by not reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It would argue that the long term costs could be as much as 20% of gross domestic product but will seek to ensure further economic growth whilst cutting emissions. It is unclear whether Deloitte has examined the challenges that climate change will raise for the bedrock concept of economic growth, which Manchester City Council is deeply committed to.

At time of going to press, Manchester Climate Fortnightly has been unable to discover what public engagement and consultation, if any, is planned.

More info at www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

MEANWHILE, IN OTHER NEWS...

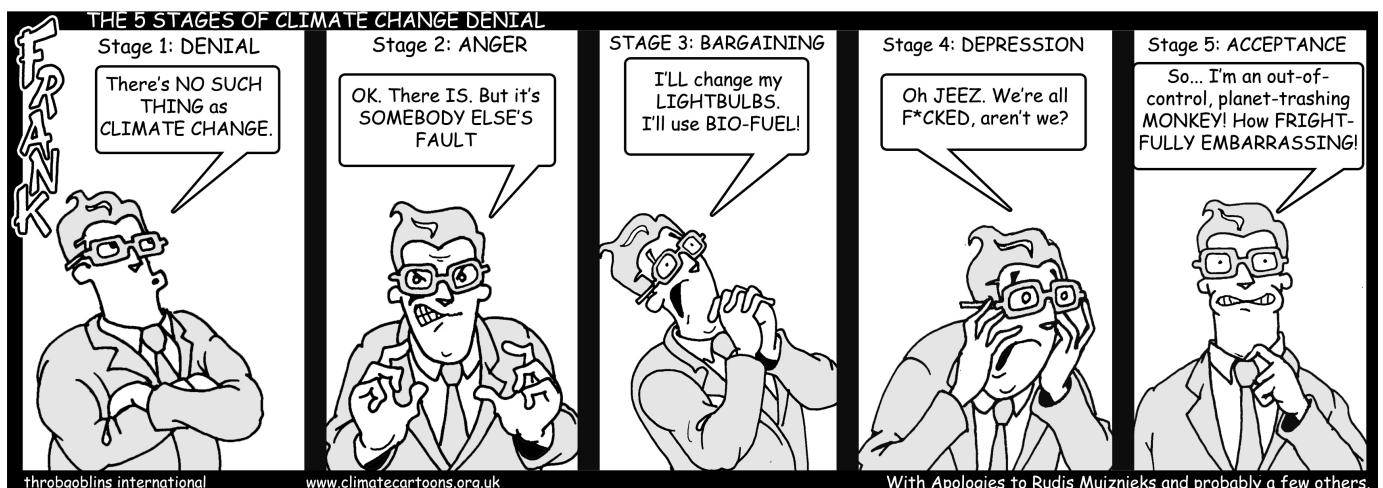
Congestion Charge Follies # 1

On July 2 the Manchester Evening News reported that the council is looking into building an underground carpark next to the Town Hall. Now *that's* leading by example!

Harworth Estates Limited Intelligence

On June 30 coal activists occupying a building at the site of a proposed open-cast mine in Derbyshire got a reprieve when Harworth bungled a request for an eviction order.

See www.leaveitintheground.org.uk for more info



Local and Regional

June 24 Canatxx, a privately-owned US company, is bidding again to build the UK's largest on-shore gas storage facility in salt caverns near Fleetwood, on the Lancashire coast. Government departments are split.

June 25 Sir Richard Leese, leader of Manchester City Council, announced a potential city-wide referendum on the Transport Innovation Fund bid (reported last MCFly). Not all councils promised to be bound by it.

July 3 Gordon Brown acknowledged the Torr Weir power station in New Mills. The community-run hydroelectric plant opens in September.

July 6 An environmentally-friendly mosque, Al-Markaz al-Najmi, opens in Levenshulme.

National

June 27 Gas bills could rise by up to 37% and leccy by 13% as the government lines up consumers to pay for a green revolution that would move Britain from oil dependence to a low carbon economy.

July 3 Britain's greenhouse gas emissions are higher than official figures suggest, the government has admitted. Defra says UK emissions are higher than previously stated, if carbon pollution linked to imported goods is included.

July 3 BERR boss John Hutton claimed Britain cannot wait for new "clean coal" technology, and should start building coal-fired power stations now, regardless.

Global

June 23 Gordon Brown attended an extraordinary meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to ask for more oil to be pumped out of the ground. Which will definitely lower carbon emissions.

July 3 Global investment in "green" energy surged ahead in 2007 and has continued to grow this year despite turmoil in financial markets, a UN Environment Programme report says.

For a fuller account of the planet's misadventures over the last 2 weeks, see www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Scary Science

July 2 Politicians don't realise how bad the climate situation is, reports the Australian National University's Centre for Climate Law and Policy, because they lack understanding of carbon cycles. Recent research shows climate change could be feeding on itself, and therefore advancing at a faster rate than first thought. These climate "feedbacks" - where global warming interferes with carbon storage sinks - must be taken into account.



The Apocalypso Beat

On July 2 Easy Jet had its wrist slapped by the Advertising Standards Authority for a series of newspaper adverts claiming its planes emitted 22% less than other airlines.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

Friends of the Earth monthly climate sub-group met on June 25; final push on the Big Ask, biofuels campaigning over summer. www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

Greenpeace meeting June 26, seven people attended; Coal campaigning! manchestergreenpeace@gmail.com

Critical Mass and Critical Commute Bike rides promoting bikes over cars. June 27. Last Friday of month

Strategies Day. On June 28 around 15 people attended discussed, networked and are beginning to write about what a sustainable Manchester would look like.

www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk

Manchester Climate Action met on July 1, gearing up for the Camp for Climate Action and local actions (see below).

www.manchesterclimateaction.org.uk

WHAT'S COMING UP

Thursday July 10 at 7.30pm Green Party meeting at Friends Meeting House, Mount St.
www.manchestergreenparty.org.uk

Monday July 14 at 7.15pm, Campaign against Climate Change meeting at Friends Meeting House. Discussion topic- the Road to Copenhagen.
www.gmcacc.org.

Tuesday July 15 at 7pm Manchester Climate Action meeting at Jabez Clegg.
www.manchesterclimateaction.org.uk

Wednesday July 16 Sustainability in higher education seminar www.iema.net/news?aid=18244 Manchester Metropolitan University, Geoffrey Manton Building .

Thursday July 17 at 7.30pm Stop Expansion at Manchester Airport (SEMA) meeting Friends Meeting House, Mount St.

Saturday July 19. Opencast mining in Piccadilly Gardens
manchester@climatecamp.org.uk

Saturday July 19 Greenpeace stall (on their coal campaign) at Unicorn Grocery, Chorlton

Thanks to all who commented on the first issue, and all distributors of this and future issues
Comments, leads, leaks and offers of no-strings money to editor@manchesterclimatefortnightly.info