

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Issue 5, August 17 2008

Not Wanted: Biofuels

Manchester activists played a major role in a non-violent blockade of Vopak's Agrofuels depot in Thurrock, Essex on Thursday August 7.

Seven people blockaded the site's access road, locked together with arm tube devices while a further 4 unfurled a 35 foot banner from the top of an oil silo and then locked themselves to the stairwell. Essex Police then forcibly removed protesters blockading the road. Several protesters sustained significant cuts and bruises as a result

One activist, Dean Rivers said (while chained to a stairwell): *"Companies like Greenenergy and Tesco who use Thurrock are profiteering out of the rush to biofuels. This is causing food price rises, hunger for millions, ecosystem destruction and accelerated climate change. These are crimes against humanity and the earth from which we may never recover."*

Further info

www.biofuelwatch.org.uk

www.vopak.com

Wanted?: MCR as CO₂ Trading Centre

Manchester Enterprises (see below) have paid consultants to write them a plan. Not one that aims to reduce local emissions or turns runways into allotments. No, this plan is to make Manchester a global hub of carbon emissions trading.

Work on the plan has already begun, and will be complete by October. ME want to know more about the potential of carbon trading and what would attract 'rain-makers' in this 'niche market' to relocate. MCFly wonders if Manchester really needs more rain, and if the brain-power might be better spent setting our own house in order before trading what many describe as ineffectual bits of paper.

www.carbontradewatch.org

www.manchester-enterprises.com/news/itt_SMET.html

Wanted: A Carbon Guru

The hunt is on for a 'Green Guru' to guide the city of Manchester through the challenges of climate change. The position -Senior/Research Fellow- is being offered by the University of Manchester's Architecture Research Centre in a bid to improve the understanding of urban responses to climate change in Manchester and also build networks between cities and organisations to knowledge share. The Fellow must identify new 'technically plausible and socially viable options' for urban environments in their response to climate change.

Bruntwood Initiative for Sustainable Cities and Oglesby Charitable Trust have fronted some dosh for the project, which aims to produce a 'blueprint for an integrated climate change adaptation strategy' for Manchester by the end of 2010. It's a 3 year

fellowship with a rather generous salary in the range of £34,793- £52,628 (almost as much as the 6 who edit MCFly are on. As a group). Applications close Sept 19.
<http://tinyurl.com/5gcfx6>

Wanted: Answers

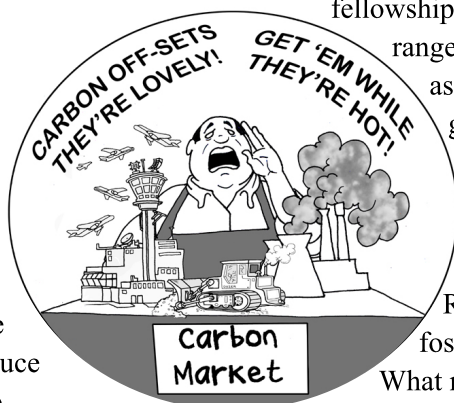
What strategic measures can the City Region take to reduce its reliance on fossil fuel based energy?

What role should the proposed Climate Change Agency play in this?

These are just 2 of 10 crucial questions that you are invited to answer before August 22, in response to the Mini-Stern report (see MCFly 2 and 3).

The "Mini-Stern" report can be accessed on the website. Snappily entitled 'Studying the economic impact of EU and UK Climate Change legislation on Manchester City Region and the North West', the report warned that 'business as usual' will be far more expensive in the long-term.

The questionnaire is online at: www.manchester-enterprises.com/news/ConsultMiniStern.html



Local and Regional

August 5 Business in the Community, (www.bitc.org.uk) has appointed Gudrun Cartwright as north west officer to help companies address their environmental concerns. She will co-ordinate a 2 year North West Regional Development Agency project to help business address climate change.

August 7 Leisure group Next Generation, which includes David Lloyd Leisure, has sealed a major green energy deal with Salford-based power specialist Ener-g that will save the group £900,000 and cut carbon emissions by 16,060 tonnes annually.

August 7 A gas-fired power station that will supply electricity for 500,000 homes will be built at Carrington, near Sale, and be operational by 2012.

August 8 British Airways, Alpha Airports Group, SSP UK Air and VLM Airlines, along with the publicly-owned Manchester Airport, have all joined the pro-Transport Innovation Fund bid United City group, now at 107 members.

August 11 Crain's Manchester Business reports that Coronation Power, whose previous application to build a wind farm near Todmorden was rejected, has resubmitted a modified application to Rochdale and Calderdale Councils.

August 13 Meeting took place to plan contents and distribution of "Only Planet", a book of articles about Manchester and Climate Change. www.onlyplanet.info

National

August 4 The UK's biggest food distributor, Brakes Brothers, begins charging a 98p fuel levy on every delivery it makes. Retailers not best pleased.

August 4 An Environmental Audit Committee report says that although the government's plan to

increase car tax for "gas-guzzlers" is a step in the right direction, the environmental benefit would be limited, and more ambitious changes were needed

August 4 Autotrader reports that only 45% of the people it polled regard a vehicle's carbon dioxide emissions as an important aspect of their purchasing decision.

August 8 Malcolm Wicks, UK energy minister, tells the Guardian that "all is lost on global warming" unless the world finds a new clean coal technology very soon.

August 3-10 Climate Camp- www.climatecamp.org.uk

August 11 Four protestors unfurl a banner advocating veganism as a way to reduce carbon (and methane!) emissions above Smithfield Meat Market in London.

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

Scary Science

August 11 The National Snow and Ice Data Center reported Monday that in the first 10 days of August, Arctic sea ice extent declined one million kilometers. Sea ice is now disappearing on a daily basis nearly 50% faster than it typically does at this time of year. So the race is on again to see whether 2008 can repeat or beat the record set only last year.

www.nsidc.org



The Apocalypso Beat

Barbie® Introduces ``Barbie™ BCause," a Limited Edition Collection of Eco-Friendly Accessories for Girls Barbie™ BCause Collection, Available Exclusively at Toys"R"Us Stores Nationwide, Reuses and Repurposes Excess Barbie™ Fabrics and Trimmings to Create Fashionable and Playful Handbags, Pillows, Diaries, Totes and Other Accessories.

www.fashionwindows.com/news/?p=431

WHAT'S COMING UP

Tues August 19 Manchester Climate Action meeting at Jabez Clegg, off Oxford Rd (back room) 7-8.15pm www.manchesterclimateaction.org.uk

August 21-7 UNFCCC meeting in Accra, Ghana
<http://unfccc.int>

Thurs August 28 at 7pm Only Planet meeting at Green Fish Resource Centre, 45-50 Oldham St. www.onlyplanet.info

Thurs August 28 at 7.45pm Greenpeace meeting at Ape and Apple, John Dalton St

Sat September 6 "Climate Change: What Next?" at Central Hall, Oldham St. 10am to 4pm www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk

And finally, congrats to Marc Roberts, MCFly cartoonist, whose work (www.throbgoblins.blogspot.com) has been praised (and posted!) by Gavin Schmidt, NASA scientist and co-founder of the eminent blog www.realclimate.org

Comments, leads, leaks and offers of no-strings money to editor@manchesterclimatefortnightly.info
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