

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info



Free!
5 issues and counting...

Issue 56, September 5 2010

WHAT'S OUR FUTURE?

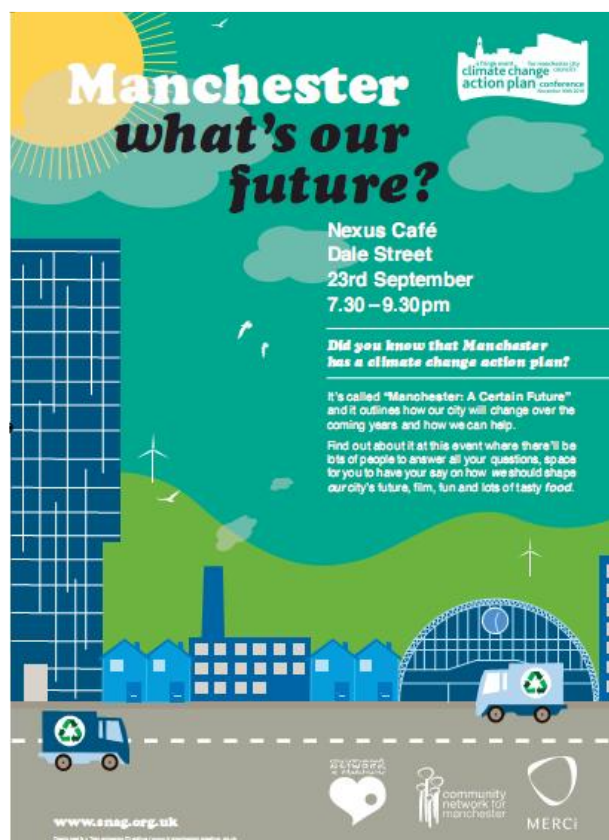
On Thursday 23rd of September the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Action Group (<http://snag.org.uk>) is hosting an event entitled "Manchester: What's Our Future." Starting at 7.30pm, it takes place at Nexus Café, Dale St, in the City Centre. It will be a great opportunity for MCFly readers to learn more about the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan and what they can do to make all the fine words in it into reality.

SNAG tells us that "there'll be lots of people there to answer all your questions, including representatives of many of the organisations that helped write the plan such as MERCi, Friends of the Earth, Action for Sustainable Living, the Kindling Trust, Call to Real Action, Manchester Environmental Education Network, Corridor Manchester, Emerge, Creative Concern, BDP, Gaby Porter Associates and Pannone, as well as representatives from Manchester City Council for you to quiz! There'll also be space for you to have your say on how WE should shape our city's future. And film, fun and lots of tasty FOOD."

As well as being a great learning opportunity, this event also marks the start of a series of "fringe" events aimed at explaining the strengths, weaknesses and silences in the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan and the Council's now-delayed "Internal Delivery Plan."

These other events are being organised by groups as diverse as Action for Sustainable Living, Call to Real Action, Friends of the Earth, the Green Party and the Kindling Trust

See back page of this MCFly for some of the further dates...



How should we tackle climate change? Your opinion sought!!

- 1) How can Manchester City Council help you (as an individual/employee/member of a group) to take action on climate change?
- 2) What should the City Council be doing about climate change? The Council will try to reduce its emissions by 41% by 2020, and help create a 'low carbon culture'. In your opinion, what should the Council do to reach those goals?
- 3) How should the City Council be "scrutinised" on its climate change actions? At the moment, the Council has only committed to reporting at an Annual "Stakeholder Conference". What else should it do?
- 4) How should the Action Plan be updated when new ideas or problems come up? At the moment, it is not known how new ideas can be added to the Plan
- 5) How can we (all of us, but especially the Council) achieve the second headline objective of the Climate Change Action Plan - "to engage all individuals, neighbourhoods and organisations in a process of cultural change that embeds 'low-carbon thinking' into the lifestyles and operations of the city"?

You can fill in the anonymous survey online by going to calltorealaction.wordpress.com Answers will be fed back to the City Council and its arms-length "Steering Group."

INSIDE: Flying Monkeys, October Surprises, Solar Salsa, Sarcasm

The Council Gritter...

for nuggets that fall off the back of a truck.

ENDORSEMENTS? FLYING MONKEYS!

MCFLy is still trying to find out who has endorsed the "Manchester Climate Change Action Plan." Several times we've been told an announcement is imminent. Sick of the whole "Waiting for Godot" aspect, we asked directly. And were given the lovely circular and Kafka-esque answer "As soon as we have the agreement of all the endorsers and are ready to launch phase 2 of the website, the full list will be made public." Look, an endorsement that is only between the so-called endorser and the Council is NOT an endorsement. A "private" endorsement is like a monkey with wings. You can imagine such a thing, but it's a bit bloody pointless. We also wanted to know how many organisations have been approached. But the Council "cannot provide a definitive number of organisations who have been approached - because the approaches are being made by a range of individuals and organisations who have signed up to support the plan" but are "sure that the number is larger than the 1067 originally approached." Ok, that's fair enough. Let's say for the sake of argument that, ooh, 1100 organisations have been asked. The Council "believe we have 110 organisations signed up". Er, MCFLy pulls out its ol' solar-powered calculator. Yep... 10%. In the crucial 10 months after the plan is launched, when momentum and social validation is all. 10. per. cent.

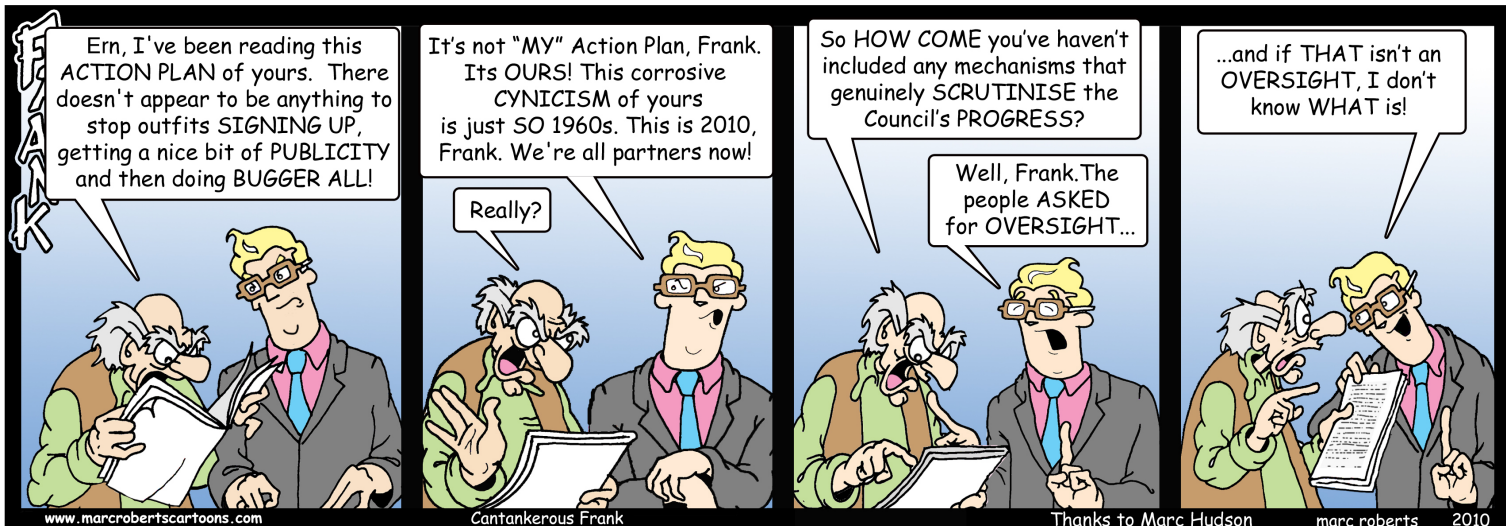


Nothing to report on the "Steering Group" (see MCFLy's passim). No news if the academic or business bod have accepted the invite to join up. No news about what actually happened at the group's second meeting. (MCFLy was uninvited at the last moment, but assured there would be a very prompt written account of what had been discussed. This promised blog post has not yet emerged.)

However, MCFLy CAN report that the November 30 "stakeholder conference" is NOT going to be a full-day event (despite what we were told and dutifully reported in MCFLy 54). It is now going to be a half-day event, topped and tailed with speeches by Very Important People. Venue? Dunno. Means by which you can sign up to attend? Dunno. If and when we get reliable information, we'll let you know.

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL KEEPS BREAKING LAW (reprinted from MCFLy 55)

Manchester City Council is STILL breaking the law (see MCFLy 54). MCFLy submitted a Freedom of Information Act request about flights taken by Council officers and members in 2008/9 and 2009/10, and any off-setting arrangements that had been made. We received a pro-forma letter promising a reply within the statutory "20 working days", which meant late July. Since then ... nothing. Either they have something to hide, or they just don't give a rat's arse about establishing a reputation for honesty, transparency and respect for Freedom of Information. Which is it, we wonder.



BOLTON is to host a conference highlighting the work of local agencies, charities and organisations to tackle climate change. The free seminar, on October 20 at the Festival Hall, Bolton, has been organised by environmental regeneration charity Groundwork Trust Bury and Bolton, and Bolton Council. Residents will be able to hear about the latest developments, including what the organisations are doing to help address the threats posed by climate change. To reserve a place contact the Groundwork offices on 0161 7243770 or e-mail bury@groundwork.org.uk with your name, contact details and any special dietary requirements.

WIGAN Peerless

WiganRecycles has won The Community Challenge in Low Carbon Transport. The award received 83 applicants in total, only 23 were short listed, and out of these Wigan Recycles was chosen for its pilot Eco Drive scheme which was designed and delivered by Future Jobs Fund employees. The scheme, which helps drivers to increase their fuel efficiency and general maintenance of their cars, was delivered to Ashton, Leigh & Wigan PCT staff. Judges found that the scheme displayed strong merits in both its innovative reduction of carbon emissions and its effects on employment and the lives of young people. The award was presented at the LowCVP annual conference at Twickenham Stadium.

OCTOBER SURPRISES



Sat- Sun 9 and 10

There will be Cuban Advanced Salsa, Beginners Salsa, Recycling, Ladies Styling, Chip Fat Generator, Pedal Power, Bachata, Wind Turbine, Rhythm n Timing, Orishas, Rueda Guinness Book of Records attempt, Party Games, Chill Out Zone, & Much Much more cool stuff! To learn more and buy your tickets please visit www.ecoweekenda.org.uk

Venue - The Lifestyle Centre, Portway, Woodhouse Park, Wythenshawe M22 1QW



Weds 20

Feeding Manchester 5 with over forty groups from across Greater Manchester expected to meet up for the uniquely regular opportunity to network, share and plan a sustainable food system for the city.

www.kindling.org.uk/projects/feedingmanchester-5

Thurs 21

"Growing Pains: Can Manchester reach its climate targets without a Steady State Economy?"

Free discussion and networking event organised by Manchester Climate Forum, www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk

Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, Manchester, from 7 to 9.15pm

Weds 27

Virtual Migrants, RICC and MRSN present "CLIMATE JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND REFUGEES: DEBATE AND DISCUSSION WITH MULTIMEDIA, FILM, MUSIC AND POETRY"

Two Free Events in one evening:

6pm FILM SCREENING: "TAKING ROOT: THE VISION OF WANGARI MAATHAI" (entry from 5.30pm) + 7.30pm MAIN EVENT: CLIMATE CHANGE

TESTIMONIES FROM REFUGEES - CONNECTING SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL DEBATES (entry from 7pm)

FREE ENTRY: booking required - Book your place online: <http://climatejusticesciencerefugees.eventbrite.com>

www.virtualmigrants.com/events



Sat 30

Envirovolution "A festival showcasing inspiring projects from around Manchester that are offering innovative solutions to environmental challenges within our communities."

Contact Theatre, Oxford Road

<http://envirovolution.wordpress.com>

GIZZA JOB

Knowledge Transfer Fellow (Climate Change and Carbon Reduction)

Tyndall Centre School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering

Closing date: 17/09/2010 Reference: EPS/10720 Salary £28,983 - £35,646 p.a.

"You will carry out short-term feasibility, knowledge transfer and research application projects in the areas of carbon reduction, climate change policy and low carbon technologies. In the case of larger projects, you will co-ordinate and work in collaboration with colleagues from other University Departments. The securing of external funding through the development of bids/ tenders and negotiation of contracts, facilitated by wider University support infrastructure, will be an important element of the role."



What's coming up

SEPTEMBER

Weds 8, 7.30pm Manchester Climate Action meeting @ The Bowling Green Pub, Grafton Street, M13 6NZ

www.manchesterclimateaction.wordpress.com

Thurs 9, 6-8pm Launch of Jamie Hewett "Under Water Colours" exhibition at the Contact Theatre, Oxford Rd RSVP Alex Fraser on 0161 234 2922

Thurs 9, 7 - 9pm Green Party Meeting, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St. www.manchestergreenparty.org.uk

Tues 14, 6pm Green Drinks: 'Mind the Energy Gap; solutions for the North West.' Kro Bar, 1 Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester, M1 1RG

Tues 14, 7.15pm – 9pm Friends of the Earth full group meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham St.

www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

~~**Weds 15** Manchester City Council Executive signs off on Delivery Plan for "Manchester: A Certain Future"~~

Weds 15, 2-4pm A to B and C02 sustainable transport event at St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6FZ www.en4m.org.uk/?q=node/1983

Thurs 16, 5-6pm "Localism or Vandalism?" Do the Government environmental reforms destroy the last chance we had for tackling climate change?" EcoCities invites you to their first Public Lecture with Dr Hugh Ellis, Chief Planner of the Town and County Planning Association. Cordingley Lecture Theatre, Humanities Bridgeford Street Building The lecture will be followed by a wine reception in the HBS foyer from 6-7pm. This event is co-hosted by EcoCities, the Manchester Architecture Research Centre (MARC) and the Centre for Urban Regional Ecology (CURE).

FRINGE EVENTS

Weds 20th October "Feeding Manchester #5 - A Certain Future for Sustainable Food" at MERCi, organised by Kindling Trust

Thurs 21 October "Growing Pains: Can Manchester meet its climate targets without a steady state economy?" organised by Manchester Climate Forum, Friends Meeting House

Weds 2 November "Moving Manchester" organised by Call to Real Action, Friends Meeting House

Weds 9 "Energy and Climate Change," organised by Green Party, Friends Meeting House

Another event, on "Sustainable Consumption" and organised by Friends of the Earth, will happen in mid-November.



Meat-free Monday

Withington Liberal Democrat MP John Leech has introduced an Early Day Motion (think petition among MPs) calling for catering authorities at the Houses of Parliament to go "meat-free" on Mondays. EDMs usually crash and burn, but you never know...

Given the collegial atmosphere of harmony and mutual respect between Labour and Lib Dems in Manchester City Council, doubtless this example will inspire ever greater local action...

MCFLy is financially supported by APE

www.apeuk.org



MCFLy 57- Sun September 19

All the usual features, with more information about pre-November 30 Stakeholder Conference events, the much-delayed review of Bill McKibben's "Eaarth", more interviews and "much much more"...

"Foundation" in replying to MCFLy email shocker!!

Last year MCFLy tried to get answers out of "Kro Bar" and "Foundation" about the details of the pre-Copenhagen "sponsorship" tie-in between the glass-and-chrome yuppie watering holes and the struggling 'offset' outfit. We were blanked, and later told by someone at the latter that a "least said, soonest ended" policy had been adopted.

Well, fastfwd 8 months and MCFLy hears a rumour that all is not well, with less of the green stuff crossing Foundation's palm than they had hoped. The money is coming from a small levy on customer's bills, (and MCFLy's team of lawy€rs tells us to point out that there's absolutely **no** implication of corruption or sharp practice.) So we sent off an email to Foundation, asking what target amount was anticipated in the original agreement with Kro, what was the amount raised to 31 August and whether the agreement is under review. And what's this, Skip? An instant reply?! They're going to pull together a few facts and figures (We had to crack open the dust-covered MCFLy dictionary for this word strange word 'fact' - it's not something we trouble much about) and "hope to get back to [us] early next week." Bless.

MCFLy is an independent newsletter covering climate change in (Greater) Manchester. We are not funded by any council (!), political party or campaigning group. MCFLy is edited by Marc Hudson. Comments, leads, leaks and offers of no-strings money to editor@manchesterclimatefortnightly.info manchesterclimatefortnightly.wordpress.com We tweet at www.twitter.com/mcr_climate We youtube www.youtube.com/user/manchesterclimatefor