

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY



Free!
Totally helpful, IMHO

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Issue 58, October 3 2010

IN THE CUT*

Action for Sustainable Living (AfSL), a charity that helps individuals and communities make reductions in their carbon emissions, has suffered a major financial blow at the hands of Manchester City Council. Ten weeks before a major conference on the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan, the City Council has ... decided not to renew its funding of the work they do.

AfSL have confirmed they have *"a number of contracts across Greater Manchester harnessing the passion, enthusiasm and skill of volunteers to promote sustainable living, in all its aspects, in their own communities. One of those contracts, with Manchester City Council, has come to an end. This decision will have an impact on a small number of areas within the City although our Reaching Communities programme in South Manchester will continue."*

The City Council has adamantly objected to the use of the word "cuts", and in response to a very specific set of questions have chosen instead to answer questions that were not in fact asked. They do concede that *"the time-limited project funding for a number of projects, including some run by AfSL, has come to an end, and these projects are now in the process of being completed."*

So - let's be clear; weeks before the stakeholder conference (see page 2), it is going to get harder for stakeholders to take action to live sustainably thanks to these financial decisions. The Council - which had not objected to the use of the word "pulled" - may be nervous about its record. It announced £1 million in February 2008, barely spending a penny of that "Carbon Innovation Fund" until July 2009 and then using a hundred grand on a climate festival nobody can remember. It has not renewed the Carbon Innovation fund.

For more on this story; manchesterclimatefortnightly.wordpress.com

[* or "discontinued," or "not renewed," or the not-objected-to "pulled" - you can choose your lyric, but the song remains the same.]

GROWING PAINS

Can Manchester reach its climate targets
without a steady-state economy?

Thursday 21st October
7pm to 9pm

Friends Meeting House
6 Mount St
(behind the Central Library)

www.growingpainsmanchester.wordpress.com

CLAIM TO OPENNESS
STILL
UTTERLY WITHOUT...

FOUNDATION!

As reported in MCFly 57, we emailed the carbon offset outfit Foundation (www.foundation.climatefund.org.uk) on Friday 3rd September.

"Manchester Climate Fortnightly is going to run a story on the amount of money generated for Foundation from the "tie-in" with Kro Bar. It has been suggested to us by a confidential source that this sum is a great deal smaller than had been anticipated. We would like to know

- what target amount was anticipated in the original agreement with Kro?
- what is the amount raised to 31 August?
- is the agreement under review?"

Within an hour top bod MarkTurner replied *"Thank you for your query. As I'm sure you will appreciate I will need to gather a few facts and figures before I can fully respond to your request (especially the second point raised). I'll get on with this & hope to get back to you early next week."*

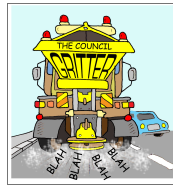
We waited not a few days, but almost a month. First thing on Friday 1st October we wrote again, stating that we were still waiting for the promised reply. We wrote *"[I]n addition to the original questions, which are still of great interest to*

Continued on page 3!

INSIDE: November 30 news, Climate Strategies, exploding children

The Council Gritter...

for nuggets that fall off the back of a truck.



MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL KEEPS BREAKING LAW (reprinted from MCFly 55, 56 ... and 57)

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?

STOP PRESS: We are assured that we will get an answer soon. In case you need the reference number, ye close reader of MCFly, it's CEX/85SG7V

A Climate Change Strategy for Greater Manchester

The production of a Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy has been agreed by the "Association of Greater Manchester Authorities" (AGMA) at its September meeting. This will collate existing theme and district plans into a single strategy which will underpin the Greater Manchester Strategy agreed in July 2009. As well as advancing joint working between themes and districts, the timing of this piece of work will also enable GM to adjust to other changes arising from climate change policies and programmes being implemented by the new Government.. The development of the strategy will be undertaken by a task group led by Richard Sharland (Head of Environmental Strategy at Manchester City Council). Work will be carried out in two phases - a draft document by January followed by a consultation process to April/May.

This Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy will have a 2020 target date, so you may end up recognising chunks of the intensively-publicised and extensively-endorsed "Manchester: A Certain Future." The website for this document is at www.manchesterclimate.com

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. 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 dietary requirements.

Green in the City

01 October 2010 - 10 October (and then lots of other places till December)

"Green in the City is a new interactive exhibition that explores the challenges of climate change in an urban setting and how the organisations involved in Corridor Manchester are working together to develop solutions whilst also encouraging local residents to take up the challenge in their own homes, back gardens and streets." www.corridormanchester.com

So, that November 30 Stakeholder Conference we may have mentioned once or twice now has - a name: **Manchester: A Certain Future 2010** a venue: **Museum of Science and Industry** a time: **9.30am to 4pm**

Invites are apparently going out in three waves. First to those who aren't the usual suspects, then to the endorsing organisations (see below) and finally to the general public. We asked; "when, and how the public will be able to sign up to attend? When will they know if they have been successful in their application? What criteria are being used to select attendees?"

Answers are still pending. Interesting for anyone keen but needing to book annual leave from work, f'rinstance. Eight weeks away... Five key questions will be asked to stakeholders and partners in the run up to the conference. These will help the organisers arrange the workshop and marketplace area.

1. Tell us what you are doing that deserves to be more widely communicated? Choose one story that encompasses your successes.
2. What barriers have you encountered that as a city we could tackle together?
3. What does your next phase of action look like?
4. What connections could you make to further your work? New partners? Other sectors? Other communities?
5. How can we collectively recruit more people to aid our progress?

Who has (privately) endorsed the plan? We still don't know, (not for want of asking - for over 4 months now). Perhaps it is being saved to be a "mingling tactic" on the Big Day; a "*find three other attendees who've endorsed the Plan*" sort of thing.

Richard Leese acknowledges aviation is bad for environment!

Responding to a comment on his blog post "Commuting Nightmare", (www.manchester.gov.uk/blog/leadersblog/post/395) Council Leader Richard Leese has asked a question "how are you getting to Australia?" that logically concedes aviation pollutes. So, it's to be welcomed, even if it was a tin-eared attempt to divert from the issue at hand - when is Manchester City Council going to make explicit provision for counting international aviation emissions in its carbon reduction targets? It's a good question... Don't go holding your breath for an answer...

Democracy, Accountability and Transparency; It's the "Manchester Way."

The Manchester Board, made up of various worthies, meets four times a year, ostensibly to guide the Local Strategic Partnership (www.manchesterpartnership.org.uk). It met in July, and presumably agreed the April minutes as a fair and accurate record blah blah. But these April minutes have still not been posted on the website. They Have Form; MCFly raised this with a previous set of Board minutes. It's *almost* as if openness and letting the oiks see what is going on is not a priority.

A heart-breaking work of staggering... idiocy

The 10:10 organisation encourages individuals and organisations (Manchester City Council has signed up) to cut their carbon emissions by 10% in 2010. On Friday October 1st they briefly posted a youtube video directed by Richard "My films are cloying sentimental tosh, Actually" Curtis. In it, people - including school children - who were reluctant to "do their bit" were, well, **blown up**.

This gift to those who think climate campaigners are all eco-fascist jihadis got taken down quickly, but is of course all over the blogosphere. A representative comment - *"It's safe to conclude that your disgusting filthy little snuff video of a propaganda stunt has certainly raised awareness of the 10:10 movement! Well done you lot for removing any doubt whatsoever about your ultimate eco-loon kick; the annihilation of all those who have the temerity to be sceptical of 'man made global warming'. Truly, I hope someone is prosecuted for this filth."*



A senior figure at a major green NGO that isn't Friends of the Earth has also said his piece, in an email concluding *"Actually no, rant NOT over. Not yet, because I hate this film so much I want to buy a Humvee 4x4 and drive it in circles around Trafalgar Square for a year, just to piss off the people who made it. I hate it so much I want to jump off the Esperanza and bash my head against the blow-out preventer of a deep water oil well until my head is nothing more than a mess of bloody cartilage settling on the seabed before being eaten by plankton. I hate it so much I want to eat a Semtex sandwich and blow myself up. Please, can we decide to not push it?"*

How not to apologise

Meanwhile, 1010 have posted the most offensive apology imaginable. *"At 10:10 we're all about trying new and creative ways of getting people to take action on climate change. Unfortunately in this instance we missed the mark. Oh well, we live and learn. Onwards and upwards,"* (www.1010global.org/uk/2010/10/sorry)

The real question, of who greenlighted Mr Curtis' opus, has not been answered. Or, for that matter, the question "how is anyone ever supposed to trust your judgment ever again?"

CLIMATE ACTIVISTS CALL FOR SUPPORT DURING COURT APPEARANCE

Tue 5th Oct, 9.30am, outside Trafford Magistrates Court, M33 7NR
Six activists from Manchester Plane Stupid have been charged with aggravated trespass for their part in action against the expansion of Manchester Airport on 24th May 2010.

<http://stopmanchesterairport.blogspot.com/2010/06/manchester-plane-stupid-breach-airside.html>

Support inside and outside the court is welcome.



PEAK OIL PEEKED AT

As part of its commitment (sic) to understanding and advising the north west on the enviro-economic impacts of the use of natural resources, the NWDA (RIP) has commissioned a study into the vulnerability of the region's key industry sectors to oil depletion and price volatility. The report will be of interest to those developing economic policy and supporting businesses reliant on oil, and includes an overview of the issue and science of peak oil and its impact on the price of oil, energy and oil derived feedstocks such as plastics. The report will be available on www.climatechangenorthwest.co.uk imminently.

Claims to openness

(from page 1)

our readership, we now also want to know answers the following

a) why you have not replied in the last month

b) why you have chosen not to have the courtesy to inform us of the reasons for not replying

c) do you feel this is a good way to manage your reputation?"

What did we get? Eight hours later, at the death of a Friday afternoon, the question *"Why don't you give me a call [next week] so that we can discuss the various questions that you have?"*

Notice that there is no longer a promise to *answer* the questions, but to "discuss" them? The promise of Friday 3rd September seems to have been withdrawn. Wonder why? Funny thing about phone calls, they don't leave a paper trail. Simple questions, and we were promised answers, so in a complicated old world, let's stick to that, shall we....

"The Relevance of the UNFCCC"

A side event at the AWG-KP 14 / AWG-LCA 12 on Wednesday, 6 October 2010 at 19:45 – 21:15 Tianjin Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Center, Tianjin, China
Er, surely 5 minutes would do for this meeting?

It's the Green Party and you can cry if you want to

MCFLy 57 (published Sunday 26th September) reported that Gayle O'Donovan would be standing for the Green Party in the Hulme by-election forced by the resignation of sitting councillor Emily Lomax. Two days later MCFly's website reported that Ms O'Donovan had stepped down and that the Greens would now be fielding David "Hazel must go" Henry as a candidate. Mr Henry had to step down (he is not eligible). Another candidate was mooted, but there were possible trust issues with 51% of the electorate. The Green Party has now announced Deyika Nzeribe as their (final) candidate, and tell us "Deyika's work is helping people back into employment and in setting up cooperatives. He has lived in Hulme for ten years and is active in the Birley Fields campaign and in anti-racist campaigning."

Meanwhile the Liberal Democrats are contesting the ward vigorously (in May they ran a 'paper' candidate). Even meaner and even whiler, Labour activists - including Executive Member for the Environment Nighel Murphy, who is a Hulme Councillor - are out knocking on doors and (figuratively) kissing babies on behalf of their peripatetic serial candidate Amina Low. The by-election takes place on Thursday November 4. MCFly will ask all the candidates about their climate views and duly report.

What's coming up



Weds 6, 6-8pm Transition City Manchester meeting, Eighth Day cafe, Oxford Rd
www.transitioncitymanchester.wordpress.com

Weds 6, 7.30pm Manchester Climate Action meeting at the 'Plan B' Bunker - 3 Birch Polygon, off Dickenson Road, Longsight, M14 5HX (near Hardys Well) manchesterclimateaction.wordpress.com

Wed 6, 7.45 - 9pm Betting on Hunger – How bankers are making the poor go hungry. Unicorn Grocery in Chorlton hosts the World Development Movement for an evening examining the scandalous role of banks & hedge funds in destabilising food prices and increasing world hunger. Speaker Gary Dunion (WDM) will present the issues and provide ideas for action.

Sat and Sun 8 and 9 SOLAR SALSA www.solarsalsa.org.uk

Sun 10, 11am -4pm "Low Carbon Fair" Second floor of Manchester Metropolitan Union Building. Now with added opportunity to blow up young children... (see page 3)

Tues 12 9.30am - 1pm Annual Ecocities Stakeholder Workshop: From Blueprint to Action Banqueting Room, Manchester Town Hall (But ya gotta ask for an invite!!)

Tues 12, 6pm Green Drinks at Lammars, 57 Hilton St. Discussion on Manchester Climate Change Action Plan

Tues 12, 7.15 - 9pm Friends of the Earth full group meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham St.

www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

Weds 13, 7.30pm Manchester Climate Action meeting at the 'Plan B' Bunker (see Weds 6 listing)

Thurs 14, 7 - 9pm Green Party Meeting, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St. www.manchestergreenparty.org.uk

Tues 19 Northwest Business Environment Awards (www.greenheroawards.co.uk), with Jonathon Porritt, the co-founder of Forum for the Future, as the keynote speaker, Bridgewater Hall in Manchester,

Weds 20 Feeding Manchester 5 event, at Bridge 5 Mill, Ancoats www.kindling.org.uk

Thurs 21, 5pm "Climate Change: The Missing Institutions" public lecture by Nobel Laureate Tom Shelling, Stanley Suite, Midland Hotel, Manchester, put on by the Sustainable Consumption Institute

Thurs 21, 7 - 9pm "Growing Pains: Can Manchester meet its climate targets without a steady state economy?" Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk

Sat 23, 10.30am - 5.30pm "Climate and Capitalism 2: Return of the Rainforest" Manchester Metropolitan University - John Dalton Building, Oxford Road (Opposite BBC) A One Day Conference jointly organised by the Green Left and Socialist Resistance, with world renowned Peruvian ecosocialist and veteran workers and peasants leader Hugo Blanco and other guest speakers. www.climateandcapitalism2.blogspot.com

Weds 27 Manchester City Council Executive agrees its Internal Delivery Plan for Climate Change (second time lucky)

Weds 27, 5.30pm -10pm "Climate Justice, Science and Refugees" International Anthony Burgess Foundation Engine House, 3 Cambridge Street www.virtualmigrants.com/events

Weds 27, 7.30pm Discussion of Manchester Climate Change Action Plan with Cllr Graham Shaw, Colin Barnes and Marc Hudson (MCFly) Emmanuel Church, Barlow Moor Rd. Hosted by Didsbury Civic Society

MCFly is financially supported by APE

www.apeuk.org



MCFly 59- Sun October 17

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

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](https://twitter.com/mcr_climate)

We youtube www.youtube.com/user/manchesterclimatefor

Social Clim^{at}ing

* Which very high profile figure was seen getting out of a taxi to attend the launch of "Green in the City" (see page 2). The venue, Whitworth Gallery, on Oxford Road, is on the busiest bus route in Europe (admittedly it was early in the day). MCFly has a Duty to Report, but a larger fear of being like that character in Arthur Koestler's "Darkness at Noon"; you know, the one who gets a bullet in the back of the neck after a short walk down, erm, a Corridor.

* For a half an hour there, people invited to "Green Drinks" on Tues 12th October at Lammars (57 Hilton St, since you ask) were being told that MCFly's editor worked for Manchester City Council. A reader in Wigan reports hearing the howls of disbelief and anguish quite clearly. An amended invite was sent out quicker than ... a Nov 30 invite.

* Free advice to anyone whose pet group is being critiqued by MCFly for its national-ism. It might be a good idea to get a better comeback than "well, what have YOU done locally lately?" Just sayin'.