

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info



Free!
Just when it was getting
interesting, MCFly flies...

Issue 59, October 17 2010

FLIGHT/PLAN

Here's the shocker – during all the talk about Climate Change Principles and Strategies and Leadership, Manchester City Council's top bureaucrats and politicians were flying around the planet without even buying “carbon offsets.” Enraged? Good. Bottle that anger and keep it in a safe place for future use...

Manchester City Council has finally disgorged information about the flights taken by its senior members and officers first requested by MCFly in June. Meanwhile, it has also finally disgorged its “internal delivery plan” for how it will reduce its carbon emissions by 41% and create a 'low carbon culture'.

In June, Manchester Climate Fortnightly used the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to request details of flights taken by the Executive Members of the Council and the Strategic Management Team. We received the standard letter promising a response within 20 working days. And then nothing for the best part of 3 months. When we finally did get answers (via the intervention of a senior Council bureaucrat), they make for interesting reading.

The top bureaucrats racked up quite a few airmiles to Nice, New York, Sydney, Johannesburg, Abu Dhabi, Tokyo and so on. In 2007 and 2009 that included flights to Edinburgh.

For the top politicians, the short haul flights (which have lower-carbon alternatives) were worse. In 2007 there were flights to Brussels, Edinburgh, Bournemouth and Paris. 2008 reveals a similar pattern, with trips to Strasbourg, the Hague and Brussels.

In 2009 – when the Climate Change Action Plan was being written – there's a drop in short haul flights, but still the irony of flights to and from Copenhagen to talk about the evils of unnecessary carbon emissions by the Leader and the (previous) Executive Member for the Environment.

The FOIA reply includes the priceless information “*Please note that the Council did not have a policy on carbon-offsetting in place during the period from 01.01.2007 to 31.12.2009.*”

Given the political sensitivities, the Council DID decide to make a payment to “Foundation” for their flights to and from Copenhagen. What price conscience? Er, a tanner a head.

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FOUNDATION

&

promise answers... fail to deliver

In early September carbon off-setters "Foundation" promised to send answers to very straightforward questions about the tie-in with KroBar "early next week." As reported in MCFlys 57/58. We are still waiting. Meanwhile, MCFly asked Manchester Airport for a statement about the impending trial of aviation activists (see page 3). Twice the press team at the Airport, which is 55% owned by Manchester City Council, promised they would send a statement over. Still waiting.

Poor show, old chaps, poor show.

If any other citizen journalists want to contact these two outfits, go right ahead. It's still a free(ish) country, and it might even count as part of Dave's Big Society...

GROWING PAINS

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

Thursday 21st October

7pm to 9pm

Friends Meeting House

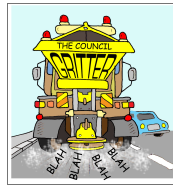
6 Mount St

(behind the Central Library)

INSIDE: Plans, Elections and Complaints, oh my! Books not reviewed...

The Council Gritter...

for nuggets that fall off the back of a truck.



You Read it Here First. (in MCFly 58...)

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**

MCFly's counsel? Book your annual leave now.

You may be one of the lucky punters allowed to attend...

What's in a name?

At full Council on Weds 13 the Liberal Democrat shadow Environment spokesperson asked how much carbon the projects in the £1m Carbon Reduction and Innovation Fund had saved. In reply, according to the MEN's tweet "Nigel murphy says emphasis is on innovation not reduction?" MCFly slaps forehead - that'd be why the name had quietly been shrunk to "Carbon Innovation Fund". Btw, 18 of the Fund's 40 projects are now 'completed'.

MCFly LODGES FORMAL COMPLAINT ABOUT COUNCILLOR

MCFly has made a formal complaint about the online behaviour of a Hulme Councillor, Mary Murphy. The complaint centres on the email distribution of a MCFly article that had been altered to imply the independent newsletter's support for the Labour candidate in an upcoming by-election. The complaint, made to the Democratic and Statutory Services department at Manchester Town Hall, will be put to a sub-committee of the Standards committee in approximately four weeks. You can read more about it, including the doctored article that was sent out to Hulme Residents Online Group here-

<http://manchesterclimatefortnightly.wordpress.com/2010/10/12/mcfly-lodges-formal-complaint-about-councillors-behaviour/>

P.S. MCFly's website almost melted under the weight of visits to this story. Our Search Engine Optimisation department has proposed we make formal complaints about Councillors more often. Do any readers have candidates they'd like to nominate? Send them to the usual email address, the usual prize is up for grabs. (And can someone please teach Pat Karney how to set up an anonymous email address. It's getting embarrassing to pretend that all these scoops and leaks aren't coming from the great man himself. There's only so much a hack can do to protect his sources...)

Next MCFly - more info about the Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy, even if we have to break out the thumbscrews...

Council in "no comment" shocker!

In one of the most surprising statements since Bono admitted to being a little bit up himself, Manchester City Council - which owns 55% of Manchester Airport - have responded to MCFly's request for a comment on the impending trial of aviation activists (see page 3) with the following;

"Unfortunately, as this is an ongoing court case, it would be inappropriate for us to comment at this stage."

Rochdale Council's Environment Team is being cut in half and the survivors of the cull will be transferred over into the Strategic Planning Team. That'll work.

ESPB

The Council's internal 'deliverers' meet every six weeks or so, as the "Environmental Strategy Programme Board". The Monday 18th October agenda is thus-

- * Internal Delivery Plan Update
- * Sustainable Events Charter
- * New Project Proposals
- * Draft Scrutiny Committee Report on Peak

Oil

- * Carbon Innovation Fund report
- * 10:10 Progress Report
- * Project Reporting and Highlight Report

Reports to the Board - including interesting ones on the Carbon Innovation Fund and Peak Oil, can be found by going to www.snag.org.uk (the 15th October entry) and clicking on "ESPB papers". MCFly will report further on t'website...

Election Follies!



The four candidates for the Hulme by-election are **Grace Baynham** (Liberal Democrats), **Amina Lone** (Labour),

Deyika Nzeribe (Greens) and **Will Stobart** (Conservatives). MCFly has sent all of them the same six questions, about their personal carbon reduction efforts, their opinion on the Council's actions in the last two years, their hopes for the November 30 Stakeholder conference and the "doctored MCFly" story. So far only the Liberal Democrats have answered the questions. Labour will give answers by the end of the week. No reply so far from the Greens or Conservatives... See MCFly website for more info.

Hulme is one of 32 wards in the city. It is the only ward the Greens have ever held a seat in (2003-2008)

LAMEST SCOOP EVER!!

We've been asking Manchester City Council to tell us who the names of the 120 organisations that have endorsed the Climate Change Action Plan (out of approximately 1200 asked!) They keep telling us "soon, soon". MCFly can now reveal (drumroll please) that ...Manchester Primary Care Trust Board has endorsed the Plan. How did we come across this leak of Watergate proportions? By requesting the minutes of the Manchester Board (see MCFly 58; **"Democracy, Accountability and Transparency; It's the "Manchester Way."**). And that morsel of classified information is there! See, who says democracy needs transparency and a minimum of co-operation from bureaucrats?

Aviation Activists to Stand Trial

A dozen activists who took symbolic direct action against the expansion of Manchester Airport are to stand trial, after entering pleas of not guilty to obstructing the highway and aggravated trespass.

On Monday May 24 2010, two groups of Manchester-based activists working under the banner of "Plane Stupid" took part in symbolic direct action at Manchester Airport. One group of six created a human circle around a wheel of a stationary freight plane using "arm-tubes". Meanwhile another group who used tripods to blockade the World Freight Terminal preventing airfreighted goods from being taken in and out. Nobody was injured, and no passengers were delayed in their flights.

Both groups have been in court, and entered pleas of not guilty. The tripod group – charged with obstruction of the highway- goes on trial on December 6. The armtube group, in court on Tuesday on a charge of aggravated trespass, will stand trial on February 21 2011. Their defence will centre around their claim that their action was necessary to take in "light of Manchester Airport's contribution to runaway climate change", and will include testimony of "expert climate scientists."

MCFLy approached both the Airport and the Council for comment. No luck, though at least the latter had the manners to say so without pretence.

For more info on the campaigners -

<http://stopmanchesterairport.blogspot.com>

Flight/Plan from page 1

It's unclear if the flight to and from Copenhagen by the Head of Environmental Strategy was also offset- MCFLy will ask...

The full documents sent to MCFLy will be available imminently on the website manchesterclimatefortnightly.wordpress.com alongside further analysis of the usefulness of Manchester Airport to the economy of the Northwest. Meanwhile, the point remains the same ; at some point a proportion of the aviation emissions from the flights in and out of Manchester Airport will be assigned to its owners – Manchester City Council and the other local authorities in Greater Manchester. Hitting an ambitious reduction target while taking on the extra "weight" of those emissions will be very very interesting. Will the Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy take account of this? We shall see...

Meanwhile, the Council has circulated its own "internal delivery plan" for how it will meet its obligations under the "Manchester Climate Change Action Plan" which it ratified in November 2009. The Internal Delivery Plan, which was due in September, "*sets out what the Council will do over the period 2010 to 2020. It has two aims:-*

To set out the how the Council will provide leadership and example in the process of Manchester's transformation into an internationally recognised low carbon city, and contribute to the implementation of Manchester – A Certain Future.

To transform the Council into a leading example and champion deliverer of environmental sustainability in Greater Manchester by embedding low carbon thinking, behaviour in its culture, processes and the operation of all its services."

Yes. Well. It will become officially available for viewing on Wednesday 20th October, and will go to the Weds 27th October Executive meeting for ratification. MCFLy will analyse the IDPs strengths, weaknesses and silences and try to get a discussion going among Manchester's climate activists and campaigners... Doubtless the Council's response will be "well, we HAVE an IDP. Where's yours?" It's a fair question...

Low carbon economy course

Thurs 28th October 9.30 - 4pm, Manchester

The course will look at:

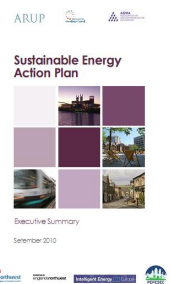
- what the low carbon economy is and why it is important;
- the potential of the low carbon economy for your locality;
- examples of what other local areas are doing;
- some of the challenges of developing the low carbon economy;
- emerging government policy on the low carbon economy.

This course will provide the opportunity for discussion and sharing experiences as well as bringing delegates up to date with the latest thinking and policy relating to this agenda.

Course fee: £200 plus VAT: £105 plus VAT for charity/voluntary sector organisations. Book online at www.cles.org.uk/booking

A Sustainable Energy Action Plan

(SEAP) report has been developed by Manchester: Knowledge Capital and Arup to provide evidence to inform and help shape energy priorities in Greater Manchester (GM). [GM covers the areas of ten Local Authorities (LAs), who together comprise the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities.] The process involved in developing a SEAP is designed to be iterative [Oh, and they were doing so well! Ed] , with revised SEAP reports developed over time.



Nauseating self-pity and passive-aggressive snarking corner

On Tuesday 19th October the Northwest Business Environment Awards take place. In the "Environmental Champions – Media and Communications" category you'll find -

Colin Sykes, BBC Northwest Tonight (Manchester), Eden Rivers Trust (Penrith), The Big Issue North (Manchester) Harrumph, what's MCFLy, chopped liver?

"Human waste to be used to provide gas to power homes" (Daily Mail, 15 Oct) "... in a £2.5 million scheme which is a first for the UK. The use of human waste to generate 'biogas' and then feed the green fuel into the gas grid is part of efforts to cut the greenhouse gas emissions from heating and cooking in homes." Did anyone else besides MCFLy have the brainwave "Hook it up to Castle Grayskull (also known as 'Manchester Town Hall') and you'd have a perpetual motion(s) machine..."? We will submit a Carbon Innovation Fund bid.

What's coming up

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

Sat 23, 3pm Saci Lloyd, author of the wonderful "Carbon Diaries" novels, set in 2015 and 2017, at the Manchester Literature Festival. The Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester, Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4FP Free event but booking is advised. Book on 0843 208 0500.

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

Weds 27, 1 - 5.15pm North West Environment Link conference 'The Big Society and the Environment' at Bridge 5 Mill, Ancoats. Contact Caroline Downey to book ticket. 0161 273 1736

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

Thurs 28, 7.15pm - 9pm Friends of the Earth campaigns meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham St. www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

Thurs 28, 8pm Greenpeace Meeting upstairs in the Ape and Apple, John Dalton St, www.greenpeace.org.uk/groups/manchester

Fri 29, 8am Bike Friday, communal bike ride to Exchange Square from Stretford Arndale, Chorlton Library, Withington Library, Levenshulme Station, Prestwich Bury New Road / Scholes Lane

Sat 30, 12- 5pm Envirolution day at Contact Theatre, Oxford Rd, <http://envirolution.wordpress.com>

Sat 30, 4pm Stockport Friends of the Earth is holding an event. Come hear Mike Childs, Head of Climate Change at FoE on how taking action to cut emissions locally can create new green jobs and boost the local economy, and ask questions of Andrew Stunell MP - Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department of Communities and Local Government. Marple Senior Citizens Hall, Memorial Park, Marple

Tues 2, 7pm Moving Manchester- transport shouldn't cost the earth. Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St



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



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

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www.apek.org



MCFLy 60- Sun October 31

All the usual features, with information about pre-November 30 Stakeholder Conference, more detailed analysis of the Council's Internal Delivery Plan. "etc"