

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Free!
Manchester's most
unsustainable media folds...

Issue 61, November 14 2010

FEEBLE

After a year of inviting - and several months of refusing to reveal the depths of its failure - Manchester City Council has finally released the list of organisations it has persuaded to endorse the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan. More than 1355 organisations have been invited to endorse the plan in the last year. So far only 120 have done so. Of those 120, only the Council and Northwards Housing (an arms-length management organisation hived off from the Council itself) have produced delivery plans. The endorsers' list includes many groups and organisations intimately connected to the Council, and does not include organisations such as green property gurus Bruntwood, Kro Bar (which did a green tie-in with the defunct "Foundation") and cultural hub Cornerhouse Cinema.
www.manchesterclimate.com/involved/endorsers

GREAT

After several months of not giving any clarity over whether or how ordinary people not on the (secret) guest list could apply to attend their November 30th Stakeholder Conference, the City Council has finally made an announcement. In response to repeated requests by a particularly persistent trouble-maker, the following grudging text appeared on the revamped www.manchesterclimate.com site on Wednesday 10th November.
"If your organisation could make a positive contribution at this year's conference and you've not yet had an invite, then please email to register for a place."
That email address, by the way, is green.city@manchester.gov.uk
Fill your boots.
For more on what will be happening on the day, see www.manchesterclimate.com/conference

ESCAPE

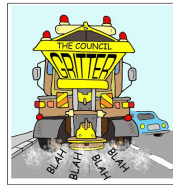
After several weeks of not giving any public apology or explanation for her behaviour in distorting and circulating a MCFly story to imply support for the Labour Party during the recent Hulme Bye-Election, Councillor Mary Murphy can breathe easy. The (sub)Standards Sub-committee has decided that because she didn't send the altered story from her official council email address then they have no jurisdiction. As an exercise in democracy, it's Pilates.
For more on this stunning example of why the Council's complaints procedure is maybe not worth too much of your time, should you ever need it, see the Friday 12th November story on the Manchester Climate Fortnightly website "Labour Councillor gets away with it."
MCFly is writing to the Manchester Labor Party to see if they'll do owt.



INSIDE: Now with added Destructive Lazy and Bitter supplement!

The Council Gritter...

for nuggets that fall off the back of a truck.



PEAK OIL PEEKED AT

Manchester City Council has recently released a report looking at how it might respond to peak oil. The report, which

went to the Environmental Strategy Programme Board in October and then on to the Environmental Advisory Panel, suggests various ways of taking the policy development process forward (subsume it in the existing Climate Action Plan, do a Nottingham or do a Bristol). These options may- or may not- be expanded on by a sub-group of the EAP, depending on whether the suggestion proposed by MCFly's editor and enthusiastically received is actually taken up. Sadly, none of the self-proclaimed peak oil activists (who are aware of the report) have bothered to publicise its existence. MCFly has posted it on its website <http://bit.ly/aemVEz>.

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

We printed what you've just read in MCFly #59. Many's the time since then that MCFly has asked the Relevant Authorities the following questions;

- * Why a Greater Manchester Strategy – how will it add value in a way that each authority going through its own process, following Manchester's example, would not?
- * How will it be different from the process of writing the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan?
- * How will “buy-in” be obtained? Does the GM Strategy need to be endorsed by each local authority, or by the AGMA executive?
- * What input are you hoping for/expecting from Joe and Jane Public? When? How?
- * Which agencies will be delivering the actions in the plan?
- * When will a delivery plan be in place?
- * What sanctions will exist for the non-compliance?
- * Where is the money coming from a) to write the Strategy and b) to make it a reality?

If we had answers, we'd give 'em you...

"Planning" and "Coalition" - two of MCFly's favourite words...

A cross-sector coalition has launched a planning and climate change guide to help local authorities and the forthcoming local enterprise partnerships. The Planning and Climate Change Coalition, which was formed as a joint initiative between the Town and Country Planning Association and Friends of the Earth in July 2009, now includes more than 40 organisations and individuals. TCPA chief planner Hugh Ellis said: "While the planning system is still in a state of flux, this cannot be allowed to delay climate change action. Eighty per cent of UK emissions occur through locally-based activities."

www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/climate-coalition.html

Asides a recent bizarre and unhelpful public lecture, the Tesco-funded Sustainable Consumption Institute does not appear to be putting on any public seminars this year.

The 2009-10 were intermittently useful, and the lack of public-facing lectures is an alarming retreat from engagement with Joe and Jane Punter. Every little does not seem to help...

Congrats due to Manchester City Council's Housing Energy Team, which won an award at the North West Climate Leaders' Awards on Tuesday 2 November. They manage home insulation schemes in Manchester, aimed at eradicating fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions. To date, these have resulted in the installation of insulation measures in more than 10,000 homes. Another award went to, erm, Action for Sustainable Living. You know, the charity whose funding got pulled/cut/not-renewed by Manchester City Council, as reported in MCFly a couple of issues back. That must have made for an interesting acceptance speech... Speaking of AfSL...

New project in Stockport

Action for Sustainable Living has announced the start of a new 12 month scheme to promote sustainable living and environmental awareness in the Heaton areas of Stockport.

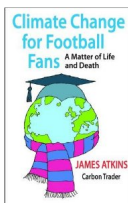
Funded by Stockport Council, the scheme will take on all things environmentally-related and aims to empower people in an area of life that often feels outside of our control. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in this project then please contact Claire D'Ambra on 0161 237 3357 or email heatons@afsl.org.uk



The Final MCFly Book Reviews; just in time for Atheistmas!

Climate Change for Football Fans by James Atkins UIT Cambridge

I did not expect to like this book. Football is just 22 millionaires chasing a pig bladder, IMHO. And the author of this is a carbon trader! But I was totally wrong - it's delightful. It follows an archetypal 'boffin,' Igor, who is concerned with climate change and a group of Burnley football fans who concerned with avoiding relegation. Both agree to learn about the other's passions. It could have been twee and sentimental, but the book is full of earthy (and eearthly) humour, succinct and pungent descriptions of the various ways humans are deluding themselves into thinking that action on climate change can be delayed, ignored and fudged. It's rare to see such honesty about the depths of our predicament in what would at first glance appear to be a 'light read'. The frequent football analogies add rather than detract. Highly recommended! It will not necessarily reach very far on the terraces, but it is a bloody good effort.

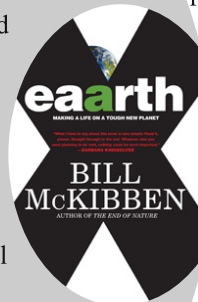


Transport for Suburbia – Beyond the Automobile Age, Paul Mees, Earthscan, 2009.

At nearly £40, the hardback edition is not cheap which unfortunately could limit its readership. This is a real shame as it deserves to be widely read – particularly by Government ministers and officials with responsibility for transport planning. But this is not to suggest that the book is a lifeless, academic or technical presentation of transport policies. The book's simple message is that with high levels of co-ordination, public transport can work even in low density suburban areas. The book provides both anecdotal and detailed evidence of how the lack of co-ordination introduced by the 'free-market' approach to public transport (de-regulation) has resulted in falling passenger numbers and poorer services. In a lively and readable style, Mees illustrates how co-ordinated 'European-style' public transport provides a generalizable model of network planning that has worked in a wide range of places such as rural Switzerland, the Brazilian city of Curitiba and the Canadian cities of Toronto and Vancouver. **"Ferret"**

Eaarth: Making a life on a tough new planet Times Books

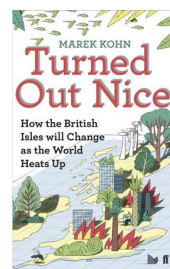
Bill McKibben is an American author whose first book "The End of Nature" (1989) is regarded as the first 'popular' book about global warming. He has kept on keeping on, and is the founder of 350.org, which is trying to create a global movement of people to get atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide down to, well, 350 parts per million. If all that sounds impossibly worthy and high-brow, rest assured. McKibben writes well, and while the first two sections of this book "A New World" and "High Tide" might not surprise the informed campaigner, McKibben has a host of interesting things to say, especially in the second half "Backing Off" and "Lightly, Carefully, Gracefully." Some readers may worry that all this talk of the internet being a useful tool is a bit, well, disconnected, but McKibben deserves to be listened to. And he even gave this arch-pessimist cause for hope! "These new schemes can upend the conventional wisdom. "If you pick up a soils textbook," says Pretty, "it will tell you that soils take geological time to create. But I've seen places in Honduras where the ground has gone from played-out desert to springy black loam." (p169) Certainly one for the Christmas wish-list!



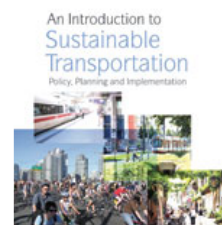
An Introduction to Sustainable Transportation: Policy, Planning and Implementation Preston Schiller, Eric C. Bruun, Jeffrey R. Kenworthy. Earthscan (Paperback).

Turned Out Nice: How the British Isles Change as the World Heats Up Marek Kohn, Faber

Marek Kohn is a (good) science writer who has written a time-travelogue of the British Isles. Manchester doesn't get much of a mention, but his imaginings of London in 2100 are intriguing, and he has obviously done a huge amount of reading of the relevant scientific literature and some informed speculating about what might be coming. He is especially strong on 'invasive species' and the cultural implications of living in an environment that is, well, not what we grew up in, and not what we expect. Nor does he shy away from the ethical and political implications of a warming world. The irony of course, is that the United Kingdom will be - even though it was the start of the problem and continues to be a major contributor – a relatively safe haven (unless you care about things like human rights etc) from the chaos that's coming. Turned out Nice indeed.



Starting with chapters that outline how we have travelled to where we are – automobile cities, hypermobility, car culture and car dependence, the book provides a short history of sustainable and unsustainable transport and chapters then cover the key areas of transport design, freight & logistics, transport economics & investment and citizen participation and involvement in public transport policy. Readable, well referenced and with a good balance of history, detailed data and policy – a useful addition for those wanting to get an overview of Sustainable Transport issues.



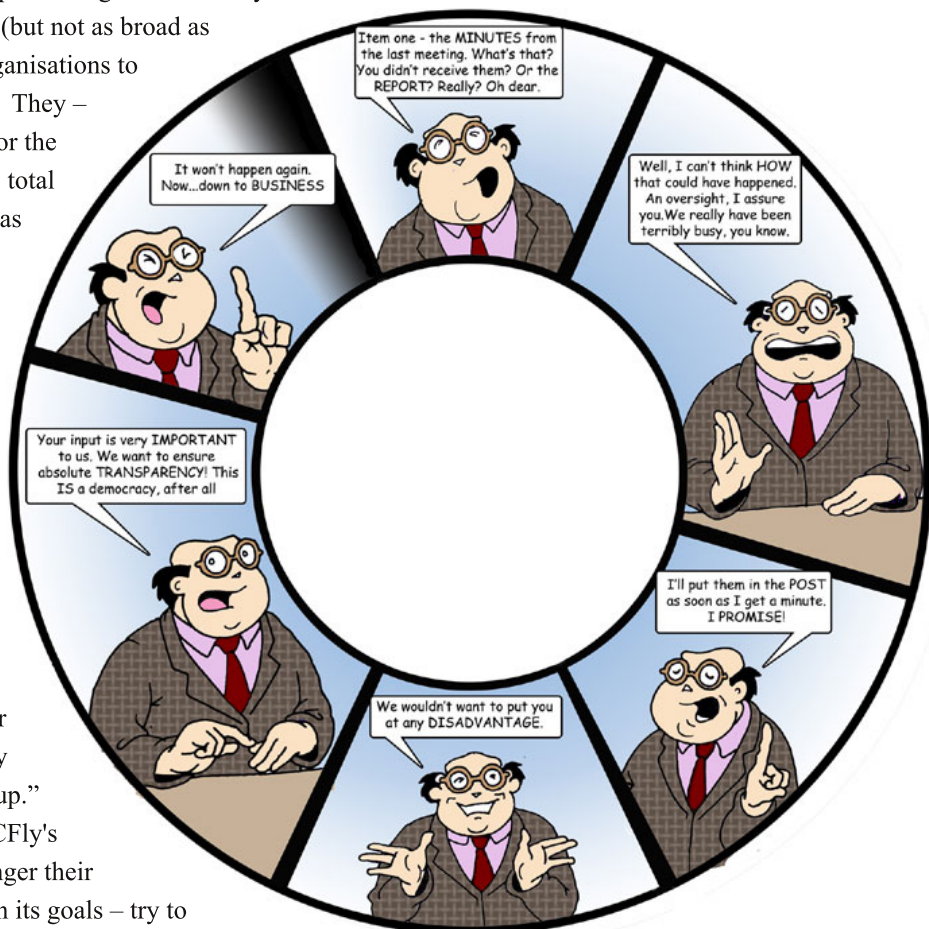
"Ferret"

LONGER REVIEWS WILL BE POSTED ON MCFLY WEBSITE VERY SOON

"I love the smell of ... burning bridges in the morning" (An apt quote, since there'll be an apocalypse shortly.)

Council of Despair

Manchester City Council prides itself on 'partnership' working. In 2009 they worked outside their comfort zone with a broad-ish (but not as broad as the re-telling would have it) range of people and organisations to create the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan. They – rightly – correct anyone who thinks it's just a plan for the Council. The Council's emissions are but 5% of the total (well, excluding the airport, naturally). This year was supposed to be the year of delivery. But the Council's internal 10:10 plan fell flat, its Delivery Plan didn't get released until the end of October (and, crucially, they didn't even bother to tell their "Environmental Advisory Panel" of a 6 week delay). The Council endlessly promised the Manchester Climate website would be updated imminently – it never was. Its efforts to get endorsement for the Plan and a groundswell and momentum have been – well, either non-existent or ineffectual or comical. The Stakeholder Conference that could have been the pinnacle of a year's engagement and dialogue will now be another schmoozathon of hollow rhetoric, minus the initially promised election of members of the "Steering Group." The Council says it wants critical friends, but in MCFly's experience, as soon as you are critical, you're no longer their friend. They – like any bureaucracy that is failing in its goals – try to stop information getting out. They even tried to hide behind "Data Protection" to prevent a list of organisations invited to endorse the Action Plan being released. Even after they'd been publicly upbraided for this by the highest possible authority in the Council, they still tried to use emotional blackmail to keep the information in-house! This is the Council's vision of honesty and democracy and transparency. Campaigners need to come mentally and organisationally equipped.



Campaign and win the following and you might have an outside chance of keeping the Council to its promises.

- * A monthly written report on their websites
- * A full-page quarterly report in the wonderful "Manchester People" newspaper
- * An 'Environment and Climate' "Oversight and Scrutiny" committee of councillors, with an enshrined right for members of the public to attend and ask questions without jumping through hoops
- * A monthly public Q and As with the relevant Council members (the Leader and/or the Exec Member for the Environment) and senior officers. Open to the public, filmed and streamed.

What to keep an eye on in the coming months

Stakeholder Conference – what promises get made? What timetable for keeping them?
The department level delivery plans. When? What? Who?
The specific actions that should have happened by what dates. Which? When?
Which organisations that should have signed the Action Plan haven't done so? Is it because they have not been invited? Is it because they don't think it's anything to do with them? Is it because they think it's too weak?
Of those few that HAVE endorsed it, what work have they done on publicising it, engaging their workforce and customers. Where are their IDPs?
The Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy - what? when? who? (see page 2)
The Ecocities Project. Is November 2011 the end of it all? What engagement work is being done?
Elections to the Steering Group in November 2011. Will they happen or will there be a quiet agreement to just stick with the nice faces around the table?
Remember; there will be delay and delay and delay, excuse after excuse after excuse. More and more verbiage, in inverse proportion to how much actually gets DONE.

Hiding behind the 'we are volunteers' excuse, most (not all) campaigning groups are simply

In the Smugosphere

Every so often an email lands in the MCFly inbox from a Concerned Citizen wondering where they should put their (political) energy. After the standard non-guru disclaimer, I try to give an answer based on what that person wants to achieve, what time and skills they have. Sadly, the only group that I can with good conscience send them towards is Manchester Friends of the Earth. I say sadly because FOE is - for my taste - too reformistic in its nature and too nervous about upsetting its newly-repaired relationship with Manchester City Council. But FOE is also the only organisation that doesn't spend its time "herding the cats" and running round in circles and losing-regaining-losing momentum. It just keeps on keeping on. There is something in that that other groups could learn from. Sending Mr/Ms Emailer to any other group means sending them to places where in-fighting, posing, cliquiness and futile "mass" actions and spasms of activity is the name of the game. At least FOE do some sort of job of holding the Council to account. But they can't open up new political space, only occupy it once others have broken the ground. They'd be much more effective if there were real groups out there focussed on Manchester that were more radical than them. And the radical groups might achieve something too. But it is far easier to say "we're going to a march/demo/ruck in London" than it is to say "well, there's this scrutiny committee made up of local councillors and ..." Humans, and groups of humans, generally take the easiest path available to them. And it is far far easier to go with the big crowd doing stuff that is getting (less and less) national media attention, and which offers chances for making friendships and contacts beyond the single city ghetto than it is to take relentless unglamorous local action.

Total lack of communication and co-ordination: a Case Study

The last Thursday of the month is already a clash - between the monthly Greenpeace meeting and the Friends of the Earth campaigns meeting. So what do Manchester Climate Action and Transition City Manchester do? They BOTH go and put on events that they want a big turn-out at on that same evening. Either MCA and TCM didn't know about the "last Thursday problem" or they didn't care. Neither option is very encouraging.

What could be done?

Internally, groups could;

- * make a commitment to educate their 'core' and their peripheral members about the local political realities and policy developments.
- * commit to knowledge and skill share. This can be done with newsletters, workshops, role-play, youtube videos etc
- * agree to devote a percentage (50%?) of their time on local issues
- * sort out their truly appalling methods of holding meetings, methods which reinforce the cliques and make it really really difficult for 'newbies' to get involved. The 'churn' rate of people attending one or two meetings and then bugging off is terrifying. Friends of the Earth and Green Party never particularly notice it, because as nationally-known outfits, they get a steady stream of interested punters.
- * generally escape from the smugosphere by setting realistic and achievable short term goals and measuring against them.

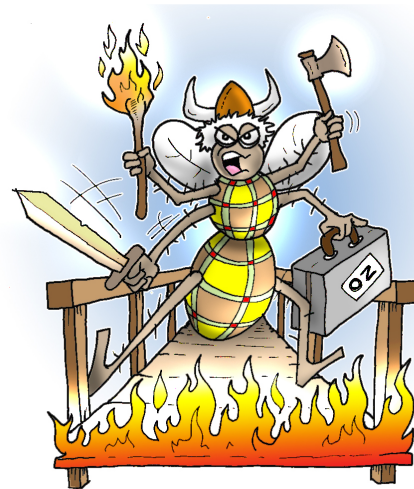
Externally, groups could;

- * sort out their terrible websites. Ugly, haphazardly updated, no useful background information.
- * systematically tell other groups what they are doing and why, and commit to spreading the information they get from other groups to their own membership, and encourage folks leaving their groups to try another. There could quite easily be an item on all the groups' meetings agenda saying "here's what all the other groups in Manchester are doing." Sense of a movement, much?
- * hold the bloody Council's feet to the bloody fire. I cannot say it clearer than that.

Further reading

Dwight Towers (dwighttowers.wordpress.com) blogposts 1) A climate movement in Manchester? (Oct 3) 2) Adventures in the Liminal Zone- why newbies don't come back (August 31) and 3) Get your fucking game face on (Nov 9)

Youtube videos on the "Smugosphere", "Transruptive", SMEAC, Meetings from Above and so on. youtube.com/users/dwighttowering
Far more reasonable and nice are the following sites: www.rhizome.coop, activismismyrent.wordpress.com



Parrhesia In the classic discipline of rhetoric, parrhesia is a figure of speech described as: to speak candidly or to ask forgiveness for so speaking. The term is borrowed from the Greek παρρησία meaning literally "to speak everything" and by extension "to speak freely," "to speak boldly," or "boldness." It implies not only freedom of speech, but the obligation to speak the truth for the common good, even at personal risk.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parrhesia>

MCFly: Anatomy of a Failure

MCFly never adequately defined who or what it was for. It was not aimed at the 'general reader', skeptics or climate professionals. If it was for anyone, it was for that mythical person who knows who her local councillors are, who wants to make her local democracy more responsive, more responsible. It was aimed at those who could think global but wanted to act local. If it had spent more time searching out those people, using existing routes of distribution, and been written in a less academic/in-joke style, it might have stood a chance of 'success.' But what is "success", in a world where the Titanic has already hit the iceberg and there aren't enough lifeboats? What use is information when what is needed is motivation, as well as hope that our feeble actions will amount to an adequate response? MCFly was never going to be a 'success' independent of the health of a wider movement, that could **grow** in numbers and diversity and tactics, **learn** from its successes and failures, **organise** around people's jobs, home lives, interests and **win** important small victories and 'non-reformist reforms', cracking open the layers of secrecy and bureaucracy and stupidity that embalm Castle Grayskull (also known as Manchester Town Hall). In the absence of a "GLOW"ing movement, MCFly was never going to be more than a voluntarist spasm. And so it came to pass.

Mea Culpas

Sorry to the organisations whose meetings I promised to write up for the MCFly website and which I never did (Councillor x, Wythenshawe Hospital) and to anyone else I lunched out.

Sorry for giving the impression by publishing a relatively comprehensive climate calendar that there is a lot going on in Manchester. There is a lot going on, but very very little of it is to any useful purpose. Most of it is ritualised busy work leading to nothing, feeding individual or organisational ego only.

Sorry for not producing more youtube videos and bluffers' guides.

Lessons to be learnt

Have a team of reliable people (I don't know how you do that). An Army of One is not enough.

Get a wordpress site early on (we fooled around with blogger)

Take a systematic approach to electronic distribution.

Use the Freedom of Information Act. It is your friend.

Find and keep a brilliant cartoonist who'll work for praise and veggie breakfasts at Wetherspoons.

As soon as the Council knows you have an expiry date, they'll simply wait you out.

Don't expect those who tell you how wonderful your newsletter is to actually **do** anything with the information you disseminate, since such expectations will only lead to disappointment and resentment.

Thanks... for nothing

Thanks to all those people who said how great MCFly was but never linked to it on their websites, or circulated it via email, or ever once offered to help with physical distribution.

Thanks to all those self-proclaimed climate activists who said how great MCFly was and then asked questions that revealed that they'd not read any of the last 5 issues or so.

6.

And finally, thanks to all those people who promised to help and then didn't bother. You really helped keep our morale up.

Why MCFly had to die

The immediate reason is that the founder and editor is about to MCFly to Australia, burning 5 tonnes of carbon in the process. (Will "offset", coming back overland blah blah.)

Why going? Parents not getting any younger.

At its most useful, MCFly was based on a certain relationship of (wary) co-existence with Manchester City Council. But media that does not 'behave' itself is denied access to stories and snippets of info. Titbits are given or withheld to (try to) ensure compliance. At some point (around June/July 2010) I stopped playing this game altogether, stopped giving space in MCFly to confident pronouncements from the Council which I thought had little chance of coming to pass. I stopped pretending (to myself or them) that they were on the right track, that 2010 was going to be the necessary year of 'delivery delivery delivery'. There has been so much bullshit and delay and incompetence in this last 10 months - from an already high baseline - that I just couldn't stomach it, I couldn't pretend. That, combined with my utter dismay at the rank amateurishness and self-indulgence of the Manchester climate 'scene' (not movement, scene), meant that a tone of cynicism and bitterness that was always present in MCFly has taken over. Sarcasm and contempt have eaten the earlier light humour for breakfast.

More recently, I've stopped covering some difficult stories out of despair that anyone was using the information I gathered, the analysis I tried to make. For example, the Council's delayed Internal Delivery Plan needs to be subjected to rigorous scrutiny. But why should I do it, if none of the groups that you'd expect to do it (The Liberal Democrats, Friends of the Earth, Manchester Climate Action, Transition City Manchester, the Green Party) don't even seem to know that the Internal Delivery Plan exists, or if they do, don't seem to think there is any point in their being intimately familiar with it and doing a public constructive criticism of it?

There might have been ways to keep MCFly afloat after my departure, but repeated requests for help in keeping it going met with silence or came from people who were simply not reliable. (Offers rejected in March came at a time when MCFly was about to fold.) Campaigning groups are not, it seems, interested in winning, but in maintaining their self-satisfied little sub-cultures of ineffective 'dissent', whether legal or else ones that allow opportunities for martyrdom. The absence of any Darwinian selection pressure on groups will allow them to splash around (forever?) in the smugosphere. MCFly will not be there to report on their frolics.

Thanks to Arwa, Marc, Sarah, Katie, Ferret, Ali, Sarah, Diane, Graeme, Jeremy, the Quakers at the Friends Meeting House, Thanks to other sources who would prefer to remain anonymous.

It was fun while it lasted. Manchester Mule, now monthly, will be running stories on environmental issues. <http://manchestermule.com>

Chorlton Big Green Festival have got together with St Clement Church, where the festival is held every year, to form **Green Chorlton**

Community Centre Committee. It will transform the youth centre in the grounds of St Clement into a high quality, energy efficient, community centre for Chorlton. No decision has yet been taken on whether to refurbish the existing building or start from scratch. Students from Centre for Alternative Technology produced some innovative and interesting designs for new build. Whichever route is taken the aim is to involve local people throughout, including - where possible - in the construction work itself. It's still early stages but the project has received some funding through the Festival and from Manchester City Council. Anyone out there who'd like to make a substantial donation? More information is available from greennccc.wordpress.com or email greenchorltoncc@gmail.com.



POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Do you dream of a small scale hydro project or wind turbine where you live, but don't know where to start? Is your community building crying out for a biomass boiler or a set of solar panels? Have you heard about feed-in tariffs, heat incentives and paybacks, and wondered whether your voluntary organisation could benefit?

This winter, Carbon Co-op and Carbon Leapfrog are running a series of masterclass sessions,

CarbonCo-op

practical, how-to guides for people interested in low carbon projects that will transform their communities and their environment. Each session features advice from a panel of professional experts from the North West and the City of London. The emphasis of the programme is on sharing knowledge and experience and on practical solutions. Location The masterclasses will be held at Manchester Digital Laboratory (MadLab), 40 Edge Street, Manchester M4 1HN.

Weds 24 November Inspiring Communities – engagement and planning

Weds 1 December. Finance and legal issues

Weds 8 December. Installation and maintenance

How to book Places are free but limited and demand is high. To book a place email events@carbon.coop or call 0161 408 6492. You can book on one or all sessions. Lunch is provided. To confirm your place we require a returnable cheque for £40 dated after 8th December 2010 and made out to Carbon Co-op as a deposit. When you attend the workshop the cheque will be returned to you.

Bursaries A limited number of travel bursaries are available to subsidise travel from outside the Greater Manchester region. Contact us for more information.

www.carbon.coop carbonleapfrog.org

THE FINAL DIGEST

Local and Regional

Nov 1 The Greater Manchester Environment Commission has secured £10m (just over £5m worth of European Regional Development Fund money, to be matched by cash from utilities firms and other private sector investors) to offer families in the city-region grants to take on new green technologies such as improved insulation, solar energy, wood chip fuel, thermal cladding and updated boilers

Nov 5 Green energy business Farmgen has secured a £2.1m loan from the Co-operative Bank to help pay for anaerobic digestion tanks at Carr Farm, near Warton. These will be fed with crops from nearby fields to create enough biogas to generate nearly 1MW worth of electricity - enough for 1,000 homes.

Nov 12 Two families plagued by plane noise after the opening of runway two at Manchester Airport have been awarded more than £100,000 compensation, after taking the Airport to the Royal Courts of Justice. Incidentally, the Airport is 55% owned by Manchester City Council, which is not including airplane emissions in its own carbon budgetting.

National (well, UK)

Nov 10 The Green Investment Bank might make its first investments in low-carbon infrastructure before the end of 2011, according to senior figures at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The bank's initial £1bn of funding from BIS is not due until 2013/14, but officials say it could deploy proceeds from the sale of government-owned assets in late 2011 and throughout 2012. Private investment managers have been telling the government to "just get on with it" and launch the bank as soon as possible.

International

Nov 12 Nobuo Tanaka, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, said "We cannot let the financial and economic crisis delay the policy action that is urgently needed to ensure secure energy supplies and to curtail rising emissions of greenhouse gases. We must usher in a global energy revolution by improving energy efficiency and increasing the deployment of low-carbon energy." Well, that's reassuring.

Pseuds Corner

Manchester Creative Collectives was a conscious catalyst point of a shared collective consciousness which opened discussions with in the city about creativity and ownership in a public space. 'being aware of symbols holds in itself a certain power of control over you own environment'. The designs of Manchester's Open Spaces*, the experiences they make possible and the consequences they have in our lives. Being in public spaces involves social encounters, immersion in the sights, and atmosphere of a local culture, and curiosity about the traces of thought, imagination and investment that have guided their construction and use over time.*

<http://mcc-hub.org/background-info>

What's coming up

for more detail; <http://manchesterclimatefortnightly.wordpress.com/calendar/november-2010>



Mon 15, 5.30 - 8pm EN4M meeting at Bridge 5 Mill 22a Beswick Street Manchester M4 7HR

Network wide meeting, mini presentations from EN4M/SNAG/TAG, discussion forum with open and advanced agenda items,

Tues 16, 7pm Friends of the Earth Swap It! Stitch It! Style It!, featuring a screening of "The Story of Stuff", a clothing swap shop. Nexus Art Cafe, Dale Street Nexus Cafe

Weds 17, 6pm to 9.30pm "On The Eve of Cancun: Can We Cut Carbon In Time?" Manchester Art Gallery

Weds 17, 6-11pm "Goodby MCFly" Sandbar, Grosvenor St

Weds 17, 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

Thurs 18, 6 to 8pm (5:30 for refreshments) Transport Board public forum. This is an opportunity to hear, and ask question, about the LTP 3. The event will be chaired by the Cllr Nigel Murphy and will have senior transport officers and Bill Harrop of the Transport Action Group Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street

Sat 20, 7.30pm Friends of the Earth fundraising gig. The Ram and Shackle, Fallowfield. Music from local bands.

Sat 20 Nov to Dec 3 FutureManchester www.merci.org.uk/futuremanchester

Tues 23, 4-8pm Sustainable Living Celebration. Organised by Action for Sustainable Living, Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Rd

Tues 23, 7pm "A Million Climate Jobs: how to fight the cuts and save the planet" Friends Meeting House, Mount St. Speakers: Manuel Cortes (assistant general secretary, Transport Salaried Staff Association) Cllr Neil Swannick, A speaker from Campaign against Climate Change

Tues 23, 8pm Reasonable Cause, Kro Bar, Oxford Rd. Music from Esther Swift, harpist from the folk group Twelfth Day, the unique electronic-acoustic sounds of Messner. Video from the Manchester based food organisation, The Kindling Trust entitled " Sustainable Food". Greg Keeffe (Leeds School Of Architecture) will be giving a talk on Carbon Neutral cities. There will of course be drawing, glitter, jigsaws and silly videos. bencashell@gmail.com

Weds 24, 10.30am - 4pm Inspiring Communities - engagement and planning Manchester Digital Laboratory (MadLab), 40 Edge Street, Manchester M4 1HN Featuring a series of case studies, identifying key pitfalls and looking at monitoring. For further information and to book a place, visit: www.carbon.coop/blog contact 0161 408 6492, or email: events@carbon.coop.

Weds 24, 3 - 6pm "Permaculture in El Salvador" Karen Inwood Director of the Instituto de Permacultra de El Salvador Manchester Uni, Alan Turner Building Room G.107

Weds 24, 6 to 8pm Sustainable Neighbourhoods Partnership Forum. Friends Meeting House, 6, Mount Street It will focus on:* Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Neighbourhoods – The Coalition Government Spending Review 2010.*Short presentation will be followed by facilitated workshops in which you will be encouraged to contribute constructive suggestions for priorities and actions.

Thurs 25, 7.15pm – 9pm Friends of the Earth campaigns meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham St. www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

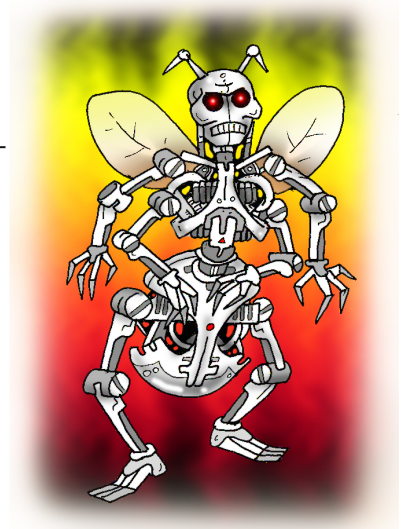
Thurs 25 8-9pm Greenpeace meeting. Upstairs at Ape and Apple Pub, John Dalton St www.greenpeace.org.uk/groups/manchester

Thurs 25, 7.30pm "Breaking the law and climate change. Is direct action necessary to create a better world?" Manchester Metropolitan Students Union - Oxford Road - M1 7EL Discussion, debate and fundraiser. With guest speakers (TBC) and music. All welcome. With Manchester Climate Action and Plane Stupid

Thurs 25, 5.30pm-8pm An Introduction to transition: film night "What's your vision of Manchester beyond cheap oil?" MERCI, Bridge5 Mill. FREE but suggested donation of £3 to cover the cost of the room. <http://transitioncitymanchester.wordpress.com>

Fri 26, Earth Rights event at MERCI. Contact Jen Nelson to secure your place on 273 1736, or jenn@merci.org.uk

I'LL BE BACK*



* The day after hell freezes over.

MCFly was an independent and cantankerous newsletter covering climate change in (Greater) Manchester. It was not funded by any council(!), political party or campaigning group. MCFly was edited by Marc Hudson. So long, and thanks for all the fish.

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www.apeuk.org

