

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Free!
And slightly less ugly with it

Issue 30, August 9 2009

Wind power to the people!

The workers occupying the Vestas wind-turbine factory on the Isle of Wight ended their occupation on Friday August 7, after the Danish multinational got the right paperwork to evict them. Trade union activists have been busy around the country - including in Manchester - collecting signatures for a petition to nationalise the factory, and to raise funds for the sacked workers. On Tuesday August 11 a Vestas worker will be speaking at a solidarity meeting, 7pm start, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St. manc_sfe@hotmail.com or savevestas.wordpress.com for further info

Shout it from the (green) rooftops

Manchester City Council and the AGMA "Commission for the New Economy" are paying property consultancy Drivers Jonas to do a feasibility study on creating more green roofspace in Manchester. The head of sustainability at DJ, Jon Lovell - who is heavily involved in several writing groups for the Climate Change Action Plan (see below) - said: "*Green roofs deliver so many financial, environmental and public benefits, it's astonishing that there are so few of them. We need to challenge the received wisdom about the costs and risks.*"

Salford City Council's cabinet has approved its 'carbon management plan' aiming to save £5m a year. Measures include telling staff to switch off lights and computers; a £1.4m programme to change the motors in 12 tower block lifts; energy efficient street lighting; the conversion of oil boilers to gas; and putting loft and cavity wall insulation in council buildings. And - which got the media coverage- teaching truck and van drivers how to drive in a 'conservative' manner. The plan goes to full council soon.

Climate Change Action Plan Update #4

August 10 to November 18 = 100 days

All five of the writing groups for Manchester City Council's Action Plan have now met once, with second meetings imminent. Literature reviews are being undertaken by the Green City Team. As yet there is no indication of how these writing groups are intending to fulfil the second half of their obligation "*to build awareness, understanding and capacity of climate change issues, engaging communities and organisations throughout Manchester in the behaviour change needed to transform itself into a 'low carbon city' by 2020.*"

There has been concern about the gender balance and the number of men in suits versus "ordinary people" in the Writing Groups. In the Transport group (total number of women who weren't taking minutes/facilitating =... wait for it... zero) the immortal line "*we need to take the politics out of transport*" was uttered.

The questions raised in the last MCFly still stand; who is going to revise the document in October and how, how will the document be released, will the lessons of Call to Action be learnt, what are the mechanisms for engaging with 'stakeholders,' how will the document be revised and extended in 2010 and 2011? Answers probably won't be forthcoming until the next Environmental Advisory Panel in September.

There is no explanation of the Action Plan on the Council's website, or simple representative graphic (aside from MCFly 29's feeble effort). What is going on?

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info/actionplan.html

Your cut out and keep guide to the rest of 2009

August

Tues 25 Showing of "The Age of Stupid" at Yard Theatre, Hulme

September

Sat 12 Communities for Change 10am to 4pm at Manchester Metropolitan University Didsbury Campus, Wilmslow Road, Manchester M20 2RR

Communities for Change 

Tues 22 In Town Without My Car day

October

Sunday 4 Trecathlon in Heaton Park

Saturday 17 "Climate Action Now": Stop Climate Chaos conference about Copenhagen, all day at New Century House.

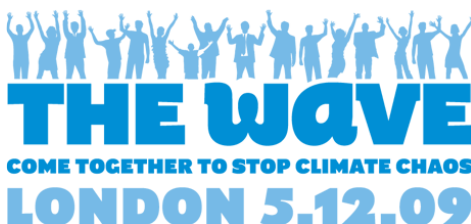
Saturday 24 Sustainable Manchester Festival

November

Mon 16 Faith and the Environment conference, 5pm to 9pm, venue tbc.

Weds 18 MCC Executive Meeting at which the Climate Change Action Plan will be agreed

December


THE WAVE
COME TOGETHER TO STOP CLIMATE CHAOS
LONDON 5.12.09

Saturday 5 "The Wave" Climate March in London www.stopclimatechaos.org

7th to 18th, Copenhagen Climate Talks <http://en.cop15.dk/>

Tuesday 8, 7pm "We marched, now what?" meeting at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, hosted by Manchester Climate

Forum www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk

Coping with Copenhagen



As MCFly goes to press, the latest mini-round of talks towards the Copenhagen negotiations is happening in Bonn, Germany. Read more at <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwgi>

In recent news: the newly-elected chair of the European Parliament's environment committee, German Social Democratic MEP Jo Leinen, said "our engagement for climate protection should be independent from Copenhagen ... if Copenhagen is a success, all the better; if not, we have to stick to our job". Ban-ki Moon (UN Secretary General) said that in September, "we will be entering a crucial stage on climate change" and that to keep up the momentum, he will travel to the Arctic polar ice rim in August and will then attend the World Climate Conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

On August 5 Mexico said it will put a detailed offer to cut the growth of its own emissions on the negotiating table.

Essential Reading "Climate activists in denial" Gideon Rachman Financial Times July 27

The Guardian has a chart of who (of the NGOs) wants what <http://tinyurl.com/m66oyz>

And finally, New Internationalist will be publishing a cartoon guide to the Copenhagen talks, drawn by Manchester (and MCFly's) very own Marc Roberts.



Joe Romm and the brainless boiling frogs
<http://climateprogress.org/2009/07/26/follows-part-2-boiling-brainless-frogs-and-the-ooda-loop/>

Newsweek's Science Editor explains why climate change is "even worse than we feared" and how "a consensus has

developed... that the Greenland ice sheet will disappear."

<http://climateprogress.org/2009/08/05/newsweek-science-editor-sharon-begley-climate-change-is-even-worse-than-we-feared-greenland-ice-sheet-will-disappear-jaws/>

Psychological barriers like uncertainty, mistrust and denial keep most Americans from acting to fight climate change
tinyurl.com/m6seat

Without Rhyme or Reason

When Jonathon Porritt left the Sustainable Development Commission, one of his staff wrote a "poem". We reprint it here for the hysterical record.

*For nine long years this green guru reigned
Watching over Whitehall, his eye keenly trained
Tree-hugger-in-chief or simply JP
However you know him you should start to see
He's a true ninja of sustainability*

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

We send out an email bulletin between fortnightly newsletters. Subscribe to 'em both by sending a message to info@manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

We blog; manchesterclimatefortnightly.blogspot.com We tweet at www.twitter.com/mcr_climate

What's coming up

Tuesday 11, 7pm Friends of the Earth meeting, Greenfish Resource Centre, 45 Oldham St www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

Tuesday 11, 7pm Vestas support group, including speaker from Vestas. Friends Meeting House

Weds 12, 7pm Call to Real Action meeting at Friends Meeting House www.calltorealaction.wordpress.com

Thurs 13, 5pm Find out about volunteering with Action for Sustainable Living. St Wilfrid's Enterprise Centre, Royce Road, Hulme, M15 5BJ www.afsl.org.uk

Tues 18, 6pm to 8.45 CIBSE consultation on 25% reduction from housing emissions scheme. Vine Inn, 42 Kennedy Street, M2 4BQ

Tues 25, 7.30pm Showing of "The Age of Stupid" at the Yard Theatre, Hulme. £2.50 suggested donation

Yes, but is it art?

CO₂ CUBES is an international art exhibition featuring physical



representations of 1 metric tonne of carbon dioxide installed in participating cities around the world. The art cubes symbolize our individual and collective carbon dioxide output and highlight a major contributing factor to climate change.

www.millenniumart.org

Manchester Conservatives in arrogant and/or incompetent shocker

The Manchester Conservatives (one Manchester councillor, who was elected as a Lib Dem) said they would send a speaker to the August 4th Manchester Climate Forum event "Climate Change: A Year from Now". No Tory showed, and no apology or explanation was forthcoming. Either they thought "why bother, climate change doesn't matter and there won't be any swing voters there" or else they couldn't organise themselves to send an email saying "sorry, none of us can make it." In either case, it makes you hope that the calibre of people who'll be running the country next year is higher than the muppets of Manchester.

The Simon CO₂well Swoop

Climate Camp (www.climatecamp.org.uk) will happen somewhere in London from August 26 to September 2 They've just announced they are holding an election to decide where their next action- in October - will take place. Choices are either Drax, the Yorkshire coal plant and the UK's single biggest emitter of carbon and site of the first camp in 2006, or the second largest coal plant, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, near Nottingham, run by E.ON, site of a recent debacle where over 100 people were arrested before getting near the site. Calls are charged at £1 a minute from landlines. Calls from mobiles will cost considerably more. No, but seriously, you vote by going to www.thegreatclimateswoop.org