

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

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Free!
Summer's here- it's only
raining every other day!

Green is Good

If you ever look up as you walk about Manchester, chances are you'll see a red oval "Bruntwood" sign above you. The omni-present commercial property group (www.bruntwood.co.uk) specialises in taking buildings that might well get torn down and making them not just habitable and profitable, but energy-efficient to boot. They're also backing Manchester University's "EcoCities Project", which aims to provide the blueprint for a climate change adaptation strategy for the city. So, it seemed like a good idea to sit down with Mike Oglesby, Bruntwood's founder, and talk about why climate change matters to him and the business.

Oglesby, who founded the Bruntwood group in 1978, explained that the company is focused on the long-term future and also on the need to create the right sort of environment for their customers (never, as we learned, call them tenants!). "It just makes commercial sense to be the 'green choice' and at the end of the day - this is what I keep saying to people - it makes good financial sense. There are all sort of arguments, but even to the most hard-nosed accountant it makes sense."

Preaching the financial gains of more sustainable practices, Bruntwood are currently running various recycling schemes, green roofing projects and the like. They are keen to show people the advantages of retrofitting rather than demolishing buildings in the city. "If you take the improvements that you can make and compare it to the cost of replacing it all, we believe that people should be clambering to save these old buildings and not pull them down."

Bruntwood, which owns 38 office building in Manchester's city centre alone, also has projects in the pipeline to encourage car-sharing. "The key thing is being able to say to people 'do this and it will really make a difference', to point it out and educate them." In fact, this seems to be the motivation behind supporting the university project: they want the evidence.

"You know people actually enjoy being virtuous, maybe that's a bad choice of words but it does make them feel good. What we

have got to do is to find the right ways of making people feel good about it and that's why we need the universities to say 'that does have that effect', 'that's the key thing'."

On a different note, we asked his opinion on the proposal for an elected mayor in the city. He was robust in stating he didn't think it was necessary. "In fact, I'd go further than that, as I think London has shown that you don't necessarily get the right type of leadership by electing a mayor. I believe that the political leadership that we have throughout the region is sound."

You'll be able to read the full transcript of the interview imminently, on the MCFly blog.

MCFly will, over the coming months, be interviewing other businesses about their climate change activities.

Third Wednesdays

Manchester Climate Forum is hosting a series of "info-share and networking" meetings at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St.

First half is a short presentation and Q and A. Second half is brainstorming, networking and announcements.

Sept 16 "Manchester's Ecosystems- political, economic, ecological"

Oct 21 "The Climate Change Action Plan(s)"

Nov 18 to be decided

Dec 16 Xmas bash, venue to be announced

Jan 20 "Copenhagen's (no) deal and what it means for Manchester."

www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk/3rdwednesdays.html

Quotable Quotes: During the boom years, there was a spate of books warning that we were all doomed.... At their most apocalyptic, the underlying message of these [peak oil] books was, in the words of *The Simpsons* newscaster Kent Brockman: "It's time for our viewers to crack each other's heads open and feast on the goo inside." Ed Crooks on "The brighter side of expensive oil," Financial Times Monday August 17

Coping with Copenhagen



John Prescott told the Guardian that the vital UN climate change talks in Copenhagen are likely to collapse unless rich nations agree a "social justice deal" built around equalising emissions per head in each country. The Bonn climate talks of mid-August ended with not even the most optimistic officials finding anyway to spin a success.

Encouragingly, Jairam Ramesh, India's Environment Minister has told the Financial Times "In 2020, it's conceivable that we might look at a limited target. But in 2009, no way."

So, is it time to start worrying? The liberal press thinks maybe so www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/aug/12/network-copenhagen

What's coming up in Mcr

Tues 25 from 5.30 to 7.30pm Action for Sustainable Living volunteer social at The Knott Bar 374 Deansgate

www.afsl.org.uk

Tues 25 8pm The Age of Stupid film showing The Yard Theatre, Hulme, 41 Old Birley Street. Suggested donation £2.50

Weds 26 from 6.30pm Green Drinks, Lime Bar 2 Booth Street, Manchester, M2 4AT

Thurs 27, 7pm FoE Campaigns meeting, Greenfish Resource Centre, 45 Oldham St. www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

Friday 28 Bike Friday! www.en4m.org.uk/?q=node/1361

Tues Sept 1, 7pm Call to Real Action planning meeting, venue to be confirmed. www.calltorealaction.wordpress.com

Weds Sep 2, 8pm The Age of Stupid, as per Tues 25 details

Thurs 3, 7pm FoE Campaigns meeting, Greenfish Resource Centre, 45 Oldham St. www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

Scary Science



We are in Hot Water- The average water temperature worldwide was 17 degrees Celsius, according to the National Climatic Data Center, the U.S. government body keeping world weather records. June was only slightly cooler, while August could set another record, scientists say. The previous record was set in July, 1998, during a powerful El Nino weather pattern.

Meanwhile, the glaciers in Antarctica are melting four times faster than in the 1990s, methane is bubbling from the Arctic quicker than scientists thought, and the thinning of the Arctic ice has opened a route along the Northeast passage (Vladivostok to Europe).

Manchester City Council has released its 'State of the City report' for 2008/2009

which "provides a comprehensive evidence base to inform decisions to improve the city...[and] a progress update on the State of the City indicator framework within the Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement." www.manchesterpartnership.org.uk/page/23/

Meanwhile, nationally- **"Food 2030** is a partnership between Defra, the Food Standards Agency, the Department of Health and stakeholders. A number of challenges are facing the food system; rising population, diminishing natural resources and climate change. Alongside these, diet-related ill health continues to put a burden on the economy and society. The Government has published a package of material which invites your views on the future of our food system." <http://sandbox.defra.gov.uk/food2030/> Some scientists are tending to think of the **world's biggest cities as analogous to living, breathing organisms**, and that view is creating a "deep new understanding of how poor air quality in megacities can harm residents, people living far downwind, and also play a major role in global climate change." That's the conclusion of a report on "urban metabolism." See here- <http://tinyurl.com/msgolk>

Next MCFly out Sunday Sept 6, with Action Plan news etc
Mystic Meg sez "expect a 10 out of 10 surprise on Sept 1st..."

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

Why not in Manchester?

Energy-saving light bulbs are to be installed at 3,500 traffic lights across London as part of the Mayor of London's efforts to cut CO2 emissions in London by 60% by 2025.

At least three light-emitting diodes (LED) bulbs will be fitted at each traffic signal head at 300 junctions in the capital next year, at a cost of £2.4m.

Meanwhile Oxford has said it is the first city in England and Wales to commit to having a commercial-scale wind turbine on council land. It has earmarked a potential site and aims to submit a planning application by 2011. So, there's still time for Manchester to gazump them.

Congrats

To Jo Wilkes, organiser of Call to Real Action's fab launch event in April. She is now a British Council "International Climate Champion" The ICC "is a programme that works in sixty countries across the globe, with young people who are passionate and committed to action on climate change." The British Council "helps them develop and implement projects within their local communities that raise awareness of climate change, limit the impact of climate change, and reduce carbon footprints."