

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

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Solar Power to the People

Half a million quid has been spent solar-panelling ten tower blocks across North Manchester. Half of that came from Northwards Housing, which is a not-for-profit company set up by Manchester City Council to manage thousands of its properties. The other £250,000 came from central government's "Low Carbon Buildings Programme." The panels were supplied by Solarcentury, "the UK's leading solar energy provider."

The tower blocks, in Charleston, Moston and Higher Blackley are guinea pigs for a retro-fitting scheme. The generated leccy will be fed back into the landlord's supply, and savings spent on 'future investment'.

As such, residents, who were consulted but not asked to contribute to the scheme, will not benefit directly via decreased energy bills.

The project is an effort by Northwards to go beyond the obligations imposed upon it by central government's "Decent Housing Standard", whereby 95% of social housing is supposed to be "wind and weather tight, warm and with modern facilities" by 2010. Northwards plan to spread 'lessons learned' to other social housing providers and beyond.

Relevant Websites

Northwards

www.northwardshousing.co.uk

Solarcentury's mission is to "make a big difference in the fight against climate change. Our aim is to revolutionise the global energy market."

www.solarcentury.com

Decent Homes Standard

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/decenthomes

MCR & Climate Change book launched!



A book of articles about the airport, food, transport, waste, water, religion, gender, activism, the council, low carbon communities and much much more... written by and for Mancunians, with MCFly folk at its core. £5. It's launched on Weds 17th Sept at 8pm, at the Sandbar, 120 Grosvenor St. Come get involved in making its sequel!

www.onlyplanet.info

Open Season on coal? Probably not...

Last year six Greenpeace activists painted most of "Gordon Bin it" in big big letters on a coal-fired power station chimney, as part of a climate protest. Last week they were *acquitted* of causing £30,000 of criminal damage to E.On property. The jury had heard evidence from top scientist James Hansen about the damage caused by carbon emissions, and accepted the unprecedented defence argument that they were legally justified because they were trying to prevent climate change causing greater damage to property around the world.

A busy fortnight...

Weds 17 from 8pm Launch party of "Only Planet" The Sandbar, 120 Grosvenor St. www.onlyplanet.info

Thurs 18 from 7.30pm "Direct Action and climate change in your local Community." Yard Theater, Hulme
www.manchesterclimateaction.org.uk

Thurs 18 at 7pm TIF Yes campaign meeting. Greenfish Resource Centre, 45 Oldham St, Manchester

Sun 21 at 7pm Towards a Green New Deal: Climate Clinic Reception at the Labour Party Conference Climate Clinic, 113-115 Portland St

Mon 22 "Convention of the Left" Planet Day, Friends Meeting House
<http://conventionoftheleft.org.uk/>

Tues 23 at 12.45pm. Flash Mob against airport expansion, Albert Sq
info@stopmanchesterairport.org.uk

Weds 24 at 7pm Public meeting on Cuban Sustainability and how Cuba survived peak oil. MMU, Lecture Theatre 2 at Geoffrey Manton Bldg

Thurs 25 at 7pm Campaign for Free Public Transport inaugural meeting, Friends Meeting House

Thurs 25, 7.45pm Greenpeace Mtg, Ape and Apple pub, John Dalton St

Sat/Sun 27/28 National Climate Camp gathering at Bridge 5 Mill, Ancoats www.climatecamp.org.uk

Local and Regional

Sept 2 Activists defending allotments in Harpurhey will take developers to court if they don't remove rubble dumped on the land, and pay compensation. [The developers removed it! Woohoo!] In other allotment news, the Environment Agency wants to plough up 1/2 the Bradley Fold allotments, to protect... a golf course.

Sept 2 Manchester University appoints Professor Mohan Munasinghe, one of the world's leading thinkers on energy, sustainable development and climate change as director general of its Sustainable Consumption Institute.

Sept 4 Manc to Leeds trains are coasting down hills to save 2 million litres of diesel a year (and 12 tonnes of CO₂ a day). Truly, after you leave Manchester, it's all downhill..

Sept 4 Duddon Sands windfarm, which will be near Walney Island off the coast of Barrow-in-Furness, is one of the country's three largest offshore wind farms approved so far and will comprise up to 139 turbines.

Sept 11 A new pro-TIF group launches itself with an event in Rochdale. www.WeVoteYes.co.uk

Sept 11 In a bizarre "exclusive" on page 24, the MEN reports on the "Mini-Stern," which MCFly managed to cover when it was launched... 6 weeks ago. Next week's MEN scoop- Tony Blair planning to invade Iraq.

Sept 11 The Northwest is the 2nd best UK region for local and regional environmental funding initiatives, says a new report by website Green Grants Machine.

National

Sept 2 The National Housing Federation calls on MPs to stop energy companies charging people who use card meters more than those who use quarterly bills.

Sept 3 At a Royal United Services Institute meeting John Ashton, the British foreign secretary's special rep for climate change, said industrialized countries should essentially put their economies on a war footing to tackle man-made global warming.

Sept 5 Private Eye points out that the new London Development Agency board still has no sustainability or climate change expert.

Sept 7 Rajendra Pauchari, head of the IPCC, says people should eat less red meat, to help combat the effects of climate change.

Sept 9 In a ritualistic pre-conference season slap, the "Green Alliance" accuses the major political parties of failing to address climate change as the economic downturn takes precedence.

Sept 11 At an Ofgem seminar, E.On's representative was asked "what would high energy prices mean?" His entirely obvious, but somehow controversial, answer was "more money for us". Cue tedious moralising by politicians who oft bleat about free markets.

Scary Science.

The permafrost covering a fifth of the world's land mass is home to double the amount of greenhouse gas as boffins had thought. So melting it, as we're doing, is even stupider than we thought.

A paper published in "Bioscience" reckons more than 1500 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide and methane is locked in frozen vegetation at high latitudes...



The Apocalypso Beat.

August 13 Two climate campaigners who had dressed as penguins defied a ban on handing out leaflets without permission in Telford Town Park. They had been thrown out of the park the week before and told they needed permission, a criminal records bureau check and a risk assessment, before they could distro leaflets on climate change.

Winding the web

Manchester-based web services co-operative Ecohost has recently launched its UK-based wind-powered hosting services. 10% of total UK electricity is consumed by the ICT sector, and its carbon emissions are overtaking those from aviation. Ecohost provides web hosting with a lower climate impact, both by using renewable power and by using Linux, a more energy-efficient operating system than Windows, on its servers. www.ecohost.coop

A roll of the fluffy dice...

Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign is gambling that the bike is quicker than the car from Heaton Chapel to Albert Square. On Weds 16 Sept they host a five mile race between bus, bike, car and train over the "quickest legal route" into the waiting arms of Environment Councillor Richard Cowell. If the car wins, the motorist faction of the anti-TIF crowd will go beserk(er). www.gmcc.org.uk

Oh, and btw, we're all doomed.

Two eminent researchers at the Manchester outpost of t'Tyndall Centre have a gloomy paper in the Royal Society's latest "Philosophical Transactions." Kevin Anderson and Alice Bows crunched the carbon emission numbers from 2000 onwards, and conclude there's no likelihood of keeping below a global temperature rise of well over 2 degrees, the oft-cited "danger" zone. <http://tinyurl.com/5wkwq>

And finally- cheer up with a funny and stress-free toon by Leo "Brad Pitt" Murray- <http://wakeupfreakout.org/film/tipping.html>

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

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