

Manchester Climate Fortnightly

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

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The End of the World is "NI"?

Despite warnings of dire consequences if carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions aren't cut, local authorities (LAs) throughout Greater Manchester are still not taking the problem seriously. Figures obtained (see table) by Manchester Climate Fortnightly (MCFly) from official DEFRA data show that most LAs are either standing still or even getting worse. The main offender is Manchester City Council, with a 2.9% increase between 2005 and 2006, the last year for which figures were available.

Only seven of the ten Greater Manchester LAs- Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford- have agreed to adopt a "National Indicator" (number 186) aimed at reducing emissions within their borders. The three who haven't- Bolton, Bury and Wigan- are still obliged to cut CO₂ emissions. When asked why they hadn't, Bolton and Bury Councils did not even bother to respond to MCFly. Wigan council replied "we did not adopt NI 186 for a number of reasons. We have adopted NI 188 (adaptation) as a priority indicator related to Climate Change." National Indicator 188 is designed to ensure that LAs are 'prepared to manage risks' from a 'changing climate' and so is basically a reactive policy, albeit a necessary one.

Your local authority should have set a target for reducing CO₂ emissions. For example, Trafford have set a target "of 9.4% reduction by 2010/11 based on figures gathered in 2005/6."

It would be worth writing to your Council and ask what target they have set and perhaps encourage them to be a little bolder, given what is at stake.

"The Ferret"

For more information on National Indicators- www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/ni186.htm

www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk

	2005	2006	% reduction
Bolton	6.0	6.0	0
Bury	6.0	6.1	-1.6
Manchester	6.7	6.9	-2.9
Oldham	5.5	5.5	0
Rochdale	5.8	5.9	-1.7
Salford	6.4	6.4	0
Stockport	5.9	5.9	0
Tameside	5.9	5.9	0
Trafford	9.2	9.3	-1.08
Wigan	5.7	5.8	-1.75

Note: A negative % reduction figure equals an increasing CO₂ emissions figure.

What's coming up

Tues 28 Oct, 7.15pm Campaign for Free Public Transport at Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St
Thurs Oct 30, 7.45pm

Greenpeace meeting upstairs Ape and Apple pub, John Dalton St

Thurs Oct 30, 7.15pm Campaign against Fuel Poverty meeting Kro Bar 325 Oxford Rd (upstairs)

November

Tues Nov 4, 6-8pm "Green Drinks" Walrus, 78-88 High Street, Northern Quarter. 3 speakers hope to initiate a lively debate covering the topics of Climate Change, the City & Sustainability

Tues Nov 4, 7-8.30pm Manchester Climate Action meeting at Marbella Cafe, 52 Newton St
www.manchesterclimateaction.org.uk

Thurs Nov 6 NWDA Climate Change Conference at BT Convention Centre, Liverpool
www.nwda.co.uk

Sat Nov 8, 11.30 to 1.30pm "Only Planet 2" meeting. Nexus Cafe, Dale St www.onlyplanet.info



Local and Regional

Oct 16 The "Sustainable UK Cities" event looked at how new energy innovation talent could be nurtured in the city and also saw the announcement of a public-private "Manchester Climate Change Foundation." MCFly will follow this up.

Oct 18 Pro-TIF coalition "Clean Air Now" takes out a full page ad in the Independent suggesting Kellogg's - members of the anti-TIF "Momentum Group"- stick to flaky cereals, instead of flaky transport policy. The wording for the Dec 12th TIF referendum is now available.

Oct 22 Ryanair is to add a new route from Manchester to Cagliari, one of its two new bases in Italy.

Oct 22 Peel has increased its stake in UK Coal from 20 to 26 per cent. Did someone say "takeover"?

National

Oct 24 The Guardian reports that Ed Miliband, the boss of the newly created "Department of Energy and Climate Change" (www.decc.gov.uk) is close to reaching an agreement to toughen emissions targets even further, to include international aviation and shipping. The Government recently caved in to pressure from environmentalists (led by Friends of the Earth) to increase the 2050 target for emissions reductions from 60% below 1990 levels to 80%. Miliband "is also expected to include a commitment that by 2012 businesses will be required to report annually on their carbon emissions. Business is responsible for 30% of total emissions."

Global

Oct 16 Eight EU prime ministers sign a letter telling the EU to slow down on climate action, for fear of causing economic hardship to their countries.

Oct 19-22 Manila. The Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance in Manila focussed on barriers to women's participation in efforts to solve the climate crisis.

Oct 20 California environmental regulators release a near-final version of their plan to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

Oct 22 The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which has for the last 45 years drawn up "Red Lists" of species at risk of extinction, is now going to create the Red Lists of threatened ecosystems. www.iucn.org

Campaign dispatches

Campaign against Climate Change is having its annual march in London on Saturday 6th December. Tickets on a coach to and back available for £25/£12 unwaged from swpmre@yahoo.com or 07958535231

Manchester Climate Forum has announced a meeting on "From Poznan to Copenhagen" for Tuesday 10th February 2009, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House and a day of workshops and discussions on Saturday 7th March, 10 to 4 at Central Hall. www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk



Screaming Green website (www.screaming-green.org) is launched, with opportunities for people to volunteer their time and energy on local community projects.

If you want your campaigns news here, email editor@manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Like falling off a blog...

Sombre reminder of climate disarray- Mike Koefman summarises a recent paper by Manchester-based academics on the amount of emissions between 2000 and now, and prospects for future reductions.

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.blogspot.com

BOOK REVIEW: "The Political Economy of Sustainable Energy"

is a dry title, but author Catherine Mitchell constructs clear and concise arguments why the UK Government needs to develop an energy policy which is measured over the longer-term rather than its current short-sighted approach. She chillingly concludes that renewables in the UK have never really been taken seriously. Successive governments have favoured large energy companies, "requiring renewable electricity to be channelled through the utility companies thereby limiting new entrants, diversity and innovation".

Well indexed and referenced with suggestions for further reading, this book is a must read for anyone interested in how we've arrived at the current state of energy politics in the UK and beyond.

See www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?PID=281012 for details. It's £50, but Manchester Central Reference Library has a copy.

Congratulations- to Unicorn Grocery Co-operative, now proud owner of 21 acres of prime growing land in Glazebury, 14 miles west of t'shop. After conversion to organic status, it will be growing vegetables for local sale.

The Apocalypso Beat.

Oct 20 "Nestle Waters North America" is threatening to sue Miami-Dade County over a radio ad that says... the county's tap water is cheaper, purer and safer than bottled water. Environmentalists say the threat is a warning from an industry worried about slow sales after years of gushing growth. MCFly says it's another reason not to buy Nestle products.

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

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