

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

FREE!!

www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Issue 14, December 21 2008

X-mas marks the spot?

An elf, made redundant by "Santa's Workshop Solutions plc" just days before Christmas, has leaked highly sensitive information to Manchester Climate Fortnightly. The elf, whom we cannot name for reality reasons, reports sweated labour, melting factory floors and famished polar bears eating tardy staff.

The elf's information that has into our lap landed is pure dynamite- namely a list of requests made to Santa by various climate campaign groups in Manchester...

Those flash Harrys and Harriets of **Stop Expansion at Manchester Airport** (stopexpansionatmanchesterairport.pbwiki.com) have two wishes- "a fully integrated, subsidised transport system for Europe which would make sustainable travelling a financially viable option for everyone in Europe and the world. We would also like a campaign strategist to burst through the ceiling like Batman - and help us develop a more comprehensive strategy."

Meanwhile, the **100 Months Club**, (www.100monthsclub.org.uk) a "treetops" lobby group, wants the fat man to "bring us the sort of practically radical vision on low carbon action for Greater Mer that could unite AGMA, the private and third sectors - a vision to quickly stamp down our carbon footprint, boost green collar jobs and have social justice at its heart. That's all." Similarly, **SERA** (www.sera.org.uk), the Labour environmental campaign wants "Manchester Climate Change Agency/Foundation to encourage, fund and publicise carbon reduction initiatives from the community ... making a difference before 2009 is out."

A **Green Party** (www.manchestergreenparty.org.uk) email the elf leaked to MCFly reads "Dear Santa, please can I have for Christmas a ban on advertising cars as lifestyle accessories? You know, those adverts that imply that you're only a good "family man/woman" if you have an internal combustion attached to 4 wheels. Please ban these adverts, with bells on."

Chris Shearlock, Sustainable Development Manager of **the Co-operative Group** wants "more time as this is what we are running out of. The 'Global Deal', to be agreed in Copenhagen in 2009 really is the last throw of the dice..."

Always and rightly 'demanding the impossible,' **Manchester Climate Action**, (www.manchesterclimateaction.org.uk) want "a free convenient place to have meetings, not too noisy, central location. Really good, affordable and joined up public transport for Manchester. An end to airport expansion, open-cast coal

cont page 2

First MCFly retraction!

Last MCFly, we led with a story entitled "Murky developments threaten MERCi," because we believed a Compulsory Purchase Order had been sent to Bridge 5 Mill. A source at MERCi tells us "It seems that the letter received was actually notice from a private firm that there will be an issuing of CPOs in the area The letter itself was not a CPO. According to the plans, MERCi is not a building to be demolished."

If (well, *when*), we get it wrong, we'll always let you know via the blog and in t'next issue of MCFly.



Is the Yuletide turning? Or was t'planet

Pole-axed in Poland?

The climate negotiations in Poznan, Poland were- as expected- a bit of a damp squib. A (very little) bit of money for adaptation in the developing world, but otherwise everyone's keeping their cards close to their chest, and waiting to see what Obama does. If you want to know more

a) we've blogged at greater length at www.pendingecologicaldebacle.blogspot.com

b) www.iisd.ca/climate/cop14

c) come along to the next Manchester Climate Forum event, on Tuesday February 10 2009. Dr Victoria Johnson, who attended the Poznan negotiations for New Economics Foundation, will give a presentation and lead a discussion.

www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk/feb10th.html

X-mas marks the spot, cont...

mines, and coal-fired power stations in the UK.”

Embarrassingly, **MCFLY itself** has been caught writing letters to mythical wish-fulfilment figures (and we don't mean Barack Obama) “More people to help put it together, to help distribute it, but most of all, more cool action(s) by everyone that we can then report on.”

So you say you want a resolution?

Meanwhile, several groups have let slip their New Year's Resolutions. The **Green Party** resolve to "improve our campaigning effectiveness and not let our temporary absence from the City Council hold us back."

Speaking of the Council, **Richard Cowell**, Executive Member for the Environment writes "My resolution is that I hope the Climate Change/CO2 Report going to the Council's Executive in the New Year is approved and acts as a catalyst for the delivery of CO2 reductions across Manchester."

The **Environment Network for Manchester**, (www.en4m.org.uk), producers of great email bulletins, say they'll "get people together in face-to-face meetings more often." Lacking any ambition, **Manchester Climate Action** aim to "stop climate change and bring about a transition to a just & sustainable low-carbon economy." This will make MCFly's own ambition, "to keep going until April as a fortnightly. Then we'll see..." redundant. Huzzah!!

What do we do now?

Short essay competition

“What are the current problems/future opportunities for climate campaigners in Greater Manchester?”

First Prize- £30

Runners Up- to be confirmed

Deadline Sunday February 1, 2009, 5pm.

Entries to editor@manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

Winner announced on Tuesday February 10 at

“Climate Change: Global and Local”

Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St

For terms and conditions, see

www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk

Local and Regional News

Dec 8 Manchester Airport's passenger traffic fell 9% compared with November 2007. Easyjet decide not to add capacity or routes to Manchester in the next year.

Dec 10 Manchester-based Peel Energy, a subsidiary of Peel Holdings, has formed a joint venture with Swindon-based RWE Npower and Denmark's Dong Energy to develop a carbon capture and storage (CCS) plant in the North Sea.

Dec 15 NWDA launches tidal energy group to examine the potential for extracting tidal energy from the Irish Sea, as well as sharing information and encouraging debate. The launch of the group is being co-sponsored by Peel Energy...

Dec 17 Researchers at the University of Salford have received a grant to develop a new technique which could make thin film solar cell panels more efficient and cost effective.

Nationally, well, Plane Stupid occupied a taxiway at Stansted Airport, Prince Charles urged international co-operation on climate change, but "was not suggesting the climate crunch was more important than the financial crisis" (!!!). The European Parliament signed off on a climate plan that had been re-written by the car and coal lobbies... and, in an early Christmas present Obama appointed some real climate heavyweights to his Cabinet and as advisors. For more info on the planet's misadventures, see the digest we post on the MCFly website...

Apocalypso Beach

In what we hope is a very early April Fools, Versace, the renowned fashion house, is reportedly building the world's first refrigerated beach in, inevitably, Dubai. Hotel guests will be able to walk comfortably across the sand on scorching days, thanks to a network of pipes beneath the sand circulating a coolant. The swimming pool will be refrigerated, and there are proposals to install giant blowers to waft a gentle breeze over the beach.

What's coming up?

Tues January 6 at 4.00pm – 6.00pm GMPTA/E transport drop-in session, Victoria Rail Station. www.gmpta.gov.uk

Thurs 8 from 6.45pm Friends of the Earth Meeting, Greenfish Resource Centre, Oldham Street. www.manchesterfoe.org.uk.

Sun 11 at 1pm. SEMA joins Rungar Lane Clean up, near Mcr airport. stopexpansionatmanchesterairport.pbwiki.com

Mon 12 from 7.15pm Campaign against Climate Change meeting Friends Meeting House, Mount St. www.gmcacc.org.uk

Fri 16 at 12.30pm-4.30pm Co-operative Exchange at Friends' Meeting House. Organised by Openspace Coop and Co-operative Business Consultants. Email jonathan@lowwintersun.info

Fri 16 University of Manchester workshop, A world without us? Imagining the end of the human.

email stefan.skrimshire@manchester.ac.uk for further details.

Next paper MCFly is out Sunday January 11. Updates on anything important will go on t'blog. Merry Atheistmas.

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

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