

MANCHESTER CLIMATE MONTHLY

manchesterclimatemonthly.net



Inform, Inspire and Involve

Vol 2, No. 7. July 2013

AGONY AUNT

Helping with your climate-change related blues (and ZOMBIES)



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NEWS AT SIX



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Movement Building:

What skills and knowledge do "climate" groups need to stay in the game?



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What YOU can do to

make "Beyond the Carbon Budget" a success (without even being there!)

Page 4



Steering Group lulz #94 and awesome cat-related humour from, of all places, the Internet!

Page 6 & 7

BEYOND THE CARBON BUDGET

On Tuesday 16th July democracy and climate change combine in Manchester.

At 12.45pm local biodiversity campaigner Dave Bishop will be launching a report he has written about the state of Manchester's biodiversity and what individuals and groups can do. (hint: tree-planting is a very very small part of this!)

The launch is at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, and will involve lots of mingling, chatting and some light refreshments. Then, we will head over to Manchester Town Hall, a one-minute walk. Why? Well...

At 2pm the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee holds one of its regular meetings. And on the agenda is the fourth "Annual Carbon Reduction Plan" of Manchester City Council.

For the last three years the City Council has aimed at (and missed) a 10% reduction target. What will the outcome be this time? What plans for is the council making for the coming year? What is the Council doing to "engage all individuals, neighbourhoods and organisations in Manchester in a process of cultural change that embeds 'low carbon thinking' into the lifestyles and operations of the city."

Background

In 2009, Manchester City Council, with stakeholders, created the "Manchester

Beyond the Carbon Budget



Tues 16th July
12.45pm onwards
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St

manchesterclimatemonthly.net

Climate Change Action Plan." Its headline goals were a 41% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020, and the creation of a "low-carbon culture." A steering group was created (see MCFly passim ad nauseam, and page 6)

YOU can help

There is a LOT that needs to happen to make this event a success. If EVER you've thought "hmm, I could donate a bit of my free time and energy to a Worthy Cause" then now is the time, if this is your cause (and it is!). You can be involved even if you cannot attend the day itself. Please see page 4 of this issue for some ideas, and the website, for details.

And, beyondthecarbonbudget.eventbrite.com

First Time Reader?

Climate change is coming harder & faster than scientists thought. It's caused by our use of oil, coal & gas. Manchester will not be immune. We have three choices: we can bury our heads in the sand, we can *talk a good game* or we can cut our energy use & massively increase our resourcefulness. MCFly is for people, organisations & communities who want to do the third.

AGONY AUNT



Dear Miss Movements,

I'm beginning to fall out of love with someone I want to have a lifelong commitment to. When I started, it all seemed so fresh, so powerful. But as time has gone on, I've realised we never seem to do anything new, we never seem to hang out with new people for any length of time. I think the relationship I am in seems so tight that others can't find ways to be our friends. Or worse, we meet up with someone really Cool and Famous and then casual friends say that we're not interested in getting to know them better, or enlarging our social circle.

Zestily Organised Many Brilliant Initiatives, Experiencing Suspicions.

Sometimes, ZOMBIES, - and it's no secret when I tell you this - I go to events that are based on "Famous(ish) Person comes and shares his (usually his) wisdom" and then sit there wanting to chew my own face off. It really does feel about 28 days later before I can get up and shamble away, cerebrally vanquished.

I know we all want to spice up a relationship occasionally, but the idea that someone Famous can help with this has been, ahem, dogging the movement for some time now. These people rarely have local knowledge, so talk in generalities and bromides. And they usually talk past the time limit that was initially set. This is just how the powerful behave. So, are they worth it? You'll have to answer that one for yourself.

As to your first point; You know the cheesetastic song "Pina Colada" (Rupert Holmes, 1980)? "I was tired of my lady, we'd been together too long. Like a worn-out recording, of a favorite song"? Sometimes you just have to ASK your loved ones what they want, and get them to ASK you what you want. You never know what special skills and desires you might unlock, if only you ASK.

THE MONTH AHEAD

You are invited to:

Towards a Sustainable Economic System
a workshop in central Manchester facilitated
by researchers from nef (the new economics
foundation)

Tuesday 23rd July 2013

09:00 - 17:00

Methodist Central Hall, Manchester

For more information, contact
sustainable.mcr@gmail.com

A little news that we couldn't fit on page 6 because we were hunting the snark.

Local

Congrats to the Feeding the 5000 crew for Sat 16th
Congrats to the Climate Survivors crew for June 30th
Congrats Co-op for all its confidence-building
announcements, including ending negotiations with two
companies of its NOMA building.

Meanwhile, the carbon literacy folks have dropped the
"Manchester" from their web address. #globalambitions?

National

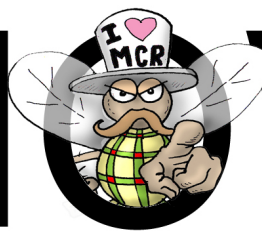
The month started with Climate minister Ed Davey telling
climate skeptics "come on if you think you're hard enough,
and complaints about the actions of the "Global Warming
Foundation." The greenest government ever then axed
"active travel" planning and decided to build more
motorways. Meanwhile, William Hague's new climate
envoy, a Rear Admiral, declared climate change "*one of
the greatest risks we face in the 21st century... By virtue
of our interdependencies around the world, it will affect all
of us,*"

Global

The UNFCCC Bonn talks went nowhere fast (well, slowly).
The International Energy Agency made its latest folorn
plea for us to Wake Up. Calgary was fuh-loded, the
Western US baked. Finally, who's this from - "*This is an
unusually busy moment in the unhappy history of efforts to
curb climate change; In two weeks at the end of June the
world's three biggest polluters unveiled carbon-reducing
measures. In China and America these are more
ambitious than previous policies. But they fall far short of
what is needed to rein in the relentless rise in global
carbon emissions.*"

Luddism Today? Nope. Green Commie Revolution?
Nope. It's from that hot-bed of free-enterprise-hating
climate alarmists at ... The Economist.

ACT NOW



Reduce your personal footprint

All the standard personal stuff - drive less, cycle more, fly less (cough cough cough). Eat less meat. Buy less stuff. Insulate your house!

Ask at work - is there an environmental policy? If not, why not? If there is, is it being implemented? Has your organisation endorsed the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan?

Doing all that is important in its own right, but also so you have credibility (and aren't accused of hypocrisy) when you...

Increase your political footprint

Join a group (see calendar on page eight) or go to an event or two. You may need to "shop around" until you find one you like. Make sure it's one where they give a damn about your development, your morale, and the long-run. Climate change activism is a marathon, not a sprint, after all.

Find out who your local councillors are (even if you are deprived enough not to live in Manchester City Council's area). What have they done to get their council more active? What could they do? Do they even know about climate as a local government issue?

Get involved with MCFly

Subscribe, forward articles to your friends. Send in news! Write for it, volunteer...

"Inspiring" Quote of the Month



Jim Yong Kim, the [World] bank's president, warned that climate change should not be seen as a future problem that could be put off: *"The scientists tell us that if the world warms by 2C –*

warming which may be reached in 20 to 30 years – that will cause widespread food shortages, unprecedented heatwaves, and more intense cyclones. In the near-term, climate change – which is already unfolding – could batter the slums even more and greatly harm the lives and hopes of individuals and families who have had little hand in raising the Earth's temperature." "World's poorest will feel brunt of climate change, warns World Bank" Fiona Harvey, Guardian 19/6/2013

What you may have missed...

If you're reading MCFly for the first time, you may not realise that we have a website. We publish news stories, event reports, book reviews, opinion pieces and loads more.

- * Video: Dave Bishop on tree-planting VERSUS bio-diversity
- * Polar Bear Facepalm: Manchester as "Original Modern" city
- * Of Green Deals, politics, the media and ... Saving the World



AT THE COALFACE



Abigail Pound, Groundwork

What is your campaign trying to achieve?

I have worked for Groundwork for 9 years engaging communities across Manchester, Salford, Stockport Tameside and Trafford in the transformation of their environment. The two main projects I am working on currently are Eco Streets in Trafford and Sustainable Living in Stockport.

What sustains you?

The wonderful people that keep striving to bring their communities together and make living local and in a low impact way such a great lifestyle choice. Also seeing real ownership of public space - going back to see projects years on that have gone from strength to strength because of the initial community involvement in the development and design of community spaces.

If people got involved in your group/campaign, what sorts of things would they end up doing?

Activities could include helping to coordinate the growing challenge in Romiley to get local groups

growing fruit veg and herbs around their area, supporting the Food For Free event with Friends of Tangshutt Meadows or assisting with growing or events at the Offerton Community Allotment. There are a range of roles from cooking to carpentry, poster design to digging. Training is available on how to run events, how to get people involved and fundraising in both Trafford and Stockport. We are running Inspiration Tours to visit sustainable projects and participants have the opportunity to gain the Carbon Literacy Accreditation.



If you could wave a magic wand and change one thing in the world, what would it be?

That people understand that human beings are not separate from nature but part of it.

What advice do you wish you could give your younger self?

To ask interesting questions, to listen more to others and to be comfortable with silence.

"Beyond the Carbon Budget" Ways YOU can be involved.

On Tuesday 16th July the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee of Manchester City Council will examine the Council's fourth "Annual Carbon Reduction Plan." This 17-member committee can ask searching questions of the plan, its ambitions and silences. You can help them do this. Whether you are able to attend on the day (and some of us still have jobs, it's true), YOU can help Manchester mobilise to meet the challenges of climate change. If nothing in the list below tickles your fancy, get in touch - mcmmonthly@gmail.com

BEFORE

SIMPLE & QUICK



Get the word out Publicise the event by reposting it on facebook, retweeting about it.

Add a paragraph about the event to your email signature.

And in "real life", **tell people about the event**, especially ones who might be able to come.

Contact your councillors Ask them if they are planning to go. Tell them climate change really matters to you. (You can find out who your councillors are via www.manchester.gov.uk)

Follow the relevant councillors on Twitter (MCFly will supply a little list!)

When videos about the event go up on MCFly, watch them, share them, critique them!

Leave comments (positive and polite!) on the websites of relevant councillors, encouraging them to ask detailed questions and suggest ways the scrutiny committee could more closely scrutinise and support the council in its climate actions.

SIMPLE & LONG



Write letters to your local newspaper about the Annual Carbon Budget (suggested template on MCFly)

Leave comments (positive and polite) on the websites of councillors, encouraging them to ask detailed questions and suggest ways the scrutiny committee could more closely scrutinise and support the council in its climate actions

Engage with local journalists (print and electronic), encouraging them either to attend or to report it.

COMPLEX & QUICK



Suggest the names of people who have not been invited and who SHOULD be specifically invited to attend. How can these people most easily be helped to get their heads around the agenda?

Explain what the "activist community" could be doing to better engage with councillors and each other

Come up with three ways Manchester City Council could be making itself more transparent, more responsive, more "engaging" to citizens

COMPLEX & LONG



Read the existing Carbon Reduction Plans and see what is missing

Compare the Carbon Reduction Plans to those of other cities – what is Manchester not doing that it COULD be doing, within the existing (and increasing) spending constraints) – share this analysis with other people, and with councillors

Help make videos and briefing papers

DURING

Tweet about the meeting to your followers. Ask them to retweet.

Change your facebook profile picture for the hours before and during the meeting to the "Beyond the Carbon Budget" image

AFTER

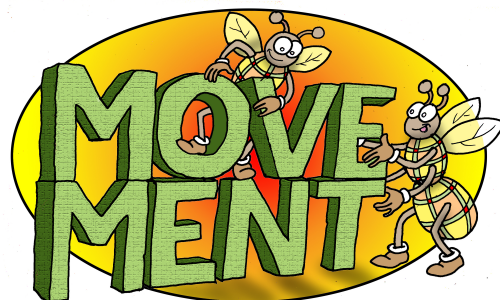
Circulate the "scorecard" of which councillors asked what questions

Send thank yous to the councillors who engaged with the process well

Start planning/thinking about the 2014 Annual Carbon Reduction Plan event!

WHAT SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE DO PEOPLE NEED TO STAY INVOLVED IN "CLIMATE" GROUPS?

Building and sustaining social movement organisations is hard work. If it were easy, do you think this species would be in the grotesque mess that is unfolding before our eyes? That said, there are, in our opinion, some reasons why it is *particularly* hard to campaign on climate change. Especially in a city where a four year old "Action Plan" is "refreshed" in the absence of any actual action... (but that's another story). So, what skills and qualities do individuals and groups need for "the long haul"?



Ways to find out what skills and knowledge are in the room.

Novice Lines. That's all I'm sayin'.

Ways to get your questions answered

Not everyone knows (or needs to know!) every last detail of climate science, politics, etc. But surely they should know where to go to get those answers.

Ways to mediate the inevitable conflicts that spring up

Pretending they don't exist is as much use as pretending climate change doesn't exist; convenient in the short-term, but suicidal in the long. So how to clear the air, arrive at ways of getting along? Is anyone in the group a skilled negotiator?

Ways to choose realistic (local!) goals

What is this group going to achieve locally in the next six months (as distinct from how many meetings it will hold!) What impacts can be made? How? Do you know the terrain? If not, who does?

Ways not to reinvent the wheel

Who has done "this" before? How did it go? What could have gone better? Have circumstances changed?

Ways to "recruit" reliable people into the group to replace the ones that inevitably leave because they move cities, have to care for children/parents, get demoralised etc etc

If you don't consciously create pathways for new people to come on-board (without them having to give up their old friends and activities), your group will shrink, more work will fall on fewer people, and then it will vanish in a puff of illogic. Happens all the time.

Sociological Forum, Vol. 13, No. 3, 1998

The Emotions of Protest: Affective and Reactive Emotions In and Around Social Movements

James M. Jasper¹

The recent explosion of cultural work on social movements has been highly cognitive in its orientation, as though researchers were still reluctant to admit that strong emotions accompany protest. But such emotions do not render protestors irrational; emotions accompany all social action, providing both motivation and goals. Social movements are affected by transitory, context-specific emotions, usually reactions to information and events, as well as by more stable affective bonds and loyalties. Some emotions exist or arise in individuals before they join protest groups; others are formed or reinforced in collective action itself. The latter type can be further divided into shared and reciprocal emotions, the latter being feelings that protestors have toward each other.

KEY WORDS: social movements; protest; emotions; affect; political participation; frame alignment; moral shocks.

NEXT MONTH: What lessons can we learn from other movements (local or elsewhere, present or past)?



NEWS AT SIX

Council

Council chiefs have done away with the role of "Head of Climate Change, Buildings & Energy", a post only created in 2011. This move follows closely on the Council's abolition in March this year of the post of Director of Environmental Strategy, a victim of central government cuts. (See 24th June MCFly post for react quote etc)

So, welcome Bev Craig (Labour, Burnage) to the role of Assistant Executive for the Environment. Hope to see you on Tues 16th as Neighbourhoods Scrutiny looks at the next Carbon Reduction Plan. And then again on Weds 24th when the Executive rubberstamps both that Plan and the long-awaited "Green and Blue Infrastructure" plan. The fun just never stops!

No news of progress with the "Environmental Working Group." Doubtless it is, well, working. Slow progress, the ESPB minutes tell us, with "Carbon Literacy" among the (shrinking) Strategic Management Team...

Nowt about climate change in the new Ward Plans we've seen. Plus ca change...

And congrats to the Council's "Green Impact" winners. But the target is 41%, not 33%...

Oddly, MCFly emails to "Information Compliance" (the Freedom of Information Act people at Castle Grayskull) were disappearing into "quarantine". Spam?! Us?! A phone call seems to have unstuck the process. Watch. This. Space.

And congrats MMU for topping People and Planet's "Green League." UoM?Ow.

The story so far; In March an advert was put out for someone to take over the unpaid role of Steering Group chair (#poisonedchalice).

At the time the original deadline closed only one entry (#MCFly #tongueincheek) had been received.

So the deadline was extended for a month and two more applications were received (#arm-twisting).

These other two were short-listed (#MCFlysnubbedandguttled), and interviews took place in the week beginning 20th May.

Since then? (#silence)

A couple of weeks ago we asked for an update – (#whassup?)

After two emails and a phone call (#exemplarytransparency #exemplaryresponsiveness) we were told "I will liaise with colleagues and either myself or Jonny will respond to your questions in due course." (#fobbedoff)

So we thought we'd be pro-active...

Dear [officer],

we know how busy you are, so we thought we 'd try to be helpful, and lay out the four (well, three and then we cheat) possible answers to the basic question of what has happened to the appointment process for a New Chair.

a) A candidate was offered the job when interviewed a month ago, and has accepted. In keeping with Manchester's high-profile commitment to the Green (Growth) Agenda, the City Council's Press Team have (sic) been trying to build an air of anticipation, hoping that national press would become interested by our waiting game. Sadly, this hasn't quite worked out. Painful as it is to admit, Manchester Climate Monthly is the only media outlet that has been paying any attention whatsoever. We're announcing the new chair tomorrow, and we're giving the Didsbury East Bugle the scoop. Consider yourself #punished.

b) Unfortunately neither of the highly-qualified candidates who were offered the job a month ago felt able to devote the time to it that was needed. One told us "I only applied because you promised me you wouldn't offer me the damn thing. This amount of arm-twisting is not humorous." Therefore the Steering Group and Groundshirk have decided to boldly distribute the roles and responsibilities that would have been undertaken by chair among themselves. Manchester City Council looks forward to working with the Group to ensure a Greener and More Prosperous future for the city [cont page 94]

c) Sigh. Out to advert again. Don't bother applying, Marc.

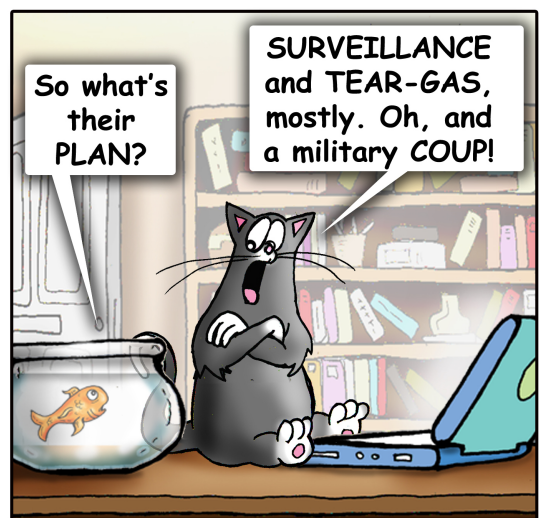
d) None of the above.

And with the time we have saved you, could you contact the Steering Group admin people and ask them to explain why the page that used to host the Steering Group minutes – <http://www.manchesterclimate.com/node/3768> is now coming back "page not found"? And why the minutes are nowhere else to be found (by me at least) on the manchesterclimate.con website. #memoryhole? Don't worry though, months ago we downloaded the pdfs of all those wonderful productive meetings. They made for highly entertaining reading.



CULTURE VULTURE

CAT'S on the INTERNET by Marcos



© marc roberts 2013

catsontheinternet.net

MCFly Short Story Competition 2013

Manchester Climate Monthly has launched a short story contest! We are looking for stories of about Manchester in a warmer world. The word limit is 2000 words, and the deadline August 16th.



Winners announced at an event in early October. Top prize is £200 and there are second and third prizes too.

See full terms and conditions at manchesterclimatemonthly.net/contests/short-story-contest/short-story-contest-terms-and-conditions/

Q: Why doesn't a Sustainability Consultant look out the window in the morning?

A: It gives him something to do in the afternoon!!

Q: How many climate sceptics does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: None. It's too early to say if the light bulb needs changing.

Q: Did you hear the one about the aluminium recycling plant?

A: It smelt!

source: www.jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/greenjokes.html

Delilah is a cat with broadband! She comments, daily, on current affairs. Recently she has had strong opinions on ; GM crops, Edward Snowden, the events in Turkey and Brazil, police infiltration of peaceful campaign groups and "much much more."

She is joined in her observations by bob the goldfish.

You can also find Delilah on Facebook --

www.facebook.com/CatsOnTheInternet.

Delilah will also help out campaigning groups if she is asked.

(Ideally those groups will put some food in her bowl...)

marcroberts9@btinternet.com

<http://catsontheinternet.net>

WHAT'S IN

Inclusion in this calendar is NOT a guarantee of quality.

For full listing go to our online calendar at manchesterclimatemonthly.net/the-calendar/

Fri 5th, "Carbon Conversations" training (continues over weekend)

Sat 6th, 10 to 4pm, free "Planning for Low Carbon Living" event.

Sat 6th, 1 to 5pm Green Party strategy event.

Tues 9th, 9.15 - 11.00 Airports Commission hearings in Manchester at Manchester Town Hall, but you have to book!

Tues 9th, 2 - 4pm - networking lunch from 1:00pm Ageing and Energy Consumption: Rethinking Policy and Practice from Research. Booking: <http://ageingandenergyconsumption.eventbrite.com/>

Tues 9th, 6.45pm to 9pm Manchester Friends of the Earth Full Group Meeting, Greenfish Resource Centre, Oldham St. <http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/>

Sat 13th Feeding Manchester #13 (no longer, we believe, taking bookings)

Tues 16th, 12.45pm onwards "Beyond the Carbon Budget" Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St- see front page of Manchester Climate Monthly July 2013 for details!

Thurs 18th 7-9pm ECO South Manchester: YouTube Short Films and Shaping the Future of an Environmental Network for Manchester at Green Fish Resource Centre.

Sun 21, 2.30-5.30pm, Summer fruit preserving workshop in Rusholme, organised by Abundance Manchester (£6/£3). Pre-booking essential: abundancemanchester@yahoo.co.uk

Mon 22nd from 6.30pm, 'Lessons from Cuba', and the 11th International Permaculture Congress. Madlab in the Northern Quarter. Manchester Permaculture Network is back, and we are pleased to announce our upcoming event: Liz Postlethwaite presenting 'Lessons from Cuba', and the 11th International Permaculture Congress.

Tues 23rd, 9am-5pm "Towards a Sustainable Economic System" a workshop in central Manchester facilitated by researchers from nef (the new economics foundation) Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ

Weds 24th, 10am Manchester City Council Executive meeting, Manchester Town Hall. Approval of both the 4th Annual Carbon Budget and the "Green and Blue Infrastructure" plan

Manchester Climate Monthly exists to inform, inspire and involve people working - or wanting to work - towards a more resilient and fair Greater Manchester. Its editor is not a member of any political party or employed by any local authority. MCM receives no political funding. But it has a Lush wodge of moolah. For its mission(s) and transparency mechanisms, please visit the "about" page on our website.

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