

Climate Change projects and places in Manchester: a quick and very incomplete guide (June 2012)

Disclaimer: *Things change, and it can be hard to keep up with all the ups and downs of various groups. Just because we have listed someone doesn't mean you will automatically have a good time. Also, if we HAVEN'T listed a group it doesn't necessarily mean we think they're no good – it may well be we have forgotten them!*

Manchester City Council

Signed off on a "Climate Change Action Plan" in November 2009. It aims for a 41% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 and "*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.*" Progress has been... slow. Only 220 organisations in the city have endorsed the plan (target was 1000) and of these the number that have produced implementation plans of their own is... 2 (the Council itself and their housing company "Northwards Housing").

Stakeholder Steering Group (Manchester level)

This group has 31 members (Council, business, academics etc). Meetings not open to public. Minutes not published. Last blog post was in January. Have held two "annual" stakeholder conferences in the last three years.

Unclear what – if anything – they have planned. "Watch this space" The official manchesterclimate.com site that they control has not had any new blog posts since January.

Environment Commission (Greater Manchester level)

A group of councillors from some of the 10 local authorities and other organisations (business, third sector) that meets every two or three months to... well, there's been a lot of meetings, but not much actually achieved so far. That may change in the coming year or two. Meetings are open to the public, and are usually held at Manchester Town Hall.

http://www.agma.gov.uk/commissions1/environment_commission/index.html

Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy

A document written agreed in 2011, with 4 headline goals. We will make a rapid transition to a low carbon economy. Our collective carbon emissions will have been reduced by 48%.

We will be prepared for and actively adapting to a rapidly changing climate.

'Carbon literacy' will have become embedded into the culture of our organisations, lifestyles and behaviours.

The Strategy's over-due implementation plan is due out in July (it was supposed to be agreed before April 1st). There is also a "refresh" consultation of this document scheduled for July.

http://www.agma.gov.uk/cms_media/files/gm_climate_change_strategy_2011_2020.pdf

Places and Networks and Groups

MERCi Manchester Environment Resource Centre initiative, at Bridge 5 Mill "an independent charity (established in 1996) working to turn ideas into action for a sustainable future - by this we mean a future that is greener, safer, healthier and equitable. www.merci.org.uk

Manchester Environmental Education Network "Our mission is to integrate into formal education and lifelong learning the knowledge, values and skills needed for a sustainable way of life through networking and support." <http://www.meen.org.uk>

The Environment Network For Manchester (EN4M) is a collective of groups and organisations working to improve the environment of Manchester. Our members are involved in a wide range of activities and issues, from wildlife conservation, renewable energy and pollution, to parks, open spaces, recycling and growing organic food." <http://merci.org.uk/drupal/en4m>

Carbon Coop is a “community benefit co-operative that promotes the development of carbon reduction measures. We make it simple, cheap and easy for households, streets and neighbourhoods to come together to retrofit their houses through the purchase of low-carbon and energy-saving equipment.” <http://carbon.coop/>

Land Army is made up of volunteers, placements and trainees helping to increase the production of sustainable food for Greater Manchester. The idea behind Land Army was inspired by the women's land armies of the First & Second World Wars, and offers a solution to a number of challenges faced by local organic growers, such as labour issues and costs at busy periods e.g. harvest time <http://www.kindling.org.uk/projects/greater-manchester-land-army>

and the “**Big Dig**” “If you are a food growing project in Greater Manchester, or a someone who would like to get involved in one, Big Dig is the project for you! Big Dig is an 18 month project (managed in Manchester by the Kindling Trust) in which we aim to work with and support food growing projects across Greater Manchester.”

Didsbury Dinners is a not-for-profit community group providing practical solutions to help people reduce their food carbon footprints. <http://didsburydinners.wordpress.com>

Friends of the Earth is a “environmental campaign group, taking action on a range of local, national and international issues including climate change, corporate responsibility, real food, trade justice, sustainable transport & aviation and waste & recycling.” <http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/>

Green Party Political party campaigning on environmental and social justice issues (not just climate change) <http://www.manchestergreenparty.org.uk>

Southern Voices is “a network of people committed to bringing the knowledge and understanding of southern and Black people to the global issues that are central to education and to living in the world today” <http://www.southernvoicesuk.org.uk/>

Manchester Climate Monthly

Used to be “Manchester Climate Fortnightly” (MCFly) from 2008 to 2010. Then we started up again in October 2011 as Manchester Climate Monthly. We exist “to inform, inspire and connect.” Website updated daily. New paper magazine out first Monday every month. <http://manchesterclimatemonthly.net>

About adaptation in Manchester

<http://www.adaptingmanchester.co.uk/>

Upcoming Events

Monday 25th June, 6pm to 9pm (drop-in) Steady-State Manchester - what next? For people who couldn't make it to the Weds 20th meeting of the City Council to find out more. For people who were there to share their impressions. For us all to think - what do we next. How do we get the Council to help in making Manchester greener and fairer? Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St Manchester

Thurs 28 to Sat 30 “Everything We Need” at Royal Exchange Theatre. £10/£7

“Loosely inspired by classic myth and climate change research, Everything We Need is a collection of humorous, lyrical and moving monologues from seven characters coming to terms with life changes in a changing world.” Written and performed by award-winning poet and actor Ben Mellor

Sun 1st July, 3pm to 6pm Big Abundant Party, organised by Climate Survivors The Brow House 1 Mabfield Road, Fallowfield Manchester M14 6LP <http://climatesurvivors.ning.com/events/big-abundant-party-1>

Thurs 5th July 3pm til 7pm The 10th FeedingManchester networking & training event, bringing together sustainable food projects in Greater Manchester. The Yard, Work For Change, Hulme, M15 5RE on with a BBQ held over the road at Hulme Community Garden Centre afterwards. Please contact beth@feedingmanchester.org.uk or call 07833 774775 for more info or to book your place asap. £5 for individuals/community groups. £30 for public sector organizations.