

# MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 3, July 21 2008

[www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info](http://www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info)

## Where's the strategy?

At the beginning of 2008 Manchester City Council released a document outlining the principles underlying its climate change strategy. It set an ambitious target to reduce emissions by a million tonnes a year by 2020. It promised a fleshed-out strategy would be consulted on for six months, from the summer. Summer has come (sort of), and the strategy hasn't. And won't.

A council official has told Manchester Climate Fortnightly (MCFly) that there had been an internal review of how climate change was approached, and thus the strategy was no longer going to be developed 'in-house'. The official continued that there was a need for more scoping work, especially with regard to the 'Mini-Stern' reported in this and the previous issue of MCFly. The major stumbling block is to "decouple" carbon emissions from economic growth. "We want to reduce carbon emissions, but we don't want to reduce employment or regeneration" said the official.

This tension was present in the principles document itself, where the council stated "we will adopt a higher carbon reduction target if the science shows that a 60% reduction by 2050 will not achieve a high probability of keeping within a 2 degree Centigrade global temperature increase, and we can find ways to protect and enhance the standard of living of our most deprived citizens." The council official was unable to give any indications of a new timetable for consultation.

The Council has signed up to "National Indicator 186" on the reporting/reduction of carbon dioxide emissions within its boundaries, and it has also publicly committed to adopting whatever long-term target the Government sets with its Climate Change Bill. But with the delay of the strategy release and consultation, it may well be that we do not see any significant action on climate change until the launch of the "Manchester Climate Change Agency" in March 2009.

Manchester Climate Fortnightly spoke to various environmental groups about the delay.

Friends of the Earth stated "We're disappointed to hear that the launch is being delayed but welcome the council's recognition of the need to make substantial cuts in Manchester's greenhouse gas emissions. We look forward to helping develop a strategy with the vision and ambition you would expect of a city striving to become Britain's greenest."

The Campaign against Climate Change welcomed the publication of Manchester City Council's Principles Document earlier this year with reservations about some aspects of it (and in particular the absence of a serious engagement with the issue of emissions from aviation). Their spokesperson stated that they were "very disappointed to hear that the City Council will not be consulting on a climate strategy this summer. Climate change is the most serious crisis humanity has ever faced. What we need now from our political leaders is a real sense of urgency, not more prevarication."

A non-affiliated climate activist commented "It's nice that they're being more thorough, but they could easily have announced that there was going to be a delay. Silence doesn't build trust, and it creates the impression- right or wrong- that they are kicking this into the long grass, or onto a different playing field."

The Green Party could not be reached for comment.

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### Cost of inaction: £8 grand a year. Each.

Friday 18th July saw the launch of Manchester's Mini-Stern report. Snappily entitled "The economic impact of EU and UK Climate Change legislation on Manchester City Region and the North West," the report was commissioned by Manchester Enterprises and was written by the consultancy firm Deloitte.

Known as a 'Mini-Stern' for the Manchester City Region, the analysis follows that of the Stern Report and argues that continuing with "business as usual" will be far more expensive in the long term.

The 8 page summary report focuses on the 4 key sectors - Air Transport, Road/Land Transport, Energy Intensive Manufacturing and Textiles - that are most likely to be directly affected by any lack of economic adaptation, and examines some of the challenges and opportunities.

The report states that "unless it achieves significant emissions cuts, improves its resilience to Climate Change, and leverages its assets, the Manchester City Region could fall substantially short of its economic regeneration goals and targets".

*Continued on page 2*

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Deloitte's calculations suggest that over the next 12 years (by 2020) a "failure to adapt" scenario could see the North West lose up to £72 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) and the City Region up to £21 billion – which is roughly £8000 per person in Greater Manchester.

However, the report seems to have some significant omissions. The report does discuss the need to "decouple emissions from economic growth" but sidesteps key areas of projected growth such as aviation. It is clear that the growth in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the aviation sector continues to be politically sensitive. In relation to Manchester Airport, the report simply notes that "evidence confirms the importance of this sector to continued growth of the Manchester City Region and North West economies." The report also has little to say on issues such as house building and water & food security.

The mini-Stern report uses a 144 month timescale (2020) and the clock is ticking. Manchester is to be applauded for taking this initiative but across the City Region it is time for positive responses from everyone in the political, business and community sectors. Hopefully the soon to be established Greater Manchester Climate Change Agency can help kickstart this process.

Oh and will someone tell AGMA that ignoring the airport's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will not solve the problem!

Further information: A summary is available as a pdf via the Manchester Enterprises website [www.manchester-enterprises.com](http://www.manchester-enterprises.com) or directly at <http://tinyurl.com/6rjetj>

## Scary Science

Russian scientists are to be evacuated from a drifting ice-floe in the Arctic after it started disintegrating. The Russians had set up a research station on the floe last September when it measured a safe 5km long and 3km wide, and their original plan was to stay on it until this September.

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## WHAT'S COMING UP

**July 22** Information event at the St Thomas Centre M12 6FZ, 0161 277 1014, to brief voluntary and community sector organisations about TIF and to start to get a picture of some of the particular questions and issues that this may raise for the sector, hosted by the Transport Resource Unit of the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation.

**July 22** Climate Camp neighbourhood meeting at 7.30pm at Jabez Clegg

**July 23** First part of a BBC eco-thriller called Burn-Up

**July 25** Critical Commute and Critical Mass

**July 25** AGMA meeting at which fate of TIF referendum will be decided

**Aug 3-9** Camp for Climate Action [www.climatecamp.org.uk](http://www.climatecamp.org.uk)

## Local and Regional

**July 7** Issues-based marketing agency Creative Concern has succeeded in securing a two-year, £180,000 contract from Enworks, the regional body that seeks to encourage environmentally sustainable business practices.

**July 15** The Northwest Development Agency has put out to tender the establishment, management and development of the Northwest Climate Fund. "The Northwest Climate Fund offers England's Northwest a genuine opportunity to invest in an innovative and powerful carbon reduction fund for the region which could help identify, launch and fund a range of small and medium-scale projects across Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside."

## National

**July 8** Environmental Audit Committee report urges shorter term targets and steep domestic cuts ahead of carbon trading.

**July 14** Gordon Brown wants at least 8 new nuclear power plants in the next 15 years and says there shouldn't be an upper limit if energy companies want to build more.

**July 16** A third of Tory MPs responding to a survey questioned the existence of climate change and its link to human activity. Two-thirds said tackling climate change should not be a priority for local councils.

## Global

**July 8** EU announces that aviation will be included in the latest EU Emissions Trading scheme.

**July 15** The White House buries a report which detailed a rising death toll from heat waves, fires, disease and smog they predicted would be caused by global warming. Environmental advocates accused President George W Bush's administration of delaying the release of the 149-page report so that it could avoid regulating greenhouse gases.

For a fuller account of the planet's misadventures over the last 2 weeks, see [www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info](http://www.manchesterclimatefortnightly.info)

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## The 3 Billion Quid Question

Man<sup>o</sup>chester, Transport,  
C<sup>o</sup>ngestion & C<sup>l</sup>imate C<sup>h</sup>ange

**Public Debate**  
**Thursday 31st July**  
**from 7.30pm**  
**at the Friends Meeting House,**  
**Mount St, Central Manchester**

**Admission free**

[www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk](http://www.manchesterclimateforum.org.uk)