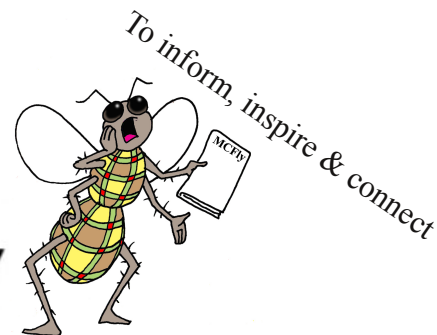


Manchester Climate Monthly

manchesterclimatemonthly.net

Vol 1, No. 2. February 2012



"Carbon Literacy"?

Let's hope cooler heads prevail...

STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

You can now book your free ticket for the long awaited annual event. It's on Friday March 16, 12.30pm to 5.30pm
www.manchesterclimate.com

EMISSIONS TRADING

Manchester Climate Monthly is hosting a FREE mingler event on Valentine's Day. It's at the Sandbar, Grosvenor St, from 8pm. **See advert** →

INTERVIEW

Leader of Manchester City Council Sir Richard Leese has the honour and privilege of being the first person interviewed in our paper version. See **page 5** for highlights!

GREEN DEAL DEALT BLOW

Chris Huhne is no longer driving the government's "Green Deal" retrofit scheme. Will it screech to a halt? See **page 2**

A small community-interest company is taking its first steps to help people in Manchester to understand - and reduce - their carbon footprints. Manchester-based Cooler secured funding from local textile company Westford Mills, and Manchester City Council, to co-ordinate a carbon literacy programme in the city. They are now about to launch their first pilot. MCFly spoke with Dave Coleman of Cooler about the aims of the scheme and whether carbon literacy is the best name for it.

"We've already had feedback from a number of parties that are uncomfortable with it being called carbon literacy – sounds too technical..." admits Coleman. *"We have a couple of ideas for what it might be called. We're not going to reveal them quite yet."*

The programme has been developed by a Carbon Literacy Working Group. Aware of the dangers of "death by powerpoint," the group has carefully considered teaching methods, as well as the kinds of knowledge and values to be conveyed during training. There will be an assessment process to make sure the 'carbon literate' teachers are delivering the goods and encouraging action.

A second, bigger phase of pilots will be launched to run up to June- July and then more public work will begin from August. *"Short-term success is to get through that process successfully, and know that we've got a process that leaves people in a better place than they were in terms of their understanding of climate change and their action as a consequence,"* says Coleman.

continued page 2

MCFly IN "PRAISING COUNCIL" SHOCKER

Castle Grayskull was shaken to its foundations this morning, as Council officers and elected members read a *positive* news story about the Council in the pages of MCFly. Reporting on the Council's decision to include carbon savings as part of their quarterly business plan reports, MCFly said "Well done you." **continued page 2**

Carbon Dating
MCFlys Green Valentine's mingler!

Sandbar,
Grosvenor St

Tue Feb 14th
8pm til late

Music by
Ben Cashell

Free and fun
and for
anyone
(especially if
you're
single and
you'd like to
meet eligible
singles).

manchesterclimatemonthly.net

MCFly in "PRAISING COUNCIL" SHOCKER from page one

Unconfirmed reports are circulating that one Executive Member has fainted, and that supplies of smelling salts are running low.

It all goes back to a meeting in December of the "Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee" (a bunch of councillors who quiz the top bods on what's going on). After enduring a guest speech, one councillor - Bernard Priest - expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of detailed reporting on what the council was actually doing to cut its carbon footprint, in line with its 41% by 2020 target. He asked for more detail, so councillors could indeed overview and scrutinise (the clue is in the name).

In the latest Business Plan, available online, those details are beginning to be fleshed out. In a new appendix "service level low-carbon action plans" and the like are listed. This isn't just in one area - action plans for Adults, Children's, Regeneration, Capital Programme, Corporate Property and Corporate Procurement - will be open for question at the next Communities and Neighbourhoods meeting, to be held on Tuesday 7th February at the Town Hall.

Marc Hudson

MCFly says - several cliches spring to mind.

"Information is power" is one. "The devil is in the detail" is another. And "thank you for that rod for your own back" is third....

MCFly and its Crystal Balls

The **Green Deal** is the flagship programme of the, cough, 'greenest government ever.' It's supposed to make the retrofitting of leaky houses attractive to owners, saving money and carbon. Its champion, Lib Dem politician Chris Huhne, resigned on Friday ahead of being charged over getting his ex-wife to take on points on his license from speeding. Without Huhne to defend it, MCFly predicts, the Green Deal will get substantially watered down by the Treasury and kicked to a pulp by civil servants and politicians who are not fond of it.

Green Investment Bank

A decision will be made mid-February on where the HQ for this will be. Leeds? Liverpool? London? Will it get to the next letter in the alphabet? MCFly will buy John Ashcroft a pint if it does...

The **Planning Policy Framework** comes out before the end of March. Will it be a "pave the green belt" bonanza for developers? Buy shares in concrete companies, is all we are sayin'...

"Carbon Literacy"? from page one

Over the next three years, they hope to have offered everyone who lives or studies in Manchester the opportunity to engage in the project.

If you think that your organisation or place of study would benefit from carbon literacy training, get in touch via info@coolerprojects.com for more information.

A full transcript of the interview with Dave Coleman is available on the Manchester Climate Monthly website, under the "Interview" tab.

Arwa Aburawa

Exciting things that have happened in Manchester this month

A highly informative meeting about Food and the City happened, and will be repeated in March in Levenshulme.

Airport City - a £659m Enterprise Zone (think low taxes and subsidies) is announced for Manchester Airport.

MPs and business folk lobby for £560m or so for a series of rail improvements in the North of England known as, um "the **Northern Hub**". They find out in March, when George Osborne produces his next budget.

Fur and feathers have flown over a **lottery bid**. Oh my.

NETROOTS Saturday Feb 18th

A hundred activists and campaigners from across the North West and

beyond, will gather for an afternoon of shared learning, ideas and debates.

"Netroots North West aims to facilitate the

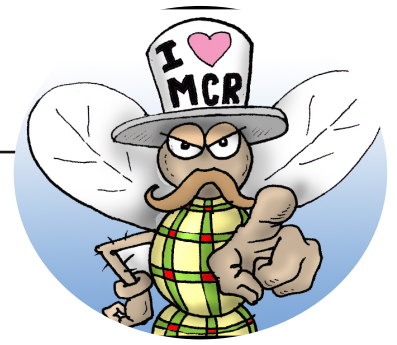
growth of infrastructure and networks for left and centre-left online activism by creating a space for campaigners and activists to build their capacity, both individually and as a collective movement. Come along for practical training sessions in campaigning skills and making the most of technology for activism, discussions on campaign strategies, and presentations on new developments and challenges for online progressives."

The event takes place at Manchester University, 12 noon to 5pm. Tickets (strictly limited) are £5, or free to unwaged/student participants.

<http://www.netrootsuk.org>



WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Reduce your personal footprint

All the standard personal stuff - Drive less, cycle more

Fly less (cough cough). Eat less meat. Buy less stuff.

Insulate your house - see the Energy Savings Trust's "Get me toasty" campaign <http://www.getmetoasty.com>

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?

That is important, so you have credibility and aren't accused of hypocrisy when you...

Increase your political footprint

Join a group - see calendar on page eight. Don't be discouraged with how you get ignored for the first few times you go. Don't take it personally. It's just the way the environmental movement rolls at present. That can change, and it would be really good if you were part of changing it... If you get fed up, come ask us at MCFly - we've **heaps** of useful work you could do...

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 the council more active? What could they do? Do they even *know* about climate change as a local government issue?

Get involved with MCFly

Subscribe, forward articles to your friends.

Send us news!, write for us, volunteer...

Quote of the Month

"When asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: if you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand the data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse."

— Martin Keogh, Hope Beneath Our Feet: Restoring Our Place in the Natural World

CLIMATE ACTIVIST DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

A free tool for individuals and groups who want to do a "skills audit" of their abilities around campaigning and organisation is being developed by MCFly editors and various interested parties. It involves the development of a series of quizzes and "job descriptions" that people can use to identify their strengths and weaknesses. Resources pages to help people improve their abilities - and share their skills - are also planned. The scheme (which is due for a name change - we're toying with "Movement Academy") is due to launch on **Friday 16th March**.

Are you willing to be a guinea pig? Might you even be interested in helping devise the thing?

Get in touch via mcmmonthly@gmail.com

<http://climateactivistdevelopmentscheme.wordpress.com>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Manchester Climate Monthly is looking for two more volunteers. We are after someone who can write news stories and features (or wants to learn!), and someone who wants to be involved in event organising/publicity/administration and "special projects" (sorry, it's classified; if we told you, we'd have to kill you.)

You need to be;

- at least 18 years old
- intending to be in Manchester for at least the next six months
- concerned about climate change and democracy and so on.
- er, that's it...

We only have capacity for two more volunteers at present, so we will interview/induct on a "first-come first served" basis.

Email us with "volunteer role" in the subject header to mcmmonthly@gmail.com

Have a look at our jobs list under the "Help MCM" tab on the menu bar - that gives you a bit of a sense of some of the managerial jobs (but not the special projects).

Everything you wanted to know about: but were afraid to ask.

The Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan 2012 – 2016 has just been finalised by Manchester City Council. This Plan replaces the Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan 2005 - 2011. The plan begins with three pre-ambls which are related to:

Objectives achieved as a result of the previous plan.

A section which puts the plan into International, European, UK and Greater Manchester contexts.

Some descriptions of the updated objectives of the new plan.

The detailed action plan itself is presented as a series of tables at the end of the document. There are six different headings:

Climate Change

It's very striking that 8 out of the 9 action points under this heading are new. It's not unlikely that the authors of the plan are aware that at the Nagoya Conference on Biodiversity in 2010, Ahmed Djoghla, the Secretary General of the UN Convention of Biological Diversity, criticised countries for separating action on climate change from protecting biodiversity. *"The loss of biodiversity exacerbates climate change ... Climate change cannot be solved without action on biodiversity and vice versa."*

One objective, under this heading is: "To investigate extent, availability and possible uses of biomass." This is an interesting and timely concept. Habitat management yields huge amounts of biomass and to be able to find a sustainable and non-polluting use for it would be a big step forward.

Land Management

There are 31 actions listed under this heading, of which 13 are new. The aspiration, which is a very noble one, is to introduce wildlife friendly management methods into all public and private green spaces. Unfortunately, history suggests that it may be difficult to persuade various contractors to conform to such methods.

Data Mapping

There are 19 actions under this heading, of which 9 are new. The document recognises that the relatively recent establishment of the Greater Manchester Local Records Centre (GM LRC) is a big step forward. This will allow the current distribution of species to be accurately mapped, important sites which require protection to be identified and future changes in the distributions of species monitored.

Planning, Policy and Legislation

There are 16 actions under this heading, of which 2 are new. One of these new objectives is: "To achieve [the] Natural England Target of one hectare of LNR (Local Nature Reserve) per 1,000 [of] population." This is a fine objective but so much open land has been concreted over in recent years one wonders where these LNRs are to be established?

The Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-16

Community Engagement, Partnership Working

There are 33 actions under this heading, of which 8 are new. An interesting objective is: "To develop new partnerships to encourage the use of nature for improving health, quality of life and community cohesion." A recent experience of mine suggests that there may be an opportunity to unite the diverse communities that make up modern Manchester as a result of the fascination that many people's children tend to have for nature.

Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

There are 13 actions under this heading, one of which is new: "To create new ponds and better management of water for wildlife across the city."

A small number of **case studies** are included in the plan – one of which caught my eye:

"Levenshulme High School's thriving wildlife area was blessed with a wide variety of flora and fauna and was well used by pupils and staff for recreational and educational purposes."

However, the future of the site was threatened by new construction work that was planned as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. Thanks to the commitment and passion of one teacher, the wildlife area was relocated to another part of the school grounds."

I find this story to be somewhat disturbing, and rather than a cause for celebration I strongly suspect that it reveals a deep, underlying malaise in the Council's

attitude towards biodiversity. First, why was it the responsibility of the teacher to highlight the problem? The educational authorities, the planners and the developers should all have been aware of legislation and regulations, such as the NERC Act 2006 and PPS9, which gave them a statutory duty to take wildlife into account; I can only infer that they chose not to take that duty seriously(?). Second, there is now a generation of children in Levenshulme who have been taught that if wildlife is in an inconvenient place it can just be moved; an approach which is not only ecologically unsound but positively obtuse and insensitive.

I suspect that there are several powerful and influential people in the Town Hall who, in their heart of hearts, don't really believe that biodiversity is important. I also suspect that they think that all they have to do to fulfil the new duties that they are faced with is to write a glossy strategy document, plant a few trees, install a few green roofs, encourage a bit of wildlife gardening and ensure that kids have 'nature study' lessons. Then they can 'tick the box' and move on to concreting everything over.

Dave Bishop, Friends of Chorlton Meadows



The MCMonthly Interview

MCFly co-editor Marc Hudson caught up with Council Leader Richard Leese on January 31st. The full transcript of the interview can be seen at the MCMonthly's website (under the "Interview" tab)

Sir Richard Leese Leader of Manchester City Council



Why is the "Airport City" Enterprise Zone such a good idea?

Create jobs. We still have a need in Manchester, if we are going to continue tackling what's quite deep-seated levels of deprivation that have really arisen out of the collapse of the traditional manufacturing industry. We have to increase skill levels, and we have to continue to create more jobs. At the moment it's partly to compensate for the loss of jobs within the public sector that are going to continue for a number of years. I think Airport City, not just in connection with the airport, in a few years it will also link into the tram system, the rail network network...

Does the prospect of higher fuel prices from "peak oil", and reduced volumes of travel, worry you?

It certainly worries the aviation industry, that's for sure. Which is why for both airbus and boeing their new-engined planes which have far less fuel consumption are selling like hotcakes. To a certain extent, in the medium-term, you will see more and more technological solutions to those problems, rather than people not flying anymore.... Fuel prices will drive those technological improvements.

What we are seeing from the new engines being talked about, they are quite significant improvements, not marginal.

It's 2014, and "Green Power"

sweeps to power in Manchester City Council, after the Labour Party melts down. They say they are going to stop expansion at Manchester Airport, and in fact shrink it. They succeed, over your dead body. What are the consequences for the people of Manchester?

Green Power will only last for one year. I've never tried to argue there aren't emissions issues around airports and aviation. If that was to happen, all we would do is displace those flights to somewhere else. It wouldn't actually stop those emissions. So we have to have far more rational ways of addressing those [issues]. It would be very bad news for the economy of Manchester, it would be very bad news for jobs, both short-term and medium-term. That policy wouldn't last very long.

What's gone well in the climate agenda in Manchester and Greater Manchester since June 2010?

I think the most significant step forwards since 2010 is we now have the Greater Manchester strategy, and we've

got joining up of a quite large geographical area, a large population base. Lots of issues there, in terms of agreeing targets. Targets are the start of a process rather than the end of a process. You've got ten local authorities with different start lines, different metrics and so on. There's been a lot of work to resolve that, and I think we've made a lot of progress there. So we now do have not entirely common, but reconcilable targets, across Greater Manchester. [and] now are moving into having an Action Plan for Greater Manchester as well.

Clearly within Manchester itself, we're into our second year – coming up to our third year soon – of the City Council's own action plan. Which was well-received enough for people to be arguing about the punctuation rather than the content, which is always a good place to be. For the City Council I think it's two things – it's transport and it's buildings. I think we are making some

real progress there. I think some very good work in terms of what will be longer-term benefits. The work around heat networks, smart grids, we're making some real progress there. Rolling out charging points for electric vehicles – clearly charging points are

only any use if electricity becomes low carbon as well.

What would you like to see local councillors – Labour and Lib Dem – doing to engage on the issue of climate change, both within the City Council and with their constituents?

There are two levels there. Clearly we need councillors to actively support strong environmental policies at the city-wide level....I think there's a little bit of leading by example, as well. Not everybody's going to be able to, even if they want to ride a bike, but there are behavioural things that I think councillors need to do. Every ward has a ward plan – it's to ensure that climate change and environmental strategies are an integral part of those plans as well.

We have also interviewed Cllr Marc Ramsbottom, Liberal Democrat leader of the Opposition. That's for next time...

"[anti-Airport] 'Green Power' would only last for one year"

COUNCILS OF DESPAIR

News round-up of what's happening (and what's not) from the Town Halls of Greater Mank. We need your leads and leaks! For more detailed reports, see our website.

Manchester City Council

At full council on Weds 1st February the Council agreed to a 20mph speed limit on (most) residential roads. Proposed by the Liberal Democrats, the "Twenty's Plenty" agreement should be agreed soonish and happening from May or so.

On January 19, the Planning and Highways Committee knocked back the Chrisitie Hospital bid for a multi-storey carpark, despite that also delaying a £20m research centre.

MCfly scooped the MEN. Not that we're boasting or anything...

Executive

When it next meets, on Wednesday 15th February, the 9 member Executive will probably sign off on a very large retrofit and refurb scheme in West Gorton. Watch this Space.

Environmental Strategy Programme Board

Sigh, secretive as ever. Where was that FOIA form again?

Steering Group

Its minutes are now on the website. At the Jan 26th meeting they heard from a man who has written a/the book about the carbon cost of everything.... No blog about what was decided, unfortunately.

What YOU can do

Contact your local councillors. Tell them exactly why the current action on climate change is too little and too late. Tell them how things could and should be done better. But never think that a perfect government would mean a perfect society...

CYCLING MANIFESTO

MCfly reader Roger (of www.carbusters.org) spotted that the Times newspaper is running an 8 point "cycling manifesto." We asked Executive Member for the Environment Cllr Nigel Murphy for a comment. In part, he told us - *"....it's encouraging to see that they are giving such an important issue the coverage it deserves. Cycling is a cost effective, quick and healthy way of getting around and we'd like to encourage more people to use their bikes while making sure it's safe for them to do so. In Manchester, we already have 20 mile an hour speed limits in around 150 locations and we're looking to extend this further, making roads safer for both cyclists and pedestrians. Three cycle centres will be built in the city centre during the next 18 months, providing cyclists with places to safely store their bikes, have them repaired and even shower after their journeys."*

MCfly says - To anyone thinking of responding to that grimy speci-MEN and his sub-Clarkson "look at me" burblings - "Don't Feed The Trolls."

The **Greater Manchester Environment Commission** meet last week and discussed everything from solar panels, implementation plans to the Green Deal. Here's a very brief summary of the meeting – for a more detailed report see our website.

Michael O'Doherty, head of Manchester City Council's climate change programme opened by outlining the chaos (our word) caused by the government's cutting of the solar feed-in-tariff. He closed by saying the new rate – of 21p – could be viable for social housing. It was also announced that Manchester's Climate Change Strategy implementation plan will run to the 31st of March 2015, to mesh better with other GM plans. The first draft will be presented at the next Commission meeting. The commission's 'work programme' was next on the agenda. Cllr Neil Swannick, chair of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority expressed "a little bit of frustration" with the slow rate of progress of the Commission. Charlie Parker, Lead Chief Exec of the Environment Commission, remarked that recent conversations with central government were "infinitely more productive", especially around issues like transport and energy. He told the commission that by the time it next met he was hopeful that they might have more to report, and forward momentum.

Green Deal: Which horse to back? The central government "Green Deal" is a financial mechanism for encouraging people and organisations to insulate their houses. There is a lot of business scepticism, and Greater Manchester has to decide just how involved it wants to be. There are three options on the table: being a "promoter", being a "marketeer" or the local authority being a large scale Green Deal provider. Alongside this, there's a need to have a "Plan B" if the Green Deal either doesn't come into existence. Even so, Greater Manchester will not be geared up to take advantage of the Green Deal until April 2013. Swannick opined that local authorities would be essential in this process – with the finance to make it happen, with assurance for home owners and organisations.

CULTURE VULTURE

BOOK REVIEW: Global Action Networks: Creating Our Future Together

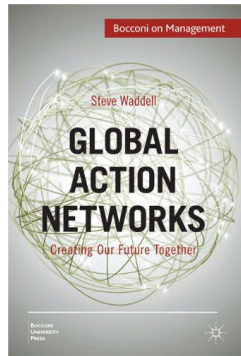
Steve Waddell

Bocconi University Press 2011

reviewed by Marc Hudson

The first chapter is “meh”. The last chapter is semi-dodgy. Everything in between is... solid gold. This management book, by a guy who has spent thirty years in the trenches of organisational change, is crammed full of useful insights, distinctions and anecdotes. Anyone who is interested in the how and why of network formation, the why and how of sustaining and enhancing networks, and the crucial tasks of identifying capacity gaps and figuring out how to plug them – in individuals and also groups – is going to love this book. With chapter headings like “understanding networks,” “mastering change” and “growing the competencies required for success” (there are 8 of them, in his opinion), this book is structured but not dogmatic, dense but at no point verbose or boring. The author throws in insights from business, sociology, government and “activism” (at the inter-national level), most of which will have thoughtful Mancunians reaching for their pens and scratching their heads.

Waddell says his primary goal is “to provide practical assistance to people working in, and associated with global, multi-stakeholder, inter-organizational change networks.” Well, I'm not qualified on that, but it is going to be very useful here in Manchester over the coming years. If anyone wants to borrow the MCFly copy, email mcmmonthly@gmail.com



Book Reviewers Needed!

We need you to read books and then give us your opinion (in writing!). We've been too enthusiastic in blagging review copies, and publishers have been very generous.

Here's how it works-

you tell us which of the books below you want to review. We give you the book, and you have thirty days to deliver a review of roughly 600 to 800 words, saying what the book argues, whether you thought it was good or not (and why!) who should read it,

You get to KEEP the book, but we would very much like you not to flog it, because we want to build up a lending library. Unless it was a stinker, of course, in which case - to the Oxfam!! Interested? email mcmmonthly@gmail.com

Climate Change and Society by John Urry

Dynamics Sustainabilities: Technology,

Environment, Social Justice by Melissa Leach, Ian Scoones and Andy Stirling

The Politics of Climate Change (2nd ed) by Anthony Giddens

The Governance of Climate Change: Science, Economics, Politics & Ethics eds Held, Hervey & Theros

Occupy World Street: A global roadmap for radical economic and political reform by Ross Jackson

Whose Crisis, Whose Future? by Susan George

Climate Change and the Crisis of Capitalism: A chance to reclaim self, society and nature eds Pelling, Manuel-Navarrete & Redclift

Low Carbon Communities: Imaginative Approaches to Combating Climate Change Locally eds Peters, Fudge and Jackson

Engaging the Public with Climate Change: Behaviour Change and Communication eds Whitmarsh, O'Neill and Lorenzoni

Citizen Participation in Global Environmental Governance, eds Rask, Worthington & Lammi

MCFly has MOJO!!

MCFly volunteer Mark Haworth has magicked up a "Monthly Journal Overview" (MoJO). It's a listing of academic articles about climate change and Manchester that will be of use to anyone writing about the challenges we face as a city, and also anyone trying to take action to tackle these challenges (the two are not, of course, mutually exclusive!)

The first listing was published on Thursday 2nd February, and contained the titles, authors and abstracts of twelve articles. The criteria for inclusion are pretty straight-forward; Manchester-based academics, articles about Manchester/the North West and other “particularly interesting” articles that have appeared in journals. Future issues will appear on the first of the month on the Manchester Climate Monthly website.

If you want to subscribe, or if you are an academic who thinks their article ought to be listed, get in touch with Mark at mcmmonthlyvolunteers@gmail.com. If you want to help get involved in producing the listing (it's pretty straightforward), then use the same email address.

CAPTION CONTEST



Suggestions to mcmonthly@gmail.com with "caption contest" in the subject header. First prize a kiss from one of the editors. Second prize is, as ever, two kisses...

Do we have to do everything ourselves? Other than one unprintable suggestion (thanks Nigel),



there's only one entry. Marc Hudson will have to go kiss himself...

Manchester Climate Monthly exists to inform, inspire and connect people working - or wanting to work - towards a more resilient and fair Greater Manchester.

Its editors are not members of any political party or employed by any local authority. MCM receives no political funding. For our mission(s) and transparency mechanisms, please visit the "about" page on our website.

Our email is mcmonthly@gmail.com

twitter: [@mcr_climate](https://twitter.com/mcr_climate)

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www.maricrobertscartoons.com

Thanks to: Mark, Dave, Laurence, Roisin, etc.

Next issue published: 5 March 2012

CALENDAR

For more info about these events, including hyperlinks to the organisers' own pages, please visit manchesterclimatemonthly.net

We make no claim to being complete. Appearance in the calendar is not an endorsement of the quality of the event in question!

Weds 8 Feb, 7pm. Showing of "Just Do It" – film about the now defunct Climate Camp and Plane Stupid groups. University of Manchester Students' Union, Oxford Road.

Thurs Feb 9, 7pm Green Party Meeting, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St

Thurs Feb 9, 8pm Planning meeting for the 2012 Chorlton Big Green festival upstairs at St Clement's Church. Also Feb 23.

Fri 10 Feb Fuel Poverty Awareness Day - national media and public affairs campaign, aimed at raising awareness of the health problems caused by living in cold, damp homes and the help that is available.

Fri 10 Feb, 7.30pm to midnight Friends of the Earth "nearly 40 birthday party" at Eighth Day, 111 Oxford Road

Sat 11 Feb, 7.30pm to 2.00am Envirolution Fundraiser, Trof, 21 Landcross Road, Rusholme

Sat 11 Feb at 7.30pm Chorlton Big Green Festival fundraising Celidh with the Beech Band. Tickets are £5 / £3 Available at Hickson and Black's on Barlow Moor Rd. Chorlton Irish Centre, 17 High Lane, Chorlton Manchester M21 9DJ

Tue 14 Feb, 10am – 3.30pm Gather to Grow – Free 1 day food growing conference. Trafford College, Talbot Road, Stretford. To book a place please call Abigail Pound (Groundwork) 220 1000 or email msstt@groundwork.org.uk

Tues 14 Feb, 7pm - 9pm Manchester Friends of the Earth Full Group Meeting Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham St. Contact Cat at cat@manchesterfoe.org.uk or on 07754 042716 for further details.

Tues 14 Feb, 8 till late MCFly's "Carbon Dating" valentine day mingler! If you're single and you'd like to meet eligible singles, come along to our Valentine's Day mingler! Sandbar, Grosvenor St.

Sat 18 Feb, 1-4pm Urban Edible Gardening Workshop at MERCi see: www.carpe-diem-gardens.co.uk

Sat Feb 18, 1 – 3.45pm 'Climate justice: ideas into action' with Caroline Downey, Bridge 5 Mill in Beswick. www.southernvoicesuk.org.uk

Feb 18, 12 to 5pm Netroots North West £5 (see advert page 2)

Tues 21 Feb, 2pm to 4pm Community Microgeneration Workshop at Bridge 5 Mill. www.merci.org.uk

Weds 22 Feb 4pm, Geography seminar 'Urban foresight for territorial governance: exploring the European synergy city': Joe Ravetz (University of Manchester) Hanson Room, Humanities Bridgeford Street

Thurs 23 Feb, 2 to 4pm Save Energy, Save Money

This free workshop will look at how you can save money on your bills by reducing the amount of energy you use. www.merci.org.uk

Thurs 23 Feb 6-8pm Climate change question time at The Manchester Museum. Your chance to pose questions to experts about climate change & sustainability in a Manchester & global context. With experts from the University of Manchester and other leading research centres and taking place in the Museum's Living Worlds gallery. You can send your questions in advance to museum@manchester.ac.uk or bring them along on the night.

