Manchester Climate Monthly

manchesterclimatemonthly.net

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Inform, Inspire and Connect

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INTERVIEWED
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ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?

As Hurricane Sandy - which scientists say was strengthened by climate warming - approached New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg advised people to stay at home and wait for the storm to pass. "Your home is the safest place to be", he insisted. But what about those without a home? Hours before the storm hit, homeless people were still sat on benches and taking shelter in doorways which exposed them to greater risk. In the UK, scientists are predicting more extreme winters - are the local authorities in Manchester ready to protect the most vulnerable and homeless? MCFly investigates.

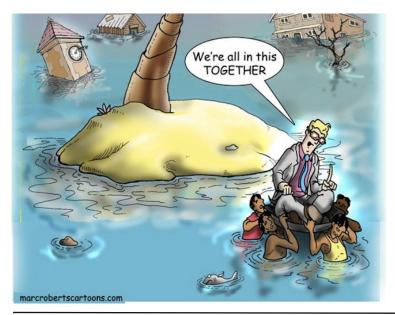
"Several recent studies suggest that the faster Arctic warming will increase the chances of extreme weather (cold, warm, dry, and wet) all around the northern hemisphere, so there's a higher likelihood that European winters will be colder and snowier," Jennifer Francis, a research professor at Rutgers University, told us via email. For those living on the streets (which is an increasing number in Manchester) this means things are going to get tougher. So what are

local authorities and those in government doing to protect them?

I first got in touch with Department of Energy and Climate Change to ask them about extreme winters and homelessness and they said that it wasn't their area and it was best to speak to Department for Work and Pensions. The DWP said they only deal with benefits for homeless people and that the Department for Communities and Local Government are the people I need to talk to about the issue. The CLG team then told me they deal with reducing homelessness no matter the weather and that if I wanted to know what the government was doing to deal to climate change and more extreme weather then I would need to speak to DECC. So, that brings me full circle and none the wiser.

The press team at CLG also added that it is the responsibility of local authorities to provide the appropriate provisions for homeless people if they are expecting a cold night. But as our previous reports on Manchester City Council revealed, they don't have any policies in place to deal with climate-change induced extreme weather in the future. Councillor Glynn Evans, executive member for Adults' Health and Wellbeing at Manchester City Council, said:

"If a member of the public sees someone sleeping rough, we would urge them to contact the "No Second Night Out" service on 0345 112 8128... Manchester City Council also operates its own outreach service within the City and has an agreement with accommodation providers that should the weather drop below a certain temperature accommodation will be made available. We have operated this cold weather scheme successfully for many years...



WHAT TO DO IN DECEMBER

Thanks, and a Merry Christmas

The MCFly co-editors would like to thank the dozens and dozens of people who've contributed to MCFly's success (such as it is) over the last year. Whether it's retweeting our existence, or sending us unprintable gossip, consenting to an interview (we're still happy to do one, btw, Cllr Murphy), giving us a heads-up to events we probably didn't know about, or tolerating us coming along to meetings and handing out the dead tree format - thank you. If your name isn't on this list it's either because we forgot, or else because it's better for you that we are not seen in public together.

Thanks to Richard Leese, Marc Ramsbottom, David Mottram, Mary Heaney, Dave Coleman, Colin Hughes, Todd Holden, Sue Murphy, Kevin Anderson, Hannah Knox, Alistair Ulph and others for subjecting themselves to the horrors of the MCFly interview process.

Thanks to all our writers. Thanks to Marc Roberts for cartoons above and beyond the call of duty. Thanks to Mark, Laurence, David and Judith for what has been and what will be. Thanks to Ruth for retweets, to MARC for printing and to Lush for dosh. Thanks to Cat, Pete and Colette for the patience of saints and the willingness to take a punt. Ditto to Catrina and her gang.

Thanks to our friends in academia, who have mostly shown what good judgement we ourselves displayed in never entering that racket (there are, of course, honorable exceptions!).

MCFly will be back in the New Year, for the second half of its second existence. Will there still be a print edition in 2014? The smart money is on the word "no."



Make your own Festive wreath and choose your tree. Crafts stalls from Source Unknown, Enchanted Brave, Storm's Jewellery, Anastasia, Liv Decoration, Rachael's Cards, Katy Jones crafts ... Music from Hanami and Walk, mulled wine, soup and bread, refreshments available and fire ... and at 3.30pm "Alternative Light Switch On" featuring Giant Squirrel and Lanterns from Fismitharts and Jofoleyarts ... do come.

Hulme Community Garden Centre, 28 Old Birley Street, Hulme, Manchester, M155RG, www. hulmegardencentre.org.uk



Steady State Manchester

Steady State Manchester
Xmas Gathering
@Eighth Day Cafe
Oxford Road, M1 7DU
Wednesday 12th of December, 5.30-7pm

Following the launch of the Steady State Manchester report on 20 November, the group are organising a casual gathering to discuss 'what next' in terms of actions and events in 2013. We ask that you come with nothing but a bit of curiosity and a wilingness to mingle! Spaces are limited so do let us know you're coming by emailing us on steadystatemanchester@gmail.com

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Reduce your personal footprint

All the standard personal stuff - drive less, cycle more, fly less (cough cough). Eat "The race is now on between the less meat. Buy less stuff. Insulate your house! technoscientific and scientific forces that 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. You could also volunteer with Cooler Projects on their Carbon Literacy programme - see www.coolerprojects.com for more information.

Or help grow food (see the Weds 19th December event).

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?

Inspiring Quote of the Month

destroying the living environment and those

be harnessed to save it. . . . If the race is won, humanity can emerge in far better condition than when it entered, and with most of the diversity of life still intact." — Edward O. Wilson, The Future Of Life

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. Here's a very small selection of what has gone up in the last month;

- * Event Report: "Peddling pedalling the Dutch way" cycling in Manchester
- * Professor Kevin Anderson on steady state economics "begin immediate and deep reductions in emissions at the same time" #inplaceofgrowth
- * Event Report: Food Futures Forum Food Poverty, Manchester, 23 November 2012
- * Permaculture: article about Bill Mollison in Jeremy Seabrook's "Pioneers of Change"
- * Crosspost: Egyptian climate change campaigner interviewed
- * Event Report: Greater #Manchester ESD Forum "An Introduction to Systems Thinking and the Circular Economy"
- * Ash Dieback and Tree Planting: An Intimate Connection?

A project to make and re-make Manchester in 12 hours

"On 12/12/12 we are looking for volunteers to create an 8m 'plasticine' model of Manchester. This is part of a series of art project happening across Manchester on that day, exploring how we respond to each other as humans and how we live together in cities.

"The model is part of a project called Urban Future, Human Future that will take place in the commercial unit beneath Islington Wharf on Great Ancoats Street in Manchester, kindly donated by Isis Waterside Regeneration. Urban Future, Human Future has evolved from a series of discussions between Mike Mayhew (artist), Stefan White (architect and academic), Jenny Savage (artist), Steve Potter (psycologist and academic) and David Rudlin (urban designer and cartographer). Jenny and Steve will be instigating a series of conversations, to be interpreted through mapping, of people's reactions to, and relationship with Manchester. At the same time students from the Manchester School of Architecture will be running sixteen events with people across the city exploring changes that they might make to the city.

"These strands will be woven together into the 'plasticine' model. The first 6 hours (10am - 4pm) will be spent building a model of the city today. The second 6 hours will then feed the results of the conversation into a process by which the model is changed and evolved to create a possible future. The architecture students and indeed anyone else who wants to get involved will get the chance to work in groups to explore new forms of development, sustainability, cycling, urban food growing etc... whatever they are interested in.

"Stop-motion photography throughout the day will capture the changing model creating a film of the city's growth into what it is today and its transformation into a possible future. This will be premiered at an event at Antwerp Mansions in Rusholme that same evening. This is an open invitation to anyone in and around Manchester to get involved or to come along in the evening to see how we got on. 12-12-12-humanity-manchester.weebly.com"

Christmas, Consumption and Carbon

We asked a bunch of different folks for their opinions on Christmas and Consumption. Not everyone we asked got back - probably too busy battling the hordes at the Trafford Centre...

1. Do you think people over-consume in Xmas? If so, why?

Jonathan Atkinson of Carbon Coop, writing in a personal capacity: As with most of the winter, it is the time of year many of us stay in and whack the heating on to stay warm, as a result we generally use more energy. To be honest I don't think there's anything special about Christmas, in general heavy users of carbon remain so all year round, so those in bigger houses tend to use more energy to heat them and they're also more likely to be the people who can afford to take foreign journeys by plane or buy lots of things they don't necessarily need. Hannah Knox, anthropologist at the University of Manchester: My main reflection would be to think about what people consume for. Overconsumption implies that consumption can be measured in a singular way - there is an amount of consumption that is enough and there is an amount of consumption that is too much. Overconsumption implies we need to make sure we stick to a more reasonable level of consumption.

But of course consumption is not this simple. At Christmas and other celebrations for example, consumption is precisely about the excess.... I think it is therefore maybe more helpful to talk in terms of 'excessive' consumption rather than over consumption. Excess is not a judgement about how much is enough or how much is too much, but an acknowledgement that something is being transgressed and that in that transgression, relationships are being made. If we think about Christmas as a moment of excessive consumption, it allows us to better understand what the social value of excess currently is. It might also open up possibilities of thinking about what kind of excess might be permissible or OK, and what might need to be tempered or managed better in a world of finite resources.

Catherine Thomson of Friends of the Earth, writing in a personal capacity: I suppose we know that alot of people 'overconsume' at Christmas from the stats on food and gifts bought over the period. And probably for many reasons- enjoyment of giving and receiving gifts, being seen to be 'doing the right thing', or for peer group/ family pressure reasons. But there are also, I am sure, alot of people who enjoy Christmas as a religious celebration, as a chance to get together with their friends and family or a chance to recharge their batteries at the end of a long year, without spending huge amounts of money or wasting precious resources.

2. What do you think could be done about this problem?

Jonathan: In terms of household energy we can improve and insulate our homes to make them cheaper and easier to heat.... I think it's important we address these issues in a fair and equitable way. That means those with most resources at their disposal can and should make the biggest effort to reduce their carbon emissions and help others do the same.



I'm concerned that environmental campaigners often vilify vulnerable individuals and groups. MMU academic Steven Milligan has written an excellent study in to the 'Christmas light' phenomenon whereby those in working class areas who decorate their houses with lights, making an effort to celebrate and share some collective joy, are targeted for what is a relatively minor amount of power usage (especially compared to regular flying). Catherine: Those that might be considered to 'over-consume' -often wouldn't consider it a problem or would be prepared to run up their credit card to make sure their family have a great time, which for many people equates to high consumption. So I suppose it is making people feel that they don't have to spend alot of money or buy unnecessary items to show they care and to prove their worth. But easier said than done! Educating people about the issues around over-consumption is useful- around energy and resource use and waste management, but I think it is also very important to replace the gifts and glitz with something else- rather than tell people to cancel Christmas! And to somehow attempt to influence social norms on Christmas with more sustainable models.

3. Any personal experiences or suggestions to reduce consumption during Xmas?

Jonathan: For one-off impacts, flying is by far the biggest contributor of carbon. So rather than jetting off somewhere warm I'd recommend huddling round the fire with family and friends, maybe with some homemade cider or organic cheese. But let's not feel guilty, it's been a hard year for many and we've lots of work to do in the new year!

Catherine: Over the years I have tried a variety of things to reduce my own excesses at Christmas, most of which I am sure will be familiar to your readers. This has varied from email cards, and 'virtual' gifts such as Oxfam goats, or theatre tickets to making the Christmas meal vegan and ensuring the Christmas lights don't stay on all night. Sometimes I have been a bit cheeky and bought people environmentally-minded gifts to provide green inspiration for the coming year, with mixed response!

The MCMonthly Interview

MCFly speaks to Professor Colin Hughes, Associate Vice President for Sustainability at the University of Manchester. The full transcript will be available shortly, on manchesterclimatemonthly.net

asking everybody who's involved in

international travel 'can

vou justify this?"



What does a vice president for sustainability at UoM do?

My principle role is the overarching academic lead of all aspects of environmental sustainability across the whole university. So it's leading on embedding environmental sustainability in the curriculum at the university across the whole university- it's leading on optimising synergy across the research group. We are the largest single campus university in the country but we're not known for our excellence in environmental sustainability. You've got your Lancasters and East Anglia but if you look at our performance we've definitely got more research covering that patch but we are not know for it. So I think there is a job to do to get recognition for that - now of course the reality is that the community is fragmented as we have a very large community - three of our four facilities are the size of some universities in the UK....

What can you point to that has happened that wouldn't have happened if the post hadn't been made?

You mean what have I done? [Laughs] Well, a

number of things. I've created an

explicit strategy for Manchester for environmental sustainability. So within the university's strategic plan there is an enabling strategy on environmental strategy. So that's a one page, high level policy document that captures the university's commitment to the environment sustainability agenda. That document was put together in full consultation so I didn't write it or present myself there were several iterations with the constitutions across the university so when it was published no-one could say 'we weren't consulted' because everyone contributed to that document. The other thing was leadership at the top of the university to the sustainability agenda- the board of governors have signed up to a statement on sustainability. So there's commitment at a top level.

Who owns the emissions from students and staff flying not just to conferences, but back to their home countries?

I mean, in terms of Scope 3, as is allocated, it is "University of Manchester." One of the challenges now is that the advice coming down from HEFCE is that "it's up to you." Basically the targets and all the rest of it have been devolved to universities. The first challenge is "how do you measure that?" So there are lots of approaches to measuring that, and we are in the process of doing that now. Once we are aware of the scale of our scope 3 emissions which are ours – then we will be in a position to say, "okay, we're starting all our behavioural change and our transformational change agendas around carbon now, but we don't know what our targets are around scope 3 reduction. Oxford University recently published theirs and they estimate that something like 70% of their whole carbon footprint is scope 3. Now, you think of the size of Oxford University – it's a lot smaller. If ours is anything like that, that's a monumental number. We are already looking at these things, so we've got a sustainable travel plan, we've

got within our strategy everyone is accountable in "we should be

terms of justifying the use of different transport options. On the one hand you've got a research-led university where one of the principle vehicles for knowledge advancement is international

travel and communication. You have an

education system where in a lot of disciplines the educational value of overseas field trips is pretty substantial. Now that's fine, but we should be asking everybody who's involved in international travel "can you justify this?"

What is a low carbon culture?

Okay, from the university standpoint, a low carbon culture is the same approach to the low carbon agenda as you have to health and safety. So in the same way that you don't do a laboratory experiment, or a field course, or climb a ladder or do anything without thinking "what are the health and safety implications" it should be there in the culture that you don't do anything without thinking about [the] long-term and far away.... It's Bangladesh, it's sea-level rise, it's desertification - it's all of those. So the idea is that it's there in the same sort of way as health and safety. That's what it means as far as I'm concerned. It also means that every graduate that leaves this university will leave with the knowledge that has the potential to make a difference both in their personal and their professional lives.

COUNCILS OF DESPAIR

REFRESHING CANDOUR? NO, NONE OF THAT THANK YOU. THIS IS MANCHESTER...

Most of us have had relationship trouble at one time or another. Like Gaia in the poem on the page opposite, some of us will have heard protestations "Stick with me Babe, it will be different next time". But we are mugs to believe those pretty words if the one who has done us wrong has shown no real insight into the pain they've caused, no evidence of genuine reflection, and has no credible plan for not repeating the same foul-ups again. Sadly, the people of Manchester can't really "dump" the Stakeholder Steering Group. That power belongs to Manchester City Council, and the Council is in - to conclude the metaphor - a sick co-dependent relationship of enablement. The Council finds – and this was not, we are sure, its original intention - the Steering Group to be a useful stab-vest, deflecting all enquiries to its inaction on a wider leadership role for climate action in the city.

So, while here at MCFly will be writing a public response to the recently released "refresh" document (all 32 pages) of it for the Climate Change Action Plan, we don't recommend that readers clear their decks to make the Monday December 10th deadline. Ignoring us? You can find it at http://www.manchesterclimate.com/node/3955

As well as sections "What we are going to do next: Action Plan 2013-5" and "Continually Improving Our Plan", this fantasy document (as per Lee Clarke) contains a section "What We Have Achieved So Far." It is, of course. pretty short. And makes no mention of what hasn't been achieved. How many organisations have endorsed the action plan? (200ish versus a target of 1000). What help/coercion did the Council and its Steering Group - give to organisations to sign? "Ooh, look, an Environmental Business Pledge?" How many of the 200 endorsers have actually gone on to develop their own Implementation Plans? Last time we

ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?

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"We work hard with other agencies to ensure those who become homeless receive the most appropriate support. To do this we have put in place a comprehensive service to prevent people from becoming homeless, a support service to keep people in their homes as well as providing a service dedicated to supporting people to come off the streets."

Arwa Aburawa mcmonthly@gmail.com

could be bothered to ask the answer was still... two. (The Council itself and its arms-length Housing outfit).

We could go on – and will – about the silences and evasions in this document. But life, and space in the print edition, is short, so this; The "refresh" makes great play of the fact that no international deal has been made on climate change (as ANYONE with a brain was warning ahead of Copenhagen) and that the national government has been ignoring its commitments, and that the local governance structures have been all over the place, and that austerity is biting.

All true – but when the going gets tough, The. Tough. Get. Going. They don't sit around whining about external factors, rewriting terms of reference, hosting disastrously inept meetings and failing to do what they can - how much does it cost to keep a website updated occasionally, when you've got 30+ potential authors and a paid munchkin? Really? For example.



CULTURE VULTURE

After Phillippa Yaa de Villiers,

Gaia breaks up with Humanity, her young lover

Gaia! Darlin! I'm so sorry you feel that way! But you've got me all wrong -I do love you! I do respect you!

We've got something special Babes,
I'm not like the other species.
You and me, we're different,
we can understand each other, like no other.
We've made each other what we are:
My skin carries the shades of your climates,
even my blood responds to you!

You, brightest star in my galaxy.
I love taking care of you, Babes I've un-choked your rivers, mapped your landscape.
Risen above it all to see you for what you are my gorgeous blue planet!
My whole world.
Where would I be without you?

What about all that we've got going for us?
Don't they mean anything, all the good times?
We've shared so much.
All the new and wonderful things
I've made happen for you – we've done it together.
Mama. I've gone to places that others avoid,
I've dived your very depths,
and risen to the heights of you.
All so I can understand you better.
I've given order to your chaos,
named your parts, uncovered your secrets!
Surely, we can work things out?
I know myself better for knowing you.

It doesn't bother me that you're older, and it shouldn't bother you I'm much younger. You're my one and only, and I'm your Man. Sure, I've had some bad times, who doesn't? I've changed, Sweet Mama. I can change. Are you gonna throw it all away, for a few mistakes?! Gaia darling, I thought we understood each other.

You're not easy. Successful, you've got it all! Imagine how that makes me feel.

Do you care how small you make me look?
I've got needs too! I put up with you,
your tantrums, your tornadoes, your earthquakes,
'natural disasters'. Your cycles would test any Man!
You're so erratic at times Am I meant to sit back, and just say
it's natural! It's the order of things!
Where I can be a Man,
and do something about it!

You test me Gaia, you really do!
Is it surprising I lash out sometimes.
It's not easy being your Man!
You keep your wealth secreted away from me what kind of partnership is that?
Good God! Any other species would have left out of here, ages ago. Look at the ones who have!
They had enough of your mood swings.
Be grateful, I care about you!
You've been around, a good few million times, yet here I am. Is this the thanks I get?
You need me darlin' – and don't you forget it!
I take care of you Babes – you'd be aright mess without me!

I love you! We have so much going for us. If you'd just stop being so hysterical, and see it my way.

Dorothea Smartt was born and brought up in London and is of Barbadian heritage.

No Condition is Permanent features writing and poetry specially selected and written for Platform's season C Words: Carbon Climate, Capital, Culture, which took place at Arnolfini, Bristol, October and November 2009. Published by African Writers Abroad and Platform

http://issuu.com/platform-london/docs/no-condition-ispermanent-poetry-climatechange

CALENDAR

Appearance in the calendar is not an endorsement of the quality of the event in question!

Wed 5th, 6:15pm, Action for Sustainable Living: Our Legacy, Our Future. AGM and Christmas Celebration, Platt Chapel, Fallowfield

This is our big, booming annual celebration. Our Green Seeds project that has so far trained up some 45 Local Project Managers to deliver sustainability projects across South Manchester and supported hundreds if not thousands of people to volunteer is now entering its fourth and final year. We'll be starting with our AGM and finishing with mulled wine and a festive AfSL Cellidh. RSVP here: http://ourlegacy-ourfuture.eventbrite.co.uk Thurs 6th, 5:30pm "Can the free market save the planet?" Council Chambers, University of Manchester Students Union, Oxford Road. A joint discussion with Manchester Liberty League and Manchester Young Greens featuring John O'Neill and Mark Pennington.

Fri 7th, 6.00pm MERCi AGM and the big debate...At Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 7HR. MERCi Festive Fair 10-6pm. Big Debate – Ethical Fundraising – luxury or necessity? Led by Gudrun Cartwright and Eric Woodcock and Sasirekha Palaniswamy and Mike Franks from 6-7pm. MERCi AGM 7.00pm - welcome: Neil Corney Chair, Minutes 2011, Highlights of the year and where next for the future.

Mon 10th, 6.30pm BOWL on for Didsbury Dinners. Didsbury Dinners is pleased to announced its first ever sponsored event. We're looking to recruit a team of 24 tenpin bowlers who'll help to raise £2,000 for the project. Registration costs just £10, and buys you: *TWO games of tenpin bowling (RRP £6.99 per game)* FREE refreshments* PRIZES, including most stylish bowler and wooden spoon for whoever comes last (someone has to...)

Tues 11th, 7.30pm Screening of new documentary "97% Owned" followed by a discussion at KRAAK – located on Stevenson Place (just off Lever Street) the alleyway opposite the Bakery. 11 Stevenson Square, Manchester M1 1DB. "97% Owned is a new documentary that reveals how money is at the root of our current social and economic crisis. Featuring frank interviews and commentary from economists, campaigners and former bankers, it exposes the privatised, debt-based monetary system that gives banks the power to create money, shape the economy, cause crises and push house prices out of reach. This is the first documentary to tackle this issue from a UK-perspective, and can be watched online now. Organised by: Manchester Film Cooperative. Admission: '£3 waged, £2 unwaged/student' to cover room hire

Weds 12th, 5.30pm to 7pm Steady State Manchester December social, At the Eighth Day Cafe, Oxford Rd

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. But we have a Lush wodge of moolah. For our mission(s) and transparency mechanisms, please visit the "about" page on our website.

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(followed by the Sandbar!) http://steadystatemanchester.net Thurs 13th, 5.30pm to 8.30pm North West Sustainable Business Quarterly, with Alan King and Mike Berners-Lee. In the Bruntwood "City Tower" (overlooking Piccadilly Gardens. Booking essential). Organised by M4C. See http://www.m4csustainability.co.uk

Wednesday 19th, 9.30am to 5pm Greater Manchester Land Army have been invited to help Glebelands City Growers in Sale clear the ground and prepare for winter. This is a great opportunity to meet the growers and view their diverse urban site. We will be leaving Hulme at 9.30am and back by 5pm (probably before as it is not far away). Lunch, hot drinks, gloves and tools provided. You would need to bring sturdy boots and wet weather gear. If you would like to join us please email chloe@kindling.org.uk

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