

## The Manchester Climate Change Agency Bulletin

### January 2009– Issue 3

Welcome to the third bulletin. Work on the Agency is now progressing well, its core purpose is agreed and we are refining the work programme. Again, there is much to report. Firstly, our 'Mini-Stern' has been short-listed for the LGC & HSJ Awards<sup>1</sup> ahead of an award ceremony in February. As well as this recognition, the Mini-Stern continues to attract interest from other cities. This will include an event in Brussels on 18 March as part of 'Manchester Week'. Another key area of our work is towards the new Greater Manchester Strategic Plan. This new document combining economic development and spatial planning is at the centre of the future of our city region, we have worked hard to make sure climate change is at its core. And finally, as of 1 December 2008 I have taken up a new post working full time on the Environment Commission, this will give much needed focus at a critical point in time.



*Mike Reardon, Programme Lead (Former Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services, Manchester City Council)*

### Agency News

The Agency's Advisory Project Board met for the third time on 18 November 2008. Significant progress has now been made on both the purpose and potential work areas for the Agency. The Agency's agreed purpose has now been proposed as:

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**The Greater Manchester Climate Change Agency (working title) is the city region's business, public and third sector partnership, contributing towards economic advantage and prosperity by:**

- (i) delivering carbon reductions, and**
  - (ii) responding to the impacts of climate change.**
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Following agreement of this purpose a short study on governance and location as well as commercial opportunity will be undertaken to help inform the business plan. Lists of over 40 potential projects have been identified. These will be brought together within a draft business plan by mid-January. Work on this has been led by Johnny Sadler at Manchester City Council. These projects draw on best practice, research and widespread consultation.

It is intended that a draft business plan, incorporating the findings of the governance study will be presented to the first meeting of the full Environment Commission in February/March 2009. The key elements of this business plan will then be implemented with a view to officially establishing the Agency following AGMA's approval in late summer.

### Other Activities

#### **The Environment Commission – Elected Members Announced and First Commission Meeting of Elected Members Held**

AGMA has endorsed the appointment of six elected members who will be on the Environment Commission for Greater Manchester. The elected members come from a variety of local authorities and will be responsible for helping to oversee the work of the Environment Commission which will be leading the work of the Climate Change Agency.

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<sup>1</sup> Local Government Chronicle and the Health Service Journal, in association with Defra. Log onto [http://www.scawards.co.uk/SCAwardsshortlist.asp?m\\_pid=0&m\\_nid=31453](http://www.scawards.co.uk/SCAwardsshortlist.asp?m_pid=0&m_nid=31453) for all shortlisted entries.

The Elected Members and their Local Authorities are:

Cllr. Richard Cowell, Manchester; Cllr. Dave Goddard, Stockport, Cllr. Mark Alcock, Oldham; Cllr. Catherine Piddington, Tameside; Cllr. James Wibberley, Trafford; and Cllr. David Molyneux, Wigan.

The next stage in the development of the Environment Commission will be the recruitment of a further five Commissioners (non elected). Five additional Commissioners will be recruited to be representative of business; the third sector; academia; property and development; and communications. They will be recognised figureheads within their respective sectors and have significant decision making powers and influence over environmental performance across the city region. Wherever possible, they will have strong links into other Commissions and work streams to promote inter-Commission working. Watch this space for further details...

On 8 December 2008 the first meeting of the Environment Commission (elected members) was held. This was an introductory meeting and the proposed work of the CCA was warmly received. The members have agreed to meet quarterly and to review who will be the Commission Chair once all members of the Commission have been recruited.

### **The Environment Analysis Network**

An initial meeting to establish the Environment Analysis Network was held in October. The new network is intended to improve awareness of environmental analysis relevant to Greater Manchester and to improve links with policy making through the new AGMA Environment Commission and the other Strategic Commissions. Initially the network includes Universities, Research Institutes, Commission for Economic Development, Employment and Skills, Manchester:Knowledge Capital, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit and Red Rose Forest.

The Network is being convened by the Environment Commission Transition Team and AGMA Policy Unit – contact Darren Pegram ([Darren.peggram@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:Darren.peggram@stockport.gov.uk)) or Rebecca Heron ([r.heron@agma.gov.uk](mailto:r.heron@agma.gov.uk)) for more information.



### **UK Sustainable Cities Tour**

The Shell UK sponsored Sustainable Cities Tour visited Manchester (16 October 2008). The event provided a focus for consulting on the 'Mini-Stern' with key business and political leaders. As well as James Smith, chair of Shell UK other contributors included Angie Robinson, Chief Executive of Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Angie gave strong support for the work being undertaken in Manchester, on the challenges

of the current global economic crisis she said, *"There are no easy answers to this, but a city region built on a low carbon infrastructure will have a much better chance of competing effectively on a global scale than one that is based on fossil fuels, particularly in times of recession. For that reason climate change must not drop off our agenda."*

### **100 Months Club at the MMU Zero Carbon Offices Exhibition**

Manchester Metropolitan University commissioned the 100 Months Club to close their pioneering Zero Carbon Offices event (October 2008). The week saw exhibitors demonstrate CO2-slashing technologies to office owners and students – from electric scooters to the latest thing in low energy PC networking.



The 100 Months Club event gathered some 50 delegates from academia, the private, public and third sectors to discuss how to link low carbon innovation to low carbon delivery. Steve Turner, Commission for Economic Development, Employment and Skills, opened proceedings with an overview of the context set by the Mini Stern Report. Lucy Powell from NESTA then told the audience about their approach, NESTA's Big Green Challenge and the need for open collaboration to achieve successful innovation. The final speaker was 'The Barefoot Entrepreneur' – Dawn Gibbins MBE – who entertained delegates with her story of infusing sustainability into her thriving flooring business.

The event ended with delegates discussing how they would embed innovation off the back of the Mini Stern Report – with most concluding that cross disciplinary, cross sectoral open collaboration was essential to this task.

Zero Carbon Office contact – john.hindley@mmu.ac.uk.  
100 Months Club contact – phil.korbel@gmail.com

### **North West Energy Saving Trust Advice Centres Get Launched!**

The new Energy Saving Advice Centre<sup>2</sup> was launched 16 October 2008 at the Trafford Centre. Shoppers were challenged to be efficient with the gears and speed of the Energy Saving Trust Driving Simulator and also took part in a light bulb challenge to see if they could spot the difference between a standard light bulb and an energy saving one...and most couldn't!



The Advice Centre provides free, bespoke and impartial advice to all Greater Manchester residents on how to save energy at home and through personal travel, helping to reduce CO2 emissions and combat climate change<sup>3</sup>. It is hoped that the Advice Centre will help Greater Manchester residents save over 155,000 tonnes of carbon each year.

On the same day, a formal launch took place in Warrington together with the two other North West advice centres, which was attended by stakeholders and professionals from the housing, environment and domestic energy fields.

### **Energy Planning**

#### **- AGMA Commission Study**

In the previous CCA Bulletin we told you about a study being commissioned by AGMA in response to new planning requirements. The Climate Change Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (2007) and recently published Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West stipulate that all local planning authorities should have an evidenced based understanding of local feasibility and potential for renewable and low carbon technologies and having done so set targets for new development. In October a consortium comprising Urbed, Faber Maunsell and Quantum Strategy were appointed to undertake a study for Greater Manchester. This study will examine where change in the build environment will occur and how this change can be supported by decentralised renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure. The study will be completed in early 2009.

#### **- PEPESSEC – European Project Working for Energy Plans**

PEPESSEC<sup>4</sup> is a European project working with partners from Greater Manchester, Sweden, Spain, Italy, Poland and Greece to support and learn from each other in the production of energy plans for the partner cities. The project runs from January 2009 and will result in the production of energy plans for Manchester, Oldham and a framework energy plan for Greater Manchester. Energy plans will help to understand what activities use energy, where does this energy come from and will establish an action plan for reducing CO2 emissions from our energy consuming activities. Following the latest study visit to Murcia in Spain, the partners are currently working on finalising 200 energy planning case studies, which will be available on the PEPESSEC website<sup>5</sup>.

### **National Indicators**

The new Local Government Performance Framework introduced a suite of 198 indicators by which local authorities and their LSP will be measured. Three 'climate change' indicators have been introduced for:

- ❖ % CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations (NI185).
- ❖ Per capita CO2 emissions in the Local Authority area (NI186).
- ❖ Planning to adapt to climate change (NI188).

By including the indicators in Local Area Agreements this represents giving climate change specific priority to local authorities and their LSP.

In Greater Manchester NI185 has been included in two Local Area Agreements, 186 is in seven plus the Multi Area Agreement and 188 is in three Greater Manchester Local Area Agreements.

<sup>2</sup> The centre for Greater Manchester is managed by Manchester City Council, by Tim Barwood.

<sup>3</sup> Visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) for more information.

<sup>4</sup> PEPESSEC: Partnership Energy Planning as a tool for realising European Sustainable Energy Communities.

<sup>5</sup> Further information at: <http://www.manchesterismyplanet.com/page.asp?id=191>.

There is considerable merit in establishing coordination and support for local authorities across AGMA in relation to the National Indicators.

Discussions are currently underway between the Environment Commission Transition Team and the North West Climate Change Unit, through the CLASP project<sup>6</sup>, to understand what support and coordination is needed and who could deliver this. Individual local authorities will be contacted shortly to discuss this further. If you have any immediate comments please contact [j.sadler@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:j.sadler@manchester.gov.uk).

**If you have any enquiries relating to the CCA please contact:- Steve Turner 0161 237 4417 or email [steve.turner@manchester-enterprises.co.uk](mailto:steve.turner@manchester-enterprises.co.uk)**

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/support-for-local-area-agreements.html>