

# GM LOW CARBON HUB BULLETIN

Issue 5: December 2012/January 2013



Anne Bourner, Vice Principal of The Manchester College and John Sampson of URBED with Environment Minister Lord de Mauley.

Greater Manchester has put itself on the map as a low carbon metropolis, Environment Minister Lord de Mauley said of his visit to GM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Lord de Mauley visited [Real Food Wythenshawe](#) a BIG Lottery part funded programme that has a mission to make reasonably priced, sustainably produced and locally grown food available. The project will be based at The Manchester College which will also be the site of Real Food's new Biosphere, an indoor growing system that will showcase cutting edge technologies and which will be used as a community and schools resource when it opens in 2013/14.

In Trafford Park, Lord de Mauley met businesses [Axion Recycling](#) and [EOC](#) Ltd and business support body [Enworks](#).

The multi-site visit was made in a low emission vehicle, a Renault Fluence, kindly provided by [Renault Manchester](#).

## HATS OFF TO THE GREEN GOWNS

The Green Gown Awards recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK. This year, Manchester Metropolitan University won the "Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change" category for their campus-wide commitment to creating a sustainable future. University of Manchester's Sustainable Consumption Institute Centre for Doctoral Training won (for its Courses) and the University of Salford was highly commended for *Promoting Positive Behaviour*. [Read more](#)

# GMCA

## GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

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For any later news please see our [website](#).

## ENERGY SWITCHING RESIDENTS CAN SAVE £1.4m

Oldham Council's Energy Switching scheme is set to achieve an average annual saving per household of £171 totalling an estimated £1.4M.

The Oldham Council campaign – 'Power to the People' – saw 8,726 homes register.

A 'reverse auction' held on 26<sup>th</sup> November produced two winning bidders, [Ovo Energy](#) and [Co-operative Energy](#) for online and paper billing respectively. 'Power to the People' was developed in association with iChoosr.

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority members – with around 1.2 million households between them – agreed to set up a dedicated energy collective in October which will build upon 'Power to the People'.

To register and for more information please [click here](#).

## MANCHESTER CARBON LITERACY

The Manchester Carbon Literacy project was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The project is coordinated by 'Cooler Projects' Community Interest Company; a Manchester based social enterprise, on behalf of the city of Manchester. [Read more](#)



Lord Peter Smith, Chair of AGMA with NEDO Chairman, Mr Furukawa.

## OUR BUILDINGS

Hundreds of households in Greater Manchester could benefit from more affordable energy bills thanks to a multi-million pound deal signed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

The deal, which could see up to £20 million invested in the local economy, is between Japan's Department of New Energy and Development Organisation (NEDO) and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The UK Government has also backed the initiative.

Subject to a feasibility study, state-of-the-art technology will be fitted in homes across Greater Manchester - starting with around 300 social housing properties. If successful, it could be rolled out to thousands of properties across the city region. The technology generates energy using a combination of low carbon heat units and a remote 'smart grid' management system. This will be the first time this technology has been used domestically anywhere in the world. [Read more](#)

The Greater Manchester 'Get Me Toasty' insulation scheme has now been extended until the end of the financial year. The Greater Manchester Energy Advice Service is now able to offer surveys until mid-February, with all installations completed by the end of March. [Read More.](#)

## GM ENERGY GROUP

In the month that the [Energy Bill](#) was introduced to the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, GM is moving forward with a number of energy projects.

Electricity NW has won government funding for an ambitious £9m trial to help make sure that customers in the North West can get the power they need in the future. [Read more.](#) The success follows that of £10 million from Ofgem's Low Carbon Network (LCN) earlier this year for their [C2C initiative](#) which is already up and running.

The GM Energy Group will also consider smart grids, hydro, heat networks and hydrogen over the coming year.

## GM NATURAL CAPITAL GROUP

The GM Natural Capital Group (the Local Nature Partnership for GM) will lead work on delivering the key natural capital aspects of the Greater Manchester Strategy.

Promoting the benefits of GM's entire green and blue infrastructure includes addressing some immediate priorities like assessing the impact of Ash Die-back disease that could lead to the loss of up to 2million Ash trees in GM. As GM's Local Nature Partnership, the Group aims to develop a co-ordinated approach to assessing, managing and mitigating the impact of the disease. To see how you can get involved, see the initial guidance [here](#).

A wider engagement workshop will take place in February to look at the priorities of the group, review and identify new projects which can enhance and deliver collaborative improvements across GM.

**EUROPEAN NEWS** - The Green Digital Charter for Cities is now part of an EC project led by EURO CITIES called NiCE. [Read more.](#)

The following partnership bids have been submitted by GM Hub partners or are under consideration:

- ERDF Action Area 1.3 Increasing "SME's sustainable consumption and production": 5<sup>th</sup> December.
- FP7 Uvex U-VEXT (Urban Virtual Energy Exchange Toolkit): 4<sup>th</sup> December; Clicks and Links Ltd
- FP7 Sustainable Medium Sized Urban and Regional Systems (MESURS) led by the University of Reims. : Jan 2013.

Read more European funding news [here](#).