

GM LOW CARBON HUB BULLETIN

Issue 6: March 2013

CLIMATE WEEK EDITION



CLIMATE LOCAL GREATER MANCHESTER

Sir Richard Leese CBE signs the Local Government Association's (LGA) Climate Local pledge on behalf of the GMCA supported by GM Low Carbon Hub Board members. The LGA Climate Local initiative asks authorities to pledge their commitment to tackling climate change and identify 'pledges' of actions they will undertake. Individual GM Authorities have also signed the pledge [read more here](#).

Above - Left to Right:
Front: Alun Francis, The Oldham College (Skills); Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council (Chair); Anne Selby, Lancashire Wildlife Trust (Natural capital). Back: Ashley Crumbley, Wigan and Leigh Housing, (Buildings); Keith Davidson, Pannone (Communications); Cllr. Neil Swannick, Manchester City Council (Energy); Martyn Hulme, Co-operative Estates (Sustainable Consumption); Clive Elphick, Environment Agency; Ravi Gurumurthy, DECC and Paul Maher, Siemens (Sector Growth).

CLIMATE WEEK

Events taking place in Greater Manchester during Climate week (4th -13th March) included a three-day [Carbon Active event](#) in the Arndale Centre led by Manchester Carbon Literacy with partners; the [Manchester A Certain Future Stakeholder Conference](#) and the [Wigan Borough Eco-Schools Teachers Network](#).

Congratulations to GM organisations nominated for [Climate Week Awards](#). Both [the Manchester Carbon Literacy project](#) coordinated by 'Cooler Projects' and the [Environmental Charity, Action for Sustainable Living](#) were nominated for awards under Best Community Initiative.

The Co-operative Group was nominated under best initiative by a large business for their [Clean Energy Revolution](#) campaign and Stockport NHS Foundation Trust's Carbon Reduction Plan for Best Initiative by a public service.

GMCA

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

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

GM CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY (GMCCS) PLANS TO DELIVER

An implementation plan for the GM Climate Change Strategy, based on estimates of what can be achieved by 2015 against the GMCCS targets for 2020, was approved by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in January.

The Plan focuses on delivery of our four primary aims [here](#) and sets headline actions for the themes of Buildings, Energy, Transport, Natural Capital, Sustainable Consumption & Production, Low Carbon Sector Growth and Low Carbon Skills.

Each theme is establishing a multi-sector sub group charged with developing an annual work programme. Proposals for stakeholder engagement with the public, private and voluntary sectors are included in the plan.

[read more here.](#)

MOVING ON

Our thanks go to Richard Sharland, Manchester City Council, whose drive and commitment ensured that the GM Climate Change Implementation Plan was developed and approved. Now it is up to us all to deliver it as Richard moves on to new challenges.

TOP FORM

Manchester City Council came in at number one in the [Environment Agency's Carbon Reduction Commitment table](#) of public sector organisations which have cut emissions and at number four overall with Salford City Council at eleven.

SECTOR GROWTH GROUP

A facilitated workshop at the first meeting on 29th January identified work streams to be confirmed at the next meeting on the 12th April.

GM ENERGY GROUP

The group has developed a number of strategic initiatives including an exploration of how Council's procure their energy and a review of GM Hydro opportunities.



GREATER MANCHESTER HYDROGEN PARTNERSHIP

MMU chose Climate Week to launch the Greater Manchester Hydrogen Partnership (GMHP) which has been founded by Manchester Metropolitan University and the GMCA Low Carbon Hub. The GMHP is a working group aimed at accelerating the commercialisation of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Speakers at the launch event included representatives from GMCA Manchester City Council, the London Hydrogen Partnership, MMU and TfGM. [read more here.](#)

GM ENERGY SWITCHING SCHEME

Oldham Council is leading the GM Energy Management Project on behalf of the AGMA authorities, aiming to provide an energy switching capability for residents across Greater Manchester. The first AGMA auction took place on the 29th January when over 35,000 residents registered making this the most successful switching scheme in the UK to date. [read more here.](#)

OUR BUILDINGS

Green Deal launched on January 28th, with the supporting Energy Company Obligation (ECO) subsidy in place from last year. The GMCA has approved the GM Green Deal Business Case for the development of a three year GM Green Deal programme and procurement of a panel of Green Deal delivery partners, likely to commence installations from January 2014.

As the GM Green Deal Programme will not commence until January 2014, GM is procuring a 'panel' of ECO partners to undertake work in GM during the interim period. [read more here.](#)

A portfolio of GM public buildings that would benefit from retrofit and/or adaptation is being developed for possible inclusion in the GMCA: UK Green Investment Joint Venture. Plus there are plans to develop a commercial buildings benchmarking club. [read more here.](#)

GM NATURAL CAPITAL GROUP

The Natural Capital Group held a wider engagement workshop on the 5th February to develop and prioritise the work plan for 2013/14. External partners and Councils attended to share their ideas and views on future working arrangements and outline the GM strategic priorities. Potential opportunities and barriers were identified from the session and a draft work programme was presented to the Group during mid February.

The draft River Irwell Pilot (Rivers Return) report was also presented to the Natural Capital Group. The catchment based approach will create a strategic and coordinated approach to improving the environment within the Irwell catchment by allowing partners to work together and share data, information and resources to identify what causes these problems that the water environment and associated habitats face, plan how to tackle them and develop a shared long-term plan for future action. [read more here.](#)

EUROPEAN NEWS

[Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority](#) (GMWDA) last year was successful in gaining EU Life + funding for their 'Up and Forward' project across Greater Manchester. Starting in April 2013 this project will try and test new and innovative way to communicate with hard to reach groups regards recycling and waste reduction. For further details please contact LifePlus@gmwda.gov.uk.

EU FP7 bids included the "Dialogue for Sustainable Medium-sized Urban and Regional Systems (MESURS)" proposal to develop a European Urban Sustainable Platform.

Bids for the next round of LIFE+ and Intelligent Energy Europe II (IEE II) are being developed. [read more here.](#)