

GM LOW CARBON HUB BULLETIN

Issue 9: September/October 2013



Above: Sir Richard Leese, Chair and members of the Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub Board with DECC's Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor David MacKay and Mark Lynas.

THE BRITISH ENERGY CHALLENGE

On 6th September, the national DECC British Energy Challenge Event visited Manchester Town Hall where it was opened by Sir Richard Leese and Professor David Mackay. Over 300 visitors met the 38 national and local exhibitors from the energy sector showcasing models, interactive demonstrations, games, prizes, freebies, career opportunities, energy saving tips and much more. A number of local suppliers large and small were on show as listed in the [exhibition floor plan here](#).

Running alongside the exhibition in the afternoon was a discussion with an invited audience of 70 key influencers from the Greater Manchester community. Following an introduction by Mark Atherton focusing on how Greater Manchester is tackling the challenge locally, it was time to get down to business. Led by Professor David MacKay and Mark Lynas, the audience were given the considerable task of reducing UK greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, using [DECC's 2050 Calculator](#). The next step is to develop a bespoke 2050 calculator tool for Greater Manchester.



Left: [Dwelle's](#) micro building within Manchester Town Hall where "the stunning neo-gothic architecture of the Town Hall provided an interesting contrast with some of the high-tech solutions that are being developed to tackle the energy challenge facing us today." DECC

GMCA GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

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LOW CARBON EVENTS

Date	Title	Host
14 th Nov	Rethinking prosperity	CLES
19 th Nov	GM Local Interaction Platform workshop	University of Salford
27 th Nov	Rethinking Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester Research Forum
Nov (tbc)	Manchester 2040 Workshop	New Economy & Environment Agency
29 th Nov	Payments for Ecosystem Services	Ecosystems Knowledge Network
3-4 th Dec	Mainstreaming Smarter Travel	Transport for Greater Manchester
12 th Dec	Business engagement on climate change	NW Climate Change Partnership

MANCHESTER EXPERTS LEAD DEVELOPMENT EU CLIMATE POLICY

The city's climate change adaptation experts were called upon to advise Europe on how it can prepare for future changes in our weather and climate.

With the support of University of Manchester academics, Dr Jeremy Carter and Dr Seb Carney, Manchester Councillor Neil Swannick delivered a policy opinion on the EU's first Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.

Cllr Swannick addressed the [Committee of the Regions](#) on the strategy, which has been scrutinised by academics at the university and specialists at the Environment Agency.

NATURAL CAPITAL

For those unable to attend the “Investing in Nature” event chaired by GM Low Carbon Hub Board member Anne Selby, Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trust, the presentations can be downloaded from the [Platform here](#). The key note speaker at the event, Professor David Hill, Deputy Chair of Natural England and the Chair of Environment Bank, delivered a speech on [Defra's bio-diversity offsetting proposals](#) and consultation ending on 7th November. The GM Natural Capital Group has submitted a response to the proposals.

ENERGY

GM's [NEDO](#) project will use Japanese government funding to combine heat pumps and smart grid technologies in around 500 Greater Manchester homes. The technology will provide a new way of shifting energy use away from expensive peak demand periods, and make better use of renewable energy generation. The feasibility stage is progressing well and, if viable, the project will start to be deployed in GM homes during summer 2014.

TRANSPORT

[TfGM](#) is the UK partner for the [Ticket to Kyoto European project](#) that seeks to identify and trial ways of reducing carbon emissions from public transport. TfGM has commissioned a study to understand the role of public transport authorities in reducing carbon emissions beyond their own operations and direct control. The study involves assessment of datasets and metrics for baseline, current and future transport carbon emissions in Greater Manchester and will assist in determining the optimum strategy for achieving a 48% reduction in CO2 for Greater Manchester by 2020. The Transport theme group will discuss the initial findings of the study in December 2013.

SECTOR GROWTH

The GMCA received a report presented by Oldham Council detailing the Low Carbon Procurement Evaluation Framework to be used when investments are being made on behalf of the Low Carbon Hub and requested that this framework is also considered by the GMCA for use in wider procurement activities to support the objectives of the GM Climate Change Strategy. Read the report contained in the pack [here](#).

BUILDINGS

[Mr Toast](#) has been on tour around those Greater Manchester communities where residents may be eligible for support for free or subsidised home insulation or heating improvements. Mr Toast was supported on the two week tour by the team from Greater Manchester's ECO “Get Me Toasty” scheme. Under the scheme, councils are working with three approved installers - Dyson Energy Services, Carillion and Forrest - to make eligible homes more efficient by replacing boilers and providing new loft and cavity wall installation. Some of these installers are already seeing growth through delivery of schemes such as Mr Toast, funded by the [Energy Company Obligation](#).

Thousands of homes across Greater Manchester have been identified as being poorly insulated and GM householders are invited to get a free energy assessment on their home now under 2013/14 the scheme. To find out if you're entitled to free or discounted home insulation and to arrange a free survey today please call the Greater Manchester Energy Advice Service on 0800 009 3363 or visit [www.getmetoasty.com](#).

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

Greater Manchester Company wins award

Pioneering use of high-quality 100% recycled plastics derived from end-of-life vehicles in new automotive components secured an award for GM based [Axion Polymers](#) in the prestigious Plastic Industry Awards 2013.

FUNDING

GREATER MANCHESTER BID TO ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION TO JOIN '100 RESILIENT CITIES'

The Rockefeller Foundation launched the [100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge](#) to enable 100 cities to better address the increasing shocks and stresses of the 21st century. One hundred cities from across the globe will be selected to receive technical support and resources for developing and implementing plans for urban resilience over the next three years. GM will receive news of our application on 3rd December 2013.

GM BID FOR GREEN DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES

£20m of DECC funding has been made available to allow Local Authorities to help drive Green Deal energy efficiency improvements in their area. It was agreed by the GM Low Carbon Hub Board on 6th September that a single GM bid for £3 million would be submitted, focussing on different 'boundary' areas – geographical, social, cultural – to determine which method of incentive is the most successful in driving Green Deal uptake. The GM bid will be submitted on 15th November 2013. The report can be found [here](#).

HORIZON 2020

EU Energy Focus, the National Contact Point for Energy in Horizon 2020, and the Energy Generation and Supply Knowledge Transfer Network are arranging [a series of webinars](#) on the topics covered by the draft Horizon 2020 Work Programme. The Commission hopes to publish the 2014 Calls for Proposals on 11th December 2013.