

## PEPESEC Study Visit Report

# Manchester

Greater Manchester, Manchester City & Oldham Borough  
25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008

## Summary

*Over 2 days in June 2008 [PEPESEC](#) project partners visited the city-region of Greater Manchester to gain an appreciation of the national and local energy planning context and to view practical examples of sustainable energy projects in the municipalities of Manchester and Oldham.*

The visit highlighted the high aspiration and high-quality developmental work, but limited delivery capacity for shaping a sustainable energy community in Greater Manchester.

A number of notable developments were visited which highlighted the significant role that the commercial sector plays in the UK (New Islington) and the importance of the regeneration agenda in the UK. The role that municipalities play in influencing or procuring new facilities (Failsworth School, MANCAT) was also featured. The example of Failsworth school also highlighted how the public procurement through the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) can be used to raise the standards of sustainable design in delivery of new facilities.

Following the study tour an '[Energy Planning Clinic](#)' was held with expert 'doctors' (Malmo, Skane and Manchester Knowledge Capital) providing guidance and advice for municipalities in progressing their energy plans. This clinic helped to increase knowledge, understanding and develop the skills of project partners.

## A) Presentations, 25<sup>th</sup> June

### **1) Leadership and Governance - The City-Regional environmental vision and energy Presentation by Simon Robinson, Manchester: Knowledge Capital**

An overview was given of the city-region of Greater Manchester and its 10 constituent local authorities. Until 1986 there existed a county-wide (Greater Manchester) metropolitan council in addition to city and town councils. This was followed in 1986 with the break-up of UK metropolitan councils and creation of unitary metropolitan boroughs. In the wake of these changes AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities) was formed. This brought together the 10 boroughs to oversee joint working on a limited scale, supported by a small policy unit.

In 2006, ambition within the Greater Manchester authorities coincided with new proposals from central government to delegate greater powers to city-regions. This prompted the adoption of a new constitution for AGMA and the development of a contract (Multi-Area Agreement) with central government to deliver on key priority areas. In addition it saw the emergence of city-regional

thematic commissions including an Environment Commission with responsibilities for Climate Change, Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Consumption and Production.

It is planned for the Environment Commission to oversee the development of a Climate Change Agency for the city region and drive forward the stated aim of creating a city region with an 'environmental quality second to none'.

## **2) Greater Manchester's approach to Climate Change**

### **Presentation by Simon Robinson, Manchester: Knowledge Capital**

The [Manchester is my Planet](#) programme was originally conceived in 2004 with key players recognising the need for a transformational approach to climate change activity across Greater Manchester. This led to the Green Energy Revolution Study which developed a strategy.

*"To deliver, and facilitate the delivery of, projects and processes that can move Greater Manchester along the path to a low-carbon future, and help the UK to meet the Government target of reducing CO2 emissions by 20% before 2010"*

An initial engagement campaign yielded 10,000 climate change pledges from local citizens and agreement from local and regional partners to fund a 3-year programme to be delivered by Manchester: Knowledge Capital in partnership with the 10 authorities, universities and businesses.

Between 2005 and 2008 a wide range of pilot projects were initiated and supported through the Manchester is my Planet Programme. These included the Circle of Wind, Green Business Park, ESCO feasibility study, Carbon Fund development and Green Badge Parking. During this time pledge numbers rose to 20,000 backed by a high visibility communication programme.

The focus of Manchester is my Planet changed during 2008 with the commencement of the 2 EU co-financed projects PEPESEC and Changing Behavior. Further changes are expected in 2009 with the incorporation of Manchester is my Planet into the proposed Climate Change Agency for the City Region.

## **3) Low Carbon Activity in Manchester City-Region**

### **Presentation by Steve Turner, Manchester Enterprises**

In 2008 Manchester Enterprises commissioned Deloitte to undertake a study of the impact of climate change legislation upon the economy of greater Manchester. Results show that the economy could lose an estimated 21 billion by 2020 if it fails to respond effectively.

Building on Nicholas Stern's review this 'Mini-Stern' report firmly places the climate change agenda within the economic realm and demonstrates the business case for taking action. The aspiration of Greater Manchester is to develop an independent Climate Change Agency to lead this agenda and work to decouple carbon emissions from economic growth.

#### **4) Energy Planning the Manchester way**

##### **Presentation by Jonny Sadler, Manchester City Council**

Manchester City Council has been developing the City's environmental strategy with partners for a number of years. The Energy Strategy 2005-10 was published in April 2005 following approval by the Council's Executive Committee (most senior political decision-making body in the City) that "Manchester needs to reduce its unsustainable use of energy in order to promote environmental, economic and social well-being both in Manchester and across the globe".

Under the banner of this vision there have been a number of success stories and targets met but the sustainable energy and climate change agendas have moved on significantly since 2005. In recognition of this the City Council produced '17 Principles of Tackling Climate Change in Manchester' in February 2008 and committed to embed the energy and climate change agenda in the context of the City's wider priorities. The Local Area Agreement 2008/09 – 2010/11 describes the City's most immediate priorities, including the need to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per head of population. Climate change action is at the heart of achieving Manchester's vision for the future with performance reported to Central Government and the City's 'Local Strategic Partnership'.

Sustainable energy and climate change activities are supported by a wider framework of partners and policies. This framework is evolving but is designed to enable and inspire residents, communities, politicians, businesses, developers, charities and others to proactively take action to reduce the carbon footprint of their activities, in a way that will benefit them in their every day lives.

#### **5) Energy Planning the Oldham Way**

##### **Presentation by Adam Hackett, Oldham Council**

Oldham Council has a strong track record of delivering environment projects across a range of disciplines. In particular it requires all new major developments to require 10% of energy to be derived from on site renewable energy sources. Over 100 schemes have been required to demonstrate this commitment and as a result Oldham boasts a wide range of renewable technologies across all types of properties both domestic and non domestic.

## **Official Welcome**

### **Lord Peter Smith, Chair of Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA)**

As well being Chair of AGMA, Lord Peter Smith is also Chair of the Manchester is my Planet Advisory Board. Lord Smith welcomed the visitors from overseas and wished everyone in the PEPESEC project well in their future work together.

## B) Study Tour, 25<sup>th</sup> June

All study visit attendees were taken on an afternoon tour showcasing a variety of new building types and developments featuring energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. A cross section of public, private and private-finance initiative schemes were featured.

### 1) [Failsworth district centre](#)

The area of Failsworth represents an area of major local economic regeneration in Oldham. This site visit helped PEPESEC partners see the original heritage of Oldham and how this has been used to bring life back to the District Centre. The near by supermarket is powered periodically by a 250KVA bio diesel CHP generator.

### 2) [Failsworth Secondary School](#)

The Failsworth state-of-the-art secondary schools opened its doors for the very first time in February 2008. The completion of the multi-million pound school, designed by architects ACP and built by the Kier Group plc, saw the Borough open its first new mainstream secondary schools since 1968 and followed the opening of its flagship secondary special New Bridge School in 2005. The school contains a host of environmental measures including a high thermal mass, biomass boilers and innovative use of internal space for the students and the local community.

### 3) [Hollinwood Junction](#)

Delegates visited the Hollinwood business district. The area has seen major changes including the construction of the M60 Motorway, the development of the Northern Counties Office Headquarters, developments at Tweedale Way, Servicecare and at Hollinwood Business Centre. Further development is anticipated as existing businesses grow and new investors move into the area. The Hollinwood Business District Masterplan shows how the area could be redeveloped in the future to improve the local environment and to provide high quality jobs for residents of Oldham. The Masterplan sets out the following vision for the future of the area:

*'A new business led district for Oldham – that meets Oldham's needs for good quality business space in an efficient and attractive environment to support a growing and productive local economy.'*

### 4) [Selwyn Street/Chelmsford Street](#)

This site included 18 large new build eco properties all built to high insulations and sustainable design construction techniques. All contain onsite solar thermal renewable energy generation while also containing additional micro wind turbines.

### 5) [North City Library and Sixth Form College, Harpurhey, North Manchester](#)

The combined library and college was completed in 2005 on the site of the old Harpurhey (swimming) baths. It combines a range of design principles and technologies to minimise both the environmental impact and the running costs of the new building. A 68kWp solar-PV system welcomes students and visitors to the front of the building, with a meter in the entrance showing the real-time electricity output. Large areas of glazing allow natural light in while the concrete structure helps to store heat in the winter and cool the building in the summer. In combination with solar thermal to the roof, a building management system, under floor heating, rainwater harvesting and passive ventilation, the new library and college is one of the most resource-efficient additions to the revitalised and regenerated Harpurhey centre.

## 6) Baytree Housing Estate, Harpurhey, North Manchester

Improvements to the Baytree Housing Estate were undertaken in 2006 to improve the appearance of the area and attract new residents to a part of the City that, at the time, had a failing housing market. As part of the re-roofing works that were planned for 82 properties, the Council's Housing team investigated the technical and financial feasibility of integrating solar panels into the works. Solar-PV was installed to 61 properties with south-facing roofs. The scheme took 28 weeks to complete and cost £444,950.00 for the re-roofing works in total. The PV element of the total was £381,413, of which 50% was funded by Central Government's Solar PV Demonstration Programme. Two-years on and the Baytree Estate is a key element of a wider programme, with an allotment and children's play facilities added to further enhance the successful regeneration of the local area.

## 7) New Islington

New Islington is the third of seven schemes in the UK Millennium Communities programme, which was designed to deliver a lasting legacy of environmentally innovative and sustainable developments in diverse, challenging locations. Previously home to one of the worst areas of Council housing in the City, the Cardroom Estate, New Islington was borne out of a partnership between Manchester City Council, New East Manchester (regeneration company), English Partnerships (now the Homes and Communities Agency) and Urban Splash, as lead developer.

In addition to the sustainability requirements that Urban Splash committed to meet as part of their successful appointment from the competition stage, they further committed to an ambitious 11-point sustainability plan. All new homes will be built to at least Level 3 on the Code for Sustainable Homes scale of 0 (not assessed) to 6 (zero carbon, UK policy for all new homes to reach by 2016). A gas-CHP district heating network is being installed to supply secure energy to all 1,700 new homes and a bore hole to the underlying aquifer supplies all water requirements.

Produced by:

- Manchester: Knowledge Capital
- Manchester City Council
- Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council