



A Green Deal for the Manchester–Mersey Bioregion

We are living in unprecedented times. At least three linked crises (climate, energy and economy) are coming together to threaten not only our accustomed standard of living and financial security, but also the resource base of the late 20th century economy and way of life – as well as the capacity and integrity of the earth's natural systems on which we all depend.

This set of crises requires urgent and drastic action that completely restructures the way we organise to produce and distribute the things we need to have worthwhile lives, and do this fairly and sustainably.

The Green Deal for the Manchester–Mersey Bioregion (GDM) begins the task of setting out such a programme of action at a regional level of analysis – using the example of what we are calling the Manchester bioregion – basically the catchment area of the Mersey. It complements the 'New Green Deal' proposals from the New Economics Foundation, United Nations Environment Programme and the government's Sustainable Development Commission as well as more local initiatives, but it is our argument that it makes most sense to focus on the bioregional level as this contains a potentially sufficient diversity of ecologies and natural resources – which will in turn have to be safeguarded and repaired to secure the sustenance for human settlement. And because of the imperatives of reducing energy expenditure and (re)generating a real local economy it is at the Regional level that transformative green strategies can make the most sense. This approach is an alternative to traditional and unsustainable strategies that rely on growing the economy forever.

GDM has begun to draft proposals under the following headings, emphasising building regional self-sufficiency and resilience in a world where fossil fuels are 'beyond use'.

- 🏡 Endogenous economic development based linked to a regional de-globalising strategy.
- 🏡 Building up food security and other forms of shock-proofing.
- 🏡 Rediscovery and promotion of mutualism and cooperation.
- 🏡 Investment in sustainable transport systems.
- 🏡 Stimulating a green economy economy.
- 🏡 Safeguarding and de-carbonising energy supply.
- 🏡 The critical role for of government and local government across the bioregion.
- 🏡 The increasing importance of the public sector as the economy shrinks.
- 🏡 Policy alternatives for the region's key unsustainable industries.
- 🏡 The tasks of promotion, education and building community solidarity as our communities change under threat.

We have used the following overall criteria in drafting proposals

- ✂ Reduces carbon emissions
- ✂ Builds on regional assets.
- ✂ Keeps wealth in the region.
- ✂ Meets the needs of local.
- ✂ Builds social solidarity / social capital / community / mutual aid.
- ✂ Is feasible using proven or emergent technologies (material or social).
- ✂ Is proportionate to the scale of the enormous triple challenges – either alone or in conjunction with other proposals.

Sounds interesting? Join us in the work – more details at
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