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CENTRE FOR URBAN & REGIONAL ECOLOGY

Annual Report 2009-2010

v0.3
16-08-10

**CENTRE FOR URBAN & REGIONAL
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1. Centre History and Themes

Since 2000 the Centre for Urban & Regional Ecology has been working on 'sustainable city-regions' – the challenge of steering our behaviour, settlements and landscapes towards more sustainable futures.

Based in the School of Environment and Development at the University of Manchester, CURE carries out multidisciplinary research, both for scientific understanding and for practical application. CURE draws its expertise mainly from the disciplines of spatial planning, geography, environmental science, policy studies and systems studies. In total there are over 50 researchers directly involved, including academic members, researchers, honorary staff and PhD students.

CURE is now coming up to its 10th anniversary. We are reviewing what has been achieved, what are the prospects and goals, and what kind of strategy we should take forward. Clearly the priority of environmental issues has increased in the last decade: but so have the scale of the risks and the challenges. The concept of integrated city-regional policy and governance has continued to develop: there are more sophisticated tools and evidence bases to help in this, but also more realism about what is possible.

CURE research agenda, themes and approaches

The common theme is that of ecology – encompassing the organisation and interactions of the natural and human environments at multiple scales. This research agenda is applied across five main research themes, with many overlaps and synergies:

- **Spatial planning and urban-rural links:** spatial planning and policy: capacity building and adaptive learning; ICT applications, peri-urban and rural links: environmental impact assessment.
- **Climate change emissions and responses:** urban and regional emissions modelling with scenarios and policy studies: climate change mitigation: institutional and governance studies.

- **Climate change impacts and adaptation:** adaptation strategies and opportunities: resilient communities, cities and processes.
- **Landscape, land-use & restoration:** land-use change and landscape impacts: land restoration and reclamation: urban socio-cultural capital.
- **Urban environments and human ecology:** resource flows and urban metabolism: green and blue infrastructure: water resource and flooding issues: air quality and public health.

Within these themes CURE also specialises in the application of innovative research strands, i.e. an approach to complex problems which combines theory with methods and tools. These include: *foresight and future studies; adaptive learning and assessment, ICT and geographic information systems; systems and complexity studies; and risk and resilience.*

In combining these themes and approaches we aim for active links between theoretical and practical applications. Figure 1 outlines the range of research themes and approaches which are brought together by CURE.

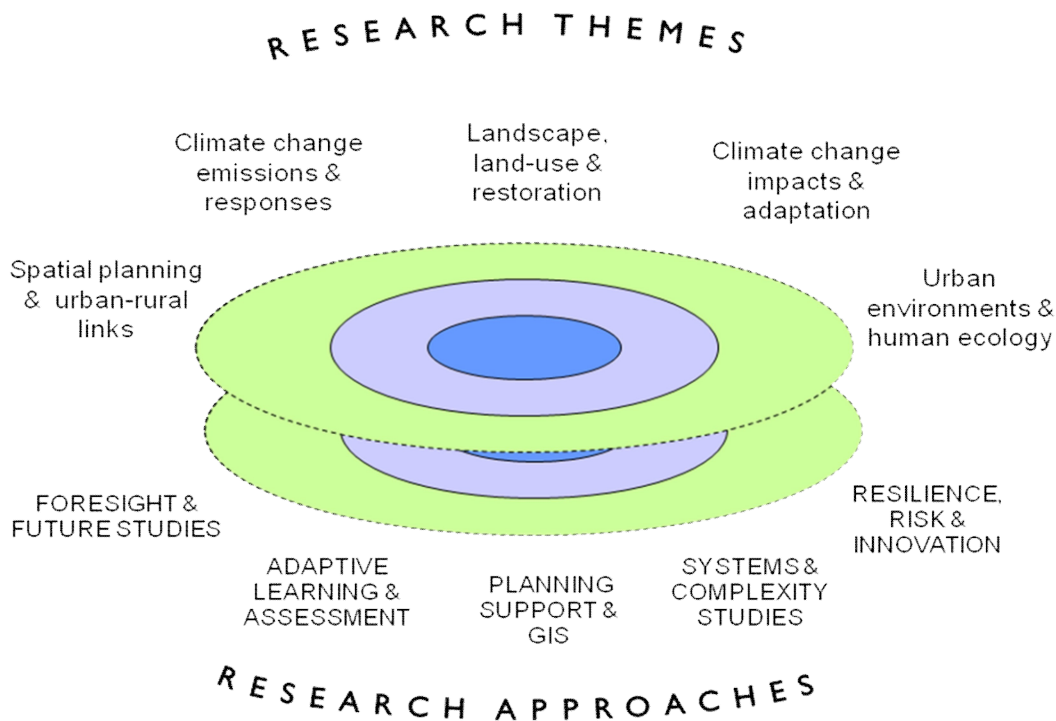


Figure 1: Research Themes and Approaches

2. Membership and Structure

The centre is overseen by the *SED Research Committee*, to which it reports on an annual basis. This is in the form of a report detailing the Centre's research activities and finances in the preceding and forthcoming years. The centre itself is managed through a *Management Board*, comprising the Executive Director and Co-Directors. The Management Board meets on a regular basis to develop strategy, oversee ongoing Centre projects and to offer support and assistance to the Executive Director in his management of the day-to-day aspects of CURE activities. In total there are over 50 researchers directly involved, including 12 academic members, 9 researchers, 3 honorary staff and 28 PhD students.

Director:

Iain White	iain.white@manchester.ac.uk
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Co-Directors:

Joe Ravetz	Joe.ravetz@manchester.ac.uk ,
Sarah Lindley	sarah.lindley@manchester.ac.uk
John Handley	john.handley@manchester.ac.uk

Academic Staff:

Adam Barker	adam.barker@manchester.ac.uk
Carys Jones	carys.jones@manchester.ac.uk
Philip Bell	philip.bell@manchester.ac.uk
Joanne Tippett	joanne.tippett@manchester.ac.uk
Ian Douglas (Emeritus Prof.)	ian.douglas@manchester.ac.uk
Clive George (Visiting Senior Fellow)	clivegeorge@btinternet.com
James Rothwell	James.rothwell@manchester.ac.uk
Richard Kingston (also CUPS)	richard.kingston@manchester.ac.uk

Research Staff:

Jeremy Carter	jeremy.carter@manchester.ac.uk
Seb Carney	sebastian.carney@manchester.ac.uk
Yi Gong	Yi.gong@manchester.ac.uk
Graeme Sherriff	graeme.sherriff@manchester.ac.uk
Gina Cavan	gina.cavan@manchester.ac.uk
Patrick Watson	patrick.watson@manchester.ac.uk
Aleksandra Kazmierczak	aleksandra.kazmierczak@manchester.ac.uk
Nigel Lawson	nigel.lawson@manchester.ac.uk
Sarah Payne	Sarah.payne@manchester.ac.uk

Research Students:

This includes students registered from 23rd October 2009 where CURE staff members are first or second supervisors. A number of these have since successfully defended their PhDs.

Andrew	Speak
Joseph	Kandeh
Cynthia	Skelhorn
Felix	Aponte-Gonzalez
Rung-Jiun	Chou
Julie	Crawshaw
Lee Hoon	Foo
Anna	Gilchrist
Justine	Hall
Samuel	Hayes
Job	Kleijn
Eunyoung	Kim
Ebenhaezer	Le Roux
Ting-I	Lee
Yueh-e	Lu
Isaiah	Owiunji
Jessica	Pineda Zumaran
Wan-Yu	Shih
Daniel	Strosnider
Logakanthi	Subramanian
Jenni	Viitanen
Junfang	Xie
Kai	Zhou
Abbas	Ziafati Bafarasat
Job	Kleijn
Ann	Kolodziejski
Michal	Miedzinski
Isabella	Ricaboni

Honorary fellows

Name	Title	Duration of appointment	Email
Stephan Pauleit	Honorary Senior Fellow	From 2009	sp@kvl.dk
William Sheate	Honorary Senior Fellow	From 2007	w.sheate@cep.co.uk
Susannah Gill	Honorary Fellow	From 2007	susannahgill@merseyforest.org.uk

3. Main Achievements

CURE has had a successful year. With regard to research grant income there has been a number of significant successes enabling the recruitment and retention of research staff. Grant income awarded to CURE PIs over the last reporting period was around £1.4m with an annual spend in SED of approximately £1m. Much of the research is funded beyond the next financial year enabling CURE to be more resilient to the anticipated contraction in national research funds.

The high level of research activity has both generated data for high quality research outputs and enabled CURE staff to achieve research impacts and esteem. A selection of the grant applications, publications, knowledge and esteem activities are detailed below.

Success in grant applications

- SMARTeST: The research involves ten different European partners collaborating to develop, design and test ways to make urban areas more resilient to flood risk.
£600,000 (Iain White / Joanne Tippett / Adam Barker)
- EUCO2 Stage 2: Greenhouse gas emissions, energy scenarios and plans in European regions and cities.
£350,000 (Seb Carney)
- Sustainable Consumption Institute: Improving Sustainability Skills and Knowledge in the Workplace
£178,262 (Joanne Tippett)
- Sustainable Consumption Institute: Scaling up – training the trainers to improve sustainability skills and knowledge in the workplace
£107,000 (Joanne Tippett)
- WaterProof: This project developed scenarios to aid Water Framework Directive and water management decision making in the North West region. It analysed future drivers relating to the water environment and developed

scenarios up to 2030 to aid future decision making and shape response to future challenges.

£80,000 (*Jeremy Carter / Iain White*).

- Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Justice, Vulnerability and Climate Change: An Integrated Framework.

£40,000 (*Sarah Lindley*)

- Sustainable Consumption Institute: Open source to promote international knowledge exchange from research into sustainable development and consumption

£31,189 (*Joanne Tippett*)

- Grant from Centre for Excellence in Enquiry Based Learning (CEEBL) to develop eKetso as an innovative on line learning and teaching resource.

£20,150 (*Joanne Tippett*)

- Grant from CEEBL for developing open source e-learning resources.

£18,000 (*Joanne Tippett*)

- Impacts of wildfire, erosion and restoration on sediment flux and pollutant mobilisation in the peatlands of the Peak District National Park: Moors for the Future Partnership (*James Rothwell*).

Selected major publications

Books

White, I. (2010) *Water and the City: risk, resilience and planning for a sustainable future*, Routledge, Abingdon. (Natural and Built Environment series)

Roberts, P.R, **Ravetz, J, and George, C** (2009): *Environment and the City: Critical Perspectives on the Urban Environment around the world*. Abingdon, Routledge

George, C. (2010) *The Truth About Trade*, Zed Books, London.

Journal articles

White, I., Kingston, R. and Barker, A. (2010) Participatory GIS and Public Engagement within Flood Risk Management, *Journal of Flood Risk Management* (In Press).

- Douglas, I.,** Garvin, S., **Lawson, N.,** Richards, J., **Tippett, J. and White, I.** (2010) Urban pluvial flooding: a qualitative case study of cause, effect and non structural mitigation, *Journal of Flood Risk Management* 3 (1) pp. 112-125.
- White, I.** and Alarcon, A. (2009) Planning Policy, Sustainable Drainage and Surface Water Management: a case study of Greater Manchester, UK, *Built Environment*, 35 (4) pp. 516-530.
- Carter, J., White, I** and Richards, J. (2009) Sustainability Appraisal and Flood Risk Management: Exploring Linkages within the English Planning System, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 29, 7-14.
- Rothwell, J.J.,** Dise, N.B., Taylor, K.G., Allott, T.E.H., Scholefield, P., Davies, H., Neal, C. (2010). A spatial and seasonal assessment of river water chemistry across North West England. *Science of the Total Environment* 408: 841-855.
- Tipping, E., **Rothwell, J.J.,** Shotbolt, L., Lawlor, A.J. (2010). Dynamic modelling of atmospherically-deposited Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd and Pb in Pennine catchments (Northern England). *Environmental Pollution* 158: 1521-1529.
- Rothwell, J.J.,** Lindsay, J.B., Evans, M.G., Allott, T.E.H. (2010). Modelling suspended sediment lead concentrations in contaminated peatland catchments using digital terrain analysis. *Ecological Engineering* 36: 623-630.
- Rothwell, J.J.,** Taylor, K.G., Ander, E.L., Evans, M.G., Allott, T.E.H. (2009). Arsenic retention and release in ombrotrophic peatlands. *Science of the Total Environment* 407: 1405-1417.
- Dise, N.B., **Rothwell, J.J.,** Gauci, V., van der Salm, C., de Vries, W. (2009). Predicting dissolved inorganic nitrogen leaching in European forests using two independent databases. *Science of the Total Environment* 407: 1798-1808.
- Smith, C. L., Webb, A., Levermore, G. J., **Lindley, S. J.** and Beswick, K. (accepted) 'Fine scale spatial temperature patterns across a UK conurbation' *Climatic Change*.
- Smith, C, **Lindley, S,** Levermore, G (2009) Estimated Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Urban Anthropogenic Heat Fluxes. *Theoretical and Applied Climatology* 98:1-2:19-35
- Ravetz, J** (2010): Integrated governance in the peri-urban: experiences from an EU integrated project: *Living Reviews in Landscape Research*
- Baker, M., S. Hincks, and **G. Sheriff** (2010) Stakeholder involvement in local and regional spatial strategies in England, *Environment and Planning C*

Albertson, K. Aylen, J. **Cavan, G.** and McMorrow, J. (2009). Forecasting the outbreak of moorland wildfires in the England Peak District. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 90(8): 2642-2651.

Kazmierczak, A., Curwell, S. and Turner, J. (2009). Regeneration of large urban areas: assessment methods. *Municipal Engineer* 162 (2): 117-124.

Kazmierczak, A. and Bichard, E. (2010). Investigating homeowners' interest in property-level flood protection. *International Journal of Disaster Resilience in Built Environment* 1(2) 157-172.

LeGates, R., Tate, N.J. and **Kingston, R.** (2009) Spatial Thinking and the Science of Spatial Planning. Editorial, *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*, 36(5), 763 - 768.

Book chapters

Kingston, R. (in press) On-line Public Participation GIS for Spatial Planning. In Nyerges, T., Couclelis, H. and McMaster, R. *The SAGE Handbook of GIS and Society*. London, SAGE Publications.

Kingston, R. (in press) Participatory Planning. In Warf, B. (ed) *Encyclopedia of Geography*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Viitanen, J. and **Kingston, R.** (2009) The Role of Public Participation GIS in Local Service Delivery. In Reddick, C. (ed) *Strategies for Local E-Government Adoption and Implementation: Comparative Studies*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global, pp. 611-630.

Tippett, J. (2009). Going beyond the metaphor of the machine –complexity and participatory ecological design. In *A Planner's Encounter with Complexity (New Directions in Planning Theory)*. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishers

George, C. (2009). Sustainable development and global governance. In *Sustainability*. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishers.

George, C. (2010). Proportionate impact assessment: discretion, formalism, and the undefined responsibilities of European decision-makers. In *The European Impact Assessment and the Environment*. Heidelberg, Germany: Springer

McMorrow, J. **Lindley, S.** Aylen, J. **Cavan, G.**, Albertson, K and Boys, D. (2009). Moorland wildfire risk, visitors and climate change: Patterns, prevention and policy.

In A. Bonn, K. Hubacek, J. Stewart and T. Allott (Eds) *Drivers of Environmental Change in Uplands*, Routledge London and New York.

Lindley, S, McMorrow, J and Bonn, A (2010) Moorland Wildfires in the UK Peak District Atlas of Biodiversity Risk Edited by Josef Settele, Lyubomir Penev, Teodor Georgiev, Ralf Grabaum, Vesna Grobelnik, Volker Hammen, Stefan Klotz & Ingolf Kühn

Selected esteem and knowledge transfer

The CURE model of integrated environmental research has also helped to influence a range of key policies, strategies and standards. During 2009-10 CURE members have been actively engaged in disseminating outputs from their research at local, national and international scales to practitioners and others beyond the immediate fields of their research: examples include:

Iain White:

- White, I. (2010) 'Planning and Flood Risk Management: risk, resilience and more sustainable cities', AESOP European planning conference, June, Helsinki.
- White, I. (2010) 'Planning and Hydrology: Towards Resilience', British Hydrological Society, January, Liverpool.
- White, I. And Lawson, N. (2010) 'Integrating Resilience into Flood Risk Management', European Workshop on Flood Resilience, May, Cyprus.
- White, I., Kingston, R. And Barker A. (2009) '*Participatory GIS and Public Engagement in Flood Risk Management*' C22 Final Conference Paris on EraNet Crue, November, Paris.
- White, I. (2009) '*The Absorbent City: Urban Form and Flood Risk Management*', International Conference on Human Ecology, July, Manchester.
- White, I. (2009) '*Implementing Risk and Resilience to 'Natural Hazards' within spatial planning*', UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference, April, Newcastle.
- White, I. and Kingston, R. (2009) '*Participatory GIS and Public Engagement within Flood Risk Management*', UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference, April, Newcastle.

- White, I, Handley, J. and Shih, W. (2009) '*The barriers to effective conservation planning in urban areas: a case study of Taipei City*', International Urban Planning and Environment Association, March, Kaiserslautern, Germany.
- White, I, Handley, J. and Shih, W. (2009) '*Mapping biotope and sociotope for green infrastructure planning in urban areas*'. 14th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development, April, Sitges, Spain.
- White, I, Handley, J. and Shih, W. (2009) '*Planning Green Infrastructure by Mapping Biotope and Sociotope of Urban Green Spaces: a Conceptual Framework*'. International Sustainable Development Research Society, July, Utrecht, Netherlands.

Joe Ravetz:

- Speaker for the RTPi International Programme workshop on climate change economics <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/3312>
- Keynote speaker at the Policy Studies Institute 'Back to the Future' seminar to follow the outturn with the Britain 2010 report, 20 years after its publication. (www.psi.org.uk/news/pressrelease.asp?news_item_id=238)
- Keynote speaker at the University of Versailles St Quentin workshop on integrated assessment, Nov 2009.
- Workshop leader for the Technology Foresight for the Low Carbon Automotive Sector, sponsored by UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) and held in Istanbul. (www.unido.org/foresight/rwp/technology-foresight)
- Workshop leader on Integrated Regional Strategy for the NW Development Agency
- Convenor of the Greater Manchester Environment Commission Research-Policy Exchange programme, currently focusing on climate change behavioural / economic / spatial issues. www.manchester.ac.uk/policy-exchange
- Expert advisor to City of Tomorrow programme for DG Regio, which aims to focus the forthcoming Cohesion Funds 2014-2020 Budget Round on urban and territorial issues.

Joanne Tippett

- European International Association of Landscape Ecology (IALE) Conference, Department of Geography and Geology, Salzburg University, July 14, 2009.
- Invited by Prof. Paul Odpm from Alterra, Landscape Centre, Wageningen, Netherlands, to present plenary paper, title of session: 'Top-down and bottom up in landscape planning'.
- Innovation in Built Environment Education Conference (IBEE), the Hub, Sheffield Hallam University, Sept. 15, 2009
- Invited by Prof. Chris Webster, Centre for Education in the Built Environment, to lead a workshop entitled 'You want me to do what, teach a master planning class to seventy students?'.
- 23rd Congress of the Association of European Schools of Planning - Why can't the future be more like the past? University of Liverpool, 2009
- Climate Change and Urban Poverty - Infrastructures of Development, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Brookes World Poverty Institute, 2009
- Gave a paper entitled 'Building resilience – participatory planning and community creativity in a changing climate'. Jan, 26, 2009. I was also invited to give a paper at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh and to teach a session on participatory planning to Architecture students at BRAC University in Dhaka.
- UK Systems Society International Conferences, 2009, peer-reviewed research poster, 'A Systems Approach to Sustainability as a tool for embedding Sustainability Values and Practices in Large Organisations'.
- Invited by the World Economic Forum to join a sustainability working group and facilitate a workshop (30/10/2009);
- Invited to chair a workshop entitled 'Education, education, education: how can we develop a carbon-literate generation for a low-carbon future' at the launch of the Institute in the Royal Horticultural Society on Oct. 16, 2009.
- Invited to give sustainability master class at Westminster for Talent2Trade (17/11/2009);
- invited to give a seminar to UNESCO's Education for Sustainability team (26/11/2009);

- Sustainable Consumption Institute Seminar - Invited to give a seminar on the research project 'Improving sustainability skills and knowledge in the workplace' at the University of Manchester, Dec. 3, 2009
- asked to be expert advisor to a bid to the HEA from subject centres for a project exploring education for sustainability in MBAs
- Incorporation of two spin off social enterprises, Ketso Ltd. and ThinkingWare CIC in April 2009.
- A roadshow to launch Ketso in association with the Beacons for Public Engagement at Manchester and UCL, with Universities of Manchester, Birmingham, Portsmouth, UCL and Sussex, with over 240 attendees from the public and private sectors, NGOs and Universities.

Seb Carney

- Invited or Keynote speaker at 10 international conferences.
- Invited speaker at the Chinese Urban Planning conference in Tianjin.
- Invited speaker at UN conference in Santiago
- Invited speaker at the Association for the Advancement of American science in San Diego.
- Appointed an editor of World Bank report on cities and climate change
- Reviewer of UN-Habitat edition on cities and climate change
- Commissioned by Guardian newspaper to write an article on the Copenhagen climate change conference
- Various workshops on climate change mitigation within Greater Manchester and within other cities around Europe.

James Rothwell

- Rothwell, J.J., Dise, N.B., Taylor, K.G., Allott, T.E.H., Scholefield, P., Davies, H., Neal, C. (2010). Estimating river nutrient concentrations across North West England using catchment characteristics. In *European Geosciences Union General Assembly*. Vienna, Austria: Geophysical Research Abstracts, 12, 2883.
- Rothwell, J.J., Wan Aik, L. (2010). Riverine sediment-associated metal concentrations in the urban tropics: a case study from Singapore. In *European Geosciences Union General Assembly*. Vienna, Austria: Geophysical Research Abstracts, 12, 2496.

- Rothwell, J.J., Futter, M., Dise, N.B. (2009). Modelling controls on nitrogen leaching from European forests using partitioning tree analysis. In *BIOGEOMON 2009, 6th International Symposium on Ecosystem Behaviour*. Helsinki, Finland: Working Papers of the Finnish Forest Research Institute.
- Rothwell, J.J., Taylor, K.G., Ander, E.L., Evans, M.G., Allott, T.E.H. (2009). Organic rich soils as a source of arsenic in the southern Pennines, UK. In *BIOGEOMON 2009, 6th International Symposium on Ecosystem Behaviour*. Helsinki, Finland: Working Papers of the Finnish Forest Research Institute.

Richard Kingston

- Invited talk (November 2009) Who cares about Where[2.0] we are going? AGI Where[2.0] Conference, Harrogate.
- Invited Talk (September 2009) Public Participation GIS: uses and warnings. University of York JISC Workshop - The Cultural Heritage of Historic European Cities and Public Participatory GIS.
- (September 2010) A Planning Support System for Climate Change Adaptation Action Planning. Royal Geographical Society with IBG, London.
- (July 2010) Planning Support Systems - will they be applied more widely in a Web 2.0 world? AESOP, Helsinki, Finland.
- (April 2010) Integrating Place-Making Skills in planning curricula: Spatial Analysis for Spatial Planning. Planning Academics Research Conference, Anglia Ruskin University.

Jeremy Carter/Ecocities

- EcoCities scenario workshop with a range of stakeholders from Northwest England, including presentation and workshop facilitation (with Aleksandra Kazmierczak and Gina Cavan)
- 14-12-09: Presentation to the Greater Manchester Resilience Forum
- 20-1-10: Presentation to the AGMA Environment Commission (with John Handley)
- 2-6-10: Presentation to the AGMA Chief Officers Civil Contingencies Group
- 17-6-10: EcoCities scenario workshop with Bruntwood, including presentations and workshop facilitation (with Aleksandra Kazmierczak and Gina Cavan)

- 22-6-10: EcoCities scenario workshop with Manchester City Council including presentation and workshop facilitation (with Darien Rozentals)
- 23-6-10: Presentation to the AGMA Planning and Housing Commission
- 8-7-10: Presentation to Manchester City Councils Climate Change Action Plan Group
- 26-3-10: Presentation at Northwest Regional adaptation Group meeting
- 30-7-09: Presentation on 'Climate change adaptation in theory and practice', International Conference on Human Ecology held at the University of Manchester
- 26-8-09: Presentation on 'The role of green infrastructure in climate change adaptation', Royal Geographical Society Annual International Conference held at the University of Manchester
- 16-11-09: Presentation at a Greater Manchester – Defra Climate Resilience workshop, Reading (with John Handley)
- 17+18-5-10: EcoCities visit to Nagoya including presentations at Nagoya University, meetings with researchers and a meeting with representatives from Nagoya City (with Aleksandra Kazmierczak)
- 28>30-5-10: Presentation on 'Drivers of change: exploring the forces shaping future climate change adaptation in Manchester', 1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change held in Bonn, Germany

Aleksandra Kazmierczak/EcoCities

- Presentation at the National Vulnerability Workshop organised by the Adaptation Sub Committee of the Committee on Climate Change (20th April 2010)
- Green infrastructure – contribution to adaptation to climate change in Greater Manchester. *URBIO2010 – 2nd International Conference of Urban Biodiversity and Design, Nagoya, Japan 18 - 22 May 2010.*
- Social vulnerability to climate change hazards in Greater Manchester, UK. *21 IAPS (International Association for People-Environment Studies) conference: Vulnerability, Risk and Complexity: Impacts of global change on human habitats, Leipzig, Germany, 27 June – 2 July 2010.*

- Could non-cash rewards motivate homeowners to protect their houses from flooding? 21 IAPS (*International Association for People-Environment Studies*) conference: *Vulnerability, Risk and Complexity: Impacts of global change on human habitats*, Leipzig, Germany, 27 June – 2 July 2010.

Nigel Lawson

- 8/11/09 NW CLASP (Climate Change Local Area Support Programme) on EcoCities and NI 188 at County Hall, Preston
- 26-27/11/09 C22 Final Conference Paris on EraNet Crue 'Urban Pluvial Flooding: a qualitative case study of cause, effect and non-structural mitigation' (with Iain White)
- 3/2/10 AGMA Flood Risk/Water Management Group on SMARTeST, Manchester Town Hall
- 9-10/2/10 (with Paul O'Hare and Iain White) Integrating Resilience into Flood Risk Management. European Workshop, Watford
- 12/5/10 Pluvial Flooding in Small Urban Catchments BRE Flood Risk Conference Watford
- 30/6/10 in Wigan and 1/7/10 in Manchester (with Ian Douglas and John Handley) Site visits and presentations on urban regeneration to high level delegation from the Chinese City of Huabei

Clive George

- Keynote speaker at CREMed and European Institute workshop on the 'Economics of the Mediterranean and the EuroMediterranean Process', Barcelona, 16-17 July 2010
- Rapporteur for OECD workshop on 'Regional Trade Agreements and the Environment', OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment, Paris, 1-2 June 2010
- UNEP International Expert Panel on 'Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies', Geneva, 24-26 March 2010
- Invited speaker at UNDP Brainstorming on 'Sustainability, Environment and Human Development', London, 1-2 February 2010

4. *Future Strategy*

There are some operational, management and research issues to focus on over the next year.

- A 10 year review of themes and directions
- A rebranding and relaunch of the CURE website
- Fostering of research culture
- Development of centre members
- Encouragement of staff to begin planning for the next REF.
- Exploration of options to fund administrative support for the running of the centre (see section 5 below).
- Increased focus on dissemination and communication of research results.
- Continuation of current major funded projects and programmes.
- Exploration of new opportunities to attain research funding.
- Consideration of developing an FP7 proposal in early 2011.

5. *Issues for S.E.D.*

Centre Support

To effectively run and manage a research centre such as CURE requires time and resources from the Director, Co-Directors and Research staff. However, many of these tasks could be conducted on a more junior administrative level, freeing up senior staff to concentrate on research. For example, arranging meetings, taking minutes, updating websites, organising workshops, providing publicity material, disseminating research findings, distributing information on news and events are all areas within which support could be provided.

Research projects directly attributable to PIs in CURE mean that the centre has a projected turnover for 2009-2010 of approximately £1m, yet the nature of the financial structures operating within SED means that it is unable to employ anyone to assist in the administrative running of the centre. There is excellent input from the research team with regard to the winning of research contracts and support

during the project, but this doesn't map well onto the demands with regard to actually running centres.

Some research centres (e.g. MARC) have found ways to fund this administrative support enabling them to be proactive in maximising the value and impact of a centre. In practice, the nature of the task may not justify a full-time employee, rather someone for one to two days a week or perhaps a person responsible for a number of centres. SED should give consideration to working out how best this issue could be addressed.

Research staff contracts

Continuity for research staff and flexibility in forming new appointments are essential conditions for effective running of CURE and similar research centres.

Relations with other centres in the University

- Ongoing collaborations with MARC & MACE
- Closer links are developing with GURC
- Existing collaborations and sharing of staff continue with CUPS.
- There are also strong links with MIOIR

External relations

- There is a possibility of contributing to Faculty initiatives around urban sustainability: CURE is a leader in this area.

Communications

- Need to identify best way to handle external relations which can be time-consuming.
- CURE is well established and highly regarded within research areas connected to its key themes, yet it has not made the most of its contribution and could be more proactive in disseminating its successes. More guidance and support for developing a communications strategy could bring significant benefits.