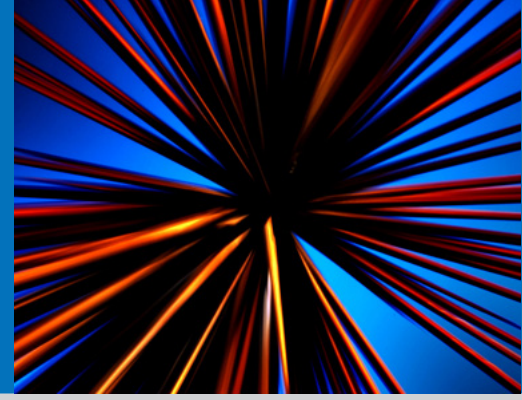


# MARC Research Profile

## EcoCities - The Bruntwood Initiative for Sustainable Cities at the University of Manchester



The project will focus on the response of urban areas to the impacts of climate change, looking particularly at how we can adapt our cities to the challenges and opportunities that a changing climate presents. EcoCities seeks to provide Manchester, by the end of 2010, with its first blueprint for an integrated climate change adaptation strategy. This will be based on leading scientific research, extensive stakeholder engagement, and best practice examples of new programmes successfully piloted during a three-year period.

Climate change is now accepted as a major global challenge that is with us and is set to intensify. There is strong scientific evidence to suggest that our changing climate is the result of human behaviour, in particular our carbon dioxide emissions. It is clear that aside from the need to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases to limit the extent of future climate change, we must look at how we can respond to projected climate change impacts to ensure that our towns and cities remain 'liveable'. Cities have a crucial role to play in a future where climate change becomes part of everyday life. For the first time in history, over half the world's population now lives in urban areas. As centres of population and commerce, cities are responsible for large volumes of greenhouse gas emissions. As societies look to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases, the way that people travel, live and work in cities is likely to evolve. Also, cities and their residents are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including flooding and heat waves. We will need to develop ways to respond and adapt to these impacts and build an environmentally sustainable future.

EcoCities is designed to be an international initiative, reflecting the global scope of the climate change agenda. The project positions Manchester at the centre of a global network of individuals and organisations with an interest in climate change adaptation. Together, we will share best practice on how cities are designed, built and managed in the face of a changing climate. Manchester will benefit from mutual learning with partner cities, and lessons will be shared on issues such as managing flood risk and adapting to higher temperatures. The project will facilitate the development of climate change adaptation strategy blueprints in at least two partner cities.

#### Website

[www.manchester.ac.uk/eccities](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/eccities)

#### Principal Investigators

Simon Guy, John Handley

#### Researchers

Jeremy Carter, Aleksandra Kazmierczak,  
Gina Cavan

#### Partners

Manchester Architecture Research  
Centre, Centre for Urban and Regional  
Ecology, Brooks World Poverty Institute

#### Duration

2009 to 2011

#### Contact

[Darien.Rozentals@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Darien.Rozentals@manchester.ac.uk)