

NORWICH CITY HALL

“Government and building and design professionals continue to trumpet “sustainable communities” and “zero-carbon buildings” while failing to address the planning, construction and investment issues.”

Bill Dunster, Zed Factory

It is 20 years since the Greenhouse set the precedent for the installation of solar hot water tubes on the front of a listed (II*) building in Norwich. Since then, any progress towards creating a zero-carbon city has been so slow as to be unnoticeable.

There are 1,580 listed buildings (most in the city centre). These buildings continue to be excluded from any plan to tackle fossil fuel burning/generating CO₂ emissions. Energy autonomy for the people of Norwich is simply not viewed by planners as either important to the local economy or key to improving the quality of life. A huge gap remains between the increasing impacts of climate change and the actions of local government to tackle fuel poverty, poor energy design and the creation of renewable energy infrastructure.

This image of City Hall combines the stunning ice sculpture of Brazilian artist Nele Azevedo, created to draw attention to the melting of the Arctic, with, above her melting figures, the War Memorial and Norwich City Hall. Both are powerful architectural symbols of how our political leaders continue to design and sanction death and destruction on a gigantic and unprecedented scale, whilst (in magnificent Orwellian style), proclaiming peace and prosperity (translates as war and austerity).