

Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress made in delivering Manchester City Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25.

All activity described in this report relates to the year April 2020 to March 2021, which is year one of the current five-year plan; however, emissions data is reported for the last twelve years (going back to 2009-10) to show the impact of decisions and actions taken before this period.

CO₂ Emissions

The Council reduced its direct CO₂ emissions by 54% in the ten years prior to 2020. The current CCAP has a target to reduce the Council's direct emissions by a further 50% over the five-year period of 2020-25.

The CCAP also sets a carbon budget of 119,988 tonnes of CO₂ for the five-year period of 2020-25, which has been calculated using science-based targets.

To stay within its carbon budget, and achieve the overall 50% reduction target, the Council must reduce its emissions by 13% every year, for five years.

The budget for the period of this report (2020-21) was 31,099 tonnes of direct CO₂ emissions. The Council emitted 25,501 tonnes of CO₂ which is 82% of the available budget, i.e. less than the maximum cap for the year.



31,099 tonnes CO₂ – Emissions **budget** 2020-21

25,501 tonnes CO₂ – Emissions **released** 2020-21

These emissions are associated with Council buildings, streetlights, waste collection, operational fleet and staff travel. Alongside the carbon savings created by a range of proactive measures (detailed throughout this report), additional savings were delivered by the decarbonisation of the national grid and by the changes in Council operations brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 1 shows the Council's emissions in 2020-21 were 21% lower than the previous year. The target is to reduce emissions by 13% each year.

In 2019-20 the reduction was 13.2% compared to the previous year and in 2018-19 the Council reduced its direct emissions by 21.3% compared to the previous year.

Figure 1: Percentage reduction in emissions relative to the previous year

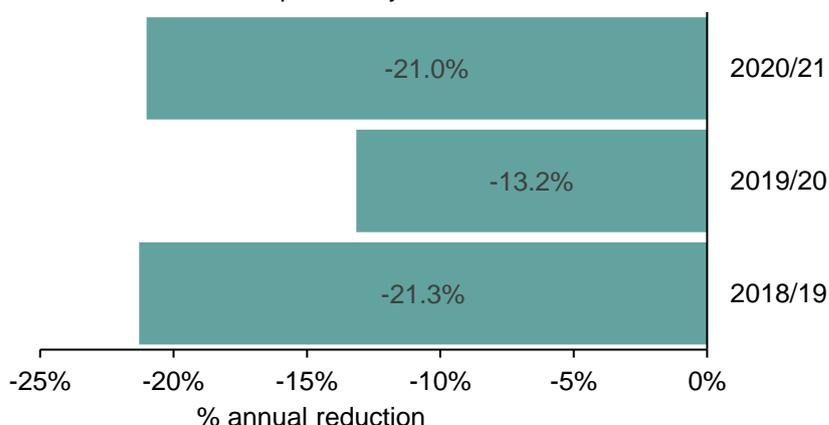


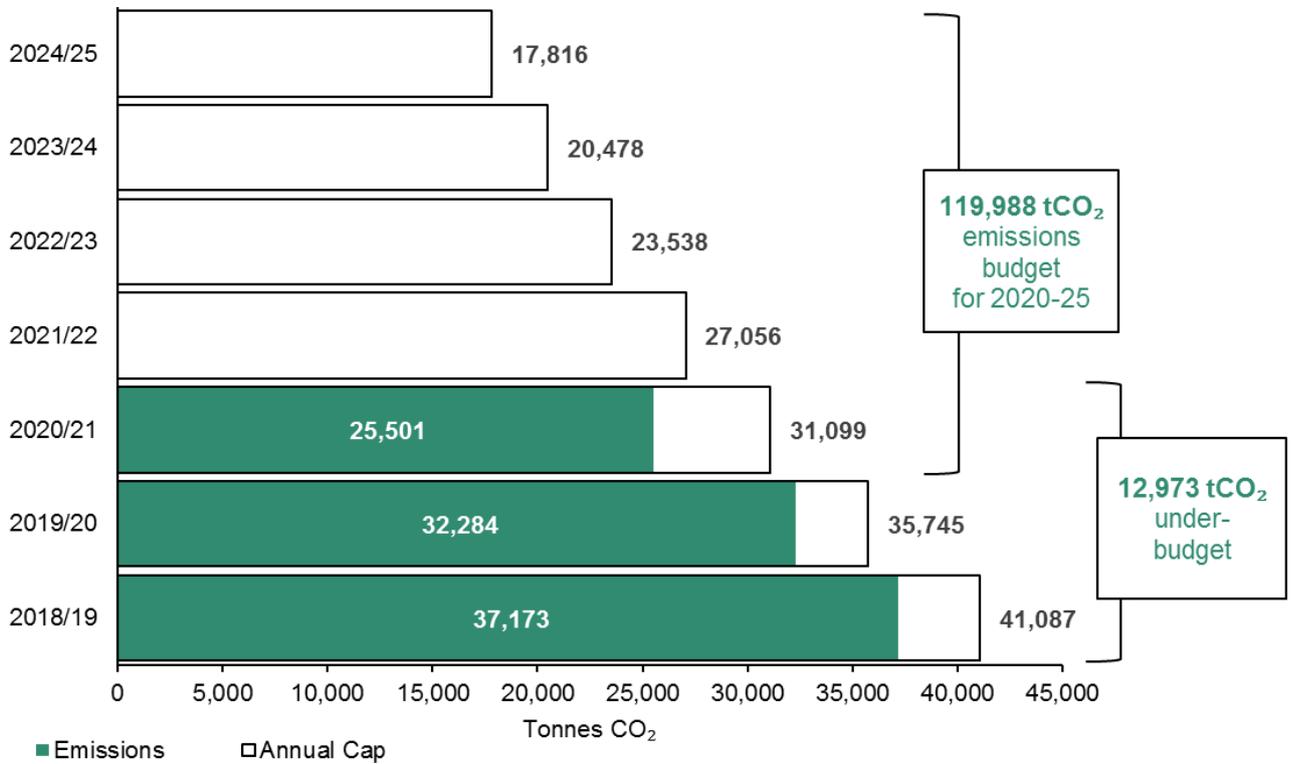
Figure 2 shows the carbon budget for each of the five years covered by the CCAP 2020-25, and the actual emissions for year one of the CCAP (2020-21). It also shows the carbon budget and actual emissions for the prior two years (2018-19 and 2019-20).

Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Annual Report 2020-21

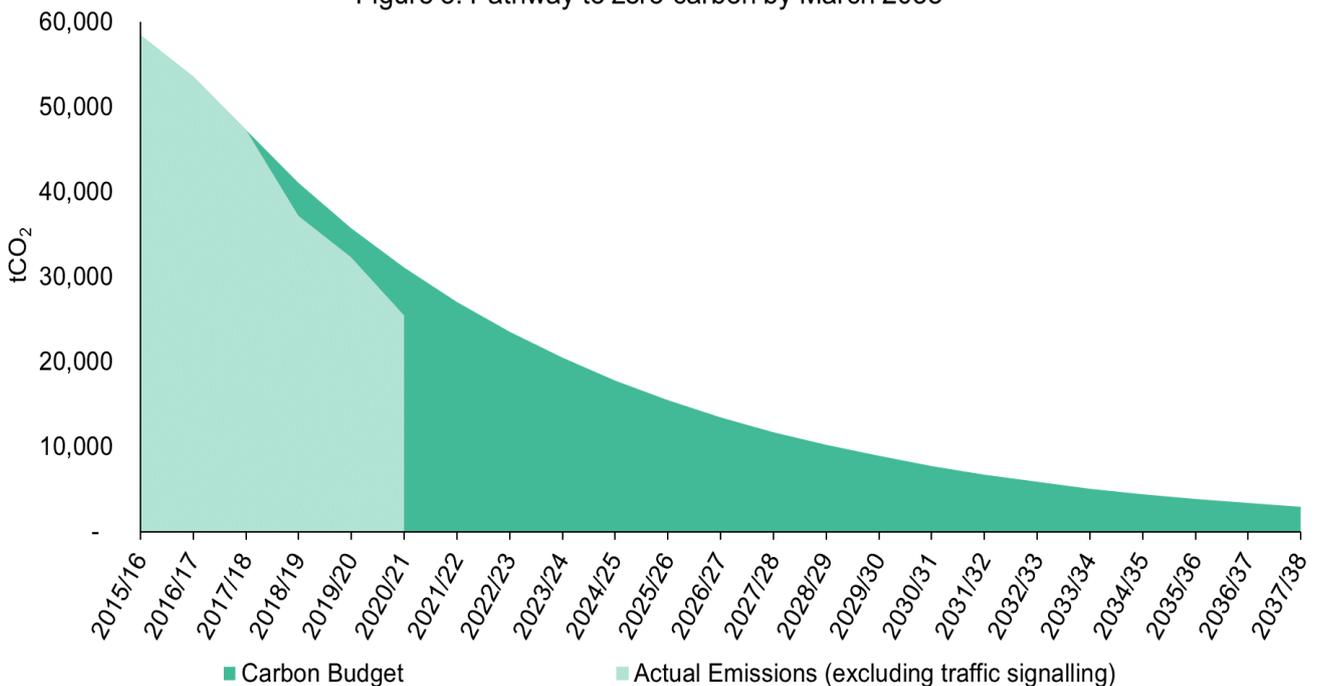
Between April 2018 and March 2021 (a three-year period) the Council's direct emissions totalled 94,958 tonnes of CO₂, which is 12,973 tonnes, or 12%, under-budget.

Figure 2: Total Council emissions vs annual budgets



In addition to the targets for 2020-25, the Council has a target to reach zero carbon by 2038. This means reducing direct emissions by 95% by 2038 (compared to a 2015-16 baseline). The trajectory to this point is shown in Figure 3. The space below the curve is the carbon budget up to 2038.

Figure 3: Pathway to zero carbon by March 2038



Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Annual Report 2020-21

Actual emissions¹ for April 2015 to March 2021 can be seen within the budget curve in Figure 3, further illustrating that the Council's emissions are below the set carbon budget and are ahead of the target trajectory to date.

The Council's carbon budget extends beyond 2038 and covers the period 2018-19 to 2099-2100; the total budget is 316,048 tonnes of CO₂. The section of the budget shown in Figure 3 (from 2018-19 to 2037-38) is 296,547 tonnes.

As would be expected, most of the carbon budget is allocated to the start of the pathway to zero carbon, as this is the period when the greatest savings need to be made.

For example, the first three years of the budget (2018-19 to 2020-21) have been allocated 34.2% of the total. Against this target, the Council has used only 30% of the budget.

The seven years from 2018 to 2025 (encompassing the current five-year action plan) have been allocated 62% of the total carbon budget. Including the five years beyond that, up to 2030, the allocation rises to 81% of the budget. These figures clearly show that this current decade is the critical time for concerted action.

A breakdown of the Council's direct emissions in 2020-21 is shown in Figure 4.

Buildings are the most significant contributor to the Council's direct emissions (75%), followed by the waste collection fleet (12%) and streetlights (10%), all of which have been targeted for proactive change which is detailed later in this report.

The following charts show emissions for each of these five categories over the last twelve years, starting in 2009-10.

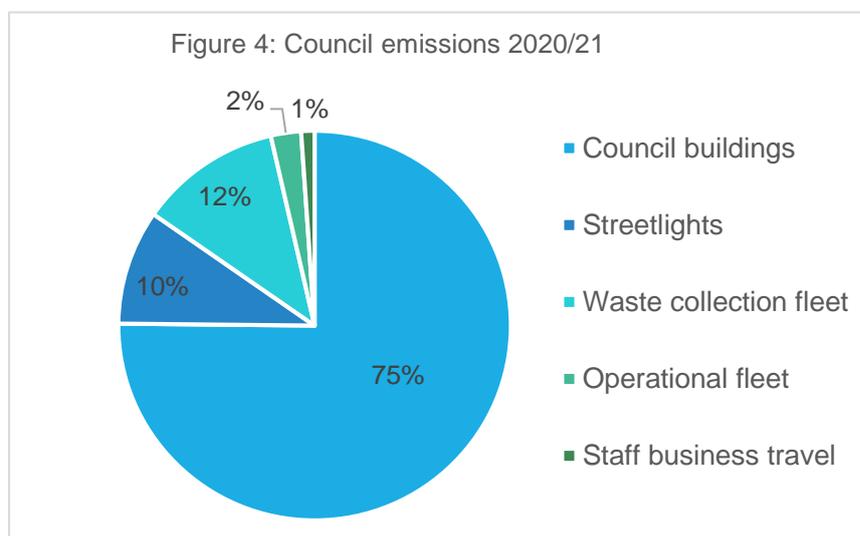


Figure 5 shows that emissions from energy use in Council buildings have steadily declined over the twelve years since 2009-10 and, at 19,166 tonnes of CO₂ in 2020-21, emissions are now 60% lower.

Looking at the data for 2020-21, the total energy used (kilowatt hours of gas, electricity and oil) is 16% lower than the year before (-17.2 million kWh) and the resultant CO₂ emissions are 20% lower than the year before (-4,904 tonnes of CO₂); the latter figure being higher due to the decarbonisation of the national grid.

The reductions in energy use have been driven by the proactive installation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation capacity across the Council's estate, plus by the decarbonisation of the national grid and changes to building use during the pandemic.

¹ From April 2020, emissions from traffic signalling are reported by Transport for Greater Manchester and are not included within Manchester City Council's data. To enable comparability across years, these emissions have been removed from the data in this report from 2009-10 onwards. For transparency, the emissions from traffic signalling were 1,894 tonnes of CO₂ in 2009-10, 645 tonnes in 2015-16, and 364 tonnes in 2019/20, an 85.5% reduction over the period. If the emissions from traffic signalling were added back into this year's total Council emissions the value would increase by just 1.4%.

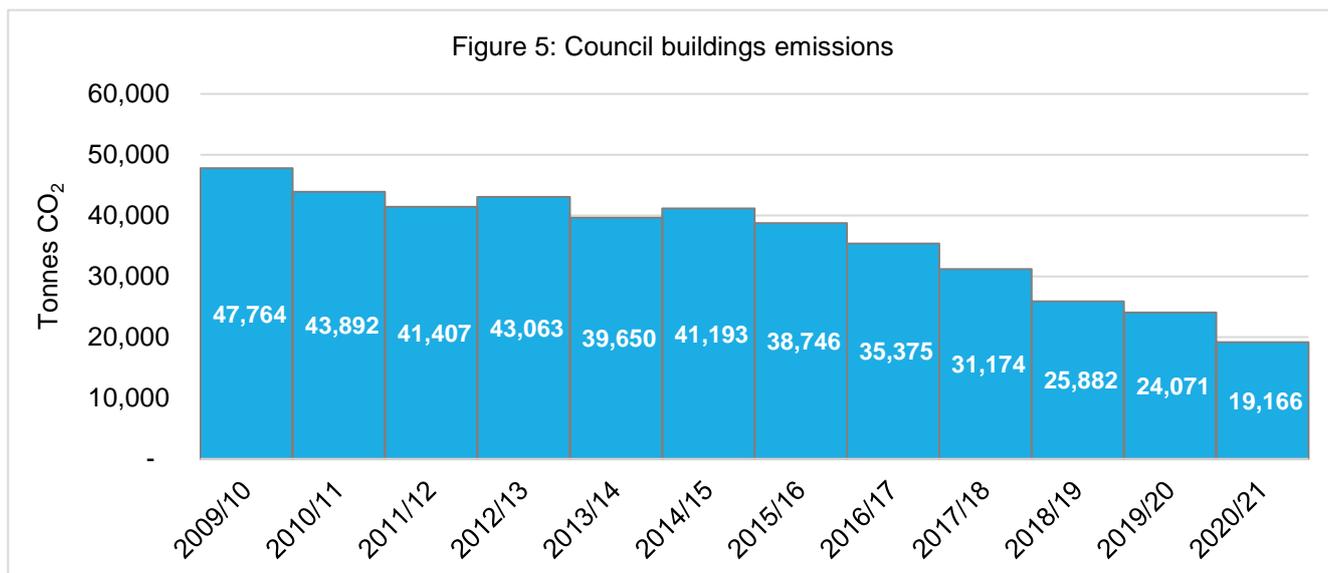


Figure 6 shows that emissions from streetlights have significantly reduced over the past three years due to the large-scale retrofitting of LED lightbulbs. At 2,429 tonnes CO₂ in 2020-21, emissions are 85% lower than in 2009-10. The streetlights replacement programme completed in 2020-21 and the full impact of this work will be seen in 2021-22.

The total energy used by streetlights (kilowatt hours of electricity) in 2020-21 was 26% lower than the previous year (-3.3 million kWh) and the resultant emissions are 32% lower (-1,150 tonnes CO₂), again the difference is due to the decarbonisation of the national grid.

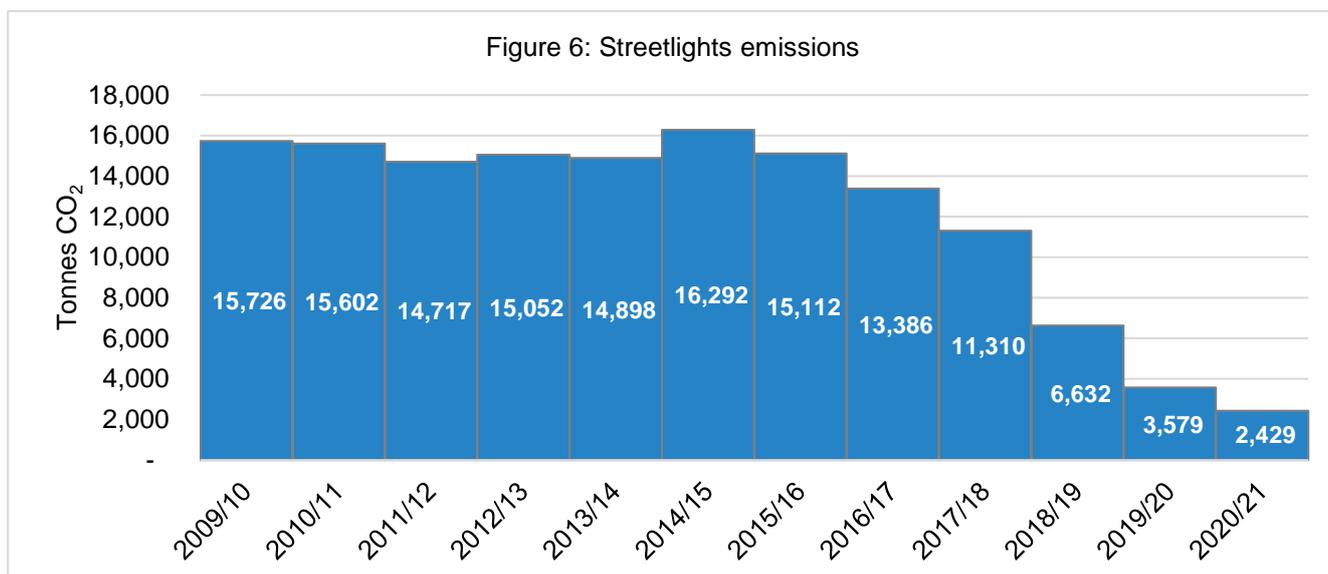


Figure 7 shows that emissions from the waste fleet have remained relatively consistent since Biffa began delivering the Council's household refuse collection and street cleansing services in 2015 (marked with an *asterisk in Figures 7 and 8).

As part of this change, 28 road sweepers and 40 refuse collection vehicles were transferred from the Council to Biffa and the emissions from this equipment transferred from operational fleet to waste collection. The changeover can be seen in both Figures 7 and 8.

At 2,991 tonnes of CO₂, emissions from the waste collection fleet in 2020-21 are 3% lower (-86 tonnes CO₂) than in the previous year (2019-20).

Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Annual Report 2020-21

The Council's £9.8million investment in new electric refuse collection vehicles (eRCVs) will convert 50% of the fleet to electric over the course of next year (2021-22) which will reduce emissions as the vehicles are received and deployed.

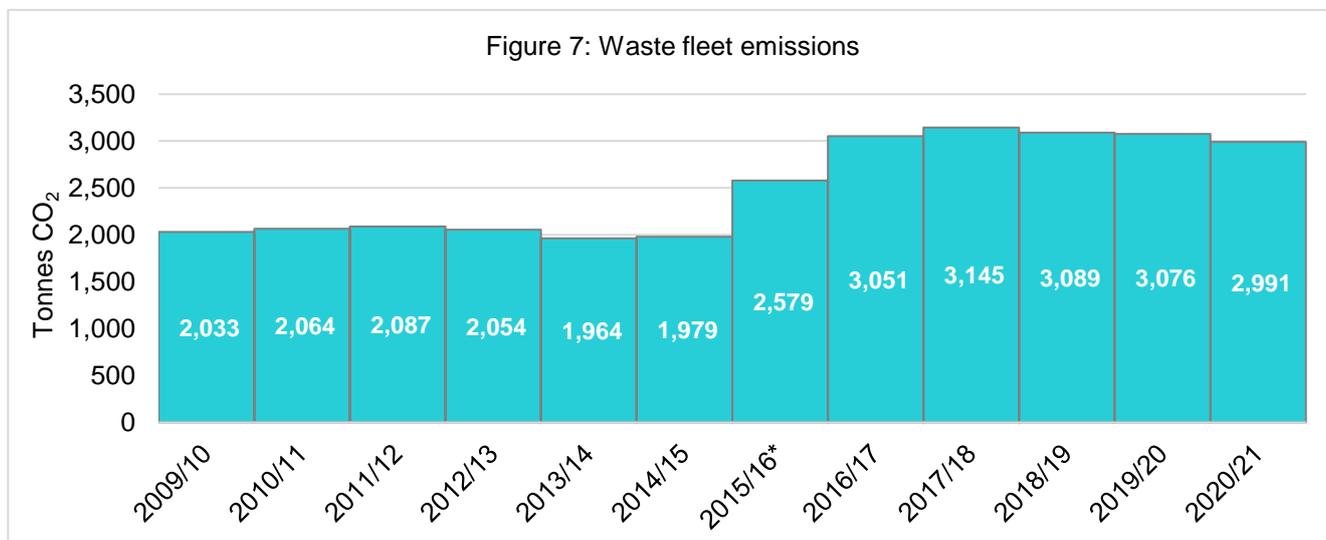


Figure 8 shows emissions from the Council's operational fleet have reduced by 78% over the last twelve years. In 2020-21 they were 20% lower (-162 tonnes of CO₂) than in the previous year (2019-20). Changes to operational activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to this reduction alongside switching some fleet vehicles to electric.

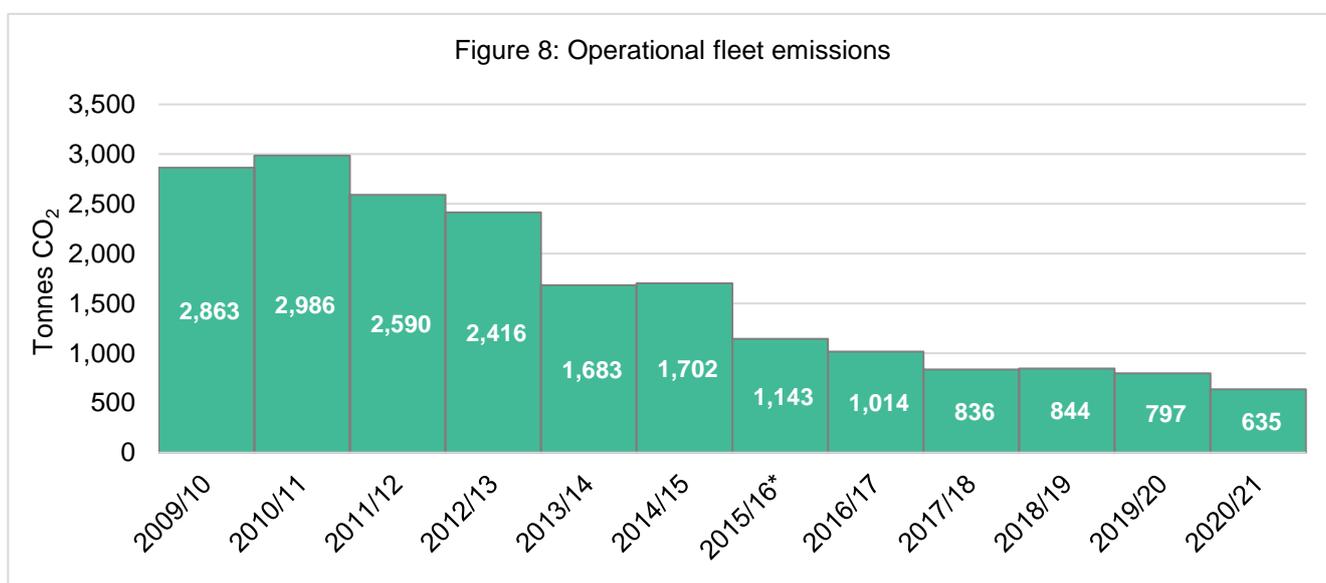


Figure 9 shows a 63% reduction in emissions from business travel in 2020-21 (-481 tonnes CO₂) compared to 2019-20. COVID-19 forced significant changes to working patterns which has contributed to this reduction, for example shifting from in-person to video conferencing for meetings.

The miles travelled by car (e.g. staff mileage in their own vehicles, taxis or car club) reduced by 52% compared to the previous year, and miles travelled by rail and air were down by 93% and 94% respectively. All air travel was undertaken by Social Services in relation to client work, such as health and safety foster carer assessments, which needed to be done face to face.

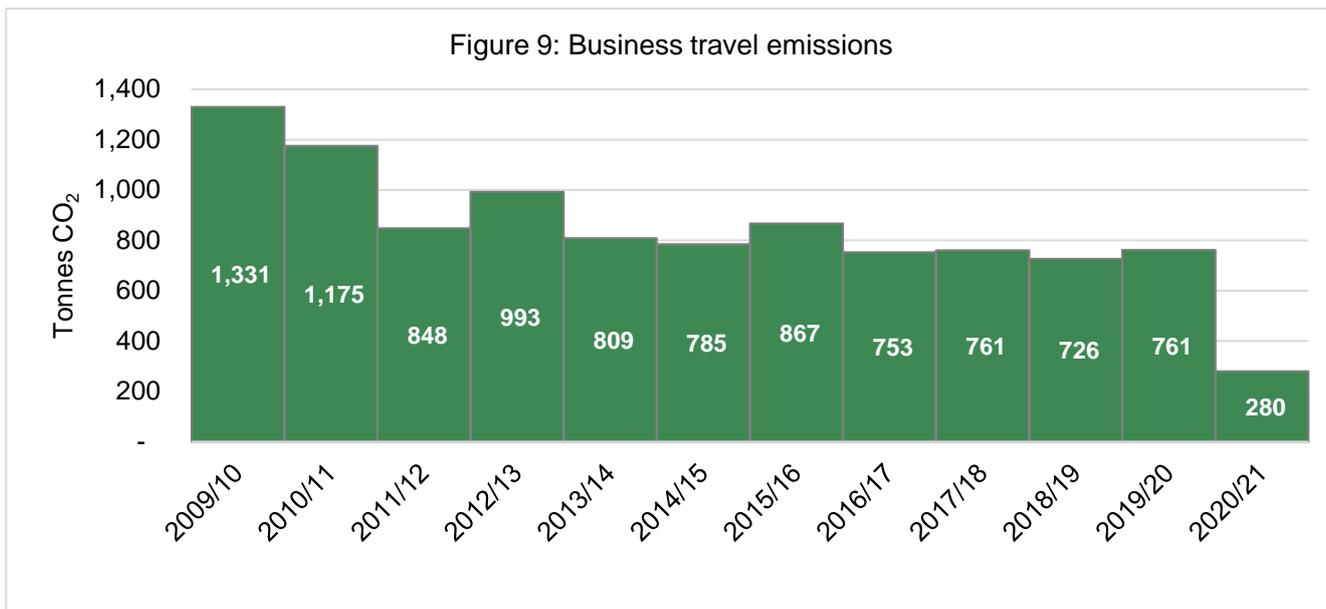
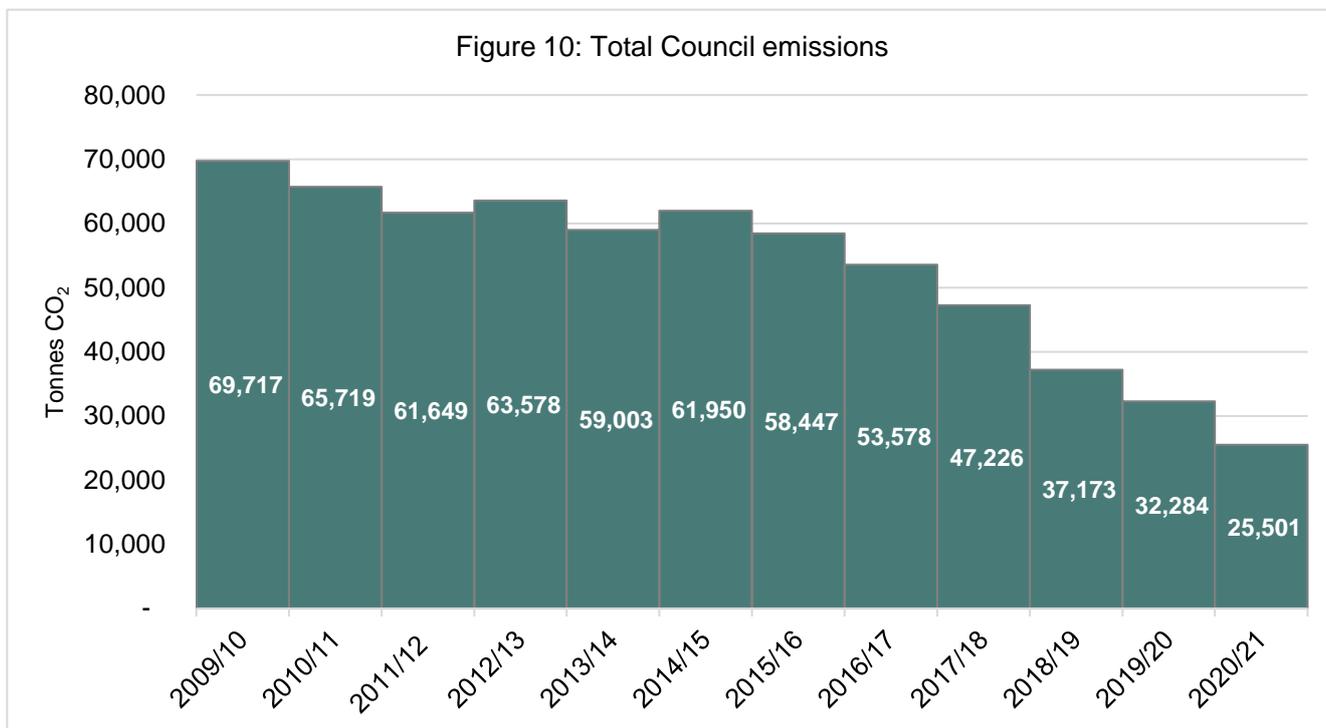


Figure 10 shows the Council's total emissions over the last twelve years and reflects the overall downward trends seen in Figures 5-9.

At 25,501 tonnes of CO₂, emissions in 2020-21 were 21% lower (-6,783 tonnes CO₂) than in the previous year (2019-20), and 63% lower than in 2009-10.²



² A detailed review of emissions data for 2009-10 to 2017-18 took place in April 2021 which resulted in a few minor amendments being made to increase the accuracy of reporting. The impact of these amendments is that the Council's emissions reduced by 1,265 tonnes of CO₂ over this twelve-year period, equivalent to a -0.23% change.

Headlines:

Key Achievements:

- A £6.3m capital investment has been made into the Council's estate to implement energy efficiency measures over a 2-year period (April 2020 – March 2022) which, once fully operational, will save 1,300 tonnes of CO₂ per annum.
- £19.1m was secured from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) to support further measures to drive energy savings, decarbonise heat and increase renewable energy generation capacity in 12 Council buildings. It is targeting to save 1,800 tonnes of CO₂ a year.
- A hydrogen boiler has been installed at Gorton Library to pilot this as an alternative to gas.
- A new Manchester Low Carbon Build Standard was developed to reduce the carbon impact of new-build developments and retrofit projects delivered by the Council.
- A feasibility study on the potential for large-scale renewable energy generation was delivered.
- A three-year programme to retrofit Manchester's streetlights with LED lightbulbs completed.
- 2km of district heat transmission network has been installed for the Civic Quarter Heat Network (pipes, power and communication cables) along with the Tower of Light.
- £7.8m funding was secured from the Social Housing Demonstrator Fund, to retrofit hard-to-treat concrete construction homes in Beswick, in partnership with One Manchester.
- £9.8m investment was made into decarbonising waste collection and improving air quality by purchasing 27 Electric Refuse Collection Vehicles to replace 50% of the waste fleet.
- The first of the Greater Manchester Mayor's Challenge Fund walking and cycling routes was completed in Manchester - improvements to the Princess Road and Medlock Street roundabout create a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians.
- The Council is one of the first local authorities to introduce an additional 10% environmental weighting in its procurement processes, helping to reduce our consumption-based emissions.
- The Council pledged to be single-use-plastic free by 2024, in line with the Plastic Free Greater Manchester Pledge.
- 74 city centre traders at the Arndale and Church St markets have committed to use consumables that are recyclable, compostable and biodegradable as part of their licensing agreements. 21 caterers across the City's parks have also committed to reducing and eliminating single use plastics.
- The LED Christmas motifs used in 2020 as street decorations were recyclable, derived from sugar cane and recycled aluminium.
- The Council planted over 1,000 trees, over 1,100 small hedge trees and 4 community orchards. The City of Trees received £2m DEFRA funds for new woodland planting across Greater Manchester.
- The 'sponge park' at West Gorton opened, creating a new community park that showcases nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation needs. The natural flood alleviation measures were tested by Storm Christoph and proved effective at diverting excess rainwater into swales.
- The Carbon Literacy Project awarded "Sliver" status to the Council's carbon literacy initiative.
- Over 300 residents across 32 wards attended community events focused on climate action.

Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Annual Report 2020-21

- £52k from the Council's Neighbourhood Investment Fund programme has been directed towards 41 climate action projects.
- The Council organised the second Youth Climate Change Action Summit, held at Manchester Central Convention Complex.
- £1.1m has been secured by Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA) and its partners to support community-led climate events and a climate resilience project.
- Manchester was among the first cities to join the international City Business Climate Alliance initiative, a programme supporting business collaboration on climate action.
- An Economic Recovery and Investment Plan, setting out Manchester's commitment to a green, zero-carbon and climate-resilient recovery was developed as part of the city's response to COVID-19.

Risks and Issues:

- PSDS funded works were contracted to complete by September 2021 and this extremely short timeframe presented significant challenges for the Council as well as the supply chain (£1bn of PSDS funds being deployed nationally). Government have since extended the delivery period to March 2022 and markedly de-risked the programme.
- The Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme faced several challenges including securing contractors, engaging owner-occupiers willing to consider new technologies and gaining access to homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. A request for an extension was unsuccessful so the programme has since been closed and the fund returned to government.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and a competitive job market led to challenges in filling new posts at Manchester Climate Change Agency. Recruitment has since been successful, and several key posts have been filled.
- COVID-19 has impacted on almost all aspects of delivering the Council's Climate Change Action Plan in 2020-21. Despite the challenges, significant progress has been possible in many areas, however, some delays will impact on when some carbon savings are realised. A review of when these savings are expected to be implemented is underway with the aim to ensure the Council remains on track with its targeted carbon savings and stays within the available carbon budget.
- Whilst accurate data is not yet available for the wider city's emissions (there is a lag in reporting from national government given the complexity of collating and assigning actual emissions to a local level), it is broadly understood that Manchester as a whole is not yet decarbonising at the required rate. The Council's action plan recognises the role that local government plays in enabling and influencing the city's residents and businesses to play their full part in achieving zero carbon, and will continue to work with partners across the city, city region and nationally, to support an increased level of activity to decarbonise in line with our science based targets.

Progress Report by Workstream:

Buildings and Energy (Workstream 1):

Action 1.1 Carbon Reduction in Council Estate

The Estates Carbon Reduction Programme is a large-scale programme of energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations. Phase 1 of the programme covers eleven buildings within the Council's estate and was due to be completed by March 2021; however, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a number of delays (including one building being converted into a vaccination centre) and so the work will now complete in 2021-22.

£6.3m capital investment.

£700k savings each year via reduced operating costs.

9-year payback period.

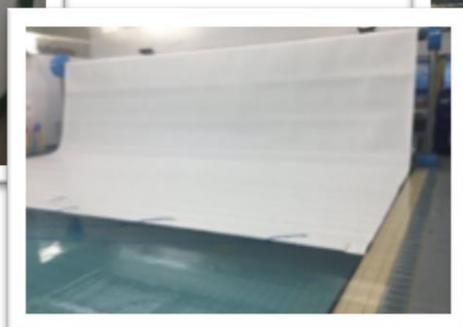
2.5MW of renewable energy generating capacity installed.

9,000 LED light fittings

1,300 tonnes of CO₂ savings pa

Building	Annual Savings (tCO ₂)
Wythenshawe Forum	297
Town Hall Extension	169
East Manchester Leisure Centre	101
The Sharp Project	295
Space Project	112
Hough End Leisure Centre	74
Arcadia Sports Centre	59
Moss Side Leisure Centre	23
North City Family and Fitness Centre	50
Belle Vue Sport Centre	123
Manchester Tennis and Football Centre	23
Total	1326

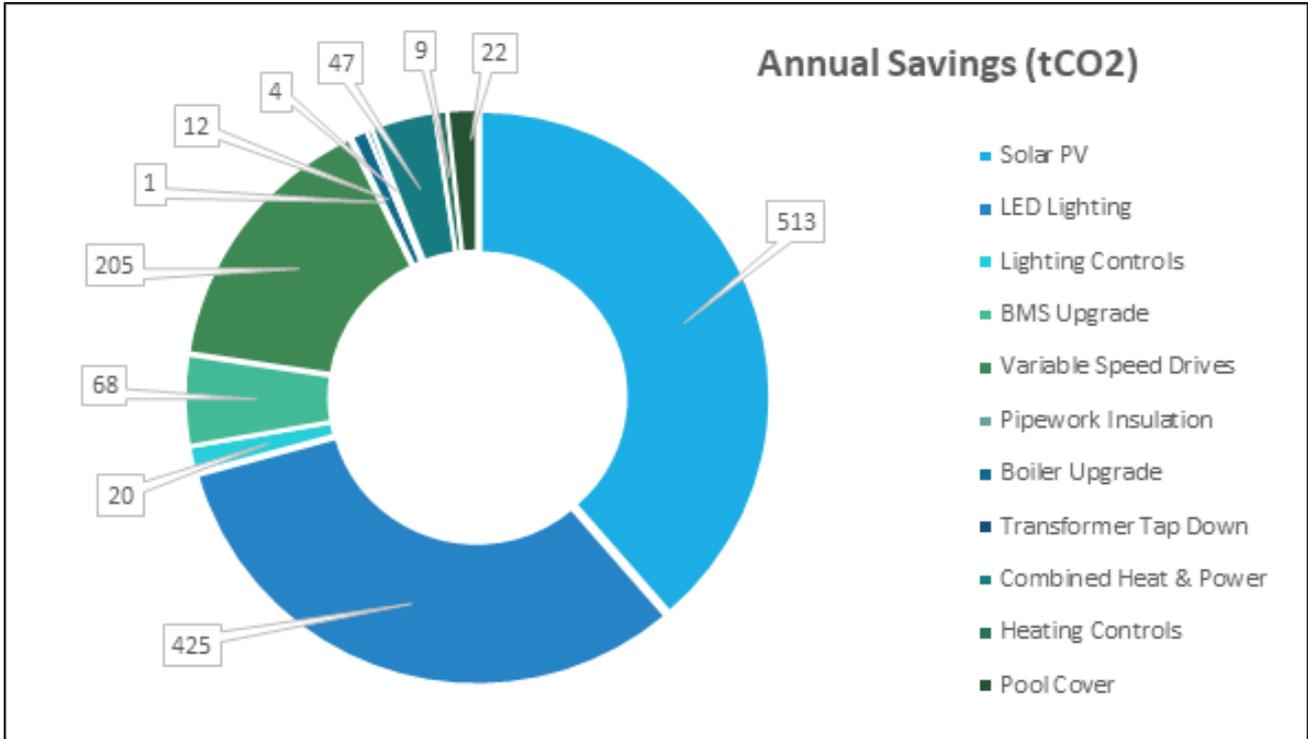
Following energy audits, a range of different measures are being installed across these buildings, including LED light fittings, building management systems, pipework insulation and a pool cover. Nine buildings are being equipped with renewable energy generation capacity installed via solar photovoltaics (PV) on their roofs. To date, measures implemented are saving 896 tonnes of CO₂ per year and, once complete, will save over 1,300 tonnes of CO₂



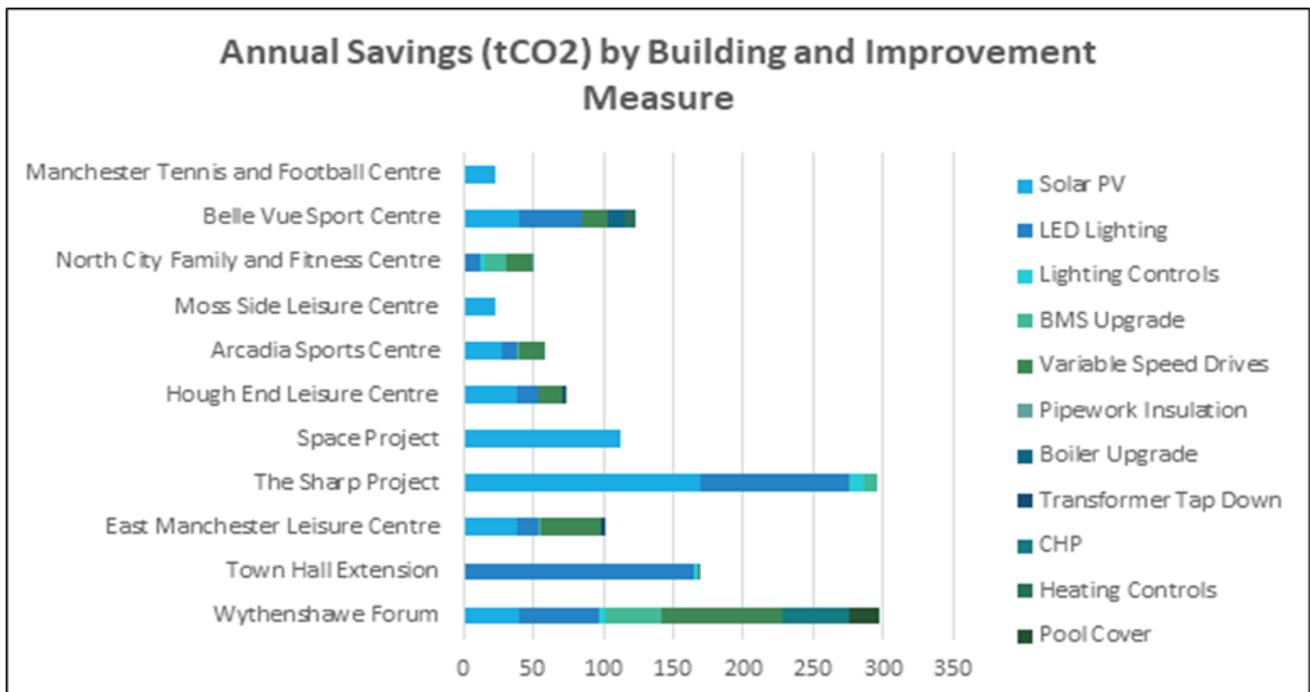
Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Annual Report 2020-21

The graph below shows the tonnes of CO₂ savings each type of improvement measure installed, or being installed, across the Council's estate is targeted generate each year. Solar PV and LED lighting are responsible for around two-thirds of the total annual carbon savings.



The graph below shows the distribution of energy saving technologies and potential carbon savings across the eleven buildings.



In March 2021, the Council secured **£19.1m** of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding, as part of a Greater Manchester consortium bid, to support additional work to the estate. Focused on decarbonising heat, the funding supports additional energy efficiency and renewable energy installations in 12 Council buildings, including the Aquatics Centre.

The work will complete by March 2022 and is targeting to save **1,800 tonnes of CO₂**.

A further **415 tonnes of CO₂** annual savings will be generated as part of a £5m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project, Unlocking Clean Energy in Greater Manchester. This is funding solar PV on roofs, solar car ports and battery storage at the National Cycling Centre (in 2021-22) and Hammerstone Road depot (in 2022-23). The works are part of a wider project which includes the Energy Systems Catapult developing innovative business models to support the rollout of renewable energy in the future.

At Gorton Library, the Council is piloting a novel heating and hot water technology with HydroZero - a UK company.

Traditional approaches to reducing or removing gas can be costly, requiring significant changes to a building's fabric and heat distribution system.

The pilot uses hydrogen and plasma to produce heat via an electrochemical reaction and has significant potential to provide a viable alternative to gas. A full years' worth of data will allow for monitoring of cost and carbon savings.



In the Old Town Hall, a **40%** energy reduction, and up to **25%** carbon saving (against 2009 usage), is being delivered as part of the major refurbishment programme. Re-occupation is due in 2024. The measures include:

- Insulating the roof and all heating pipework
- Removing and repairing windows to reduce air leakage
- Connecting to the CQHN and replacing the heating system
- Using natural ventilation to reduce cooling requirements
- Fitting LEDs throughout including heritage luminaires and external lighting
- Installing a new building management system with zone controls

Work continues seeking additional funding to support increased activity.

Action 1.2 Manchester Low Carbon Build Standard

To reduce the carbon impact of new-build developments and retrofit projects delivered by the Council, a Manchester Low Carbon Build Standard has been developed. It is aligned to best practice guidance from the Building Research Establishment and the Royal Institute of British Architects and was endorsed by the Manchester Climate Change Partnership in December 2020.

The new standard has been rolled out across the Council's Capital Programmes and metrics have been agreed for inclusion in future capital business cases from 2021. A process is being developed to ensure it stays current along with a programme of training for internal staff. The standard has been shared with external partners interested in driving forward sustainable construction including the North West Construction Hub Board and the National Association of Construction Frameworks.

Action 1.3 Building and Energy Strategy

The Building and Energy Strategy sets out the Council's approach to reducing carbon emissions across the operational estate, including the procurement of green energy, the generation of renewable energy, and infrastructure to support the wider take-up of electric vehicles. It informs the ongoing retrofit of the Council's estate to reduce carbon emissions. This action is being combined with the outcomes for Action 1.4.

Action 1.4 Large Scale Renewable Energy Generation

A feasibility study on the potential for large-scale renewable energy generation schemes, including solar PV, onshore or offshore wind, to support the Council's transition to zero carbon was delivered. The objective of the study was to identify options to save:

7,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year by 2025.

The study assesses options to deploy renewables at scale on Council buildings and land, on assets owned by third parties and via different business models. The key findings set out two main options: invest directly in a large-scale solar generation scheme or enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with an energy provider to purchase the energy directly from such a scheme. The financial risk and carbon impacts of each option are being considered in detail and will be shared with the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and Executive in 2021-22.

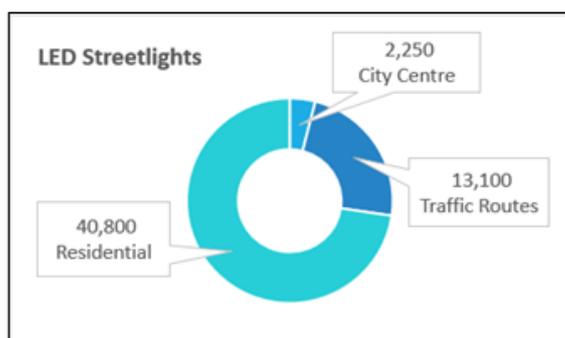
Action 1.5 LED Streetlights

In September 2020 a three-year programme to retrofit Manchester's streetlights with LEDs was completed.

56,000 lamps replaced

70% less energy consumed

5,000 tonnes of CO₂ saved



Action 1.6 Civic Quarter Heat Network

The Civic Quarter Heat Network will initially serve seven city centre buildings with the potential to connect more in the future.

The **£24m** project includes a 3.3MW Combined Heat & Power (CHP) unit which will initially run on gas, a proportion of which will be 'green gas' with the potential to introduce hydrogen into the mix in future to further reduce carbon emissions.

2km of district heating transmission network has been installed (pipes, power and communication cables). The network has an expected operational life in excess of 50 years.

The Tower of Light is complete and in-building final connections for heat and power were carried out in February and March 2021.

There have been some delays due to COVID-19, including the use of the Manchester Convention Centre as the Nightingale Centre. Commissioning of the energy centre (the centralised boiler plant) is in progress and energy generation will start in February 2022.



Action 1.7 Housing Stock Condition Survey

Using the Northwards Housing Zero Carbon Study Report, published by Savills, an estimate has been calculated for the average cost of low carbon retrofits to social housing (£25,600 per dwelling). These figures were extrapolated to estimate the cost of retrofitting owner-occupier and private-rented sector housing; this figure is estimated between £16,000 and £39,000 per dwelling. Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) also carried out a detailed study of housing stock condition across Greater Manchester. Both these findings will be incorporated into future planning.

Action 1.8 Energy Efficient Housing

The Social Housing Demonstrator Fund and One Manchester will provide **£7.8m** to retrofit in the region of **156** hard-to-treat concrete construction homes at Grey Mare Lane, Beswick. **96** dwellings in the social-rented sector are scheduled for a full retrofit and around 60 private dwellings will receive a partial retrofit to deliver consistent "kerb appeal". The indications for a 2-bed end terrace are an increase in the EPC rating from E to C and a reduction in energy costs from £1,529 to £838.

The Council is developing 2 new-build schemes: **77** dwellings at Russell Road (the site of Spire Hospital) in Whalley Range will be BREEAM 'very good' as a minimum, and **68** dwellings at Silk Street in Newton Heath will include measures such as ground source heat pumps, air source heat pumps, green roofs, green walls and electrical vehicle charging.

£500k funding was secured from the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme Phase 1a, with ambition to use the grant to improve 42 dwellings with an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D or below. Due to significant challenges in delivery, e.g. securing contractors, engaging owner-occupiers willing to consider new technologies and gaining access to homes during a pandemic, and national government not allowing an extension to provide more time to resolve these challenges, the programme has been closed and the £500k funding returned.

Action 1.9 Energy Efficiency in Commercial and Non-Domestic Buildings

One of the ways in which the Council is using its direct influence to support external partner organisations is by ensuring that the benefits of transitioning to zero carbon are clearly outlined in the provision of loan funding and the commissioning of services.

For example, the Council supported the Learning, Training, Employment (LTE) Group and Manchester College with a loan towards the delivery of their carbon reduction estate strategies. Several design features have been implemented to reduce carbon emissions including the application

of BREEAM standards to achieve an 'Excellent' rating, an EPC rating of A and the reduction of operational costs through sustainable design.

Similarly, where senior Council leaders have roles as directors on various boards and partnerships, influence is used to ensure that investment decisions and development of strategies are aligned to the Council's Climate Change Action Plan and the Manchester Climate Change Framework.

Action 1.10 A Local Energy Plan for Manchester

The Greater Manchester Local Energy Plan project is a 2-year project designed to develop Local Area Energy Master Plans identifying potential locations for energy assets and to support energy innovation.

£6m Innovate UK grant was secured by GMCA and includes specialist expertise from the Energy Systems Catapult. Manchester City Council is one of 11 partners and a draft plan for Manchester is expected before the end of 2021.



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LOCAL ENERGY
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DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Action 1.11 Leasing or Disposing of Council Land and Buildings

The Council's Development Team is creating a way to assess the carbon impact of land and asset disposal. It is looking at the impact of asset disposal on a wide range of related issues, e.g. capital receipts, achieving best value, links to the delivery of other policies, and the impact on procurement and state aid. It will look at thresholds for transactions, the skills and resource needed and ways to measure impact.

Action 1.12 A New Manchester Local Plan

Consultations on key issues in the new Local Plan for Manchester took place during 2020 and included the target to achieve a zero carbon Manchester by 2038. Feedback from individuals, businesses and other organisations confirmed zero carbon is an important issue.

The next stage will be to develop a draft and include key policy options with a preferred policy approach. The current Core Strategy (Manchester's adopted Local Plan) includes a suite of policies (EN4 to EN8) that guide development towards zero carbon. The task is to consider where these policies need to be revised in the light of new evidence and understanding of the pace of change needed to meet the CCAP targets.

- Policy EN4 - Reducing CO₂ Emissions by Enabling Low and Zero Carbon Development
- Policy EN5 - Strategic Areas for low and zero carbon decentralised energy infrastructure
- Policy EN6 - Target Framework for CO₂ reductions from low or zero carbon energy supplies
- Policy EN7 - Energy Infrastructure opportunities
- Policy EN8 - Adaptation to Climate Change

Action 1.13 Partnership Work with Experts on Buildings

Numerous actions have been taking place to develop partnership working with local and national experts. In October 2020, a 'partnership mapping' exercise took place within the Council's City Policy and Corporate Estates teams.

The Council continues to contribute to, and drawn expertise from, the North West Construction Hub, the National Association of Construction Frameworks and the Cambridge Centre for Smart Innovation and Construction, along with Highways England and the Environment Agency.

Capital Programmes are working with Wilmot Dixon to identify key performance indicators to be used by all framework contractors as part of a national trial. The Manchester Low Carbon Build Standard has been shared with the Core Cities Low Carbon group and further discussions are planned to support development of a Greater Manchester Low Carbon Standard for buildings.

Travel and Transport (Workstream 2):

Action 2.1 Decarbonise Waste Collection

The Council has made a **£9.8m** investment into decarbonising its waste collection and improving air quality by purchasing:

27 electric refuse collection vehicles from a North West company to replace **50%** of the waste fleet.

The first vehicles arrived in March 2021 but the schedule for further receipts has been delayed due to manufacturing issues resulting from COVID-19 so full operation will be the end of 2021.



Once operational, these trucks will save **900 tonnes of CO₂ per year**

In readiness for their arrival, electrical charging infrastructure has been installed at Hooper Street and Longley Lane depots. Technical issues resulted in delays at Hammerstone Road but these have been resolved.

A competition was held to name the vehicles with over 600 entries. The winning names were Sparkus Trashford, Usain Volt, Trashiena, Bin Diesel and Binspiral Carpets.

This video shows one of the trucks: <https://vimeo.com/tinkertaylor/review/514214729/32016bf284>

Action 2.2 Decarbonise Operational Fleet

The Council's operational fleet is made up of ~ 225 vehicles. Work began several years ago to move away from traditional fuels. Of the current fleet, 20 have EV equivalents and can be changed

(numbers fluctuate as leases expire/renew). Up to the end of 2020-21, 16 diesel vans and four cars (1 electric and 3 hybrid) have been replaced.

Charging infrastructure was installed at Hooper Street depot for use by the Council's facilities teams and security contractors, Engie and Mitie in June 2020. Further analysis is underway to assess the potential for more charging infrastructure.



Action 2.3 Sustainable Travel Policy

The sustainable travel policy is an opportunity to build on some of the positive changes to behaviour which have emerged during 2020. This includes promoting cycling, walking and public transport, and reducing the need to travel by using technology, for example video conferencing. The policy will link to the Council's Future Ways of Working initiative. Work on the policy has been delayed as a result of

HROD staff supporting the COVID-19 response. A responsible officer was appointed in February 2021, with an April start date. The policy is scheduled to be adopted in September 2021.

Action 2.4 Walking and Cycling

£13.4m from the Greater Manchester Mayor's Challenge Fund supported delivery of the Chorlton to Manchester city centre cycle route, which includes the UK's first 'Cycle Optimised Protected Signals' or CYCLOPS junction at Royce Road, Hulme, which opened in July 2020 and won a Brake's Vision Zero Leaders Local Roads Innovation Award 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQOVwUzJoto&feature=youtu.be>



The Princess Road and Medlock Street roundabout was the first of the Mayor's Challenge Fund's walking and cycling route schemes to be completed. It creates a safer environment for both cyclists and pedestrians.

Also from the Greater Manchester Mayor's Challenge Fund:

£11.5m is being invested in the **Northern Quarter Cycleway** to create a walking and cycling route from Manchester Piccadilly Station to Victoria Station.

£774k of funding for a neighbourhood's trial in **Levenshulme** and **Burnage** to reduce the number of vehicle journeys and improve air quality. A six-month trial began in January 2021 creating filters, such as planters and other infrastructure, to reduce traffic whilst still maintaining essential access. The intention is to encourage people to walk and cycle for their local journeys.

£5.5m of funding from the Government Active Travel Fund will be invested into two projects which promote sustainable forms of transport and prioritise walking, wheelchair access and all forms of cycling.

£4m of which will fund the **City Centre Triangle** to improve cycling and walking links between the city centre's three main train stations; Deansgate, Piccadilly and Victoria.

£1.5m will fund cycling and walking improvements between **Wythenshawe** town centre, Wythenshawe Hospital and the city centre.

In **Harpurhey**, proposals have been brought forward for 11 new or improved road crossings to make active travel into the centre of Harpurhey by bike or on foot safer and more convenient. A consultation was carried out in October 2020 to ensure local residents had the opportunity to give their views.

Action 2.5 Strategic Transport Infrastructure

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority has formally adopted the Greater Manchester 2040 strategy and five-year delivery plan (2021-2026).

The strategy will support Manchester modal shift to more sustainable transport, with a 'Right-Mix' vision for all journeys in Greater Manchester to be made by walking, cycling and public transport by 2040.

Action 2.6 City Centre Transport Strategy

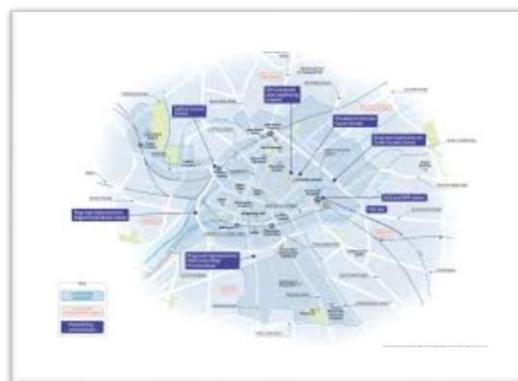
The draft City Centre Transport Strategy has been developed in partnership with TfGM and Salford City Council.

It outlines plans for future city centre transport and builds on input from residents, commuters, businesses, visitors, transport operators and other stakeholders through to 2040. The strategy reflects both existing transport

challenges and future aspirations and includes ambitious plans for the city centre to

improve air quality, increase the amount of quality public space and prioritise walking, cycling and public transport. The headline target is for 90% of morning peak trips to the city centre to be by public transport and active travel by 2040.

The proposals are grouped thematically: Our Bus, Our Metrolink, Our Rail, Our Streets and Our Integrated Network. The strategy includes a commitment to build on the street closures instigated during COVID-19.



Action 2.7 Aviation Emissions

Manchester Airport Group has joined Manchester Climate Change Partnership as a formal partner. The plan is for 6-monthly senior-level meetings to progress the aviation actions in the Climate Change Framework. Manchester Airport Group are also a member of UK Government Jet Zero Council, a partnership between industry and government to drive the delivery of new technologies and innovative ways to address aviation emissions.

Action 2.8 Sustainable Travel Incentives

Travelling to work has been significantly affected by COVID-19 for many Council officers. Increasing the number of staff that travel to work by sustainable modes of transport remains a priority and is being reviewed in conjunction with the development of a Sustainable Travel Policy (Action 2.3).

A range of incentives and support is being considered, including salary sacrifice schemes for bus, tram and rail tickets. Positive behaviour changes that have been instigated and reducing the need to travel, e.g. using video conferencing as an alternative to travel, are also being considered.

The Cycle to Work scheme received 177 applications, 166 of which were redeemed by the end of March 2021.

Reducing Consumption-based Emissions (Workstream 3):

Action 3.1 Sustainable Procurement

In 2020, the Council became the first local authority to trial the inclusion of an additional **10% environmental weighting** within procurement to help reduce the carbon footprint of our consumption-based emissions.

Five procurement exercises covering highways and external advertising were included in the trial (some of these were for framework contracts involving multiple suppliers). **£22m** is the estimated total annual value of these contracts. Examples of the positive environmental behaviours elicited by the additional 10% weighting include successful bidders:

- Setting carbon reduction targets for their organisation, including working to be net zero carbon by 2030
- Monitoring the carbon emissions related to delivery of the contracted service, using credible tools such as the Carbon Trust's SME emissions tool
- Reducing carbon emissions from highways surface treatment by 10% per year between 2020-22

In March 2021, the roll out of the environmental weighting was approved by Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee and Executive.

Opportunities continue to be identified for testing the 10% environmental weighting within new tenders such as the recent contract for the maintenance of Northwards Housing. The winning bidder demonstrated it had a raft of environmental and carbon reduction measures already in place and also made further commitments for the contract, including:

- to deliver year-on-year reductions in carbon emissions
- to recycle at least 90% of waste
- to not use diesel vehicles for the contract
- and to support households in fuel poverty

Action 3.2 Tyndall Centre Report

The work outlined above in Action 3.1 will support an extension of this activity to reduce the Council's indirect emissions and work is currently underway to estimate the carbon impact of different categories of procurement to support a prioritised approach to updating specifications, evaluation questions and monitoring.

Within the existing social value protocols, the environmental questions have been updated to reflect the findings of the Tyndall Centre report on consumption-based emissions.

The Carbon Literacy training, which draws on the Tyndall Centre and related research, has been delivered to the Council's Integrated Commissioning and Procurement team to help them implement improvements to drive down indirect emissions.

Action 3.3 Single Use Plastics (MCC Operational Estates & Markets)

The Council has committed to be **Single Use Plastic free by 2024** in line with the Plastic Free Greater Manchester Pledge. In support of this, Operational Estates have implemented the following changes across the estate including the cafes in City and Central Libraries:

- Issuing paper straws rather than plastic
- Issuing corn starch cutlery instead of plastic
- Using biodegradable card serving boxes for food
- Ensuring all cleaning chemicals are cradle to grave sustainable products
- Refilling workstation cleaning sprays from concentrate
- Avoiding plastic wrapping on products from cleaning material suppliers

Whilst the majority of **Manchester Markets** were closed due to COVID-19, work has been underway to review contractual arrangements to help eliminate single use plastics and to improve efficiencies around refuse collection across the city centre sites to increase recycling rates and reduce general waste.

Options are now being explored to see what energy efficiency measures can be considered to improve the efficiencies of the pop-up markets and events in the city centre.

Additional positive environmental impacts have been delivered via procurement of the **new Christmas decorations**. Bidders were specifically asked in the invitation to tender to describe how they would contribute to reducing carbon emissions.

The winning bidder stated it had reduced its carbon footprint by 40% in the prior 5 years. Their lights are LEDs and their motifs used in street decorations are 100% recyclable, derived from sugar cane and recycled aluminium. At the end of their usable life these motifs are returned to the manufacturing plant where 70% is composted and 30% recycled.



Action 3.4 Citywide Supplier Toolkit

The Council are updating existing toolkits for suppliers to support the adoption of an additional 10% environmental weighting in procurement (see action 3.1). These toolkits will include guidance for suppliers on improving their environmental performance to help drive positive action through supply chains and will feed into the rest of the work described here.

As a member of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP), the Council is working with key local stakeholders to develop a shared approach to procurement and commissioning across the city that focuses on tackling climate change.

Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester are researching the evidence base for a shared citywide Supplier Toolkit to help drive reductions in the carbon footprint of supply chains via sustainable procurement and commissioning. There is an agreement amongst MCCP that any toolkit needs to be usable by SME's as well as large organisations, therefore the Manchester Climate Change Agency have approached around 60 companies across a range of sectors to recruit volunteers for an initial pilot and consultation.

Action 3.5 Single Use Plastics (licensing and events)

In partnership with Julie's Bicycle, the Council has produced a range of **Sustainable Events Guides** for council run events as well as events organised by third parties that are held on Council land. The guides are available on the council's website for use by event organisers, suppliers, service providers and venues, and include commitments to reduce and eliminate the use of Single Use Plastics.

The guides were launched as part of an EU-funded URBACT C-Change project on tackling climate change within the culture sector. The event was attended by Manchester Climate Change Partnership, Manchester Arts & Sustainability Team and international project partners from Mantova, Sibenik, Wroclaw, Agueda and Gelsenkirchen - the guides have since been translated into two languages (Italian & Croatian) by these partners.

Two Council events were delivered in line with the new guide in 2019, prior to publication and before COVID-19 restrictions halted all event activity in March 2020.

- The Manchester Day in 2019 featured a unique parade where everything was pushed, pulled, cycled or wheeled (except for a GM Fire & Rescue vehicle) and a large proportion of content was made from recycled and up-cycled materials. This event gained 4 stars in the externally verified Creative Green certification.
- The Festival of Manchester in 2019, held in Platt Fields Park, made water available to attendees via mains and a bowser to help reduce the sale of plastic water bottles and 15 food traders committed to using single-use plastic free cutlery and containers.

The learning from these events will be shared across event partners as part of roll out of the Sustainable Event Guides, which is now expected in 2021-22 in line with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

As all events were cancelled from March 2020 to late Summer 2021 due to COVID-19, work has focused on gathering data on single use plastics within events. **£7k** of funding was made available through the URBACT C-Change Project to support the Council's Events Team to quantify the positive environmental impacts of measures to eliminate Single Use Plastics and to identify further potential to expand this good practice in future activities. The outcome of this report will be review and apply learnings to the 2021-22 event programme and disseminate to event partners.

Across **Manchester Markets**, changes have been introduced to influence traders.

74 traders across the Arndale and Church Street Markets, as well as the additional traders at our Specialist and Pop-up Markets have committed to use consumables that are 100% recyclable, 100% compostable, 100% biodegradable & disposable.

The Council's Markets team have also made changes to the trader application process by adding an environmental section which includes sourcing of supplies, food miles and the trader recycling policy. This data is included as part of the application scoring system. The Markets team are now working through the challenges of policing contracts and supporting traders to live up to these commitments.

21 caterers operating across the City's parks have also committed to reduce and eliminate single use plastics as part of their licensing agreements. As with markets, work is underway to monitor these commitments.

Action 3.6 A Sustainable Food System

The Manchester Food Board have drafted a Food Policy Statement and Manchester Food Recovery Action Plan to support the creation of a resilient food system.

One of the Recovery Objectives is to: **Reduce environmental impacts throughout the food system with a focus on food waste and a shift to more ecological practices.**

Legacy work is underway which builds on the food response during COVID-19. Safe food donations information is now live on the Council's website.

Climate Change Adaptation and Carbon Sequestration (Workstream 4):

Action 4.1 Manchester Tree Action Plan

A new **£1m** 3-year programme of city-wide tree planting was launched this year, based on the tree planting work over the last thirteen years where over 100,000 have been planted.

Council Tree Planting (October 2020 – May 2021 Planting Season):

1,007 Trees planted

1,175 Small Hedge trees planted

4 Community Orchards planted

128 Residents engaged within the planting programme

Across all partners, over 4,280 trees, 275 metres of new hedgerows and 5 orchards have been planted this season (October 2020 – May 2021).

This includes an avenue of mature trees planted to help create Great Ancoats Boulevard; with 62 trees planted in total.

33 cherry trees were planted to create a feature avenue in Old Moat; this was done on the back of a consultation and with the support of local residents, a nearby primary school and ward councillors. Planting took place across other wards and within Manchester's parks and cemeteries.

Council officers have engaged with members, residents and other stakeholders delivering tree planting projects across 10 wards. Through successful neighbourhood engagement with residents on Brunswick Road and Burlington Road in Withington, residents selected their own tree types and suggested locations for planting. These residents have also made a commitment to help look after their trees by maintaining them and watering during periods of dry weather.



Action 4.2 Embedding Nature Based Solutions

Work to embed nature-based solutions (NBS) for flood resilience in open spaces, highways and new developments across the city continued in 2020.

GrowGreen, an EU-funded Horizon 2020 project which has delivered NBS demonstration projects in Manchester, Valencia and Wroclaw. Alongside these practical schemes, Universities in the three cities are developing performance indicators to monitor the physical and social benefits which the demonstrators bring. In Manchester, the University of Manchester have begun monitoring the impact of the West Gorton Community Park.



The West Gorton Community Park is a £1.4m, 14,000 sq. metre “sponge” park funded by GrowGreen which opened in **July 2020**. This is a new, accessible, multi-functional neighbourhood green space designed to help the climate resilience of the local area. It follows “sponge principles”, incorporating sustainable urban drainage to allow rainwater run-off from nearby roads to be channelled and filtered through natural drainage systems, slowing and reducing the flow into the normal drainage system.

The development of the community park included working and consulting with the local community in West Gorton to ensure local ideas could be incorporated into the final design. It has also provided a real-life experience of the procurement and installation process of such NBS features and provides a showcase location which can demonstrate NBS’s in use and the potential wider business cases for future financing of such developments.



The flood alleviation measures in West Gorton Community Park were tested by **Storm Christoph** in **January 2021** and proved effective at channelling roadside and storm water through the park using the swales and rain-gardens, feeding the landscape and creating temporary water features.



Through the GrowGreen project, **£20k** is available to procure a partner to work with the West Gorton community to setup a **‘Friends of group** for the ‘Sponge Park’.

Video link: [Seeing is Believing: West Gorton Community Park](#)

Manchester River Valley Strategy – procured from our EU Horizon 2020 funded GrowGreen project. The Environment Partnership (TEP) are developing a River Valley Strategy for the city’s three main rivers (Irk, Mersey, Medlock), providing further evidence to the main Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy, on the value of the city’s rivers and their tributaries (both as a flood resilience asset, but also the many co-benefits), and to consider how best they could be retained or improved.

Mayfield Park – the city’s first new park in over 100 years. Consent for phase one of the scheme was granted in February 2020 for the creation of the 6.5 acre park.

In August 2020 Mayfield secured **£23m** in grant funding from the Government’s ‘Getting Building’ Fund. Construction commenced in December 2020.

Mayfield is a 24-acre brownfield site with the River Medlock and green infrastructure improvements central to its delivery; it is designed as a ‘floodable park’, bringing citizens closer to the river.



Northern Gateway – In partnership with Far East Consortium, the Council have set the ambition for world class green spaces throughout the development, with seven ‘new’ green spaces including a City River Park and a viaduct development. Challenges exist around capital and ongoing maintenance finance and governance models. With

assistance from GMCA, around **£30k** of technical assistance has been secured to look at different business models for ongoing governance and maintenance models.

A Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office event was **hosted by Manchester** in February 2020 showcasing Manchester’s nature-based solutions projects, including the West Gorton Community Park, the Mayfield development and the Northern Gateway development.

GMCA Ignition Project – Is a £4.4m collaboration project led by GMCA bringing together 12 GM-based partners including Manchester City Council, United Utilities and the Environment Agency. Activities of the project include mapping the ‘baseline’ of Green Infrastructure in Greater Manchester; mapping the overlay of flood risk across GM in order to model the effects of Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions to mitigate this risk; and exploring potential business models for parks. Within the project, City of Trees working with the Council have secured an additional allocation of

£20k to provide further detail around a business case for installing exemplar Sustainable Urban Drainage on **Edge St** in the Northern Quarter. The We Love Manchester charity have also provided additional funding in collaboration with **Groundwork’s ‘Eco Streets’** Ignition work to improve two small ‘unloved’ patches of the city at ‘Pigeon Park’ in Longsight and Pioneer Quay, Castlefield.

Action 4.3 Tree Opportunity Mapping

In August 2020, the Council committed **£50k** and commissioned **City of Trees and TEP** to deliver a piece of work ‘**Evolution of Treescape**’, which will help provide a better understanding of the cities tree resource and identify further opportunities for planting and management.

The ‘i-Trees’ assessment of Manchester’s tree stock aims to demonstrate the value of our existing **1.2m** trees to carbon storage, sequestration, climate resilience, air quality and many other benefits. An initial draft of the report is being refined which focuses on the following:

- A retrospective look at the composition, change and evolution of the City’s treescape over the last 100 years
- A sustainable and innovative plan for managing the City’s existing tree resource
- Ward specific opportunity maps indicating priorities for new tree planting, including species suitability options
- The means to identify ward specific location for new Beacon Trees (mature) tree planting

Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Annual Report 2020-21

This work provides the context within which opportunities for tree planting can be assessed going forward, allowing reasoned decisions to be made regarding appropriate places to plant individual trees and woodland and it will be used to inform the ongoing active tree planting programme.

A **mapping tool** for Beacon trees has also been designed by TEP, this has a range of potential uses by the Council and partners including interactive engagement and consultation for local tree planting.

To manage this work internally, the Council committed a further **£45k** to create a 2-year part-time post, which commenced in February 2021.

Action 4.4 Maximising Council Contribution to City of Trees

The aforementioned £1m programme, delivering significant levels of tree planting on Council owned land, represents the Council's contribution to the citywide effort by City of Trees to increase the number of trees in Manchester.

The aim is to plant the right species of trees in the right location to achieve maximum benefits for climate adaptation, carbon storage and sequestration. The key consideration is to find sites capable of accommodating larger trees that will create long lasting impact, provide local benefits and will be capable of surviving into old age.

Catalysing Change (Workstream 5):

Action 5.1 Carbon Literacy

Carbon Literacy training paused in Spring 2020 as COVID-19 restrictions prevented the face-to-face element of the training from taking place. An online package was developed and accredited to enable training to continue throughout the pandemic.

Carbon Literacy training continues to be delivered virtually and our achievements are below.

1064 Total Current People Trained and Certified

364 MCC Employees Certified in 2020-21

15% Workforce Trained and Certified

Silver Accreditation as a Carbon Literate Organisation



The aim is to achieve **Gold Accreditation** by **2025**.

Action 5.2 Environmental Weighting in Procurement

This action is to roll out the additional 10% environmental weighting - see action 3.1.

Action 5.3 Embedding Carbon in Decision-Making

Zero carbon has been recognised as a council priority and has been included within the **Our Manchester Strategy** reset and the council's **Corporate Plan**. Other examples include;

Manchester Digital Strategy which includes a section on "Sustainable Resilience: digital innovation supporting zero carbon goals and inclusive connectivity". Consultation on this new strategy closed in March 2021.

The **Capital Gateway** business case criteria is kept under review so that it can be altered and adapted as the Council's priorities develop. The business cases requesting capital investment are

now required to include a carbon measure, both for during the project progression stage and the ongoing lifecycle post-completion. The intention is that the carbon footprint of a scheme is considered as part of the decision-making process. This work is ongoing and will reflect the decisions taken by the Council on how it will meet the future carbon reduction targets in order to become carbon neutral by 2038.

A **Manchester Build Standard** (see action 1.2) will be applied to all new build and refurbishment projects to reduce carbon emissions. This standard is intended to enable colleagues to draw out several metrics for inclusion within business cases and therefore seek to ensure that the carbon impact of capital decisions is transparent and fully understood. Work is ongoing to draw out the benefits committed within individual project business cases, commencing with projects which have achieved approval to spend since 1st April 2018 and which were procured through the North West Construction Hub.

The Council has worked with partners including the Manchester Climate Change Partnership to develop an **Economic Recovery and Investment Plan** in response to the COVID-19. The plan sets out Manchester's commitment to a green, zero-carbon and climate-resilient recovery.

It proposes a programme of **£289.4m** that will support our zero-carbon ambition.

The Council continues to embed the city's zero carbon objectives into **Strategic Regeneration Frameworks** for those areas of the city which are being redeveloped, such as;

- Wythenshawe Hospital Campus Strategic Regeneration Framework March 2020
- St Mary's Parsonage - Strategic Regeneration Framework July 2020
- NOMA Strategic Regeneration Framework Update 2020
- Refresh of the Ancoats and New Islington Neighbourhood Development Framework – Poland Street Zone July 2020
- First Street Development Framework Addendum 2020 July 2020
- Draft North Manchester Health Campus Strategic Regeneration Framework November 2020.

Discussions around including climate change into the **grants for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and Cultural organisations** have begun well in advance of the next funding round so that appropriate and tailored solutions can be developed.

Meetings with key environmental stakeholders in the culture sector have been facilitated by the EU-funded URBACT C-Change project and a range of tools and training courses are being developed to support culture organisations of all sizes, with over **£33k** dedicated budget for capacity building.

Action 5.4 Community Engagement

The Council's Neighbourhoods team have been working with residents across all **32 Wards** to embed climate action into Ward Plans. Where possible, public events have been held to engage with residents and local stakeholders.



Over **300 residents** attended these events, with others participating online. Many more residents have become involved with action-focused events such as tree planting or consultations on specific issues of concern.

Examples of these actions include developing local campaigns to encourage change including improved walking routes, increase recycling, reduce illegal parking, more biodiversity and meat free days.

COVID-19 significantly impacted on the progress of the climate plans, Government restrictions have prevented communities meeting in groups and most volunteering opportunities have reduced. Effective engagement during the pandemic is a challenge, which is recognised across many wards.

Recruitment of **3** new **Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers** got underway (one for each of the three area teams, North, South and Central), these roles will provide additional capacity on this agenda and work closely with other colleagues in the teams.

Despite these challenges, **£52,000** of Neighbourhood Investment Fund has been directed towards **41 climate action projects** as part of 2020-21 programme. Examples of these include:

- Friends of Fletcher Moss and Parsonage Gardens planting a "green screen" outside Beaver Road School and Barlow Medical Centre on Wilmslow Road to combat pollutants caused by traffic.
- Two advanced compost stations installed on both sides of Ladybarn Park to create better recycling and composting facilities. Sessions with local schools held to teach children the importance of composting.
- Gardening Group funding for Harpurhey to increase food growing by developing a garden to benefit health, encourage greening, combat climate change and initiate enterprise. Sow the City helped the gardening group to build raised beds and compost bays on site and provided growing and composting workshops. The produce will be used at the onsite Community Grocer and Community Café.



The Neighbourhood teams have also worked with local partners and residents to organise Clean Air activities and continue to work with schools on the Junior Police Community Support Officers and anti-idling campaigns.

Reducing the amount of traffic, particularly for short journeys and drop-offs at school, remains a major concern in all wards.



Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Annual Report 2020-21

In January 2020 the Council organised the second **Youth Climate Change Action Summit**, which was held at Manchester Central Convention Complex.

It gave pupils aged 9-14 years the chance to explore what they can do to help the City to meet its ambitious, science-based target to become zero-carbon by 2038 at the latest.



348 attendees

49 schools participated

65% of primary schools and

35% secondary schools sent delegates

Over the Summer of 2020 the **Manchester Youth Council (MYC)** trialled the Kloodle app which includes a section on the environment to embed it into young people's learning and achievement online record.

20 young people used the app and 50 young people trialled the MYC Climate Wheel and Skills to Save the Planet during 2020.

In September 2020, Manchester Youth Council won the North West Youth Focus - Most Committed to Saving the Planet Award.

In November 2020, a Youth Climate Summit was organised by teachers across the UK and facilitated by Transform Our World; it was timed to coincide with the time when our world leaders were due to meet to discuss climate change and the ecological crisis at COP26. This collaborative youth summit brought together young people from schools, organisations and youth groups to show that climate change is still a priority.

Engagement in the run up to the event consisted of a logo competition and an open invite to help shape the programme and volunteer. Manchester Youth Council presented a 20-minute film to promote their Climate Wheel and Climate Charter.

The **MYC Climate Wheel and Charter** will be launched in June 2021, when educational resource pack are distributed to schools to encourage them to create climate champions across Manchester.

A former **Manchester Youth Parliament** member has been selected by the BBC to become a climate reporter for Manchester, posting positive messages to encourage young people to tackle climate change.

As the key funder of the **Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA)**, and a member of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership, the Council is also supporting the establishment of a citywide programme of community engagement activities 'In Our Nature' to build local capacity to take positive climate action.

The Council, MCCA, Hubbub, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, Amity and the University of Manchester have successfully collaborated on a development bid to the National Lottery Climate



Action Fund and awarded **£206k** of funding to focus on several of the city's communities, building on the work which has already been undertaken by the Council's Neighbourhoods teams and working with the three new Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers.

An additional **£480k** has been secured from a range of funders to support the communications and campaign element of this programme which will work with a number of the communities on specific projects and will be led by Hubbub.

£417k of funding has also been secured from the Arts & Humanities Research Council for a project on climate resilience using arts in partnership with the University of Manchester and is being developed alongside the Council's Neighbourhood's team in Miles Platting and Newton Heath. This 2-year project will work with the local communities to better understand how local policies and action plans can increase and support climate resilience and enable people to act on climate change.

Action 5.5 Citywide Communications Campaign

During August and September 2019, research was conducted by the Council's Communications team to explore the attitudes, perceptions and behaviours of Manchester residents on climate change.

Phase 1 was face-to-face quantitative research with more than 1,100 residents representing a balance of age, gender, ethnicity and geography. Phase 2 was more qualitative research gathered from 3 focus groups, each attended by approximately 50 people.

Together, these sessions helped to deliver insights on the views of Manchester residents towards climate change and what messaging would work to promote greater uptake of positive climate action across the City.

These insights were fed into the development of the **"Leaving Carbon Behind"** campaign which launched in July 2020.

Its aim is to raise awareness of the climate emergency and promote positive behaviour change amongst Manchester's residents, workers, businesses and visitors.

Social media has been a key channel for the campaign as well as **advertising channels** including:

- Manchester Evening News, print and digital advertising
- Outdoor digital screens
- Outdoor adverts in local areas (wards were selected based on demographic makeup)
- Bus advertising (external bus adverts on the rear and side panels of buses) on key routes across the city

A new webpage has also been developed:

<https://www.manchesterclimate.com/zerocarbon/>

A range of press releases have been produced throughout 2020-21, see Press Coverage section below for examples.

Action 5.6 Funding Manchester Climate Change Agency

Additional capacity for the Manchester Climate Change Agency is being put in place and the new structure and posts have been approved by the Council's Personnel Committee. A temporary Director is currently in post with a new permanent Director taking up post in Autumn 2021, whilst the Programme and Finance Officer and Youth Climate Champion vacancies have been filled. Recruitment has also commenced for a Policy and Strategy Lead. A 12-month funding plan is in place for a Residents and Communities Lead.



Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Annual Report 2020-21

A task-and-finish sub-group has been convened to ensure the new organisational and governance structures are fit for purpose.

A priority for the new Director will be to ensure that the organisation can become financially sustainable over the next 2 years and to expand the Partnership to include a wider range of stakeholders who can collectively contribute towards the climate change objectives and targets for the city.

The overarching aim is for the Agency and Partnership to be the key drivers in making Manchester one of the first zero carbon, climate resilient cities in the world; providing a healthy, green and socially-just city where everyone can thrive.

Action 5.7 Influencing Manchester Stakeholders

Manchester was amongst the first cohort of participating cities signing up to the **City Business Climate Alliance**. All these cities have a mayoral mandate to develop local city-business collaboration platforms with the aim to convene, set joint commitments, co-create and eventually implement projects that help cities deliver on their Climate Action Plans in line with the Paris Agreement.

The project kicked off in March 2021 with a virtual workshop involving large companies and business-membership organisations based in the city. The event was attended by the Manchester Climate Change Agency. Through this project the Manchester Climate Change Partnership plan to recruit additional members to increase influence over citywide emissions.

The Council supported the Oxford Road Corridor to establish a Zero Carbon sub-group chaired by Chris Oglesby and with a bid to ICLEI to fund a multi-system energy model. The Council also supported Corridor partners with the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme bid as outlined in Workstream 1.



Meetings have taken place with the GMCA Director of Place, CADENT, Electricity North West and Stockport Council about the GM Decarbonisation Pathway and the opportunities to accelerate action and, as a member of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership, has supported discussions on “Green Recovery” to contribute to the Our Manchester Strategy reset.

Action 5.8 Supporting Schools with Climate Change

Plans to host events with Manchester’s schools to support them to decarbonise have been delayed due to COVID-19, these plans will be revisited in 2021-22 following the easing of restrictions.

Action 5.9 Influencing Greater Manchester Stakeholders

The Council continues to influence Greater Manchester partners and stakeholders through its membership on the following groups:

- Climate Emergency / 5yr Environment Plan
- Decarbonising Public Estate
- Green City Region Board & Partnership
- Wider Leadership Team & Chief Executives
- Challenge Groups including Energy, Buildings and Communications

Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Annual Report 2020-21

The Council submitted letters to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) in July and September 2020 urging them to set out actions to divest from investment in fossil fuels.

Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning & Transport at the time, raised divestment from fossil fuels with the Greater Manchester Pension Fund along with counterparts from across Greater Manchester authorities; a joint letter was sent to local authority representatives on the GMPF and a separate letter was sent to the Mayor of Greater Manchester to see how they could work together to exert further pressure on the Fund.

The issue was raised at two Green City Region Board meetings held in 2020 and, as a result, GMPF were invited to attend the March 2021 meeting.

Action 5.10 COP26 in Glasgow 2021

COP26 was due to take place in Glasgow in November 2020 but was postponed to November 2021 due to COVID-19. A proposal is being developed to consider the options for the Council's involvement which includes work with Core Cities, Greater Manchester and our local and international partners.

Core Cities plan to focus on Investment in Green Recovery, Green Finance and the role of cities in delivering net zero. The Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Metro Mayor of Liverpool City Region launched "North West Net Zero: The Road to COP26", in February 2021, which outlines the measures already being taken to accelerate progress to net zero across the region.

Action 5.11 International Networks

Learning from other cities and positioning Manchester as a key player on climate change continues to be a driver for the Council, through its involvement in recognised networks and leading European partnership projects.



Manchester is one of 10,434 city signatories to the **Covenant of Mayors** which brings together local governments that are voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives. It draws in worldwide multi-stakeholder networks with technical and methodological support.

The Council is also a long-standing member of **Eurocities**, the leading network of major European cities, and was represented by the Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA) at their Strategic Climate Roundtable in June 2020.



The Council is participating in two European Commission funded URBACT projects:

Zero Carbon Cities is a **£688k** project leading six European cities to adopt science-based targets to support their transition to zero carbon. The 3-year project is supporting MCCA to refresh the Manchester Climate Change Framework as well as delivering master classes for officers across the partnership. Manchester's share of the budget is £330k.



C-Change is a **£650k** project working with five European cities to drive positive climate action through the culture sector.

It is providing capacity building for Manchester Arts Sustainability Team as well as for the wider arts sector in the city by offering tailored carbon literacy training. Consultancy from Julie's Bicycle has enabled a review of the arts funding programme to introduce climate measures (see also action 5.3).

Due to COVID-19 the project has been extended by 6 months to June 2021. Manchester's share of the budget is £263k.

GrowGreen (see also action 4.2) is working with Valencia (Spain) and Wroclaw (Poland) to develop demonstration projects for nature-based solutions. The three cities are collaborating to learn from the different processes followed and to identify solutions to common challenges. In December 2020, the project hosted a webinar to introduce a range of resources developed by the GrowGreen and Ignition projects which can be used to support decision-makers, planners, businesses, and others in comparing green and grey options to choose the right solution for the challenge. Tools are also being developed to help other cities outside of the project to develop a Nature Based Solutions Strategy. **Wuhan** is also a non-funded partner on the Grow Green project working on the "sponge cities concept".

The **Race to Zero** is an international campaign to mobilise support for cities and businesses to make the transition to zero carbon by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change. Manchester has joined the Race to Zero – alongside 454 other cities – and Sir Richard Leese signed a pledge on behalf of the City that outlines the actions Manchester will take to meet its environmental targets.

Action 5.12 Green Skills

A '**Skills for a Zero Carbon Economy**' group was established and agreed this work would be embedded into the revised Work and Skills Strategy. This work has not progressed due to the major capacity issues resulting from the Council's response to COVID-19 including working on the food response and business grants programme. This work forms an important part of the City's Economic Recovery and Investment Plan and will be revisited as part of the 2021-22 work programme.

Press Coverage 2020-21

Progress on Climate Change Action Plan

04 February

Place North West: Manchester reviews progress on climate change

[Place North West | Manchester reviews progress on climate change](#)

Manchester Evening News: Manchester councillors to consider calls for new climate change committee after petition signed by 1,700 people

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/manchester-councillors-consider-calls-new-19770721>

10 February

Twitter: Councillor Angeliki Stogia's 90 second challenge

<https://twitter.com/ManCityCouncil/status/1359540755119898626>

02 March

Manchester Evening News: Manchester Council unveils all the ways it will halve its greenhouse gas emissions by 2025

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/manchester-council-unveils-ways-halve-17845310>

03 March

Smart Cities World: Manchester unveils five-year climate action plan

<https://www.smartcitiesworld.net/news/news/manchester-unveils-five-year-climate-action-plan-5080>

Edie.net: Manchester City Council spells out five-year action plan to halve emissions

<https://www.edie.net/news/9/Manchester-City-Council-spells-out-five-year-action-plan-to-halve-emissions/>

11 March

BBC website: Manchester adopts plan to halve CO₂ emissions by 2025

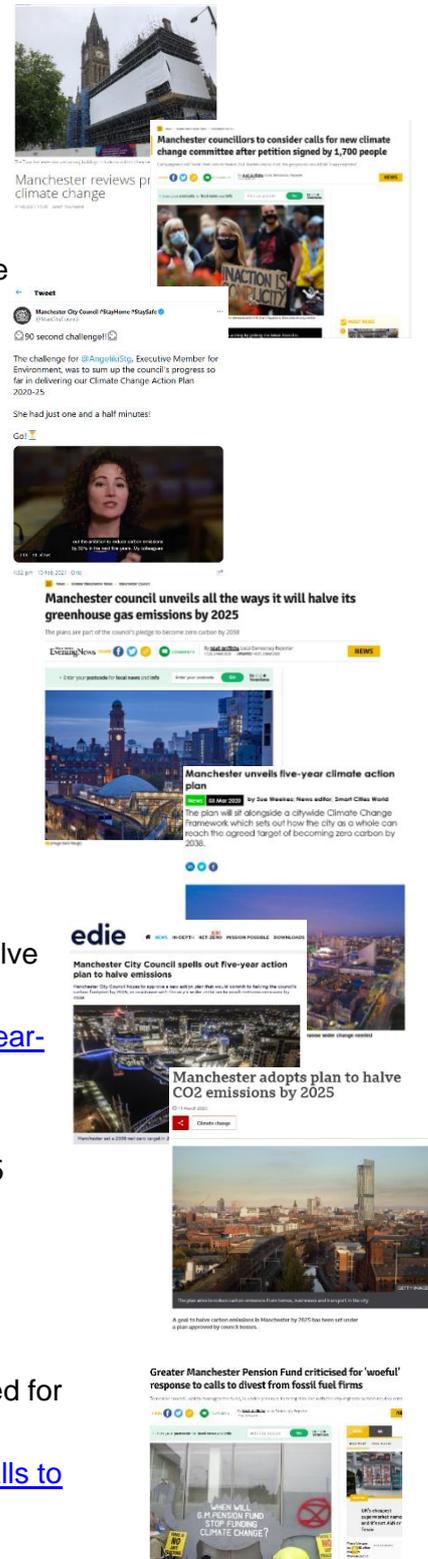
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-51832494>

Greater Manchester Pension Fund

16 February

Manchester Evening News: Greater Manchester Pension Fund criticised for 'woeful' response to calls to divest from fossil fuels firms.

[Greater Manchester Pension Fund criticised for 'woeful' response to calls to divest from fossil fuel firms - Manchester Evening News](#)



09 March

Six of Greater Manchester's 10 councils have written to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund urging it to move decisively away from its current investments in fossil fuels.

<https://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/articles/gm-councils-join-call-pension-fund-fossil-fuel-divestment>



GM councils join call for pension fund fossil fuel divestment

Electric Refuse Collection Vehicles

08 March

The UK's largest fleet of electric, zero-emission vehicles are being rolled out, collecting household waste in the Manchester area.

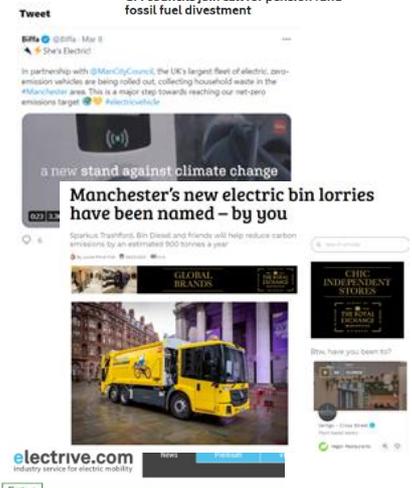
<https://twitter.com/Biffa/status/1368895314309087234>

<https://vimeo.com/tinkertaylor/review/514214729/32016bf284>

09 March

The winning suggestions in a competition to name five of Manchester's new electric bin lorries have been confirmed.

https://ilovemanchester.com/electric-bin-lorries-named?mc_cid=02c1091b93&mc_eid=e7ed3c51a2



04 June

Electrive.com: Manchester orders electric refuse trucks

<https://www.electrive.com/2020/06/04/manchester-orders-electric-refuse-trucks/>

Green Bee website: 'Cleaner' bin lorries in Manchester

<https://thegreenbee.co.uk/waste-management/cleaner-bin-lorries-in-manchester/>



14 July

Zap Map: Manchester to replace half its bin lorries with electric vehicles

<https://www.zap-map.com/manchester-to-replace-half-its-bin-lorries-with-electric-vehicles/>



West Gorton 'sponge' park

09 March

Manchester Evening News: How a £1.3m new park will help prevent flooding in one corner of Manchester

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/how-groundbreaking-new-13-million-17887953>

14 August

Manchester Evening News: New £1.3m park designed to reduce flooding risk opens in West Gorton

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/new-13m-sponge-park-designed-18727605>



Estates carbon reduction programme

08 January

BBC Radio Manchester (bulletins): Wythenshawe Forum is powered by solar energy as part of the Council's £25 carbon reduction programme.

Civic Quarter Heat Network

06 July

Manchester Evening News The £18m 'Tower of Light' which will power prominent Manchester city centre buildings is taking shape

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/18m-tower-light-power-prominent-18549526>

15 August

About Manchester: Manchester's Tower of Light nears completion

<https://aboutmanchester.co.uk/manchesters-tower-of-light-nears-completion/>

17 August

Smart Cities World: Manchester's Civic Heat Network project passes significant milestone

<https://www.smartcitiesworld.net/news/news/manchesters-civic-heat-network-project-passes-significant-milestone-5574>

24 August

Architects Journal: Wraps taken off sculptural Tower of Light in Manchester

<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/tonkin-liu-wins-approval-for-tower-of-light-scheme-in-manchester-2>

Climate Change Youth Action Summit

27 January

Manchester Evening News: Hundreds of schoolchildren gather to discuss climate change at Manchester Central eco-summit. (Event also covered by BBC Radio Manchester, Hits Radio and BBC North West Tonight).

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/in-your-area/hundreds-schoolchildren-gather-discuss-climate-17623869>

Tree Planting

04 December

I Love Manchester: Million pound project to plant thousands of trees across Manchester begins

<https://ilovemanchester.com/project-plant-trees-manchester-begins>

Secret Manchester: A million-pound project to plant thousands of trees is to begin in Manchester next week

<https://secretmanchester.com/tree-action-mcr/>

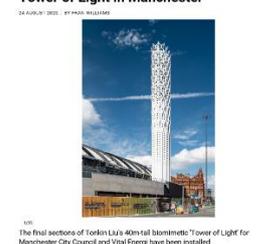


Manchester's civic heat network project passes significant milestone

News 17 Aug 2020 by SmartCitiesWorld news team
The final sections of the UK city's 40 metre high Tower of Light have been installed, which will act as a chimney for a low carbon energy centre.

6. CHALLENGE SPECIFICATION PROJECTS PRESENTS HELP MANAGER LIBRARY STORES

Wraps taken off Tonkin Liu's sculptural Tower of Light in Manchester



Million pound project to plant thousands of trees across Manchester begins



A Million Pound Project To Plant Thousands Of Trees Will Begin In Manchester Next Week



06 December

About Manchester: Million-pound tree planting project for Manchester gets underway

<https://aboutmanchester.co.uk/million-pound-tree-planting-project-for-manchester-gets-underway/>

Million pound tree planting project for Manchester gets underway



Community Engagement

09 December

In Your Area: Manchester communities to lead the way on climate change thanks to funding boost

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/manchester-communities-to-lead-the-way-on-climate-change-thanks-to-funding-boost/>



RAG Rating at a Glance:

Workstream 1: Buildings & Energy

RAG	Action Summary	Deadline	Annual tCO ₂ Saving Target
1.1	MCC Estates carbon reduction programme	March 2025	4,800
1.2	Manchester Build Standard	December 2020	Tbc
1.3	Buildings and Energy Strategy	April 2020	
1.4	Large scale renewable energy generation	December 2020	7,000
1.5	LED street lighting	December 2020	220
1.6	Civic Quarter Heat Network	2021	1,600
1.7	Housing stock condition survey	2021	
1.8	Northwards Housing	Tbc	Tbc
1.9	Commercial and non-domestic buildings	Ongoing	Tbc
1.10	Local Energy Plan for Manchester	April 2020	
1.11	Leasing and disposing of Council buildings	April 2020	
1.12	Manchester Local Plan	2023	
1.13	Partnerships e.g., UKGBC	Ongoing	

Workstream 2: Travel & Transport

RAG	Action Summary	Deadline	Annual tCO ₂ Saving Target
2.1	Electric refuse collection vehicles	March 2021	900
2.2	Replace operational fleet with EVs	Ongoing	400
2.3	Travel policy for staff and members	April 2020	100
2.4	Cycling and walking networks	Ongoing	
2.5	Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040	Ongoing	Tbc
2.6	City Centre Transport Strategy	2020	
2.7	Aviation emissions and Manchester airport	Ongoing	Tbc
2.8	Sustainable travel incentives	Ongoing	

Workstream 3: Sustainable Consumption

RAG	Action Summary	Deadline	Annual tCO ₂ Saving Target
3.1	10% environmental weighting in procurement	April 2020	
3.2	Tyndall Centre findings on consumption emissions	December 2020	Tbc
3.3	Eliminate single use plastics in estates and markets	2024	

Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Annual Report 2020-21

3.4	Supplier toolkit	December 2020	
3.5	Single use plastics in licensed activities	December 2020	
3.6	Manchester Food Board priorities	Ongoing	Tbc

Workstream 4: Adaptation & Sequestration

RAG	Action Summary	Deadline	Annual tCO ₂ Saving Target
4.1	Plant 1,000 trees 1,000 hedge trees 4 orchards pa	Ongoing	
4.2	West Gorton 'sponge park'	Ongoing	
4.3	Tree opportunity mapping assessment	December 2020	
4.4	Funding for beacon trees	March 2021	

Workstream 5: Catalysing Change

RAG	Action Summary	Deadline	Annual CO ₂ Saving Target
5.1	Carbon literacy	2025	
5.2	10% environmental weighting in procurement	April 2020	Tbc
5.3	Carbon accounting in decision making	Ongoing	
5.4	Community engagement and ward plans	April 2020	
5.5	Citywide communications strategy	April 2020	
5.6	Fund Manchester Climate Change Agency	April 2020	
5.7	Support Manchester Climate Change Partnership	December 2020	Tbc
5.8	Large scale event with schools	June 2020	Tbc
5.9	Influence GM stakeholders to decarbonise	Ongoing	Tbc
5.10	Play a part in COP26	November 2020	
5.11	International networks and projects	Ongoing	
5.12	Green Skills Plan	September 2020	
			15,020