

Have your say!

We asked residents and communities to tell us what they thought about how we can all help to reduce our carbon emissions and what is stopping them from doing more.

How?

An online consultation through the In Our Nature Commonplace <https://zerocarbonmanchester.commonplace.is/proposals/have-your-say/step1> and paper surveys at relevant community events.

4,000 postcards directing people to the online survey via QR codes have been distributed to all neighbourhood libraries plus other places where people go such as community centres, hubs, and shops such as Asda Eastlands.

Copies have been translated into 5 main languages and posed on community Facebook pages (Urdu, Bangladesh, Chinese, Somali, and Arabic)

A social media campaign has posted links from the “In Our Nature” Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook pages. Posts have been shared across partners including all MCC Neighbourhoods Twitter accounts, MCCA, M CCP, Groundwork, Hubbub and Amity social media accounts.

The questionnaire opened online on Tuesday 14th September.

91 responses to the online survey had been received by 02nd October 2021

16 responses were collected at face-to-face events including:

- Rusholme Climate Summit on 28th September (10)
- Hulme Climate Summit on 29th September (6)

Why?

To inform the development of the city’s climate change Framework 2.0 and provide insight into a climate action resident-led communication campaign to be developed as part of the In Our Nature campaign in 2022.

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What?

Part 1: The first part is an exploration of residents' attitudes to climate and ecological issues, recording what actions people are currently taking on several themes, that are being developed as part of the city's refreshed climate change action plan – Framework 2.0. Themes included: energy in our homes, transport, food, things we buy and throw away, green spaces and nature and engaging and empowering others. Adaptation, resilience, and Nature Based Solutions were identified as a gap in knowledge in the initial desk-based analysis, and so questions also explored future impacts of climate change in residents' local area and if people thought climate change would affect their homes, family, and daily activity.

Part 2: The second part of the survey explores attitudes to key barriers that are stopping people from doing more at an individual level and include things like lack of money, time to do it, as well as wider policy and infrastructure barriers.

The survey goes onto ask through “open text” boxes what more support people need to act on climate change. This is nuanced with suggestions of systemic and infrastructure actions that would allow residents to act on climate change more easily – such as funding to fit renewable energy in homes, and more locally grown plant-based foods in their neighbourhoods.

Who responded?

- 51% women
- 45% male
- 12% are 16-25 years of age
- 58% are 26-49 years of age
- 25% are over 50 years of age

What did we find out?



Overall, 57% of people responding are positive when asked their opinion on the city's aim to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2025.



17% are neutral in their responses when asked their opinion on the city's aim to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2025.

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24% are negative in their response to the city's aim to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2025.

Part 1: Which actions are residents doing the most?

Part 1 explored 6 thematic areas of action that residents could take, that relate directly to the thematic actions in the refreshed Framework.

Homes and energy actions

What action are residents doing the most?

- 61% have switched to renewable energy.
- 30% have insulated their home.
- 19% have put in a new gas boiler.
- 11% have installed renewable energy.

Sentiment

How do people feel about the city's aims to be zero carbon by 2025
(when asked at the end of the survey)

Residents who have installed a new gas boiler are the most positive

Residents who have installed renewable energy are the most negative
(when asked about how they felt about the city's aims to be zero carbon at the end of the survey).

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#	Which of the following actions have you done or are you currently doing?	Sentiment
54	Switched to a renewable energy supplier	
27	Insulated my homes loft space and walls (cavity walls)	
17	Installed a new more efficient (gas) boiler	
5	Installed solar panels to generate electricity	
4	Installed exterior wall insulation and cladding	
1	Installed other renewable technology (e.g. air source heat pumps / ground source heat pumps)	
0	Installed thermal solar panels to heat water in my home	

Transport actions

What action are residents doing the most?

- 61% drive less and cycle/walk more.
- 51% work from home more.
- 43% chose not to fly as much.
- 25% don't have a car or use an EV car.

Sentiment

How do people feel about the city's aims to be zero carbon by 2025 (when asked at the end of the survey)

Residents who don't have a car are the most positive.

Residents who have bought an EV/Hybrid car are the most negative (when asked about how they felt about the city's aims to be zero carbon at the end of the survey).

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#	Which of the following actions have you done or are you currently doing?	Sentiment
54	I drive less and cycle or walk more	
45	I work from home more and commute less	
38	I choose not to fly as often	
6	I loan a car when I really need to drive	
6	I have bought an Electric Vehicle or Hybrid car	
5	I have joined a car sharing scheme	
5	I have got rid of my vehicle	

Food and diet actions

What action are residents doing the most?

- 72% try not to waste food.
- 52% eat less meat and dairy.
- 46% buy locally sourced foods.
- 30% are vegetarian or vegan

Sentiment

How do people feel about the city's aims to be zero carbon by 2025 (when asked at the end of the survey)

Residents who are vegan are the most positive

(when asked about how they felt about the city's aims to be zero carbon at the end of the survey).

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#	Which of the following actions have you done or are you currently doing?	Sentiment
64	I try not to to waste food	
46	I eat less meat and dairy products	
41	I buy locally sourced foods where available	
38	I eat more plant based foods	
35	I buy food in season in the UK	
20	I am a vegetarian	
7	I am a vegan	

The things we buy and throw away

What action are residents doing the most?

- 73% recycle their waste.
- 51% avoid single use plastics.
- 47% buy eco/ethical brands
- 21% use an ethical bank

Sentiment

How do people feel about the city's aims to be zero carbon by 2025
(when asked at the end of the survey)

Residents score mostly positively across all actions

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(when asked about how they felt about the city's aims to be zero carbon at the end of the survey).

#	Which of the following actions have you done or are you currently doing?	Sentiment
65	I recycle waste	
52	I buy fewer clothes and make them last longer	
45	I avoid single-use plastic	
44	I prefer to repair things when needed	
42	I buy eco and or ethical brands	
41	I buy less stuff less often	
19	I use an ethical bank	

Green Spaces and nature

What action are residents doing the most?

- 52% grow plants, food and leave green spaces.
- 46% make a home for nature.

Sentiment






How do people feel about the city's aims to be zero carbon by 2025
(when asked at the end of the survey)

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- 34% are involved in National nature/wildlife campaigns
- 23% are involved in local campaigns

Residents score mostly positively across all actions, especially those involved in local campaigns (e.g. In Our Nature)

(when asked about how they felt about the city's aims to be zero carbon at the end of the survey).

#	Which of the following actions have you done or are you currently doing?	Sentiment
46	Grown plants and food and left green spaces.	
41	Made a home for nature by planting for bees and wildlife.	
30	Got involved in national nature or wildlife campaigns, like City of Trees, RSPB or National Trust	
27	Protected existing green spaces	
21	Got involved in local campaigns like In Our Nature	

Engaging and empowering others

What action are residents doing the most?

- 65% have learned about the climate emergency.

Sentiment

How do people feel about the city's aims to be zero carbon by 2025 (when asked at the end of the survey)

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- 61% talk to others about climate change.
- 19% have contacted their councillor about climate change

Residents who have contacted their councillor responded most negatively

(when asked about how they felt about the city's aims to be zero carbon at the end of the survey).

#	Which of the following actions have you done or are you currently doing?	Sentiment
58	I have learned about the climate emergency	
54	I talk to others about climate change and asking what we can all do	
29	I have joined a national or local campaign group	
17	I ask my local councillor and or politicians what they are doing	

Part 2: What do residents view as the reasons why they can't do more actions?

Barriers to action

What issues are the key barriers to residents taking more action?

- 52% said finance was a barrier to doing more.
- 45% said understanding local policy was a barrier to doing more.







Sentiment

How do people feel about the city's aims to be zero carbon by 2025
(when asked at the end of the survey)

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- 45% said lifestyle barriers such as time and ease of action was a barrier to doing more.
- 32% said social issues such as a lack of collective action were a barrier to doing more.
- 32% said a lack of physical infrastructure was a barrier to doing more.

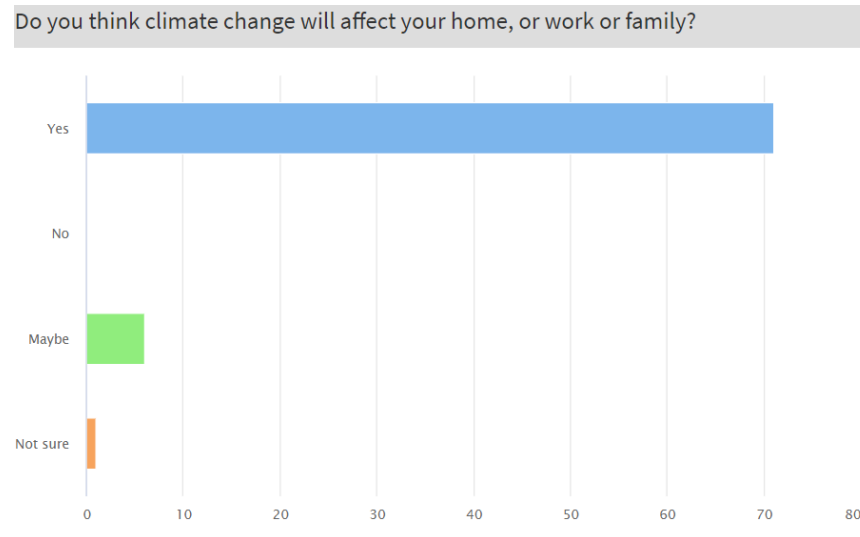
Those who thought that social barriers were most important climate barriers were the most positive (when asked about how they felt about the city's aims to be zero carbon at the end of the survey).

#	What are the key barriers stopping you doing more of this/these? Please select the top 2.	Sentiment
46	Budget barrier – financial constraints and money to do actions. – Are actions too expensive? Is there sufficient financial support available to make changes?	
40	Policy barriers – knowing if and how I can change or influence local or national policy. Do local policies and regulations (whether local, regional, and national) prevent you from delivering actions?	
40	Lifestyle barriers – time and ease of acting in my everyday life. Do your current obligations and routine prevent you from doing more?	
29	Social barriers – understanding what is required and that everyone understands, thinks the same and prioritises action. Are there big barriers preventing action and is there buy-in from the community?	
29	Physical barriers – changing things physically in my neighbourhood or area such as cycleways or pedestrianised roads. Does a lack of appropriate technology or local facilities prevent you from acting?	
9	Awareness barriers – being aware of the actions that make a difference to my carbon emissions and climate change. Do you understand the changes that are needed?	

People's concerns about how climate change will affect them.

81% of people are worried about the effect of climate change on their home, work, or family.

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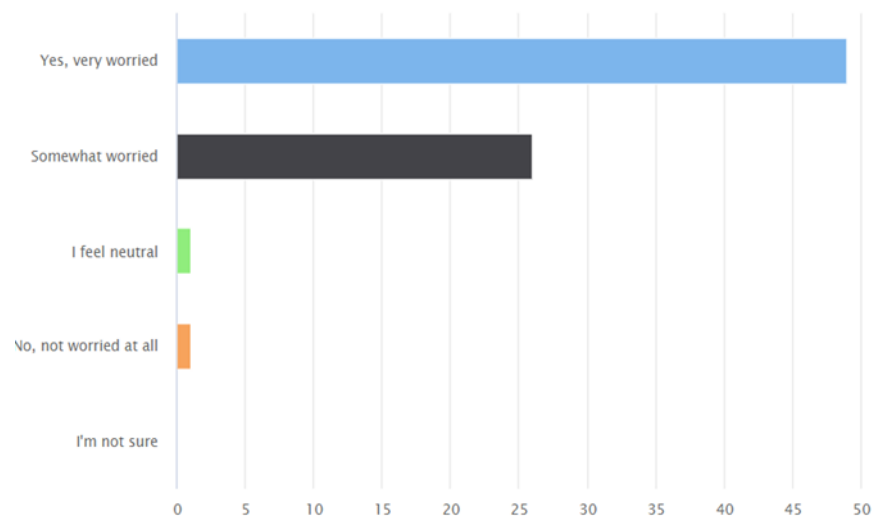
People's concerns about the future impacts of climate change in their local area.

55 % said they were very worried about the future impact of climate change in their local area.

29% are somewhat worried.

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Do you feel worried about future impacts of climate change in your local area?



Overall, what do people think about our aim to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2025?



Overall 57% of people responding are positive when asked their opinion on the city's aim to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2025.



17% are neutral in their responses when asked their opinion on the city's aim to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2025.



24% are negative in their response to the city's aim to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2025.

Why do people feel this way?



Positive comments

- Great progress is already being made.
- I think it is a start and I hope we can achieve it. I think it would have been great to have been able to reduce it to zero by the same date, but I understand that that is impossible.
- I hope if/when we achieve it, we can set another target to get to zero asap.
- I hope that our measures/action plan can influence other cities/countries as if we don't achieve this globally, we are all going to still feel the impacts of climate change.
- Thank you. The climate crisis feels overwhelming. Thank you for trying to do something positive.
- Setting a target is always a good idea even if it is not achieved.



Negative comments

- The aim is admirable. The likelihood of achieving it is low.
- I think your aim is very good but misguided. Many things should be done nationally. Your transport policy results in more pollution by causing cars to wait at traffic lights repeatedly-
- We are not on track and our leaders have not passed the policies needed to make this happen.
- So far, the progress has been very slow, so it's hard to trust this "aim".
- It is going to be too late. We need to be going as fast as we can. How many times do people have to say this - this is an emergency?

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Other comments and questions raised by people

- What is going on locally to me and how can I get involved?
- It will need a lot more community engagement to hit the kind of targets we need to hit. The economy is intimately bound up in the environment, so that must be addressed, and we need educated on that.
- Please use this information to do something tangible that will have an impact, you have community, you have social prescribing, create the opportunities and strategies for communities to be supported to be greened.
- Any change in the right direction is positive. Also 50% reduction in a few years is a HUGE challenge, but if successful, it could serve as an example to follow for less-proactive areas.
- Greener, better public transport. Better, integrated cycle lanes making cycling safer, no more road expansion, preserving green spaces, no more car parks and concrete, circular recycling system that works , total ban on plastics , massive rewilding initiatives in city , public info campaigns re no concrete, paving , Astro turfing gardens , stop spraying pesticides MCC .
- We must act now. Manchester could be an exemplar.