

Manchester City Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020 – 2025 (Refreshed plan 2022 –2025)

Manchester City Council published its Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) in 2020, setting out its five year plan to respond to the Climate Emergency, tackle climate change and work towards becoming a zero carbon organisation by 2038 at the latest.

In the last two years, the Council has made good progress in delivery of its Climate Change Action Plan and achieved important milestones. The purpose of refreshing this CCAP at halfway through this 5-year period is to show progress made to date, set out new milestones and include new actions, to ensure the Council is remaining on track in reducing its own carbon emissions and importantly, leading by example, giving renewed focus on the City-wide actions, the Council's leadership role, and helping others to take action.

The refreshed MCC CCAP ensures individual actions are SMART, it aligns with key strategies and plans, and reinforces our commitments as an organisation to taking responsibility for our own emissions as well as supporting others across City to play their full part in ensuring Manchester is resilient to the impacts of climate change. The refreshed MCC CCCAP now shows the Council's progress and achievements to date and specific individual actions split out into two sections – **Council direct actions** and **City-wide leadership** actions for all five workstreams.

Our commitments for each workstream are set out across three pillars in the refreshed CCAP.

- Firstly, to continue to undertake activities to reduce MCC's own CO₂ emissions, reduce MCC's consumption emissions, influence suppliers and take actions to adapt to climate change
- Secondly, to strengthen MCC's unique City-wide leadership role through leading by example, using our own experiences, learnings, and knowledge to support and influence others across the city to reduce their CO₂ emissions, reduce city wide consumption emissions and support city wide adaptation to climate change.
- Thirdly, to strengthen MCC's stakeholder engagement and policy work, influencing stakeholders, identifying funding and investment, and identifying ways to help transform current systems to enable others to make the right choices.

The refreshed MCC CCAP also links to other key and relevant City-wide strategies and plans, such as the Local Plan, the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy, the GM Transport Strategy, Manchester Work and Skills Strategy and the Housing Strategy.

Where possible, actions also align to the refreshed Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 (published in September 2022)

By aligning and linking to wider strategies and plans and keeping the MCC CCAP current and fresh, the Council can ensure its decision making across all activity will be joined up and that it continues to make Manchester a resilient and liveable city, able to cope with the ongoing impacts of climate change.

Governance, Finance & Investment

The Zero Carbon Coordination Group (ZCCG) oversees the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, the development of the Plan and the strategic oversight of its implementation. The Group is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and is attended by the Executive Member for Environment & Transport, the strategic leads for each of the workstreams within the Climate Change Action Plan and members of the Council's Zero Carbon team.

In addition to the ZCCG, the Council has also established a zero carbon finance and investment sub group, which reports into the CCAP's Zero Carbon Coordination Group. Figure 1 (below) summarises the governance of the Council's zero carbon programme including this sub group. The aim of this subgroup is to identify funding and finance models and opportunities to secure further resources required to deliver the CCAP. This group is chaired by the Deputy City Treasurer with Council representatives from Finance, Commercial, Integrated Commissioning and Procurement, Strategic Housing, Corporate Estates, Growth and Development, City Policy as well as Manchester Climate Change Agency. The group meets quarterly, and progress will be reported under Action 5.3 in Workstream 5.

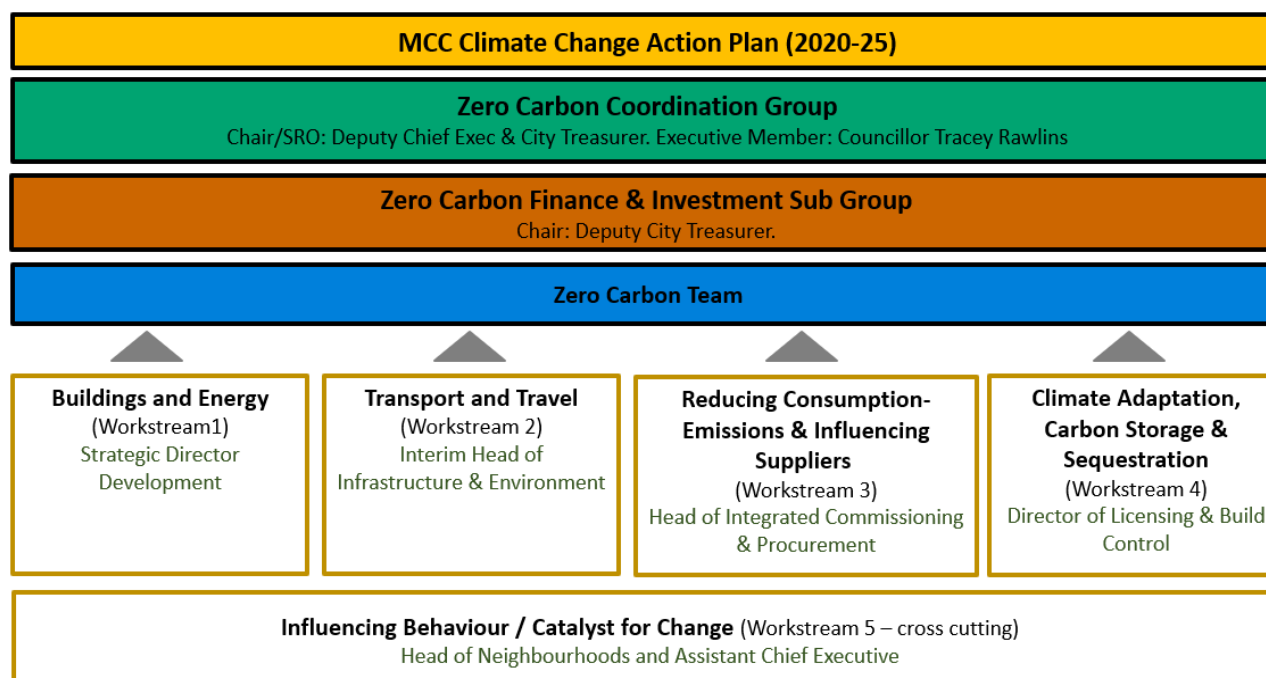


Figure 1 Zero Carbon 2038 Governance

Workstream 1 - Buildings & Energy

Introduction:

The energy used within buildings made up 69% of the Council's direct CO₂ emissions in 2018/19 and approximately 72% of the citywide CO₂ emissions. The use of fossil fuels (particularly coal) within the National Grid has fallen significantly in recent years as the grid has become decarbonised. Renewable energy such as wind, solar and hydro only represented 2.3% of the UK power supply in 1990 but now contributes 45.5% (BEIS, 2022). Further decarbonisation of the National Grid will deliver significant reductions to the Council's and the city's CO₂ emissions, but local action is needed to reduce the use of energy via the retrofitting and refurbishment of buildings and generating energy through a variety of renewable sources.

Co-benefits of action include increased energy security, building resilience to fossil fuel price fluctuations; better performance of retrofitted buildings in cold spells or heatwaves; cost savings on energy bills thus reducing fuel poverty; opportunities for growing the local low carbon economy via design, manufacturing, and installation of low carbon technologies as well as health and wellbeing benefits from a better insulated home.

Progress 2020-22:

- Produced a Buildings and Energy Strategy for MCC Estate
- 18 MCC buildings retrofitted as part of the Estate Decarbonisation programme (Funding: £6.3m MCC and £19.1m Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme) forecasting a total carbon saving of 3,100 tonnes CO₂ p.a. Funding now secured for 8 additional buildings
- Produced a Manchester Build Standard and now embedding into Council decision making
- Commissioned a feasibility study for large scale renewable energy generation (£35k), recommending taking forward steps for the purchase of a solar farm or Power Purchase Agreement
- Completed the installation of 55,000 LED Street lights (£32.8m), showing 2021-22 emissions being 13,563 tonnes CO₂ (86%) lower than in 2009-10
- Completed Civic Quarter Heat Network infrastructure with 6 buildings now connected (£26m)
- Undertaken a stock condition survey of private rented properties across the city
- Manchester City Council now has a Local Area Energy Plan for Manchester, which was developed as part of the Greater Manchester Local Energy Market project
- Supported One Manchester with a Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme bid to retrofit social housing in Beswick (£7.8m)

Commitments (2022-25)

Reducing MCC Direct CO₂ Emissions:

Reduce the CO₂ emissions from the Council's operational estate and streetlighting by at least 50% by 2025 and put in place plans for a further 50% reduction between 2025 and 2030.

Reducing City-wide CO₂ Emissions:

Support building retrofit and energy generation across the city's buildings and ensure all future development across the city is as close to zero carbon as possible.

Engagement & Policy Change:

Developing a pipeline of place-based zero carbon projects (including housing retrofit, local energy generation and infrastructure) and work with UK Core Cities and UK Government to develop new investment models and finance streams to deliver these projects, engaging key housing and building stakeholders.

Ref	Action	By (date)	Owner	Project Cost or funding in place	MCC DIRECT Annual Carbon Savings (tCO ₂)	Potential City-wide emissions reduction
Council						
1.1	Deliver... Develop and deliver an estates carbon reduction programme for the Council by:		Corporate Estates	£247k (MCC revenue 22/23)	4800	
	• Delivering the decarbonisation programme (PSDS 3)	Mar-23		£5.9m (£1m MCC match funding)		
	• Delivering the GM ERDF project Unlocking Clean Energy Project (Phase 1a of MCC plan)	Jun-23		£2.9m		
	• Developing a forward plan for continued estates carbon reduction to 2038	Mar-25				
	To achieve... a contribution towards the overall 50% reduction target for estates CO ₂ emissions by 2025					
1.2	Deliver... Develop and implement a Manchester Build Standard for new buildings, extensions and refurbishments and embed within decision making processes by:		Capital Programmes			
	• Embedding the Manchester Build Standard for all City Council new builds or built on Council land	Mar-23				
	• Maintaining and updating the Manchester Build Standard to reflect industry practice and ensure climate resilience	Ongoing				
	To achieve... reducing CO ₂ emissions from construction and creating more energy efficient buildings					

1.3	Deliver... Research and identify options for large scale renewable energy generation and:		Neighbourhoods	£40m (Project cost)	7000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the findings of the feasibility study to deliver either a solar asset and/or suitable Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). 	Dec-24				
	To achieve... having a traceable, renewable energy source to deliver CO ₂ savings and maximise long-term benefits for the Council					
1.4	Deliver... Monitoring CO ₂ savings from the replaced LED street lighting. Investigate ways to further reduce consumption and improve efficiency	Ongoing	Neighbourhoods		220	
	To achieve.... a reduction in CO ₂ emissions and energy costs					
1.5	Deliver... Establish and expand the Civic Quarter Heat Network (CQHN) within the city centre by:		Neighbourhoods		1600	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting the Town Hall to CQHN 	Mar-24				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying new building connections and assessing opportunities for decarbonisation of the network 	Ongoing				
	To achieve... a reduction in CO ₂ emissions and energy costs					
1.6	Deliver... Develop an approach to retrofit and decarbonise MCC owned domestic properties (including Northwards), by:		Housing and Residential Growth	£29m (MCC HRA 20-25) £188k (MCC revenue 22/23) £600k (GM Warm Homes Fund)		✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to deliver the Northwards Climate Change Action Plan 	Ongoing	Housing Operations			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking learnings from stock condition surveys for MCC housing stock, PFI and contractor managed stock 	Ongoing				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing and delivering an investment programme to retrofit all MCC housing stock	Ongoing				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establishing a framework for monitoring housing emissions across all MCC housing stock	Mar-25				
To achieve... the targets outline in the Housing Strategy, in order to reduce emissions and energy bills for tenants						
City						
1.7	Deliver... Provide leadership in line with the Housing Strategy, to retrofit and decarbonise domestic properties including social housing, owner occupier and private rented sector by:		Housing and Residential Growth			✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilising learnings from local housing stock condition survey (GM wide)	Ongoing				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Working with MCR Housing Providers Partnership and GM Decarb Taskforce to ensure all social housing properties are on a path to zero carbon	Ongoing				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing a housing retrofit strategy for the domestic sector across all of Manchester (including private rented, owner occupier and social housing)	Nov-22				
	To achieve... a reduction in CO ₂ emissions and energy bills for residents					
1.8	Deliver... Support the Growth Company with its offer of helping Manchester businesses with their own carbon reduction and retrofit activities	Ongoing	Work & Skills			✓
To achieve... a reduction in emissions and energy bills for business and organisations						

1.9	Deliver... Review and respond to the Local Area Energy Plan for Manchester produced by GMCA, ensuring it aligns with the City's Climate Change Framework refresh, working with GMCA, MCCP, Cadent and ENW to evolve the Local Energy Market.	Dec-22	Planning & Infrastructure	£100k (GM Local Energy Market Project) £103k (MCC revenue 22/23)		
	To achieve... identifying suitable areas for renewable energy deployment, battery storage, low carbon heating and EV deployment, to reduce overall CO ₂ emissions across the city					
1.10	Deliver... Zero carbon commitments being considered when any Council owned buildings or land is disposed of or leased to a third party	Ongoing	Growth and Development			
	To achieve... better support for third parties to improve energy efficiency and condition of buildings or end use of the land					
1.11	Deliver... Ensure the Local Plan reflects our zero carbon commitments to meet the population's needs for the next 15 years and:		Growth and Development			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look to align the Local Plan with the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, Manchester Climate Change Framework and latest IPCC findings. 	Apr-24				
	To achieve... policy levers ensure that developments reflect the city's zero carbon and green infrastructure commitments, promote a reduction in CO ₂ emissions and climate adaptation measures					
1.12	Deliver... Partnership working with local and national experts including the Green Building Council and property developers	Ongoing	Capital Programmes			
	To achieve... learning from best practice in building design to have the best possible standards in carbon performance					

Workstream 2 - Transport & Travel						
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Transport is a major contributor to the city's CO₂ emissions with just under 30% of total emissions, as well as impacting the cleanliness of the city's air. It is also the sector which has seen the least progress in achieving reductions in CO₂ emissions over recent years. The Council's direct emissions include the waste and recycling fleet (8.3%), Manchester City Council fleet (2.3%) and staff travel (1.8%). There is an urgent need to shift to sustainable and active travel for Council staff and the city's residents, workers, and visitors to reduce CO₂ emissions.</p> <p>Co-benefits of action include improved air quality; enhancing the city's overall liveability through a well-connected, low-cost public transport system; health benefits from active travel and growing opportunities for low carbon jobs.</p>						
<p>Progress 2020-22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of waste collection fleet (27 vehicles) have now been replaced with electric vehicles forecasting an annual carbon saving of 900 tonnes CO₂ (£9.8m) • 37 fully electric and 2 hybrid vehicles leased as part of the MCC fleet • 26 electric cargo bikes and six electric cargo trailers purchased by MCC (£174k Energy Savings Trust grant, £106k MCC, £19k partner investment) • 166 cycle to work scheme applications by MCC staff submitted during 20/21 • Publication of a new MCC Staff Travel Policy • Manchester Airport Group joined the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and founder member of UK Jet Zero Council 						
Commitments (2022-25)						
Reducing MCC Direct CO₂ Emissions						
Reduce the emissions from the Council's fleet including waste and recycling vehicles by 35-45% between 2020 and 2025 by rolling out electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.						
Reducing City-wide CO₂ Emissions						
Support a shift to sustainable and active travel through the Council's role in transport planning and work with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), and national government to deliver strategic transport infrastructure projects.						
Engagement & Policy Change						
Working in partnership with TfGM and Greater Manchester stakeholders to continue securing funding to tackle air pollution, by increasing active travel opportunities and access to low-cost public transport, to improve the overall liveability of the city.						
Ref	Action	By (Date)	Owner	Project Cost or funding in place	MCC DIRECT Annual Carbon Savings (tCO ₂)	Potential City-wide emissions reduction

Council						
2.1	Deliver... Decarbonising MCC waste and recycling fleet with electric vehicles and the appropriate charging infrastructure by:		Neighbourhoods		900	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a business case for the replacement of the remaining waste and recycling fleet (50% of total) and the provision of appropriate infrastructure 	Jul-24				
	To achieve... significant reduction in emissions from the diesel waste and recycling refuse vehicles and improved air quality					
2.2	Deliver... Implementing the rolling replacement of the Council's operational fleet with non-internal combustion engine vehicles by:		Neighbourhoods	c.£155k p.a. (MCC)	400	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploying and monitoring of cycles (eCargo and other) into MCC operational fleet 	Mar-23	Zero Carbon Team			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a plan for the remainder of the operational MCC fleet vehicles 	Mar-25				
	To achieve... significant reduction in emissions from the diesel and petrol internal combustion engine fleet vehicles and improved air quality					
2.3	Deliver... A new business travel policy within the Council to reduce emissions by:		HROD	£71k (MCC revenue 22/23)	100	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing and embedding the staff travel policy across the Council 	Ongoing				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producing sustainable travel guidance for Members, directing members to choose sustainable travel options 	Dec-22				
	To achieve... influencing travel choices, promoting sustainable and active travel and reducing CO ₂ emissions					
2.4	Deliver... Identify and implement environmental actions within Highways by:		Highways	£63k (MCC revenue 22/23)		✓

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identifying and applying a suitable tool to monitor CO₂ savings from highway design and delivery works, to track embodied carbon from highways design and deliveryProducing guidance for the use of resilient and sustainable materials within Highways	Mar-23				
To achieve... CO ₂ emissions reductions and improving resilience across the city						
City						
2.5	Deliver... Implement the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040, working with GMCA, TfGM & Government	Ongoing	Planning & Infrastructure			✓
To achieve... an integrated and low carbon transport network						
2.6	Deliver... Develop and deliver a revised City Centre Transport Strategy with Transport for Greater Manchester and Salford City Council	Ongoing	Planning & Infrastructure			✓
To achieve... improvements to sustainable and active travel and prioritisation of pedestrians and cyclists						
2.7	Deliver... Develop and deliver the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy and assess investment requirements, link with the Local Area Energy Plan and Local Plan	Mar-23	Planning & Infrastructure			✓
To achieve... an increase in the supply of electric vehicle charging infrastructure to encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles						
2.8	Deliver... Identify and secure infrastructure funding to prioritise improvements for active travel	Ongoing	Planning & Infrastructure	£40.9m (GM Mayors Challenge Fund) £16.2m (UK Govt)		✓
To achieve... encouraging a modal shift to sustainable forms of transport across the city and supporting the decarbonisation of transport						

2.9	Deliver... Develop and promote incentives for Council staff to commute more sustainably and understand the baseline of how Council staff commute to the workplace to be able to improve on this	Ongoing	HROD	£6k (MCC revenue 22/23)		
	To achieve... increasing the number of Council officers travelling to work by sustainable modes of transport or active travel					
2.10	Deliver... Support Manchester Airport Group to work with the MCCP, UK Government, other cities with airports, UK100 and other stakeholders to reduce aviation emissions (including flights by Manchester citizens, businesses and other organisations, and all flights from airports in which the city has a stake).	Ongoing	City Policy			✓
	To achieve... increasing engagement with stakeholders to ensure that emissions from flights are kept within a carbon budget for UK aviation that is fully aligned with the Tyndall Budget and the Paris Agreement (the "UK Aviation Budget")					
2.11	Deliver... Develop and implement plans and policies to improve Manchester's air quality by:		Neighbourhoods			✓
	• Delivering the Council's Air Quality Action Plan	Ongoing				
	• Carrying out a policy review to update the GM Clean Air Plan to obtain Government sign-off to implement by 2026	Jul-22				
	To achieve... improving air quality across Manchester					

Workstream 3 - Reducing consumption-based emissions and influencing suppliers						
<p>Introduction: The Council and the city need to reduce consumption-based emissions of goods and services, which have the highest carbon footprint. This requires behaviour change and a shift in what the Council procures and contracts, where it comes from, how it is packaged and its disposal.</p> <p>Co-benefits of action include a locally resilient economy and supply chain, cleaner neighbourhoods as a result of reduced waste and increased recycling, and more sustainable food systems.</p> <p>Progress 2020-22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acted on the findings of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change research into the City's consumption emissions, strengthening the environmental weighting for tenders of goods and services • Introduced a 10% social value weighting for the environment to increase the total social value weighting to 30% • Updated the Council's supplier and commissioner toolkit to support existing and prospective suppliers to reduce their CO₂ emissions and respond to the social value environmental weighting • Created and appointed a member of staff to lead on MCC's commitment to reduce the use of avoidable single use plastics and deliver sustainable events • Added capacity to the Integrated Commissioning & Procurement team to support monitoring delivery of CO₂ emissions in contracts and to challenge specifications to ensure that low carbon options are fully considered. 						
Commitments (2022-25)						
Reducing MCC's Direct Consumption and Influencing Suppliers						
Reduce the use of avoidable single use plastics and other goods that we procure, which are unsustainable on Council land and at our premises.						
Reducing City-wide Consumption and Influencing Suppliers						
<p>Influence the city through procurement and commissioning and other levers including licensing.</p> <p>As part of the Climate Change Action Plan, the council is working to reduce the emissions associated with the goods, services, and works contracts that the council procures. There are different elements to this work but one of the main innovations has been the rolling out of a 10% weighting in the evaluation of tenders to give additional focus on climate change and the environment in the supply chain.</p>						
Engagement & Policy Change						
<p>To support businesses, particularly smaller organisations as a key priority for MCC, both signposting to external support that is already available to businesses, such as the Growth Company and building a range of in-house tools and guidance.</p> <p>To support external stakeholders to adopt more sustainable practices, including food and reducing the use of Single Use Plastics on Council land.</p>						
Ref	Action	By (Date)	Owner	Project Cost or funding in place	MCC DIRECT Annual Carbon Savings (tCO₂)	Potential City-wide emissions reduction

Council						
3.1	Deliver... Amendments to the Council's procurement process to:		Integrated Commissioning and Procurement	£120k (MCC revenue 22/23)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a monitoring framework to measure and track the emissions from goods and services procured to establish a baseline and enable a CO₂ savings target to be set for future years. 	Ongoing				
	To achieve... influencing the behaviours and activities of new and existing suppliers to reduce their CO ₂ emissions via the Council's procurement and commissioning activity					
3.2	Deliver... Ensure the Council reduces avoidable Single Use Plastic by 2024 by:		City Policy	£58k (MCC revenue 22/23)		✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing single use plastics from across the Council's operational estates (i.e. cafes) 	Dec-23	Corporate Estates & FM			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing single use plastics from across the Council's markets, including pop-ups 	Dec-22	Markets			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing single use plastics from across Council events and events held on Council owned land. 	Dec-24	Events and Parks			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing single use plastics and other packaging from the goods purchased by the Council 	Dec-24				
	To achieve... reducing avoidable Single Use Plastics across the Council by 2024 in line with the Plastic Free Greater Manchester pledge, which will reduce waste and related CO ₂ emissions					
3.3	Deliver... Sustainable Council events and support the delivery of sustainable events on Council owned land and:		Events			✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the Sustainable Events Guides for all MCC events 	Sep-23				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure all MCC funded events meet the principals of a sustainable event, aligned to the Sustainable Events Guides or other	Ongoing				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure all events taking place on MCC owned land meet principals of a sustainable event, aligned to the Sustainable Events Guides or other	Ongoing				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research and assess viable opportunities to reduce CO₂ emissions from events held on MCC land	Ongoing	City Policy			
To achieve... a reduction in consumption-based emissions across the city and promote more sustainable events						
3.4	Deliver... Research and assess viable opportunities within Waste Services to reduce CO ₂ emissions by:		Neighbourhoods (Waste Services)			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewing waste and recycling collections across MCC operational estates, Markets and Events	Mar-24				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewing waste and recycling collections across the city (residents, schools and businesses) to maximise waste and segregation to assess potential to reduce waste and associated emissions	Mar-25				
To achieve... a reduction in waste and the associated CO ₂ emissions from across Waste Services						
City						
3.5	Deliver... A shared approach to procurement and commissioning across the city and city region Greater Manchester by:		Integrated Commissioning and Procurement			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Using the MCC supplier toolkit and sharing this and our learnings with city partners and GMCA to influence a city region approach.	Ongoing				

	To achieve... providing guidance and support for suppliers, to increase emissions reductions across the City and wider					
3.6	Deliver... Ensure all MCC Markets and Parks meet the Council's Single Use Plastic Free Pledge and UK Government legislation by:	Dec-24	Neighbourhoods (Markets & Parks)			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding and enforce requirements to be single use plastic free within Market trader licences 	Ongoing	Markets			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding and enforce requirements to be single use plastic free within Park trader licences 	Ongoing	Parks			
	To achieve... reducing avoidable Single Use Plastics across the Council by 2024 in line with the Plastic Free Greater Manchester pledge, which will reduce waste and related CO ₂ emissions					
3.7	Deliver... Work with the Secretariat of the Manchester Food Board to deliver the climate change priorities of the Manchester Food Board by:		Integrated Commissioning and Procurement			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and adopting a Sustainable Food Policy that considers eating more vegetables, better quality meat and UK produce, reducing food waste and using food tech redistribution services to reduce CO₂ emissions from MCC Procurement of food supplies and catering 	March 2024				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the Sustainable Food Policy within other relevant Council policies 	Ongoing	City Policy			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producing a schools Food Standards Policy to encourage the purchase more vegetables, better quality meat and UK produce, reducing food waste and CO₂ emissions from schools' food supplies 	March 2024				
	To achieve... improving food quality and sustainable food systems to increase vegetable and better-quality meat consumption and UK produced food, influencing supply chains to reduce waste and CO ₂ emissions and have a more economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable food system for Manchester					

Workstream 4 - Climate adaptation, carbon storage & carbon sequestration

Introduction:

Adaptation to climate change requires changes to the way in which the city's infrastructure is developed and how we manage issues such as flooding and extreme heat. Key to this is the installation of Green Infrastructure, including trees, across the city. Improving the quality and quantity of trees and hedgerows will increase the volume of carbon that can be stored and ultimately sequestered whilst also helping to reduce flooding and heat stress.

Co-benefits of action include biodiversity uplift, increased citizen health and wellbeing from time spent in nature and economic gains for example uplifted house prices or revenue generated from events in green spaces.

Progress 2020-22:	
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- Built a 'sponge' park in West Gorton as part of the Horizon 2020 GrowGreen Project (opened June 2020) (£1.6m Horizon 2020)
- MCC commissioned a River Valley Strategy 'Our Rivers Our City' (completed)
- Completion of the GMCA-led IGNITION project (£58k)
- MCC appointed a fixed-term Tree Officer post to implement the Tree Action Plan (time limited post) alongside a £1m MCC tree planting budget
- Planted 7,021 trees (4,401 trees, 2,620 hedge trees) and 5 community orchards across the city (£148k DEFRA)
- MCC commissioned Tree Opportunity Map for Manchester (£50k)

Commitments (2022-25):

Reducing MCC Direct CO₂ Emissions and adapting to climate change

Review Council operations around green infrastructure to reduce emissions associated with its green spaces, parks and gardens. Deliver Manchester's Green Infrastructure Strategy to increase the quality and function of our green spaces. Take the learnings from nature-based projects and apply these to other Council led projects, such as West Gorton Sponge Park.

Reducing City-wide CO₂ Emissions and adapting to climate change

Ensure that the city's infrastructure is resilient to climate change and that nature-based solutions are used to combat issues such as flooding. Develop an intelligence led approach to tree and hedge planting, and the implementation of Nature Based Solutions to support the delivery of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.

Engagement & Policy Change

Engage with green infrastructure stakeholders within the Council and citywide to share best practice, foster collaboration and where possible encourage increased engagement by local communities with their green spaces. As part of the Local Plan preparation process, policy options around green infrastructure and adaptation to climate change will be given full consideration.

Ref	Action	By (Date)	Owner	Project Cost or funding in place	MCC DIRECT Annual Carbon Savings (tCO ₂)	Potential City-wide emissions reduction
Council						

4.1	Deliver... Increasing the quantity of trees and hedgerows on Council owned land by:		Growth & Development			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing delivery of the Manchester Tree Action Plan (including investigating opportunities for planting in parks, Council owned open spaces, highways, and the grounds of buildings) 	Ongoing				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering the need to secure additional funding for the Tree Officer post (beyond 2023). 	Dec-23				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refreshing the Tree Action Plan based on the findings of Managing Manchester's Trees 	Aug-23				
To achieve... a target of net 1,000 new trees, 1,000 new hedge trees and 4 community orchards a year by MCC and citywide partners on known schemes on public or partner land						
4.2	Deliver... Increasing the amount of Nature Based Solutions (NBS) across the city by:		Growth & Development			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the learnings from NBS projects (Grow Green, Ignition and River Valley Strategy) to inform future green and blue infrastructure projects and policies 	Ongoing	City Policy			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying a consistent approach to implementing green Sustainable Urban Drainage Solutions (SUDs) in Highway schemes, using a SUDs developer guide 	Mar-23	Highways			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting and influencing citywide SUDs implementation opportunities 	Ongoing				
To achieve... better understanding of the benefits of NBS, increased skills, and knowledge for increasing NBS across the City and embedding resilience measures into the new Local Plan						
4.3	Deliver... Producing and delivering a Parks specific Climate Change Action Plan	Mar-25	Parks			
	To achieve... increasing understanding of CO ₂ emissions relating to Parks and identification of potential carbon reduction options					

4.4	Deliver... The Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Implementation Plan	Ongoing	Green Infrastructure Board			
	To achieve...increasing quality and function of green infrastructure; increasing accessibility to and connectivity of green space; increasing knowledge, engagement, and awareness of the benefits of green spaces and the embedding of green infrastructure into new developments					
4.5	Deliver... Improvements for biodiversity across the city by:		Growth & Development			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Producing, endorsing, and delivering a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, linked to the Local Plan and Biodiversity Net Gain offer for the city	Mar-25				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exploring the possibility of differential mowing schedule across MCC estate	Dec-22	Parks / Grounds Maintenance			
	To achieve... robust processes and planning policies to increase biodiversity across the city, reducing CO ₂ emissions and creating better quality habitats for biodiversity					
City						
4.6	Deliver... Increasing the quantity of trees and hedgerows across the city by:	Ongoing	Growth & Development			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Using the Tree Opportunity Mapping assessment to identify tree planting opportunities within existing woodland (and particularly those affected by Ash Dieback), parks, streets, and gardens					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Securing funding for more tree planting across the city as part of the Northern Forest, planting beacon trees, mature trees, street trees and hedgerows					
	To achieve... increasing potential for carbon storage and sequestration across the city, helping to improve liveability and contributing to improving air quality					

Workstream 5 - Influencing behaviour change and being a catalyst for change

Introduction:

Although the Council's direct CO₂ emissions make up approximately 2% of the city's total emissions, the Council has a unique role within the city to lead by example and influence the behaviour of a range of different cohorts. Influencing positive behaviour change in Manchester's residents, workers and visitors and also influencing behaviours, policies and investments at a city region and national level will support the climate change agenda.

Co-benefits of action include sustainable economic growth supported by a strong green skills sector, and empowered residents and communities helping create resilient neighbourhoods.

Progress 2020-22:

- Silver Carbon Literate Accreditation (15% of workforce – 1050 members of staff) - March 2021 (£86k MCC revenue 20-22)
- Embedded zero carbon as a priority into Council Service Plans
- Three Neighbourhood Climate Change Officer appointed (£130k)
- Climate Change Action Plans developed across all 32 Wards
- 49 neighbourhood climate action projects delivered during 20-21, utilising £91.2k of Neighbourhood Investment Funds
- First city climate change communications campaign delivered during summer 2020 (£32k)
- Delivered presentation to the Oxford Road Corridor Partnership in January 2020 sharing the learnings from Triangulum project
- Public and private lobbying of the GM Pension Fund to divest from investment in fossil fuels
- Schools Bee Green Conference held at Connell Co-op College on 30 June 2022 (£13.7k MCC revenue 22/23)
- Developed a proposition to UK Government in relation to COP26 being held in Glasgow, leading to engagement in UK Cities Climate Investment Commission (UK3CI) and developing a pipeline of investible projects
- Manchester Work & Skills Strategy 2022-27 featuring Green Skills, adopted by Executive Committee on the 29 June 2022

Commitments (2022-25):

Reducing MCC Direct CO₂ Emissions:

To use every opportunity to engage, empower and equip Council staff and elected members with the knowledge and skills to make a positive difference in reducing CO₂ emissions through the decisions they make. Influence behaviour change across the city's residents, businesses, public sector organisations, voluntary and community sector and visitors.

Reducing City-wide CO₂ Emissions:

Ensure that everyone across the city understands the scale of the challenge, they are positively engaged, empowered and supported in taking action to reduce emissions and increase resilience across the city. Support for and working with MCCA / UK3CI to develop a pipeline of project and secure funding and private finance to accelerate carbon reductions.

Engagement & Policy Change:

Influencing, lobbying, and working in partnership with Greater Manchester stakeholders and UK Government to take more action to tackle the climate emergency with specific focus on the funding and investment needed to allow the City to make the changes needed to deliver the City's climate change objectives.

Ref	Action	By (Date)	Owner	Project Cost or funding in place	MCC DIRECT Annual Carbon Savings (tCO ₂)	Potential City-wide emissions reduction
Council						
5.1	Deliver... Carbon Literacy training to staff and members, undertaking:		HROD	£134k (MCC revenue 22/23)		✓
	• Carbon Literacy training to 50% of all workforce	Mar-25				
	• Carbon Literacy training to all elected members	Sep-22				
	• Bespoke training to support Council services	Mar-25				
	• A monitoring and evaluation framework to capture the training benefits	Mar-23				
	To achieve... a Gold Carbon Literate organisation, with a skilled workforce who can embed climate action within the organisation and across the city					
5.2	Deliver... Embedding Zero Carbon within Council decision making by:		PPR			✓
	• Designing and embedding carbon accounting tools to aide financial decision making	Mar-23	Finance			
	• Embedding zero carbon into Council Policies and Strategies.	Mar-25	City Policy			
	• Ensuring all MCC grant programmes positively address climate change	Mar-23	City Policy, Neighbourhoods			
	To achieve... having Council policies, systems and processes which reduce CO ₂ emissions					
5.3	Deliver... Establishing a Finance & Investment subgroup to develop a pipeline of projects and funding opportunities	Jul-22	Finance			
	• Developing a work programme for the subgroup	Oct-22				
	• Developing a pipeline of projects and funding opportunities	Ongoing				

	To achieve...having an investment plan to underpin delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan					
City						
5.4	Deliver... Citywide climate change community engagement approaches, working with the MCCA and partners to:		Neighbourhoods	£134k (MCC revenue 22/23)		✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish a monitoring framework to measure the impact of the Ward Climate Change Action Plans and the Neighbourhood Investment Fund.	Mar-25				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to engage and deliver climate change activities with young people through the Youth Council and schools	Mar-25				
To achieve... enabling and support community groups and residents to engage in the climate change agenda through the Ward Climate Change Action Plans and building capacity to take positive local action						
5.5	Deliver... A Zero Carbon Communications Strategy by:		Communications	£95k (MCC revenue 22/23)		✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Targeting internal and external stakeholders, using all appropriate communications channels (i.e. social media, media, internal broadcasts, partner channels) to communicate key zero carbon projects, achievements, and progress	Sep-22				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensuring key zero carbon messages run through all relevant/linked Council communications campaigns, plans and strategies (i.e. Waste & Recycling, Neighbourhoods, Green & Blue Infrastructure, Housing Retrofit, Sustainable Transport).	Mar-25				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Actively amplifying and promoting opportunities, empowering city partners, communities, and residents to reduce emissions (e.g. 'Your Home Better' (GM	Mar-25				

	Retrofit Accelerator), global days of action)					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the Age-Friendly Manchester Board to develop specific communications and case studies for over 50's 	Mar-25	Manchester Population Health Team			
	To achieve... raising awareness, promoting positive behaviour change across Council staff and elected Members, city residents, workers, businesses, and visitors, sharing examples of climate action best practice					
5.6	Deliver... Funding to the Manchester Climate Change Agency for 4 FTE's (Director; Deputy Director; Policy & Strategy Lead; Programme & Finance Officer) and operational budget to support day to day costs. Support the Agency to leverage further external funding	Funding needs reviewed on an annual basis	City Policy	£532k (MCC revenue 21-23)		✓
	To achieve... an organisation which is fit for purpose to effectively champion and drive forward citywide climate change action					
5.7	Deliver... Build on existing relationships and board memberships in Manchester (e.g., Manchester Climate Change Partnership and Oxford Road Corridor Partnership) to identify opportunities where the Council can influence agendas, share learnings, and unblock barriers (e.g. from the Horizon 2020 Triangulum project)	Ongoing	City Policy			✓
	To achieve... enabling key city stakeholders to accelerate action to reduce their CO ₂ emissions					
5.8	Deliver... A programme of work to support and engage education providers (i.e. events, signposting, resource hub) to develop and implement their own climate change action plans	Mar-23	Education			✓
	To achieve... improved knowledge and capacity across the city's education providers and reducing their CO ₂ emissions and adapting to climate change					

5.9	Deliver... Build on existing relationships and board memberships across Greater Manchester to identify opportunities where the Council can influence agendas, share learnings, and unblock barriers	Ongoing	City Policy			✓
	To achieve... enabling key Greater Manchester stakeholders to accelerate climate action, promote sustainable behaviour, investments and decision making					
5.10	Deliver... Influencing and working with government to ensure that Manchester (and other UK cities) have the support required through policy changes and investment	Ongoing	City Policy			✓
	To achieve... meeting local climate change objectives and contribute to the UK's zero carbon commitment					
5.11	Deliver... Using the Council's international partnerships and membership networks to collaborate with international partners to develop best practice around climate change and continue to explore options to access European Funding	Ongoing	City Policy			✓
	To achieve... sharing best practice and learnings from other cities who are delivering climate change programmes to build knowledge and capacity within the Council and city. To attract external funding to support the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan objectives					
5.12	Deliver... A refreshed Manchester Work & Skills Strategy with a Green Skills Plan	Sep-22	Work & Skills			✓
	To achieve... a skills system which supports the city's ambition, recognising inclusivity and supporting a just transition, working towards being zero carbon by 2038 and maximising opportunities for residents and businesses					