

# ZERO CARBON

MANCHESTER

**Manchester City Council**  
Progress Update Q2 July - September 2023



## Introduction

This report provides an overview of the progress made in delivering the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25 during July - September 2023 (Q2 2023-24) and highlights some of the work delivered during this period to reduce the Council's direct carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, as well as examples of leading by example and influencing wider change and action across the city.

This report focuses on the Council's overall activity to reduce its direct carbon emissions, highlights key achievements and challenges faced during the reporting period and showcases Council specific actions. The spotlight section highlights the progress made in delivering housing retrofit and low carbon homes across the Council's housing stock and our citywide leadership action focuses on Manchester becoming a 'Refill Destination' to support a reduction in avoidable single use plastics across the city. An overall progress update and RAG rating of the CCAP actions is included in Appendix 1.

## Key Messages

- Our 2020-25 CCAP has a carbon budget of **126,336 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (tCO<sub>2</sub>)**. We have used 60.1% of our budget so far, which means the Council has made good progress to date and is on track to remain within the five year carbon budget.
- The Council has used **22%** of its 2023-24 carbon budget during the year (April 2023 – June 2023) and is therefore on track to remain within its budget for this year.
- During Q1 (April – June 2023), MCC emitted 4,765 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is **6% lower** than the same period last year.
- Key achievements include the completion of the first tranche of new low carbon social housing in Newton Heath; the promotion of Plastic Free July; and the Council co-hosting a Youth Sustainability Conference.

## CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

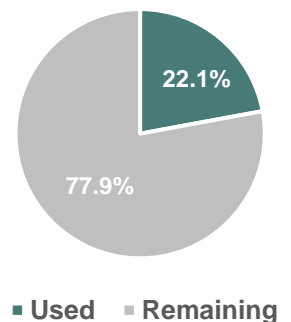
To achieve zero carbon by 2038, the Council has a target to reduce its direct carbon emissions by 13% each year. This ambition is underpinned by a carbon budget<sup>1</sup> of 126,336 tCO<sub>2</sub> for 2020-25, which the Council aims to remain within.

The annual carbon budget for the current year (2023-24) is **21,562 tCO<sub>2</sub>**. During the first quarter (April – June 2023), the Council is on target to remain within the carbon budget, emitting **4,765 tCO<sub>2</sub>** – or 22.1% of the annual allocated carbon budget. As shown in Figure 1.

The emissions data relates to the previous quarter, April – June 2023 and includes some estimates for the period due to billing being in arrears.

**21,562 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> –**  
Emissions Budget 2023-24  
**4,765 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> –**  
Emissions produced 2023-24\*

Figure 1: Carbon Budget 2023/24 - Used Budget v Remaining Budget



<sup>1</sup>A Carbon Budget is the cumulative amount of carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions permitted within a specified timeframe

Figure 2 shows the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced each year of the CCAP 2020-25, against the annual carbon budget. The graph begins with the baseline year 2018-19 to highlight the year-on-year reduction target and shows that since 2018-19, the Council has remained within its allocated carbon budget.<sup>2</sup>

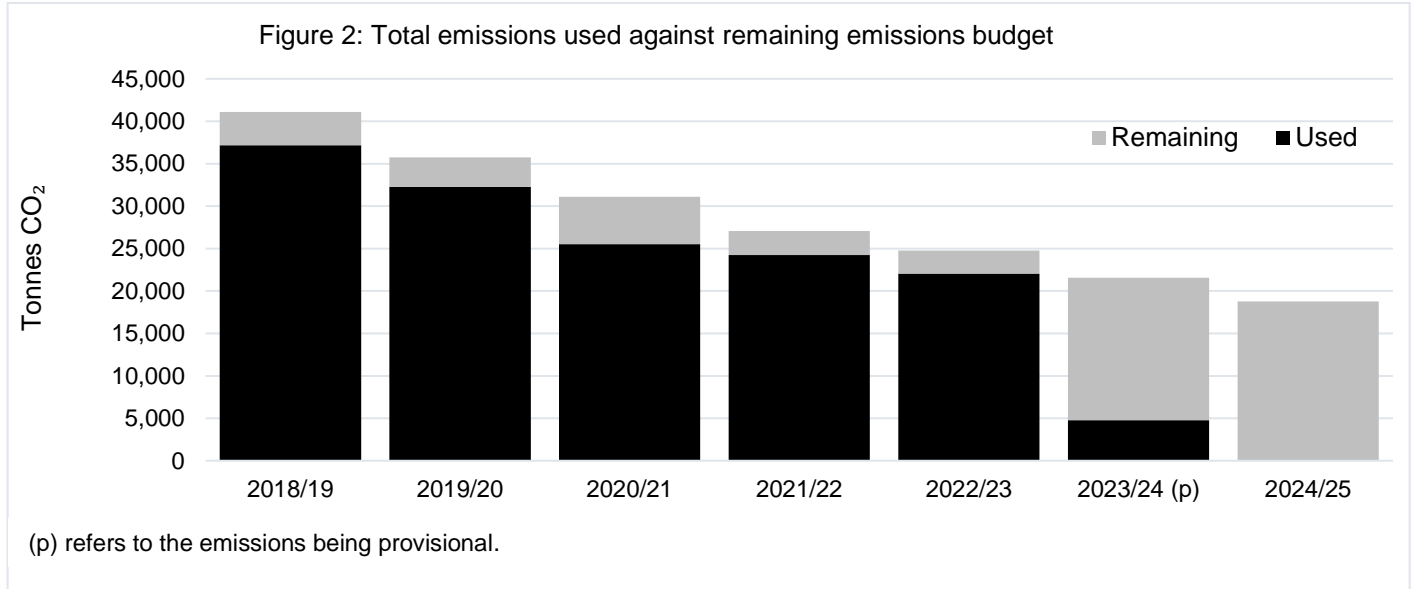
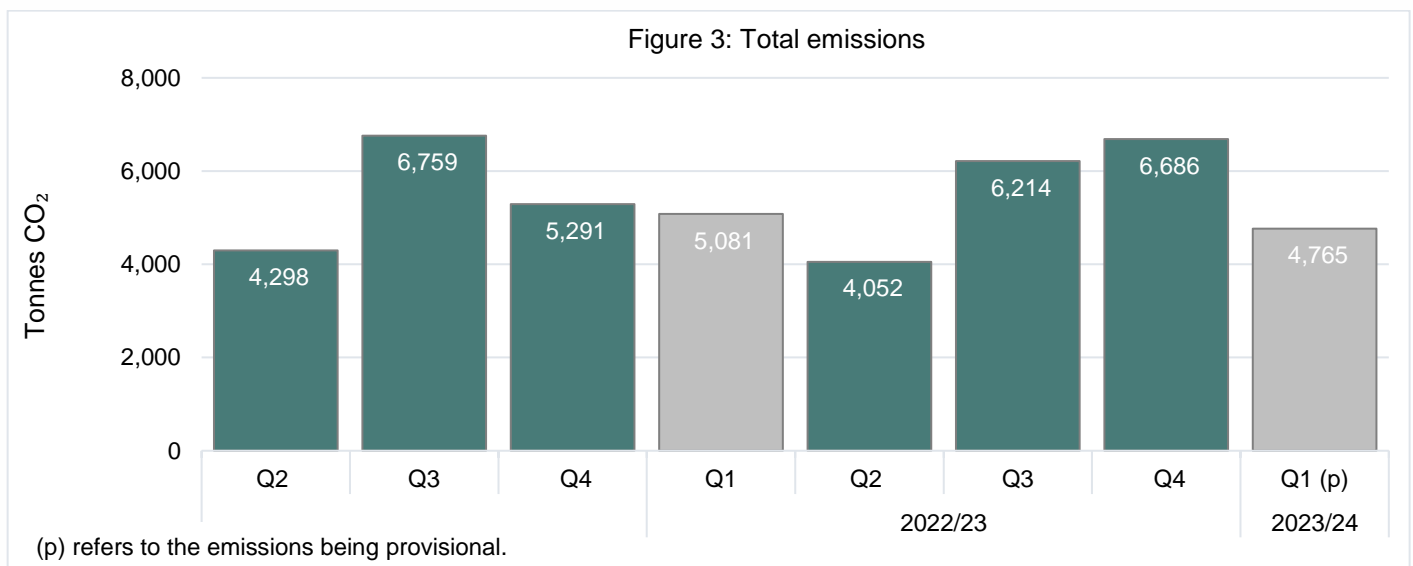


Figure 3 shows a quarter-by-quarter view of the Council’s total emissions from July 2021, enabling comparisons from one quarter to the same quarter in the previous year.



Emissions vary from quarter to quarter reflecting seasonal differences, for example higher energy consumption in the winter months due to heating buildings, and higher operational fleet emissions in the summer months due to increased maintenance of green spaces. Equally, there are over 300 buildings of varying sizes, conditions, and functions within the Council’s operational estate, so many variables exist around temperature and use of those buildings, which means that emissions can change from year to year.

<sup>2</sup>Invoicing of electricity and gas data can be changed by the supplier within reason up to 6 years after original billing, and this taking place weeks or even months after the original bill is not unusual in the industry. As such, the emissions recorded in our [CCAP 2022-23 Annual Report](#) for that year have been revised (from 22,072 tCO<sub>2</sub> to 22,033 tCO<sub>2</sub>) following a recent review of our energy data.

In general, we are starting to see lower rates of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in individual quarters in comparison to 2020-21 and 2021-22, which could be due to several factors such as weather conditions, returning to 'normal' business following the pandemic and having delivered significant CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction actions in the earlier years of this 2020-25 CCAP period.

Provisional data for this quarter shows that the Council's total emissions in Quarter 1 (Q1) 2023-24 is 4,765 tCO<sub>2</sub>, which is 6% lower than Q1 the previous year.

The information below shows the changes in emissions for each Council area for Q1 2023-24 compared to Q1 2022-23, highlighting where the Council's direct emissions have increased and decreased:

#### **Increases**

- Streetlights 5% increase (1)
- Staff business travel 16% increase (2)
- Council Operational Fleet 8% increase (3)



#### **Decreases**

- Council buildings down 8%
- Waste Collection Fleet down 11%



### **How we calculate our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

To calculate the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy and fuel usage, we apply national Government's emission conversion factors, which were updated in June 2023. These emission conversion factors are based on the decarbonisation of the national electricity system. As a result of the National Grid increasing the amount of natural gas in the production of electricity over the last year, this has increased the carbon intensity of the national electricity system by 7%, which in turn impact our own emissions.

Therefore, when comparing the Council's latest quarterly emissions to previous years, the national emission conversion factor has played a part in some increases. Examples include:

1. The 5% increase in the emissions from Streetlights in Q1 2023-24 is due to a change in national Governments emission conversion factors.
  - a. Whilst the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has increased, the quantity of electricity used to power our streetlights has reduced during this period (1,599,830 kilowatt hours (kWH) of electricity used in Q1 2023-24 from 1,603,518 kWH of electricity used in Q1 2022-23).
2. The increase in emissions from staff business travel by 16%, when compared to Q1 2022-23.
  - a. Another contributing factor is business activity changing as we moved out of the pandemic recovery period.
  - b. However, it is important to note that when comparing staff business travel, it is more meaningful to compare to the previous quarter. In this instance, there has been a 7% increase compared to Q4 2022-23.
  - c. The Council's Sustainable Travel Officer is working across various services with the aim of reducing business travel or moving to sustainable modes of transport, where feasible and this will continue to be monitored and reported.
3. The 8% increase in emissions from the Council's Operational Fleet
  - a. Another factor is there has been a rise in usage during the summer period to cover the increase in grounds maintenance and hosting the city's events.

By continuing to progress actions to reduce the Council's energy consumption and renewable energy generation, this will minimise the impact of the emission conversion factor changes to our own emissions efforts.

## Key Achievements



Housing retrofit improvements complete on 629 properties (exceeding the original target of 500), with a total estimated carbon saving of 1,879 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, part funded by European Regional Development Fund.

Eleven (first tranche of 69) low carbon homes on Silk Street, Newton Heath are complete and have been handed over to the Council for social housing. All houses in the development have been fitted with solar panels, electric charging points and will be heated through ground source heat pumps.



A communications campaign delivered by the Council throughout July, to support the global Plastic Free July movement, continuing to advance and promote our ambitious commitments to eradicating avoidable single-use plastics.

The Council was a Highly Commended Finalist in the Climate and Nature Action 2030 category at this year's national Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management Awards - recognising targeted work to combat Climate Change and support biodiversity.



70 pupils attended a Youth Sustainability Conference at Connell College in partnership with Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN). The conference included workshops and an opportunity for the students to showcase the environmental work they have completed in the last year.



**MEEN**

Manchester Environmental Education Network

## Key Challenges

This section highlights strategic challenges associated with delivery of the overall CCAP and where possible, identifies mitigating measures.

- Whilst we are within the CCAP 2020-25 Carbon budget, making significant future carbon savings across the Council will become increasingly challenging. Upcoming decarbonisation projects across MCC's Estate (Action 1.1) for example, are predicted to be on a smaller scale in varying conditions, which will result in smaller carbon savings, often at higher costs per tCO<sub>2</sub> reduction achieved.
- The decarbonisation of the national electricity system by 2035 has been factored into Manchester's science-based target to become zero carbon by 2038. However, if the national electricity system does not decarbonise at the expected rate, this will impact on meeting national carbon reduction targets and as such, potentially impact the Council's carbon reduction targets. We will continue to monitor and take mitigating actions where possible, such as continuing to decarbonise our estate and procure renewable energy.
- The Council is reliant on UK Government leadership through national policies and funding programmes to unlock further support and wider commitment to achieving major CO<sub>2</sub> reductions. The Council will continue to engage and influence UK Government on the importance of climate change and the net zero agenda.
- The financial landscape for the coming years looks challenging, which could mean UK Government investment in climate change may be impacted. The Zero Carbon Finance and Investment Sub-group continues to explore opportunities for investment into climate action.
- Delivering the scale of the Council's housing retrofit programme for its housing stock is proving extremely challenging due to technical complexity, funding pressures, competing priorities within housing policy, an industry-wide green skills gap and delivering effective resident engagement. This is not unique to Manchester and is impacting other Councils and Housing Providers across the country. With strong, effective leadership, the Council is continuing to work closely with partners on this agenda and has increased capacity across the service, bringing in expertise to support the development of a resident engagement plan and robust programme management processes. (Action 1.6)
- Delays to the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan are hindering the development of the new Manchester Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). Government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has agreed the development of a new AQAP, and any remodelling of the Greater Manchester Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) should be in line with the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan. (Action 2.11)

## Under the Spotlight – Housing Retrofit within the Council

This section features the Council's housing retrofit programme including the recently successful funding bids and highlights some of the challenges (Action 1.6: Developing and delivering retrofit and decarbonisation of MCC domestic properties).

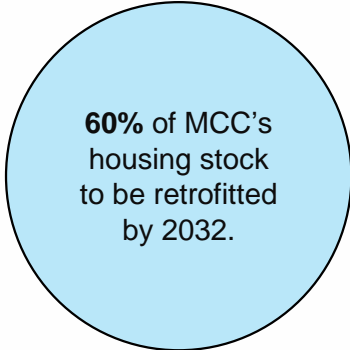
### Background

With over a quarter of Manchester's carbon emissions coming from domestic buildings, the City Council as a social landlord needs to take urgent action to improve the energy efficiency of its homes and move away from relying on fossil fuel energy such as gas heating.

To achieve a 50% reduction in Manchester's emissions by 2025, it is estimated that over **84,000** domestic properties will require retrofit, of which **67,300** properties are managed by Housing Providers across the city.



**23%** of Manchester's social housing is owned by the Council (15,700 properties).



**60%** of MCC's housing stock to be retrofitted by 2032.

### Scale of the task

The Council owns the largest proportion (23% or 15,700 properties) of the **67,300** social rented properties in the city. Of these, 12,800 are managed internally by the Council's Housing Services team and the remaining managed through three Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts.

Outlined in the new Manchester Housing Strategy is a commitment for the Housing Providers to retrofit a third of their total housing stock by 2023. The Council is expected to lead the way with this and retrofit 60% of its housing stock within the same period, requiring significant investment. With the average cost of home retrofit estimated at between £25,000 – £30,000 per

property, the total cost will be a minimum of £236m. To fund the scale of activity, a mix of public funding and private finance is required.

Here are some examples of recent projects:

### Homes As Energy Systems (HAES) project

The HAES project, part-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), has been completed during this quarter. With an original target of retrofitting 500 properties, 629 properties have received improvements as additional funding became available. The improvements made to the 629 homes are estimated to achieve a carbon saving of **1,879 tCO<sub>2</sub>**.

#### HAES retrofit work includes:

- Installing air source heat pumps (ASHPs) to 160 properties
- Deep retrofit of 2 properties bringing EPC levels from D/C to A+
- Installing ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) to 334 properties
- Installing solar photovoltaics (PV) and battery systems to 133 properties

## Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) programme

The Council has been successful in securing **£11.6m** from UK Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF), to deliver retrofit works across **1,603 Council properties** over the next 2 years. This, along with the Council's contribution of **£38m** brings the total investment in these properties to **£49.7m**.

The SHDF programme will focus on a variety of housing types, across different areas including:

- High-rise tower blocks
- Individual properties with ageing gas boilers
- Technically challenging properties within a conservation area

During this quarter, the focus has been on expanding the delivery team and planning the delivery of the SHDF programme, which includes setting out plans for communicating and engaging with residents and recruiting staff.

### Staff Resources

A crucial part of developing and delivering a Retrofit Plan and managing multiple retrofit programmes (including SHDF), is the availability of Council internal resource. This activity is led by the Zero Carbon Housing Team, who have since recruited three new fixed term posts:

- 1 Senior Project Manager (in post from July 2023)
- 1 Project Manager (in post from September 2023)
- 1 Assistant Project Manager (in post from August 2023)

Along with the existing permanent Senior Project Manager and Programme Manager, these posts make up the Zero Carbon Housing Team. The team also draws on a range of other officers and teams across the Council and external partners to support the development and delivery of a Retrofit Plan, providing the Council with a strong foundation for delivering this ambitious but important action.

### Communication and Engagement

In addition to securing investment, another key component to the successful delivery of a retrofit plan is resident engagement – it is vital that Council customers understand the reasons for the retrofit works and how they will benefit, to bring these residents along on the zero carbon journey. Therefore, to support the delivery of SHDF, a customer engagement strategy and communications plan is in development, which includes delivering on the ground resident engagement services.

### Next steps

Significant progress has been made in delivering activity towards achieving the Council's ambitious housing retrofit targets, however there is still much more to do with the delivery of the SHDF programme over the next 2 years.

The Council will continue to deliver and support housing retrofit at a broader scale through its involvement in the Manchester Housing Providers Partnership and providing support to private landlords and homeowners.

For more details on the Council's Housing Strategy and the work the Council is doing to support Registered Providers, see the recent [report](#) to the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.



*Newton Heath: Avro Hollows Tower Block 2 to be included in SHDF programme.*



## Seeing is believing – Reducing Single Use Plastic and the Refill Campaign

Manchester City Council is committed to helping eradicate the use of avoidable single use plastics (SUP) in the products we use, and the way we deliver our services by the end of 2024. As well as having our own organisational goal, we are also committed to helping the city to reduce the use of single use plastics. Influence and engagement, both within the Council and externally with suppliers, partners, residents and businesses is vital to ensuring the Council and the City's use of SUPs continues to decline.

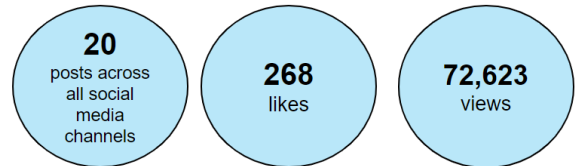
Over the past few months, the Council has taken part in initiatives to advance and promote its ambitious commitment to help Manchester eradicate avoidable single-use plastics. A number of these are outlined below.

### Plastic Free July

This year, the Council participated in Plastic Free July - a global campaign, run by the Plastic Free Foundation, which encourages people to reduce their SUPs and wider plastics use. This involved encouraging Manchester residents and businesses to prevent, reduce, replace and recycle, to reduce avoidable plastic waste from throwaway items .



#### Plastic Free July Engagement:



The Council also used Plastic Free July to kick off a six-month campaign to help residents and businesses prepare for the upcoming law change on single-use plastic. From 01 October 2023, plastic cutlery, plates, trays, bowls, balloon sticks and some cups and food containers will all be banned in England.

The Council is working with [Plastic Free GM](#) to ensure that the city is prepared for the upcoming changes – Plastic Free GM used the July awareness campaign to launch new resources showing what products are best to switch to.

### Refill

During this quarter, the Council signed up to the [Refill](#) Scheme - a scheme which aims to reduce the use of single use plastics, drive positive behaviour change and increase reuse across the food and drink sector in the city. This scheme is run by City to Sea, who the Council has been working in partnership with, and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) on promoting this scheme across Manchester and Greater Manchester. Now both the Council and GMCA are increasing the use of their buildings as 'Refill Stations' where residents and visitors can fill up re-usable bottles for free. The Council and GMCA have also been encouraging others to do the same to expand Refill Station locations across the city-region.

Some of the locations where people can now fill up include Manchester Central Library, the newly refurbished Abraham Moss Library, Gorton Hub, as well as 10 other sites across in the city's parks and cafes. This is as well as numerous cafes and other businesses who already offer free refills.

City to Sea have an app - '[Refill](#)', which is a helpful tool for people to find locations that are part of the scheme, to promote the move away from SUPs as well as spreading the message around the Refill Destination project.



## Manchester Task and Finish Group

A Task and Finish Group has been established, which includes representatives from the City Council, FoodSync and the Manchester Climate Change Agency to collaborate on potential new initiatives to reduce the use of avoidable single-use plastics and increase recycling and re-use across the city. The group has agreed objectives to be delivered by June 2024 which include:

- Increasing the number of businesses offering Refill points by a minimum 20% (baseline of 320)
- Increasing the number of resident sign ups to Refill app by a minimum 20% (baseline of 522)

## Communication and Engagement Highlights

This section highlights the communications and resident engagement activity during this quarter. Below are examples of how the Council is aiming to influence positive behaviour change both internally with staff and across the city with residents and other stakeholders.

### Neighbourhood engagement

As part of our climate leadership role across the city, MCC's Neighbourhood teams support local communities to proactively engage in local climate activity to reduce their carbon footprint. Examples of activities delivered during this quarter include:

- MCC's Neighbourhood Climate Change Officers having a stall at the Sustainability Show in partnership with Manchester Climate Change Agency and In Our Nature.
- 'Our Green and Pleasant Land' community pageant event was delivered through the ongoing Creative Climate Resilience project and supported by MCC's North Neighbourhoods team.
- Active Street Events across the city held throughout August.
- The Youth Sustainability Conference that MCC supported in organising provided a chance for pupils to showcase the sustainability work they'd done during the year and further their learning about climate change.
- All three Neighbourhood Climate Change Officers qualified as Climate Fresk trainers– which is an initiative to teach climate science in an accessible way.
- Climate Change engagement took place at the Wythenshawe Games.
- Multiple events and activities including 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' themed activities took place at the Ancoats and Beswick Week of Culture.



- Road Closure events with Play Streets took place across the city, such as in Didsbury and Whalley Range.
- Outreach for the Refill campaign took place to reduce plastic waste, including the North launch at Moston Lane.
- Clean-up of parks and community gardening sessions, such as at Brookdale Park.
- Sewing Machine workshops were held to help encourage reuse of clothes, in partnership with In Our Nature project.
- The Blossom Climate Exchange Exhibition was launched at Wythenshawe Park.
- Filming in three Alleyway Gardens to promote MCC’s support to community groups who have transformed alleyways into thriving shared gardens.



## Communications Highlights

Activity to promote our zero carbon ambition through campaigns, ongoing social media activity and regular press releases continued throughout the quarter. This includes Cycle September, Organic September, Zero Waste Week, Clean Air Blue Skies Day, World EV Day, World Clean Up Day, and World Car Free Day.

## Social Media

### Social Media Stats July & August 2023:

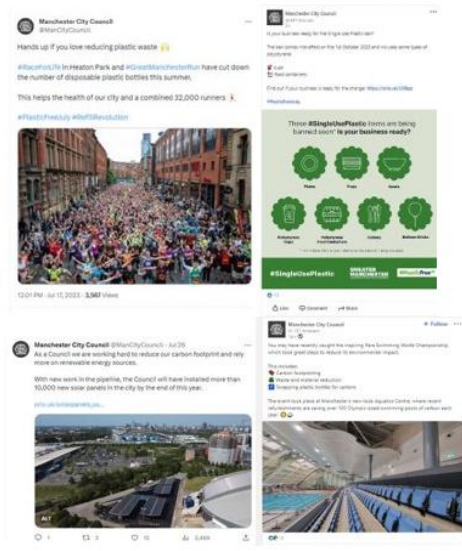
**145**  
posts across  
all social  
media  
channels

**2,175**  
likes

**600,569**  
views

Topics covered this quarter:

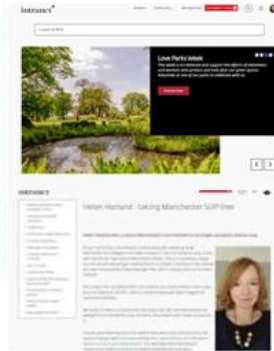
- Plastic Free July
- Sustainable Events
- Active Travel
- Love Parks Week
- European Capital of Cycling Bid
- Low Carbon and Energy Efficient Housing
- Parks and Biodiversity
- Net Zero Week
- Cycle to Work Day
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- Preparation for October SUP ban
- 10,000 Solar Panels milestone
- Cycle September



Internal Communications

**Topics Covered:**

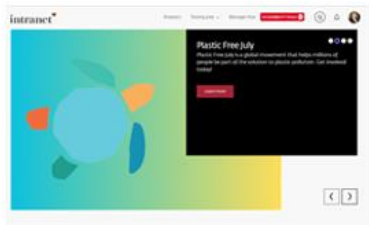
- Plastic-Free July
- Love Parks Week
- Carbon Literacy
- Cycle September
- Recycle Week.
- World Vegetarian Day
- Zero Carbon Case Studies.
- Recycling Hubs across Manchester.
- Second Hand September



7k+ staff reached

71 visitors to ZC hub

221 visitors to our Cycle September page



Behaviour Change Campaign

The behaviour change campaign continues to run on digital screens and on billboards around the city with the aim of promoting positive behaviour change and action to prevent climate change.



Some of this messaging was also shared via social media e.g in this post for Net Zero Week:



The Neighbourhoods team and In Our Nature programme continue to promote these messages through their engagement activities.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Community engagement at the local level
- Residents feedback
- Social Media engagement and visits to MCC website

Press Releases

**4 July**

Start on site for Rodney Street (This City) scheme, which features low carbon housing as well as 30% affordable homes.

- Place North West
- About Manchester
- The Manc
- World Construction Network



Work starts on Manchester's 128 homes in Ancoats

**26 July**

Council to reach landmark of 10K solar panels installed on its buildings by end of 2023.

- The Manc
- The Mill
- About Manchester
- Inside Housing
- Smart Cities World
- Housing Digital
- Air Quality News
- Yahoo News UK



Manchester 'on track' to install 10,000 solar panels by end of 2023

**27 July**

First council-built low carbon homes at Silk Street welcome first residents.

- Manchesternews.com
- About Manchester



**22nd August**

Green Flag awards for Manchester parks and cemeteries.

- Manchester Evening News
- Manchester World
- I Love Manchester



**5th September**

Plan to boost electric vehicle infrastructure.

- MEN
- LocalGov
- About Manchester



**1st September**

NCC reopening & MCC bid for the city of Manchester to become the European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

- BBC News
- MEN
- About Manchester
- The Manc
- Manchester World
- Intelligent Transport
- Secret Manchester
- Manchester Confidential

British Cycling velodrome reopens after £27m refurbishment



Manchester is bidding to become Europe's first capital of cycling

Manchester wants to be the first-ever European Capital of Cycling next year



## Appendix 1 – Action RAG Rating and Progress Update

The tables below provide an overview of the progress of actions across all five workstreams included in the CCAP 2020-25 using a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating system.

### Key

Working to target (Green)		Work in progress (Amber)	Not started / missed critical milestones (Red)	Complete (Grey)
<b>Workstream 1 – Buildings and Energy</b>				
Action	Action Summary	Action Update		
1.1 - Green	MCC Estates carbon reduction programme	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funded work continues on six buildings, scheduled for completion in January 2024, estimated carbon savings up to 470 tCO <sub>2</sub> per annum. Funding approved for the installation of solar PV to Hammerstone Road Depot, which will provide 50% of the site's electricity needs. This will be delivered in 2024. Finalising a bid with GMCA to submit for the next phase of PSDS.		
1.2 - Amber	Manchester Build Standard	A full review of the Manchester Build Standard is planned for 2023/24. An internal session held in August 2023 to inform the scope of the work. Once the review is complete, plans to disseminate the Manchester Build Standard to partners will be developed in line with the Local Plan.		
1.3 - Amber	Large scale renewable energy generation	Procurement is underway to secure a provider. The 'Invitation to Tender' closed for submissions on the 11 September, this was advertised on the Chest Portal to interested bidders who had expressed a 'Request to Participate'. A decision on the preferred partner will be made later in the year.		
1.4 - Green	LED street lighting	Design work for the small number of remaining non-LED streetlights is complete, plans for the installation of LED streetlight replacements is underway once access is permitted.		
1.5 - Amber	Civic Quarter Heat Network	Connection of the Town Hall to the Manchester Energy Network is scheduled for late 2024/25 due to the revised completion programme for the Town Hall refurbishment. Updated forecasting for future energy demands of the Manchester Energy Network have been revised to account for the delayed Town Hall connection. A decarbonisation action plan for the Manchester Energy Network is in the early stages of development, once complete this will support the Board to focus on new customer engagement. The business plan and commercial model for 2024/25 is currently being drafted and is planned for Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee in January 2024.		
1.6 - Amber	MCC Housing Carbon Reduction	Procurement for a condition survey across MCC's housing stock is underway, which will provide a more accurate assessment of housing energy ratings to enable planning of future retrofit works. PFI managed stock - Contractors are progressing well on developing Sustainability Strategies for the Council's PFI managed stock, which will be complete by March 2024. The part funded ERDF HAES scheme is complete, delivering energy efficiency improvements to 629 properties in total. Two deep retrofit properties are also complete, bringing them to 'Net Zero Carbon or		

		beyond' standards, which will allow us to better understand realistic running costs once occupied. Service providers and contractors have been engaged to deliver SHDF programme and pre-development work including 300 property assessments and other surveys has commenced.
1.7 - Amber	Citywide Housing Carbon Reduction	The Greater Manchester wide housing data collection is complete, this will be used to inform GM-wide housing retrofit strategies and assist with identifying properties eligible for funded schemes such as ECO4 and Homes Upgrade Grant. Work continues with other local authorities and registered providers to share knowledge and learnings.
1.8 - Amber	Commercial and non-domestic building carbon reduction	To date support provided by the Greater Manchester Growth Company to the Commercial Sector and claimed under the ERDF Carbon Reduction contract was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three 'Enterprise Company's' supported, one of these being a 'Journey to Net Zero' delegate</li> <li>• Savings of 24.46 tCO<sub>2</sub> across the businesses supported</li> <li>• Financial savings of £23,981 resulted from carbon reduction measures</li> <li>• Two companies investing in Green technology</li> </ul>
1.9 - Green	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)	Work has continued on the procurement of public electric vehicle charge points and updating the Energy policies within the Local Plan. The Council's response to the Government consultation on District Heating Networks: Consumer Protection is being drafted to be submitted before the consultation period closes. A report on the delivery of the LAEP was considered by <a href="#">Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Committee</a> on 20 July 2023.
1.10 - Green	Leasing and disposing of Council buildings and land	Zero carbon and environmental credentials are a key element of the Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan and feature as part of the asset review process. This covers all decisions relating to the Council's land and property portfolio and is weighted and considered along with other corporate priorities.
1.11 - Amber	Manchester Local Plan	The Greater Manchester Joint Local Plan, Places for Everyone is expected to be out for the first phase of consultation late 2023. The evidence base for Manchester's Local Plan continues to the end of 2023, with the development of new and updated policies.
1.12 - Amber	Partnerships e.g., Green Building Council	Engagement continues to understand national best practice, which will inform the review of the Manchester Build Standard (see Action 1.2).

### Workstream 2 – Transport and Travel

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
2.1 - Green	Electric refuse collection vehicles (eRCVs)	Options are being explored for the decarbonisation of the remaining 50% of the fleet, which will feature in a full Options Appraisal before a decision is made. Considerations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifespan of remaining fleet</li> <li>• Feasibility - vehicle size and range suitability for collections</li> <li>• Outcomes of the UK Government's National Waste Strategy</li> </ul>
2.2 - Green	Replace operational fleet with EVs	Currently 42 electric and 5 hybrid vehicles in the fleet. Further 10 vehicles can be replaced with electric vehicles as leases end. Electric

		vehicle charge points have been installed within Cemeteries, at Northern School of Music and Manchester Art Gallery to support charging of the operational fleet.
2.3 - Green	Business Travel Policy	Staff travel policy engagement workshops are progressing well. Services with higher levels of business mileage (grey fleet) have been identified along with key contacts to engage. A “Staff Travel digital guide” is in development, to make the policy more accessible. Beryl Bike hire has been added to the staff expenses form so officers can claim for using this mode of transport for work.
2.4 - Amber	Environmental actions within Highways	Highways have developed a Short-term Environmental Action Plan, which is currently being implemented. Trialling of the National Highways Carbon Tool continues on the A34 Corridor project. The timescales for this project has been extended as the project will now be delivered in phases. The initial start-up meeting for the production of a sustainable materials palette took place in August 2023, work will continue on the development of the materials palette.
2.5 - Green	Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040	A Strategic Outline Business Case was approved by GMCA Bee Network Committee for the <u>City Centre Bus and Streets for All Connectivity programme</u> to unlock £3.28m of City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement funding to develop five major corridor routes into the city centre. This work is ongoing with TfGM, district partners and consultants commissioned to support the development of the business cases for these schemes.
2.6 - Green	City Centre Transport Strategy	A study assessing walkability across the city centre has been carried out, which sets out an evidence base and suggests schemes for small scale improvements to support walking in the city centre. Outcomes of the study will inform a pipeline of schemes for consideration for delivery when feasible.
2.7 - Amber	EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy	Following the soft market testing, procurement documents are being prepared to carry out a full tender process later this year to secure a supplier of the charging infrastructure. A progress update report was presented to <a href="#">Environment, Climate Change &amp; Neighbourhood Scrutiny Committee</a> in September 2023.
2.8 - Amber	Active Travel	Funding secured from MCC and the Mayor's Challenge Fund for the completion of Levenshulme and Burnage Active Neighbourhood scheme. The ‘Safer Streets’ trial has begun on Parsonage Road.
2.9 - Amber	Sustainable Travel Incentives for MCC Staff	Sustainable travel related communications have been shared with staff through internal communications on national action days/weeks to highlight the various schemes in place to promote sustainable commuting. Cycle September has been promoted to encourage staff cycling, mileage data is being logged to show progress.
2.10 - Amber	Aviation Emissions	The Manchester Airport Group continue to engage with the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and feed into the Government’s policies on aviation.
2.11 - Amber	Air Quality	A follow-up action plan to Manchester’s Air Quality Action Plan 2016-21 is on hold whilst awaiting the outcome of the GM Clean Air Plan. Officers are currently exploring opportunities for potential bids to DEFRA’s air quality grants programme.



**Workstream 3 – Sustainable Consumption**

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
3.1 - Amber	Sustainable Procurement	The Council has successfully recruited a new Procurement Project Manager within the Integrated Commissioning and Procurement team. This role along with the Procurement Programme Manager will help drive forward the procurement framework, which aims to monitor the environmental outputs of Council contracts. Collating data to calculate a baseline measurement of the Council's Scope 3 emissions continues to be a challenge, which is not unique to MCC. We are currently working with experts in this field to further investigate how we measure these emissions across MCC.
3.2 - Amber	Reducing Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in the Council	A Plastic Free communications campaign ran throughout July, in line with the global campaign, Plastic Free July. The aim is to encourage people to reduce their single-use plastic and wider plastic usage. Further communications are scheduled on the national single use plastics ban coming into effect from 01 October 2023.
3.3 - Green	Sustainable Events	Surveys are being carried out to understand the sustainability of ongoing Council events (both internal and external events held on Council land). The surveys align with the sustainable events guides focusing on five key areas (energy, travel, waste, food and drink, water, and carbon emissions). The results from these surveys will help create a baseline to understand how well events currently meet the principles of sustainable events and identify where further work is required.
3.4 - Amber	Waste Services	In July 2023, DEFRA announced further delays to elements of the national Resource and Waste Strategy. We are working with colleagues as part of the GMCA Waste Officers Group to understand what this means for businesses and residents, and our current waste provision.
3.5 - Amber	Supplier Toolkit	Work is underway to identify key outcomes that are expected to be delivered by our suppliers. Toolkits are also being developed to assist MCC Commissioners when procuring and monitoring environmental commitments through their contracts.
3.6 - Green	Influencing Single Use Plastics reduction in the city	The Parks team are working to ensure all onsite cafés are compliant with the Council's SUP free commitments as outlined in the Parks CCAP.
3.7 - Amber	Manchester Food Board	A scoping meeting is being planned to engage relevant MCC services and Manchester Climate Change Agency to inform the content of a Manchester Sustainable Food Policy.

**Workstream 4 – Adaptation and Sequestration**

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
4.1 - Green	Tree Action Planning	A draft outline of the tree action plan is currently in development. Information exchange meetings have now been undertaken with key leaders in the field of tree and woodland management, including: the Tree Council, and Trees and Design Action Group. The Tree Action Plan will be shared with the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee in November 2023.

4.2 - Green	Nature Based Solutions	The Highways Developer Design Guide - Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) has been produced and uploaded to the Council's website. The guide is a technical document that provides guidance, advice and typical detail drawings of the type of SuDS MCC Highways are willing to adopt.
4.3 - Green	Parks CCAP	Since the launch of the Parks CCAP in April, links with other Council stakeholders on a number of the actions are being coordinated to avoid duplication and streamline delivery.
4.4 - Green	Green and Blue (G&BI) Strategy	Further consideration is needed on the interrelationship between the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and other strategies including Local Nature Recovery Strategy (GM level); Our Rivers, Our City; work on Biodiversity Net Gain; Tree Opportunity Mapping; Tree Action Plan; and Biodiversity Strategy. It is important to align and manage expectations of these strategies to ensure buy in from external partners and departments across the Council.
4.5 - Green	Biodiversity Strategy	Work is ongoing with consultants to prepare for the introduction of the national Biodiversity Net Gain statutory obligations of planning policies from November 2023. A Members briefing session is being planned for October 2023 to share more on the changes coming into place.
4.6 - Green	Tree Planting	The Urban Tree Challenge Fund is now complete with 359 trees planted during the last planting. Further funding has been applied for via the Northern Forest Offer for a further 390 trees to be planted around the city in line with the updated tree action plan.

### Workstream 5 – Catalysing Change

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
5.1 - Amber	Carbon literacy training	2,252 members of staff are Carbon Literacy Certified including elected members and partner organisations. 10 Members are yet to complete training, 7 of these were newly elected in May 2023. A new Carbon Literacy Lead is now in post and will help with the roll-out of the training. A recent audit has taken place of those who have undertaken training but not progressed through to full certification. The audit found a number of pledge forms are outstanding, these are now being chased. Pledge forms will now be completed as part of the training session to avoid this issue reoccurring in the future.
5.2 - Amber	Embedding zero carbon within Council decision making	Two engagement sessions have been held with OMVCS and Supporting Communities fund organisations to help with the challenges currently being faced by smaller organisations who are not able to prioritise climate change issues alongside their other priorities. These sessions provided an opportunity to share knowledge and learnings and identify a peer support network.
5.3 - Green	Finance & Investment	The Innovate UK Net Zero Living Pathfinder Phase 1 project, which included the development of a high-level pipeline of projects with a variety of funding sources has now been completed. A bid for a Phase 2 to further this work, in collaboration with GMCA and Oldham Council, has recently been submitted, with the outcome due in late 2023.

5.4 - Green	Community Engagement	<p>Ward Level CCAP plans will be published on the Council's website by the end of October 2023.</p> <p>The "In Our Nature" Year 1 report is currently being written and plans for Year 2 are underway.</p> <p>Manchester Climate Change Youth Board continues to evolve into a new structure that will allow a wider range of young people to participate and take action.</p>
5.5 - Green	Citywide Communications Strategy	<p>Zero Carbon communications continue to promote initiatives such as Clean Air Day, Manchester's Wildest Festival, Food Waste Action, Keep Britain Tidy GB Spring Clean. The Council and Manchester Climate Change Agency are working with the Manchester Climate Change Partnership's virtual communications team to develop a new citywide climate campaign.</p>
5.6 - Green	Fund Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA)	<p>MCC has committed to funding the Manchester Climate Change Agency for 2023/24, covering four core posts and a small operational budget.</p>
5.7 - Amber	Support Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP)	<p>Southway Housing Trust has recently highlighted the impact the Council's leadership has had on their climate change strategy prompting them to replace gas boilers with heat pumps in almost 400 properties.</p> <p>The Council is working with MCCA, GMCA and the NHS to develop shared approaches for the production of Climate Adaptation Plans. The objective is to ensure plans are joined up and developed at pace.</p>
5.8 - Amber	Support Education Providers to reduce carbon	<p>A Green School Network chaired by Councillor Bridges held its first meeting. The Networks fed back on progress to date and the purpose of the board.</p> <p>The second Climate Change Champions session was held, focusing on Waste, Clean Air and UNICEF Child Friendly City.</p> <p>Four Schools completed the BEE GREEN relay. The winning school - All Saints Primary in Gorton will receive £3500 funding to deliver a climate related project in partnership with Manchester Environmental Education Network.</p> <p>Colleagues from Finance, Procurement and Capital Estates are currently discussing the feasibility of a Council loan scheme to allow Manchester schools to join a GM collective purchase of solar PV.</p>
5.9 - Amber	Influence GM stakeholders to decarbonise	<p>The Council, in partnership with the GMCA and Oldham Council, have submitted a bid to Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Pathfinder Programme (Phase 2), targeted at unlocking non-technical barriers to delivering Net Zero at scale across the UK.</p>
5.10 - Amber	Government Lobbying	<p>In August 2023, Manchester City Council joined <a href="#">UK100</a>, a network of local leaders who have pledged to lead a rapid transition to Net Zero, to support with knowledge exchange and lobbying Government.</p>
5.11 - Green	International networks and projects	<p>Manchester signed the Eurocities 'Call to Action' on sustainability and inclusion within culture during Cllr Bev Craig's visit to the Brussels Urban Summit. This work builds on the work already underway within the city's culture sector and will enable learning from other cities.</p> <p>The Council's Estates team hosted a delegation from Nigeria in July 2023, who were interested in the Council's zero carbon ambitions. The visit consisted of a range of presentations and discussions, plus a tour of the National Cycling Centre, Manchester Aquatics Centre and West Gorton Park.</p>

5.12 - Amber	Green Skills Plan	<p>The Work and Skills team together with Strategic Housing team have created a Social Value Working Group to support and monitor employment and skills opportunities from the housing retrofit programmes. The first meeting was held in September.</p> <p>GMCA have regionally commissioned the 2023/24 skills bootcamps (worth £7m). MCC have engaged with each Bootcamp provider to help raise the profile and uptake of their offer, including a presence at Job Fairs, community events and being embedded into Work and Skills marketing channels.</p>
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