

Welcome to the first bi-monthly brief which aims to keep Environment Portfolio Leads, Council Members and sector stakeholders updated on Greater Manchester Green City Region projects and news.

With the UK hosting the most important, global climate change event next November, we want to ensure that our members have full knowledge of the all projects taking place in Greater Manchester, demonstrating how we are achieving our carbon neutral 2038 target within the region.

We aim to keep these updates light and to the point; should you want further information on projects taking place in your area, either click on the hyperlink or contact the [GMCA Environment Team](#) who would be happy to help with detail.

Best wishes,

Councillor Andrew Western, Leader of Trafford Council, Green City Region Lead.

Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan

Launched at the Green Summit 2019, the GM5YEP is delivering actions through a mission-based approach via thematic Challenge Groups. Membership of the Challenge Groups is cross-sectoral representing their specialism. Delivery of aims identified within the plan is through multi-partner projects ensuring shared expertise, resources and commitment.

Download the [GM Five Year Environment Plan in full](#).

Green Recovery Action and Planning

A Greater Manchester [Living with Covid Resilience Plan has been published](#) following a special Combined Authority that took place at the beginning of September 2020. The plan has a number of deliverables which will have a positive impact on Greater Manchester's environment:

- Immediate implementation of the GM Social Value Framework
- Deliver housing and public building retrofit programme as part of greener economic recovery
- Provide support to enable businesses including social enterprises to innovate and adapt

- Targeted support to sectors facing lasting impacts from Covid, and growing sectors with investment where they can exploit new opportunities
- Secure infrastructure investment needed to kick start the economy
- Invest in public building retrofit and local energy generation
- Deliver the Cycling and Walking Plan, and build on positive shift in travel behaviour
- Progress Environment Plan to continue to reduce carbon emissions and create an improved, more resilient natural environment for socially distanced recreation.

National opportunities and resources

COP26 – The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021. Planning has commenced with organisations representing the region's interests on how to amplify Greater Manchester's green credentials and aligning next year's Green Summit. The Government have recently launched two campaigns to engage citizens and businesses to demonstrate action taking place prior to COP26:

[Together for our Planet](#) - Working closely with businesses, civil society groups, schools and people across the UK as part of our conversation on tackling climate change.

[Race To Zero](#) - A global initiative, backed by science-based targets, to commit businesses, cities, regions, investors and universities to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 at the very latest.

Government announce £12 Billion for Green Recovery [\[EDIE link\]](#)

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

General enquiries: GreenCity@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Twitter: @GMGreenCity

GMCA webpage: www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/

News website: www.gmgreencity.com

GMCA Environment Updates from September to December 2020

Energy

Decarbonisation of the energy sector is a priority to achieving the region's 2038 target. Recent launches include:

- The [Energy Innovation Agency](#). The first step towards an Energy Transition Region. The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and University of Salford will apply their energy and environmental research expertise to work with GMCA and SSE Enterprise to ensure GM continues to lead on ambitious regional decarbonisation innovation and action.
- The [Local Energy Market](#) project: Funded by Innovate UK, this 12 partner, 2 year project, bringing £6.1 million to the region, will provide a consumer focused approach to future energy management, looking at where we need interventions and how we can optimise energy generation, heating cooling and storage assets across all districts.
- [Unlocking Clean Energy Generation for Greater Manchester](#) Led by Energy Systems Catapult, brings together 5 local authorities, Manchester, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport and Wigan, in a scheme (funded by ERDF) which sees buildings, land and locations being revitalised, optimised and future-proofed with a blend of renewable, clean energy generation.
- DEEP Heat Decarbonisation Delivery Plan: Managed by BEIS and delivered by AECOM, the project is focused on identifying opportunities for delivering large-scale roll-out of retrofit, heat pump and heat network projects and developing these to outline further business cases.

Building

Projects are primarily focused on reducing heat demand in the region's homes and commercial buildings whilst also looking at the future skill demand for fitting these measures:

- [Retrofit Accelerator Programme](#) – Led by the University of Salford, the project is looking at the future skills needs and potential for decarbonising GM housing stock.
- GMCA has been awarded £4.7 million in Government funding to roll out the [Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme](#). GM residents can apply for grants of up to £10K to be used towards the cost of installing energy efficiency insulation measures and low carbon heating systems, such as air source heat pumps.
- DOPE Public Sector Retrofit - £80.7m capital bid has been submitted for the Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and a further £450,000 Skills fund submission to support delivery of carbon reduction measures in 154 GM public sector buildings. This is in addition to the £983,000 already received and defrayed across all districts to support the development of our capital submission.

Natural Environment

We are working to support local authorities improve their local natural environment and secure funding and investment to do so – given the [multiple benefits](#) we know it provides to people and our economy. This includes:

- [Local Nature Recovery Strategy pilot](#) – running until next spring, we are 1 of 5 national pilots being funded to develop strategies to help us prioritise where investment in GM's natural environment will bring the most benefit, to the economy and our residents, as well as for nature.

- [GM Environment Fund](#) – supporting the establishment of the fund by Lancashire Wildlife Trust, which over time will aim to secure greater funding and investment in our environment – particularly in opportunities for habitat creation and carbon trading. As part of a coordinated effort across partners, [£1.8m has been secured](#) for projects across GM as part of the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund.
- [IGNITION GM](#) – working closely with local authorities, particularly Salford and Manchester, to build the [evidence base](#) and investment case for enhancing our natural environment in urban areas to better adapt to the impacts of climate change. The project focuses on retrofitting Sustainable Drainage Systems, green roofs and street trees and the opportunities to support the management of existing and new green spaces.

Sustainable consumption, production and waste

Working alongside GMWDA and our contractors, priorities include ensuring the sustainable production of goods and services, reducing and managing waste sustainably and urging consumers to become more responsible.

- Planning permission submitted for Household Waste Recycling Centre, Reuse Shops (SUEZ) at Woodhouse Lane, Altrincham, Boysnope Wharf, Eccles and Ackwright Street, Oldham to promote the resale and reuse of previously discarded items.
- [Buy, Eat, Keep, Repeat](#): Initial campaign launched in November in Oldham to encourage residents to reduce and recycle their food waste. Further roll-out of the campaign is planned across the other 8 local authority districts.
- GM Public Sector Plastic Pact '[tackling plastics through procurement](#)' – Supporting GM public sector organisations to take informed steps towards reducing the impact of problematic and single-use plastics purchased, we are undertaking research and data analysis with a specific focus on catering consumables and disposables used on the public estate.
- Procurement on local levers for sustainability – As part of the GMCA 'Living with Covid' Plan the team is undertaking research to underpin Social Value goals with deeper sustainable public procurement policy including utilisation of local levers affecting behaviour changes towards sustainable business models and lifestyles.

Transport

TfGM's key priorities within the 5YEP are to increase uptake of active travel and improve air quality. Their latest updates:

- Latest cycling and walking schemes secure £5.6m funding for next steps ([27 November 2020](#))
- Landmark moment for Metrolink as first new vehicle arrives ([16 November 2020](#))
- Greater Manchester launches consultation on bus reform proposals in light of new report on Covid-19 ([2 December 2020](#))
- £16m of government Active Travel funding for 24 miles of new, permanent cycling and walking routes across GM ([15 December](#))

GREATER MANCHESTER ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES:

- [Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Strategy 2021-2025](#) launched at Green Summit 2021 by Manchester Metropolitan University.
- [GM Decarbonisation Pathway Report](#) – Produced by Cadent and Electricity North West, the decarbonisation pathway report provides near to mid-term certainties around the

future of energy supply and demand, to inform decision-making and investment planning for the adoption of low carbon technologies (including solar PV and electric vehicles) as the North West transitions to a net zero future.

- [Carbon Literacy Toolkit](#) for Local Authorities
- [GM Green Summit 2020](#) - All content available for viewing.