

# The Green City Region Brief

June 2022

**GREATER MANCHESTER**  
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Hello and welcome to the June 2022 GCR Member's Brief.

There's been a few milestones reached over the last few months, starting with launch of the Greater Manchester Strategy on 14th March. The launch heralded 'a new era' for the region at a live event, promising a greener, fairer and more prosperous city region. The strategy sets out a route, over the next decade, to deliver this vision for the benefit of our people, our places and our planet. Find out more at the [dedicated website](#).

March also saw the launch of the [RetrofitGM Action Plan](#), detailing how we can upscale work over the next three years on the mammoth task of retrofitting our homes and public buildings to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.

With over three years of learning, research and resource development, the nature-based solutions project IGNITION GM, drew to a conclusion with a final event held on 30th March. Backed by €4.5 million from the EU's Urban Innovation Actions (UIA) initiative and 12 partners, from local authorities, academia, NGOs and businesses, learning and resources from the project can be viewed on the project's [dedicated webpages](#).

Should you want further information on any of the 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.

**Councillor Neil Emmott, Leader of Rochdale Council, Green City Region Lead.**



## Greater Manchester Green Summit - Monday 17th October 2022

The fifth Greater Manchester Green Summit is taking place in-person at The Lowry theatre, on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October**.

The overarching aim of this year's Green Summit and pre-campaign activity is gauging how people and businesses would like to see action accelerated on the climate agenda, to commence the co-creation of the 2024 Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan (GM 5YEP). We are ensuring that we plan and deliver a series of regional listening events with various sectors and members of our community across Greater Manchester, ensuring fair and equal opportunity to input views.

External communications will include behaviour change tips on current priorities within the environment plan, including transport priorities over the next 5 months and a call for future accelerated action ideas and feedback.

We will be inviting representatives from Local Authorities to be part of the Green Summit Steering Group and asking Local Authority communications teams to amplify our messages with a Communications Stakeholder Pack. Please ask your teams in your area to support this work if possible. Further information is available on the dedicated [webpage](#).

## NEW GREATER MANCHESTER ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES:

Find out more on low carbon heating technology with the [Air Source Heat Pump Information and Myth Buster](#)

GMCA helped to fund the development of a [Schools Climate Action Planner](#), providing schools with a free, online, easy-to-use action planning tool to help teachers and students prioritise the actions their school can take to reduce its environmental impact.

## GREATER MANCHESTER ENVIRONMENT EVENTS:

**Decarbonisation Summit:** Tuesday 7th June, register to view online: [Eventbrite register to watch \(decarbonisationsummit.com\)](#).

Councillors are invited to apply for UK100's new **Climate Leadership Academy**. Applications are now open and close Friday 10th June 2022, 12:00pm. Apply here: <https://www.uk100.org/projects/climate-leadership-academy>

**Greater Manchester Green City Partnership:** next meeting Friday 15 July 2022 at 10.00 am (Livestreamed Annual General Meeting) [Further info](#).

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES

New study highlights dramatic benefits from local approaches to net zero Recent. Research by PwC has found that 'place-based' carbon reduction measures would produce far better environmental, economic and social results, at lower cost, than a national 'one size fits all' approach. The report: ['Accelerating Net Zero Delivery: Unlocking the benefits of climate action in UK city-regions'](#)

Transport Decarbonisation: Local Authority Toolkit - Developed by Department of Transport with the Energy Saving Trust [Transport decarbonisation: local authority toolkit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

LGA and Local Partnerships Green Finance Guide: Providing both practical guidance and examples of good practice to support councils in England to find the most appropriate and affordable ways to finance their green ambition. [Link to Guide](#)

## Energy

**Go Neutral** – Framework now live providing a procured and cost-effective route to market for GM (and national) public bodies to progress smart energy schemes. These include renewable generation, storage and EV charging infrastructure. Three schemes are progressing with an estimated value of £3-4 million on behalf of two districts.

**Local Area Energy Plans** – Ten districts have now been provided with bespoke plans as part of a ‘UK first’ programme. A final plan for the city region will soon be completed identifying where we need to retrofit and install renewable generation, where EV hubs are required and overarching timeframes and costs.

**Heat Networks** (formerly known as DEEP) – GMCA continues to work with BEIS and their procured consultants to support the region’s districts and partners to accelerate heat network deployment. All 10 districts have either received a heat network feasibility or are currently undertaking at least one.

GMCA are part of a pilot exploratory programme to develop **Heat Zoning Policies**, which will be based on the bespoke Local Area Energy Plans.

**Energy Innovation Agency** – Over 100 innovators and stakeholders attended the launch event and were provided with the opportunity to pitch for support from the agency in a ‘dragons-den’ themed event. [Read more](#).

## Buildings

**Retrofit Taskforce** – [RetrofitGM Action Plan](#) now launched with many regional programmes supporting delivery.

**Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme** – Approx 130 public buildings have been retrofitted as a result of the region’s £78m PSDS 1 funding award. This will save cr8,000 tonnes of CO2e with all 10 districts benefitting. Phase 3 funding of cr£15.5m grant has been secured and has commenced, supporting a further 30 buildings.

**Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund**, Wave 1 – GMCA is leading a consortium of 10 registered providers to deliver retrofits and energy efficiency measures to approx. 1300 homes to be completed by March 2023. The region has secured cr£10m grant and £9m match to deliver this programme.

**Green Homes Grant Local Area Delivery** – The region secured 3 rounds of local funding to provide energy measures to the most inefficient homes and where residents had an household income under £30Kpa. It is envisaged cr2000 homes will have been supported by September 2022.

## Natural Environment

**Biodiversity Net Gain** [BNG] Places for Everyone and the Environment Act will mandate BNG, making it a condition for planning permission, providing opportunities to help reverse the decline in biodiversity, both on development sites and elsewhere via offsetting. Next steps for Local Authorities could include signing the Edinburgh declaration and/or declaring a biodiversity emergency. [Read more](#).

[Greater Manchester declares “biodiversity emergency” and reiterates rapid drive to net zero - Greater Manchester](#)

[Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#) (25th March 22)

**Natural Course** – Consultants are sampling GM rivers to help understand more about micro plastic contamination. A further survey is due to start in June of non-native invasive plant species in the River Irwell catchment, undertaken by professionals and volunteers.

**Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund** – GM Environment Fund finalising a natural solutions brochure aimed at corporates for donations/investments.

**Green Spaces Fund** – Which aims to provide grants to improve and create greenspaces is launching on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Find out [more](#).

## Sustainable Consumption & Production

A **Northwest textiles** working group has been established to drive circularity in the fashion and textiles sector. Partners include Manchester Metropolitan University, UK textile re-processors, industry and the Textile Recycling Association.

The University of Manchester’s (UoM) **‘One Bin’** research project is looking at ways to increase the circularity of plastic waste is now in its second household pilot phase in Trafford.

Following a successful first year, applications for the 2022 Recycle for [Greater Manchester Community Fund](#) of £220,000 are open until 31st May via the GM Environment Fund. Last year [21 local projects](#) received funding to deliver creative solutions to recycling, repairing and reusing household waste in Greater Manchester.

**‘Renew’ peat-free PAS 100 compost**, made from Greater Manchester’s food and garden waste is now available free to community groups, educational settings and voluntary sector organisations. Applications to the [compost donation scheme](#) are now open.

## Transport

Mayor accelerates London-style transport revolution; bus journeys capped at £1 for kids, £2 adults (14 March) [Read more](#)

Greater Manchester secures £35.8million to enhance green bus fleet (26 March) [Read more](#)

Government funding boosts city-region’s transformational transport vision (4 April) [Read more](#)

Mayor of Greater Manchester writes to Government reiterating call for non-charging Clean Air Zone (13 May) [Read more](#)

Greater Manchester receives £13 million from government’s Active Travel Fund to continue delivering UK’s largest cycling and walking network (14 May) [Read more](#)

## General

Belfast, Dublin, the Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester have [announced a new partnership](#) to cooperate on climate action and net zero innovation. (30th March 22)

A new **climate change training** e-module will be launched in June for all GMCA employees. The module will be made available for all Local Authorities to adopt.

## CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

General enquiries [email](#) / Twitter: @GMGreenCity / GMCA Environment [Webpage](#) /

Green City Region news [Website](#)

