

Greater Manchester Green City Region Quarterly Stakeholder Brief

Updates, key messages, and resources to help you understand and communicate key initiatives from across our city-region.

June 2024

Hello and welcome to the Spring Stakeholder Brief.

Elections aside, this is a busy time of year with the financial year-end, projects being finalised and the beginning of exciting new programmes.

Coming to a completion is the Natural Course EU LIFE Integrated Project, the project has been running for over eight years and has focused on the accelerated delivery of the EU Water Framework Directive. Work continues as the team wrap-up the project up with the many beneficiaries. Find out more about the project via the Natural Course [website](#).

Concluding this month is the Greater Manchester Food Waste Map which will provide insights into the volume of food waste in Greater Manchester, we're looking at a huge figure, around 400,000 tonnes – something we can all try and tackle more in our homes by smart shopping and use of the food we purchase.

The first wave of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund also concluded with a final 890 Greater Manchester homes receiving energy efficiency improvements, work is continuing with wave 2 with an anticipated 6300 homes in total receiving upgrades with 19 housing providers.

Just announced, with a start of April 2024, is the award of £6.2 million by the Department of Energy and Net Zero for a Greater Manchester Net Zero Accelerator. The project will develop, demonstrate and scale-up new investment and delivery models. This is an ambitious project with seven workstreams which aims to create £1 billion worth of green private investment opportunities by March 2026.

By working with our Challenge Groups, local authorities and communities, we're putting experience, innovation and on-the-ground action behind the plan. Please let us know if you'd like to get involved! Want more information on projects taking place in your area or across Greater Manchester? Read the updates below or [contact the GMCA Environment Team directly](#).

Councillor Tom Ross, Leader of Trafford Council and portfolio lead for the Green-City Region

Events and resources

Northern Sustainability Summit 2024 Taking place on 8th July at Manchester Central. This year's event will focus on making sustainability work for businesses. [Book your free ticket here](#).

Natural England's newly published '[review of reviews](#)' screened over 2,000 evidence reviews and identified 104 key publications that inform our understanding of the relationships between nature and human health and wellbeing.

CAST Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations recently launched report: '[Catalysts of Change: People at the Heart of Climate Transformations](#)'

Power Up Your Community Energy Project with funding from Electricity North West, deadline for applications Friday 26 July. [Visit ENWL link](#).

GM Five-Year Environment Plan dashboards

Click here for a more in-depth analysis of our progress, with data and insight into how we are progressing against our 2038 carbon budget. This includes specific datasets for energy, buildings, transport and travel, natural environment, and sustainable consumption and production.



Thematic project updates

Energy

Energy Efficiency Awards - GMCA won 'Regional Council or Local Authority Body of the Year', Stockport Council won 'Regional Large Scale Project (>250K) of the Year' and Rochdale Council recognised as highly commended for their 'Regional Small-Scale Project (<250K) of the Year' submission. Read [more](#).

Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) – '[Feel the Benefit](#)' campaign launched (4th March 2024) to help Greater Manchester residents access support, advice, and potentially free upgrades to improve their homes. The campaign is being delivered through paid advertising, social media advertising and circulation of a partner toolkit.

Go Neutral Smart Energy – Site surveys completed for six Districts (Wigan, Oldham, Bury, Salford, Rochdale, and Stockport). Tender documents being drafted for nine renewable energy sites in Salford.

Smart Energy – Powering our Schools Solar PV roof surveys approaching completion. Specification completed for Owner's Engineer to provide technical advice to schools during procurement, construction, and handover. Largest community-owned solar array has now been completed at [Wellington High School in Timperley](#) as part of Greater Manchester Community Renewables Limited (GMCR) benefit society.

Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – '[Bee Net Zero Trafford Park](#)' initiative launched (20th March 2024) to help and support businesses at Trafford Park to decarbonise.

Buildings

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – SHDF Wave 1 closed at end of March 2024 with final grant payments being made to partners. SHDF Wave 2 continues to progress across all milestones with installations and completion of works ongoing.

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – PSDS 1 - Discussions ongoing with Carbon Architecture for programme extension. Final project at Ramsbottom Library, Bury expected to complete in Quarter 3. Majority of PSDS 3a single-year and multi-year programmes to complete end of March 2024 (Manchester due August 2024, Trafford subject to further delay, expected completion October 2024). PSDS 3b - three out of four projects moving into delayed completion. SEE appointed for Measure and Verification works.

Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – Work on customer sites has been successfully accelerated. Links between [Your Home Better](#) and the LEAD project have been strengthened to offer additional support for customers as required.

Good Landlord Charter – Over 270 responses received to the consultation with an additional 100+ tenants and landlords engaged through focus groups.

Natural Environment

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – [State of Nature](#) report published, and [public survey](#) released to engage residents, community groups and businesses with the strategy. Longlist of habitat priorities and measures developed, and nature recovery targets drafted. Continuing delivery of communications including press releases, social media content, [project blog](#) and newsletters.

Natural Course – [Grand finale](#) held (February 2024) to celebrate the end of the project after eight and half years. Over four phases the project has completed 50 actions, 81 sub actions and 182 deliverables. Feasibility study produced by City of Trees on priority locations for future interventions to tackle contamination from road run off. Water Framework Directive resource for planners produced and online and in-person workshops held.

Integrated Water Management Plan - Introduction video launched - [Enhancing life through water: a new way of managing water in Greater Manchester](#)

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – New guidance published in March 2024 setting out a Greater Manchester wide approach to implementation of BNG. Work has continued with Local Authorities to progress offsetting options on land in their ownership, including a market engagement exercise led by Oldham. Walkden Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) neighbourhood progressing through detailed design work and preparations underway for delivery

Greater Manchester Environment Fund – [Evaluation report](#) published in March 2024 on delivery of the Green Spaces Fund so far. Green Spaces Fund 'before and after' social media content developed.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

Scope 3 Emissions - Work continues to progress on profiling the Combined Authority's scope 3 carbon emissions. Phase 1 results expected end of May.

Consumer Behaviour Insights - Next phase of fieldwork is due to commence April 2024 with a further three waves to follow (October 2024, April 2025, and October 2025).

School's Eco Refill Pilot - Pilot to reduce single-use plastics and increase refill and reuse in the community is progressing. All schools have now launched their Eco Refill shops [read more](#).

Refill (City to Sea) - Communications to promote Greater Manchester as a Refill Destination are continuing with the number of Refill stations in our city region increasing.

Transport

Bee Active Network – Four schemes were completed in the period 15th October 2023 to 15th January 2024, delivering a total of 10.3km of Bee Active Network. This takes the total completed to 109.8km.

Record Journeys On Metrolink - Metrolink carried a record 175,000 passengers in a single [day](#) on the day of the Manchester Marathon.

Metrolink Guided Bikes Pilot - Guided bikes on trams pilot began on 29 February 2024 and has now concluded. It represented many different cyclists and access requirements, and the research group's findings are being collated to be assessed.

Bike Hire Scheme – Starling Bank announced as first official bike sponsor of the Greater Manchester bike hire scheme in January 2024, with roll out of branded bikes progressing well. The Cycle Hire Recovery Plan remains in place with around 700 bikes available at the time of the latest public update in February 2024. You can read more about Starling Bank's sponsorship [here](#).

Salford E-scooter Trial – Over 1 million Lime e-scooter trips completed in Salford., replacing over 250,000 car trips. The Lime e-scooter fleet is anticipated to grow from 550 to 800 vehicles from June 2024 and will be operational over a greater footprint in Salford until the Department for Transport (DfT) trial ends in May 2026.

Bus Franchising - Tranche 2 commencement of services in Oldham, Rochdale, Bury, Salford and North Manchester from 24th March 2024, with 50 new zero emission electric buses and 83 new Euro 6 Bee Network buses introduced in the coming months. Stockport's new transport hub and rooftop Viaduct Park open to the public. Operators for Tranche 3, which starts in January 2025, [announced](#). Further service improvements introduced to Bee Network bus services in Tranche 1 areas - Bolton, Wigan and parts of Bury and Salford - in April to boost reliability and punctuality.

City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) Zero Emission Buses (ZEBs) – Anticipated to have 100 ZEBs in operation by May 2024. This is 11.8% of anticipated fleet (850) – exceeding target of 10%.

Taxi EVI project - 57 (previously 42) Taxi EV charging points have now been delivered out of 60 in total.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Delivery – As of 1st March 2024 (Zap Map) there are 1751 publicly available connectors in Greater Manchester. Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capital and Capability funding allocated to Greater Manchester.

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