

Date: 26 June 2020

Subject: GMCA Climate Emergency Declaration Update & 5 Year Environment Plan Annual Report 2019-20

Report of: Cllr Andrew Western, Green City Region Portfolio Lead & Alison McKenzie Folan, Green City Region Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

GMCA declared a climate emergency at its meeting on 26th July and required that progress reports be reviewed every six months. This paper outlines the actions subsequently agreed to deliver on the declaration and the opportunities to further reduce CO₂ emissions from the GMCA's operations. The paper also provides an Annual Report of activities undertaken to deliver the GM 5 Year Environment Plan, launched in March 2019, for information.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the paper and comment upon the progress against the GMCA Climate Emergency Plan (Annex A);
2. Note the Annual Report for the GM 5 Year Environment Plan for the first 12 months, April 2019-April 2020 (Annex B).

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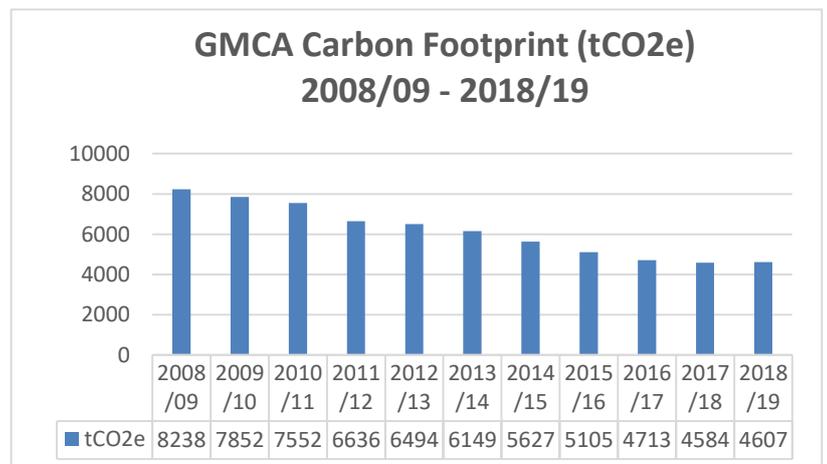
1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 GMCA declared a climate emergency at its meeting on 26th July. Following this decision, the actions arising from the Climate Emergency Declaration were developed into an Action Plan (Annex A). The Action Plan is divided into immediate (6 month) and short term (12 month) Administrative, Governance and Operational actions.
- 1.2 GMCA’s existing sustainability strategy has overseen strong carbon reduction activity and provided a focal point for sustainability activity. A number of developments have occurred since the existing strategy was developed, including the development and growth of GMCA, publication GM 5 Year Environment Plan (5-YEP) and Climate Emergency Declaration, with their associated targets for carbon neutrality by 2038 and 15% year-on-year carbon reduction. In order to reflect these changes, a refreshed GMCA Sustainability Strategy is to be composed in 2020. In the interim, the Climate Emergency Action Plan was intended to accelerate progress towards these goals and be superseded by a refreshed sustainability strategy in 2020.
- 1.3 GMCA’s overall carbon footprint is composed of emissions from the consumption of electricity, gas, diesel and water as well as waste disposal (Fig.1). As of January 2020, GMCA has achieved a 44% carbon reduction from the 2008/09 baseline (Fig.2). The current GMCA carbon footprint does not include all scope 3 emissions. Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions. Examples of scope 3 emissions include staff business travel and emissions from supply chain. From 2020/21 onwards, the GMCA carbon footprint will extend in scope to enable the measurement of emissions from business travel.

Fig. 1: COMPOSITION OF GMCA CARBON FOOTPRINT



Fig.2: GMCA CARBON EMISSIONS



1.4 As part of the Climate Emergency Declaration, GMCA also affirmed its belief that:

- That the impacts of global temperature rise above 1.5°C, are so severe that governments at all levels must work together and make this their top priority.
- As well as large-scale improvements in health and wellbeing around the world, bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities.
- As urban populations increase, greater consideration of how urban systems can develop sustainability will be required
- Tackling climate change is everybody's responsibility.

It is consideration of these beliefs that are likely to have the largest implications for GMCA as it will require a review our whole approach to socio-economic development through a 'carbon neutral' lens. This review will now be undertaken in light of the Covid emergency and recovery actions as part of the work underway to refresh the Greater Manchester Strategy.

1.5 The current pandemic has seen carbon and NOx emissions fall significantly as a result of reduced private car and public transport use, plus decreases in electricity and gas use in commercial and some domestic buildings. Citizen's awareness of improved air quality and value of green open spaces has also increased. If the current level of emissions were to be maintained for the remainder of the year, Greater Manchester would (for the first time) be on track to meet our Climate Change commitments of carbon neutral by 2038. As we seek to quickly rebuild our economy, there is an unprecedented opportunity to do so in a way which does not forfeit the observed environmental improvements by 'building back better'. Ultimately, it is recognized that failure to tackle global warming now is likely to lead to environmental conditions which may increase the likelihood of future pandemics and vector borne diseases.

2.0 CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS TO DATE

2.1 The Administrative and Governance actions have already been progressed and are largely complete. Governance arrangements for delivery of the GM 5 Year Environment Plan, utilising a Mission Based Approach, have been developed. As part of this, 5 'Challenge' Groups have been established (representing the 5-YER Priority Themes) and have each met four times. Each of these has identified priority actions and Task and Finish Groups to address the challenges posed. The progress of each of the Challenge Group is provided in the Annual Report (Annex B).

2.2 In particular, each One Public Estate (OPE) organisation, including the 10 Local Authority Districts, has nominated one senior officer to work with GMCA on decarbonisation of the public estate. This group has been meeting monthly since November and each has now been supported to assess their building stock (circ 2700 buildings) at a high level and begin to develop 'quick win' energy generation and efficiency proposals on the public estate.

2.3 A report has been produced on the potential opportunities to decarbonize GMCA's own estate and operations. Prioritised business cases for projects to address our direct emissions are being developed for consideration. Progress includes:

- building condition surveys are planned to be conducted over the coming months to incorporate identification of carbon reduction opportunities that can be factored in to planned estate upgrade programmes (e.g. window replacements, insulation upgrades, improved heating controls)
- entered a partnership for LED lighting system retrofit in 2019, with lighting system replacements to be completed at 6 fire stations by March 2020

2.4 Utilizing a systematic approach, GMCA will need to assess not just the direct carbon emissions from our estate and activities, but also the wider impacts from our procurement, investment and policy development roles. Actions to address these have commenced:

- All GMCA decision papers now include of brief climate change impact assessments
- A staff engagement plan has been developed to ensure all staff understand the implications of the climate emergency declaration for their work
- Initial changes to GMCA procurement documentation are due to be completed in the next few months and processes to consider more detailed procurement assessments (suggested for larger procurements and investments) are also being developed.
- Planned delivery of carbon literacy training to all appropriate GMCA staff (Senior Managers initially with a view to extending this to staff involved with buildings, energy, procurement and transport). 32 staff have been trained to date and a further 6 carbon literacy courses are planned in the coming months, ensuring over 100 staff will have access. Carbon Literacy is a training framework that provides people with the awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities as well as the ability and motivation to reduce emissions at individual and organisational levels.
- GMCA has electric vehicle charging points at 7 sites which are currently used by 11 'fleet' electric vehicles as well as by staff who are charged for the electricity consumed through vehicle charging. We are also investigating the potential to offer salary sacrifice schemes for lease vehicles for GMCA staff.
- An external audit of GMCA Environmental Management System (EMS) to ensure compliance with ISO 14001 standard has been completed.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 GMCA is requested to:

3. Note the paper and comment upon the progress against the GMCA Climate Emergency Plan (Annex A);
4. Note the Annual Report for the GM 5 Year Environment Plan for the first 12 months, July 2019- July 2020 (Annex B).

ANNEX A - Climate Emergency Commitments - Action Plan		Immediate (6 Months – July to January)	Short Term (12 Months – Feb to July)
Administration	To declare a 'climate emergency' to support the delivery of the Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan.	Completed 26 th July	
	That the Mayor will write to the Prime Minister to inform them that GMCA has declared a climate emergency and ask them to provide the resources and powers necessary to deal with it.	Letter sent to Prime Minister in September 2019	
	Report to GMCA every six months on progress and actions that GMCA needs to take to address this emergency and how it will work with GM Districts to develop a Mission Based Approach to implementation.	Timetable in Agenda items to SMT, WLT and GMCA at appropriate intervals (every 6 months)	
Governance	To establish a Green City Region Board and Partnership Group, building on the existing Low Carbon Hub Board, with a remit to:	Governance designed and agreed. Green City Region Partnership met 4 times. First Board meeting to be arranged.	
	To take a mission based approach to achieving this target date as part of our Local Industrial Strategy agreed with Government, and to ensure we maximise the economic opportunities presented by the move to carbon neutrality	Mission based approach developed with input from UCL. Challenge and T&F groups established, the former have met at least 4 times.	Challenge and T&F Groups operational and active
	Monitor progress against the carbon budgets set out in the 5 Year Environment Plan and to achieve a challenging target date of 2038 for carbon neutrality or earlier if possible	Working with Tyndall Centre to assess how to improve current monitoring arrangements	Enhance monitoring if possible. Review impacts of work undertaken
Operations	To task a director level officer with responsibility for reducing as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the GMCA's activities.	Assigned responsibility to Mark Atherton (Director of Environment)	
	Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the GMCA's activities	A systematic approach will need to include GMCAs policy and strategy development functions – to be commissioned in March	Build climate change appraisal into refresh of GMS and other GM strategies. Consider 'reversioning'.
	Make recommendations and set an ambitious timescale for reducing these impacts in line with the tasks set out in the 5 Year Environment Plan;	Produced report on GMCA's operational carbon footprint and actions required to reduce this – extend monitoring to include staff business travel	Develop refreshed GMCA Sustainability Strategy in line with 5YEP goals using existing Environmental Management System and produce business cases for priority projects e.g. PV, Fleet
	To assess the feasibility of requiring all report risk and procurement assessments to include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible.	Include a brief climate change impact assessment and mitigation measures on all SMT/WLT and GMCA reports and amend existing social value & procurement template documentation.	Undertake deeper climate change impact assessment on all procurement over OJEU limits (£180k). Investigate opportunities for forward commitment procurement.
	To equip staff, particularly those involved with buildings, energy and transport management and procurement of goods and service, with an awareness of the CO ₂ costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions	Complete training of SMT and offer training to ELT	Extend training to staff with buildings, energy, transport and procurement responsibilities

BOLTON MANCHESTER ROCHDALE STOCKPORT TRAFFORD
BURY OLDHAM SALFORD TAMESIDE WIGAN

Completed

Commenced/On track

Delayed/Behind schedule

Not Applicable