

# Greater Manchester Combined Authority

## Waste and Resources Committee

Date: 22 January 2025

Subject: Sustainable Consumption and Production Programmes Update

Report of: Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable, Consumption and Production,  
Environment Directorate & Michelle Lynch, Lead Programmes Manager,  
Sustainable Consumption and Production, Environment Directorate

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### Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update Members on the progress of a number of current programmes and initiatives within the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production Action (SCP) Plan with a focus on Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles.

### Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the progress of the key areas of activities currently being undertaken to enhance sustainability, reduce waste, and promote circular economy practices across Greater Manchester.

### Contact Officers





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# Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	The Plan looks to raise awareness through community engagement and involvement
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy	G	Moving to a circular economy can have a positive social, economic and environmental effect on the conurbation By creating a circular economy it should identify gaps and skills and stimulate economic growth in those areas Innovation is key to developing solutions and end markets for difficult materials Inward investment could potentially through innovation
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	The SCP Plan looks to reduce carbon emission through its 4 key priority areas
Consumption and Production	G	The SCP Plan focuses on key priority areas, as set out in the report, to reduce the level of waste produced A number of projects are currently in place to look at minimising construction waste Managing waste sustainability as possible is a key priority within the plan Moving to a circular economy is a priority with the SCP Plan PlasticFreeGM continues to be a priority within the SCP work programme
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		The SCP Plan and work programme are a critical element to the delivery on GM achieving Carbon Neutral by 2038. As SCP covers a wide range of areas, ensuring that the work programme is sufficiently resourced would improve the contribution to delivery of the overall plan.
Further Assessment(s):	N/A	
		
Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
		
		Negative impacts overall.

## Risk Management

All risks regarding the delivery of the 5YEP and SCP theme are set out in the GM Environment Team’s Risk Register. There is nothing identified within the SCP section of the register which is currently identified as ‘red’ status.

## Legal Considerations

There are no legal implications of the recommendations set out within the report.

## Financial Consequences – Revenue

The SCP Work Plan sets out expenditure that is within the budget forecasts (2023/24 and 2024/25) for certain areas of work. Actions for future years may require additional funds. If so, these would be subject to a separate detailed business case being approved.

## **Financial Consequences – Capital**

There are no capital consequences within the report. Actions for future years may require additional funds. If so, these would be subject to a separate detailed business case being approved.

## **Number of attachments to the report:**

Appendix A – Activity Programme Timelines SCP Programmes

## **Background Papers**

[The Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2025 - 2030 SCP Plan](#)

## **Tracking/ Process**

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

## **Exemption from call in**

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

N/A

# 1. Introduction/Background

The SCP Theme of the Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan focuses on valuing resources and reducing waste. It also supports our carbon neutral ambitions by identifying actions which will reduce our Scope 3 emissions. The SCP plan covers 4 key priority areas:

1. Moving to a Circular Economy;
2. Managing Waste Sustainably;
3. Reducing Food Waste; and
4. Moving to Sustainable Lifestyles.

The SCP programmes are integral to achieving Greater Manchester's sustainability goals. These initiatives not only address environmental challenges but also promote community engagement, improved health and well-being and economic resilience. Continued support and collaboration with partner organisations are essential for the successful delivery of these programmes.

This report provides an overview of the current programmes and initiatives under the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) plan, with a focus on Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles. Appendix A contains the Activity Timeline for the SCP Programmes outlined below.

## 2. Key Initiatives

### 2.1. Public Sector Procurement for Scope 3 Emissions

The review of GMCA's scope 3 emissions to reduce the environmental impact of procurement activities is complete with reports and action plans for procurement and investments finalised. Workshops have been held with the Senior Leadership Team, the 5-Year Environment Liaison Group, and Local Authorities to share information.

### 2.2. Reducing Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Waste

Greater Manchester's ongoing programmes aim to reduce single-use plastics and promote reusables through the SUP and Refill campaigns, including the launch of two reusable cup schemes and an E-Learning Module. Efforts have increased Refill Stations by 10%, totalling 925, and boosted Refill app sign-ups by 35%, reaching 703. Reducing plastic waste remains a priority in the new 5-Year Plan, aiming for a 5% increase in Refill Stations across Greater Manchester and enhanced Refill communications with City to Sea.

### 2.3. Refill Schools Programme

After a successful Year 1, additional funding was released in October 2024. Fifteen new schools will begin their shops in January 2025, supported by GMCA funding, a £5,000 donation from Suez, and separate funding from Salford City Council for two schools. The Wave 2 funding recipients are:

- **Bolton** - Gilnow Primary School and Walmsley C.E. Primary School;
- **Manchester** - Brookburn Primary School and The Divine Mercy Primary School;
- **Rochdale** - Marland Hill Community Primary School and St Peter's Primary School, Middleton;
- **Salford** - Dukesgate Academy (Primary), St Augustine's CE Primary School, St Paul's CE Primary School and St Peter's Primary School, Swinton;
- **Stockport** - Mellor Primary School and Pear Tree High School;
- **Tameside** - Milton St Johns C of E Primary School;
- **Trafford** - Sale Grammar School; and
- **Wigan** - St Wilfrid's CE Primary Academy.

### 2.4. Eco-School Fund

Applications for the Small Eco-Grants for Schools fund to support sustainability projects began in November 2024, offering grants of up to £2,000 to support school projects focused on the circular economy, sustainable food/food waste, and environmental education (sustainable lifestyles). As of 17th December 2024, 39 applications had been received.

### 2.5. Green Summit

The 7th annual Green Summit took place on 9th December 2024 at the Lowry Theatre in Salford Quays. The event included:

- Over 1500 attendees;
- 70 exhibitor stands;
- 110 speakers;
- 18 speaker sessions; and
- More than 200 school and college attendees.

Current media statistics are:

- 11,000 views on the Green City website;
- Over 4,000 interactions on social media; and

- A social media reach of over 300,000.

## **2.6. Circular Economy Business Platform**

An external partner has been procured to develop a business asset reuse platform, BeeGreenGM, which enables organisations to share their unwanted assets for reuse by others.

Key features of the platform include:

- Encourages the reuse of assets, reducing waste and conserving resources;
- Helps organisations meet their environmental targets by providing a platform for asset reuse;
- Easy to navigate, making it simple for businesses to list and acquire reusable assets; and
- Provides real-time measurement and reporting of sustainability metrics, giving organisations insights into their eco-efficiency and carbon footprint reduction.

Platform development and onboarding of organisations are continuing, with Phase 1 due to launch in March 2024.

## **2.7. Back to Baselines in Circular Fashion & Textiles (Network Plus)**

In partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University (Lead), Suez, the Textile Recycling Association, Textile Recycling International, and Salford City Council, this study aims to generate a clean stream of end-of-life textiles for quality assessment. The project evaluated the following textile waste streams from kerbside collections and Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

- Kerbside Collection: 49 households in Salford participated, with deposits from 15 households;
- HWRC A: Textile waste was intercepted at 6 HWRCs in Greater Manchester before being deposited in existing textile banks; and
- HWRC B: Involved a one-off textile bank delivery.

Collected textiles were sorted and assessed for quality and material composition. A final report, due in January 2025, will quantify potential fibre-to-fibre feedstocks for reprocessing options and understand commercial implications. This data will be available to stakeholders to prepare the UK market for textiles circularity.

## **2.8. Place-Based Circular Society Innovations (CSI) Project**

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Manchester City Council, and Stockport and Oldham Metropolitan Borough Councils are working with Manchester Metropolitan University on the CSI project to make places more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable.

They will develop five detailed case studies in Greater Manchester, Glasgow, Chicago, Utrecht, and Turku. The first case study will focus on Renew Greater Manchester, showcasing its success in combining social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

## **2.9. Behaviour Insights Research - Understanding & Influencing Sustainable Behaviours**

The Impact Consumer Survey evaluates sustainable initiatives. The October 2024 survey, Wave 11, focused on sustainable food choices and travel. Results will guide future communication campaigns and explore barriers and incentives identified in the new five-year plan.

## **2.10. Guiding Sustainable Food Practices and Policies**

The Food Waste Prevention report on climate and food-related health impacts in Greater Manchester is complete with recommendations. It assesses greenhouse gas emissions from food production and consumption, explores mitigation options, and provides a framework for effective local or regional action. This aims to offer evidence for climate and health impacts, support strategic programs, and influence policymaking in Greater Manchester.

## **2.11. Sustainable Lifestyle Initiatives**

In 2025, two new initiatives will be launched to focus on priority 4, sustainable lifestyles - the Community Hub and a Sustainable Lifestyles e-Module. The Community Hub aims to foster local engagement and provide resources to support sustainable living practices. Meanwhile, the e-Module will offer an online platform for education and training on Sustainability and Carbon Awareness, accessible to the broader community.

## **3. Recommendation**

The Committee is requested to note the progress of the key areas of activities currently being undertaken to enhance sustainability, reduce waste, and promote circular economy practices across Greater Manchester.