

Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan

Progress Update Q3 October - December 2023

Introduction

This report provides an overview of the progress made in delivering the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25 during October - December 2023 (Q3 2023-24) and highlights some of the work delivered during this period to reduce the Council's direct carbon (CO₂) emissions, as well as examples of leading by example and influencing wider change and action across the city.

This report focuses on the Council's overall activity to reduce its direct carbon emissions, highlights key achievements and challenges faced during the reporting period and showcases CCAP actions which have progressed during the last three months:

- The *Under the Spotlight* section highlights the progress made in supporting local educational settings with their climate action goals, and
- The *Seeing is Believing* section focuses on our Highways Team's citywide leadership actions that are enabling environmental sustainability.

An overall progress update and RAG rating of all CCAP actions is included in Appendix 1.

Key Messages

- We have used 62.3% of our 2020-25 carbon budget so far (out of a total of 126,336 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂), which means the Council has made good progress to date and is on track to remain within this five-year carbon budget.
- So far, the Council has used 41.5% of its 2023-24 carbon budget (April – September 2023) and is therefore on track to remain within its budget for this year.
- During Q2 (July – September 2023), MCC emitted 4,178 tonnes of CO₂, which is 3.1% higher than the same period last year.
- Key achievements include the publication of the Council's Ward Climate Action Plans and Single Use Plastic Action Plan, awarding the contract for a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which will provide the Council with renewable energy and securing additional funding from Ofgem, the GMCA and Innovate UK to support the delivery of the CCAP.

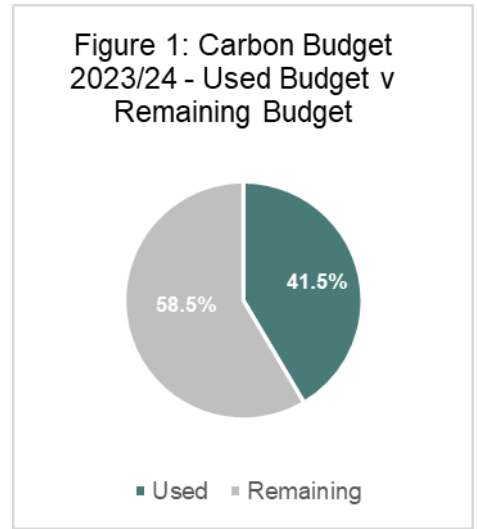
CO₂ Emissions

To achieve zero carbon by 2038, the Council has a target to reduce its direct carbon emissions by 13% each year. This ambition is underpinned by a carbon budget¹ of 126,336 tCO₂ for 2020-25, which the Council aims to remain within.

¹ A Carbon Budget is the cumulative amount of carbon (CO₂) emissions permitted within a specified timeframe

21,562 tonnes CO₂ – Emissions Budget 2023-24

8,943 tonnes CO₂ – Emissions produced 2023-24*



The annual carbon budget for the current year (2023-24) is 21,562 tCO₂. During the first two quarters (April – September 2023), the Council has used 41.5% of this carbon budget (emitting 8,943 tCO₂), which means the Council is currently on target. This is shown in Figure 1.

The emissions data relates to the previous two quarters, April – September 2023 and includes some estimates for the period due to billing being in arrears.

Overall, the Council has remained within its allocated carbon budget since the baseline year 2018-19 (as demonstrated in Figure 2 below). The graph begins with the baseline year 2018-19 to highlight the year-on-year reduction that has been made.²

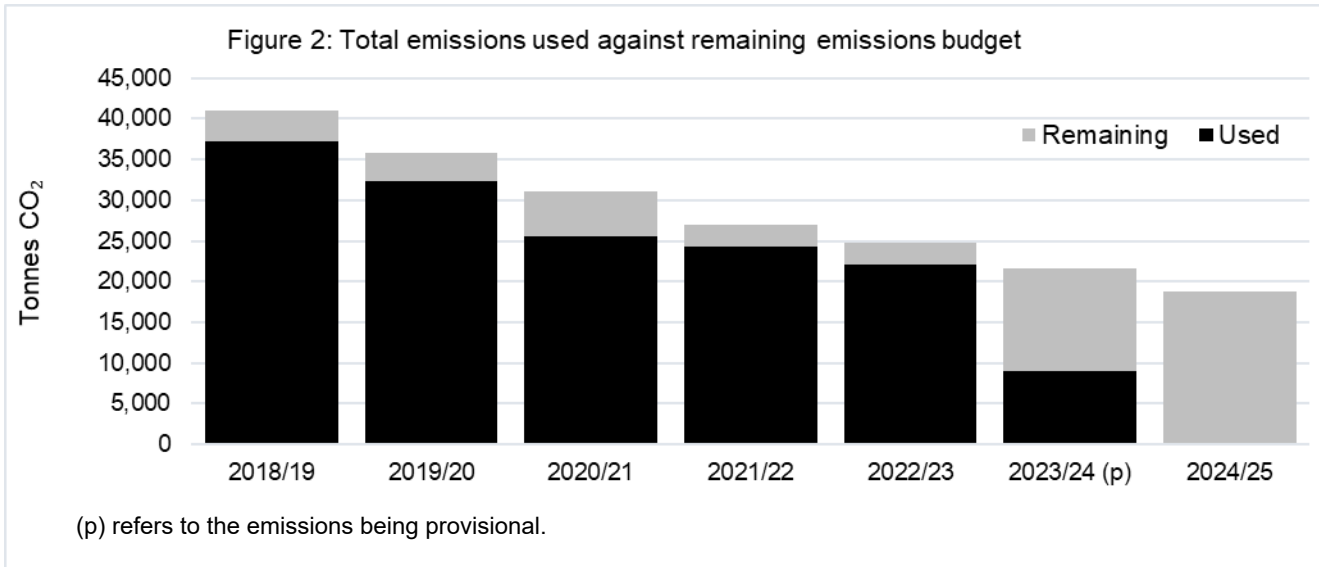
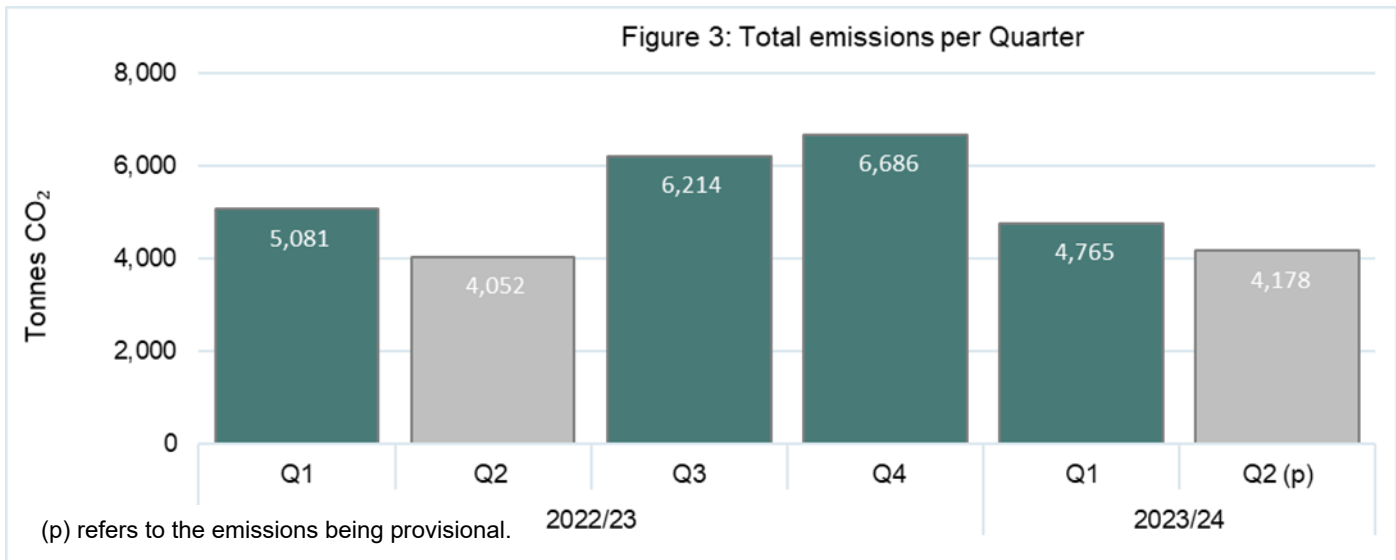


Figure 3 shows a quarter-by-quarter view of the Council’s total emissions from April 2022, enabling comparisons from one quarter to the same quarter in the previous year.

² Invoicing of electricity and gas data can be changed by the supplier within reason up to 6 years after original billing, and this taking place weeks or even months after the original bill is not unusual in the industry. As such, the emissions recorded in our CCAP 2022-23 Annual Report for that year have been revised (from 22,072 tCO₂ to 22,033 tCO₂) following a recent review of our energy data.



Emissions vary from quarter to quarter reflecting seasonal differences, for example higher energy consumption in the winter months due to heating buildings, and higher operational fleet emissions in the summer months due to increased maintenance of green spaces. Equally, there are over 300 buildings of varying sizes, conditions, and functions within the Council's operational estate, so many variables exist around temperature and use of those buildings, which means that emissions can change from year to year.

In general, we are starting to see lower rates of CO₂ reduction in individual quarters compared to earlier years in the current CCAP, which could be due to several factors such as weather conditions, returning to 'normal' business following the pandemic and having delivered significant CO₂ emission reduction actions in the earlier years of this 2020-25 CCAP period.

Provisional data for this quarter shows that the Council's total emissions in Quarter 2 (Q2) 2023-24 is 4,178 tCO₂, which is **3.1% higher** than Q2 the previous year.

The information below shows the changes in emissions for each Council area for Q2 2023-24 compared to Q2 2022-23, highlighting where the Council's direct emissions have increased and decreased:

Increases

- Streetlights 7% increase (1)
- Staff business travel 4% increase (2)
- Council Operational Fleet 8% increase (3)

Decreases

- Council buildings down 0.08%
- Waste Collection Fleet down 3%

A key factor in the 3.1% increase in emissions is the change to the National Government's conversion factors, which is explained in more detail below.

National Government Conversion factors

To calculate the CO₂ emissions from our energy and fuel usage, we apply national Government's emission conversion factors, which are updated annually. Of particular note this year is the electricity conversion factor, which reflects the mix of fuels (renewables, nuclear, natural gas, coal, etc) powering the National Grid each year. As a result of the National Grid increasing the amount of natural gas and coal in the production of electricity over the last year, this has increased the carbon intensity of the national electricity system by 7%, which in turn impacts our own emissions, via the conversion factor.

Therefore, when comparing the Council's latest quarterly emissions to previous years, the national emission conversion factor has played a part in some increases. The most clear-cut example is the 7% increase in the emissions from streetlights in Q2 2023-24.

The quantity of electricity used to power the streetlights has remained the same between Q2 2022-23 and 2023-24. However, because the national conversion factor applied to convert the quantity of power used (in kWh) into tonnes of carbon has increased, so too have the carbon emissions associated with the streetlights running in an identical manner.

The increase in the electricity conversion factor also plays a part in the smaller than usual decrease seen across MCC buildings.

Actions are progressing to reduce the Council's energy consumption and increase renewable energy generation. This will minimise the impact of the national emission conversion factor changes to our own emissions efforts.

Other emissions changes

There are other factors for why some emissions have increased this quarter and these are outlined below.

- Emissions from staff business travel have increased by 4% compared to Q2 2022-23.

A contributing factor is business activity changing as we move out of the pandemic recovery period. However, it is important to note that when comparing staff business travel, it is more meaningful to compare to the previous quarter due to the work being implemented by the Council's recently employed Sustainable Travel Officer. In this instance, there has been an 11% decrease compared to Q1 2023-24.

- The Council's operational Fleet emissions have increased by 8%

This could be due to a rise in usage during the summer period to cover the increase in grounds maintenance and hosting the city's events.

Key Achievements

- GMCA, in collaboration with Manchester City Council, has secured funding from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) via the Local Net Zero Accelerator pilot programme. £7m has been awarded to GMCA and partners to explore over 2½ years how net zero actions could be delivered at scale within a localised area. In addition, MCC has been awarded £150,000 of revenue support funding from Innovate UK to complement this work.
- Strategic Housing, in partnership with Electricity North West (ENWL), Energy Systems Catapult, Carbon Co-op and EP Group, have been successful in securing £484k from Ofgem's Strategic Innovation Fund – RetroMeter (Alpha Phase) will investigate alternative funding mechanisms for large scale retrofit using a 'pay-for-performance' approach.
- The Council has awarded a contract to purchase direct renewable energy supplies via a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). This will provide a traceable renewable energy source to deliver CO₂ savings to the Council.
- Solar car ports are now fully installed at the National Cycling Centre as part of ongoing energy efficiency improvements, delivered through the European Regional Development Fund. It is estimated the solar car ports will generate 172kWh of electricity annually, with a projected carbon saving of 36 tCO₂ per year.
- During Cycle September over 10,500 miles were recorded by staff across the council cycling instead of driving or using public transport – this includes almost 4,000 miles from officers commuting to work. This equates to a saving of approximately 1,027kg of CO₂ over the month. Manchester has also been named ACES European Capital of Cycling 2024.

- The Single Use Plastic (SUP) action plan was approved by Executive in December 2023. The action plan aims to eradicate avoidable SUPs used by the Council by the end of 2024.
- 37 Manchester schools are engaged with RHS and the National Education Nature Park programme, giving children and young people the opportunity to lead the way in mapping, monitoring, and enhancing their spaces for nature.
- All Ward Climate Change Action Plans have been published on the Manchester City Council website. Each contains objectives that are specific, measurable and timebound and will be delivered by the end of 2024.
- Carbon Literacy training was delivered by Council officers to Our Manchester Voluntary, Community, Social, Faith and Enterprise (VCSFE) grant programme recipients. Adapted content for the VCSFE sector was developed and delivered to 35 represented groups, on Carbon Literacy Day 2024.

Key Challenges

This section highlights strategic challenges associated with delivery of the overall CCAP and where possible, it identifies mitigating measures.

- Whilst we are within the CCAP 2020-25 Carbon budget, making significant future carbon savings across the Council are becoming increasingly challenging. Upcoming decarbonisation projects across MCC's Estate (Action 1.1) for example, are predicted to be on a smaller scale in varying conditions, which will result in smaller carbon savings, often at higher costs per tCO₂ reduction achieved.
- The decarbonisation of the national electricity system by 2035 has been factored into Manchester's science-based target to become zero carbon by 2038. However, if the national electricity system does not decarbonise at the expected rate, this will impact meeting national carbon reduction targets and as such, potentially impacting the Council's carbon reduction targets. To mitigate this, Manchester is entering into a PPA to ensure that electricity used by the council comes from traceable renewable sources ensuring a CO₂ reduction rather than waiting for the national grid to decarbonise.
- The Council is reliant on UK Government leadership through national policies and funding programmes to unlock further support and wider commitment to achieving major CO₂ reductions. The Council will continue to engage and influence UK Government on the importance of climate change and the net zero agenda.
- The financial landscape for the coming years looks challenging, which could mean UK Government investment in climate change may be impacted. The Zero Carbon Finance and Investment Sub-group continues to explore opportunities for investment into climate action.
- Delivering the scale of the Council's housing retrofit programme for its housing stock is proving extremely challenging due to technical complexity, funding pressures, competing priorities within housing policy, an industry-wide green skills gap and delivering effective resident engagement. This is not unique to Manchester and is impacting other Councils and Housing Providers across the country. With strong, effective leadership, the Council is continuing to work closely with partners on this agenda and has increased capacity across the service to deliver a housing retrofit programme. (Action 1.6)

Under the Spotlight – Supporting Schools Decarbonisation

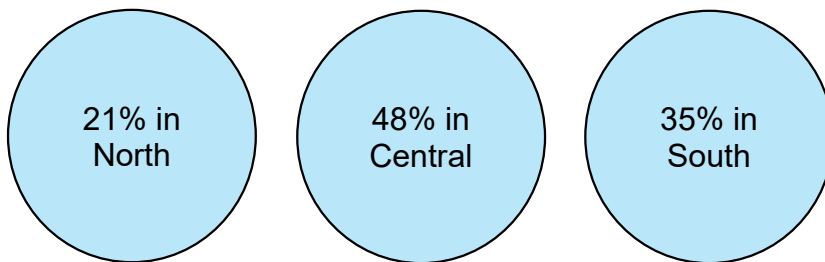
This section provides an overview of how Manchester City Council is supporting schools in Manchester to decarbonise. As outlined in Action 5.8 of the Climate Change Action Plan the Council is working to support and engage education providers to develop and implement their own climate change action plans.

As part of this work, the Council's Education Service team has been working on a number of schemes over the past year to raise awareness and promote positive climate action:

Green Schools Networks and Governance Review Board

Three locality-based Green Schools Networks have been established in North, South and Central Manchester to upscale climate action across schools and colleges in the city. The three networks meet online every half-term online, to discuss topics relating to climate change such as energy consumption.

The networks provide advice, case studies and feedback on challenges to Manchester City Council. Plans are being developed for three in-person events for each School Network to be held during Summer 2024. To date engagement from educational settings stands at:



As some educational settings are already well advanced with their climate change action, a **Governance Review Board** has been established in partnership with the more advanced settings to support the Schools Networks and consider the topics which have the greatest impact on reducing carbon emissions, such as procurement or active travel.

The Governance Review Board has led to the concept of a Manchester Sustainable Food Charter for Education. This is linked to the Education Climate Change Action Plan 22-24 objective "increasing the impact of Manchester City Council's offer to educational settings" and the CCAP Sustainable Food action (Action 3.7).

A similar model is currently being developed to set up Green Forums for Early Years providers across the city. The forum has been set up with the first meeting scheduled for next quarter (Q4).

School Climate Assemblies and Pupil Engagement

The Education team has been working with the Youth Play and Participation team to engage pupils on climate change and encouraging them to lead climate action in their schools. School Climate Assemblies are being organised across the city to ensure pupils voices are translated into meaningful actions.

Green Bee Relay

In January 2023, MCC challenged schools across Manchester to actively travel **3500 miles** by Clean Air Day, 15 June 2023 – this was the distance between COP26 (Climate Conference) hosted in Glasgow and Egypt, the host of COP27.

All schools successfully completing the challenge were offered support to create a climate change action plan as well as being included in a prize draw to win **£3500** to fund a climate related project. **Armitage Primary School** was the winner of the 2023 relay.

The challenge is launching again in January 2024 and will run until Clean Air Day on the 15 June 2024.

In addition, specialised climate change lessons (co-designed with pupils) will be delivered to schools across the city. Pupils will then be given an opportunity to submit their ideas for climate change projects in their school or community. Panels including school leaders, MCC officers and councillors will then shortlist the best ideas, who will then go head-to-head in a debate to win a cash prize to fund their climate action project.

All of these schemes are being led by the Education Services team and contributes to their Education Climate Change Strategic Action Plan 2022-2024, which was published in October 2022. The plan focuses on a strategic approach centred on 4Cs (Campus, Culture, Community and Curriculum) to support the education sector in reducing carbon emissions and developing sustainable school and college environments that will contribute to the City's zero carbon ambitions.

Seeing is believing – Highways' low carbon action across the city

Manchester City Council's Highways team oversee £50M of work each year, to maintain and improve the public highways, which includes pavements, cycle lanes and roads.

The work of the Highways team has several different carbon and sustainability impacts:

- Carbon emissions associated with the lifecycle of the highways network; building materials, repairs and maintenance
- Adapting to our changing climate by incorporating street trees, rain gardens or other Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) into the highway network
- Working alongside transport planners and Transport for Greater Manchester to deliver schemes for active travel and public transport prioritisation.

In order to ensure the team can work on reducing carbon emissions generated and ensure the city is adapting to a changing climate from a highway's perspective, to become more resilient, the Highways team appointed an Environmental Sustainability Lead in autumn 2022.

Carbon emissions

One of the largest sources of carbon emissions within the lifecycle of highways works is likely to be associated with the materials used for road building and maintenance. A monitoring tool has been developed to quantify the emissions associated with the materials and processes currently specified in highways schemes. The next step will be to identify where savings can be made, for example by using less of a particularly damaging material or changing to a different material which has lower negative environmental impacts.

Alongside this monitoring tool, the Highways team have commissioned work to understand the long-term carbon implications and costs associated with their standard materials. This work also includes a period of reviewing and testing more sustainable alternatives. This will allow for more informed decision making with regards to carbon implications of any future highways schemes.

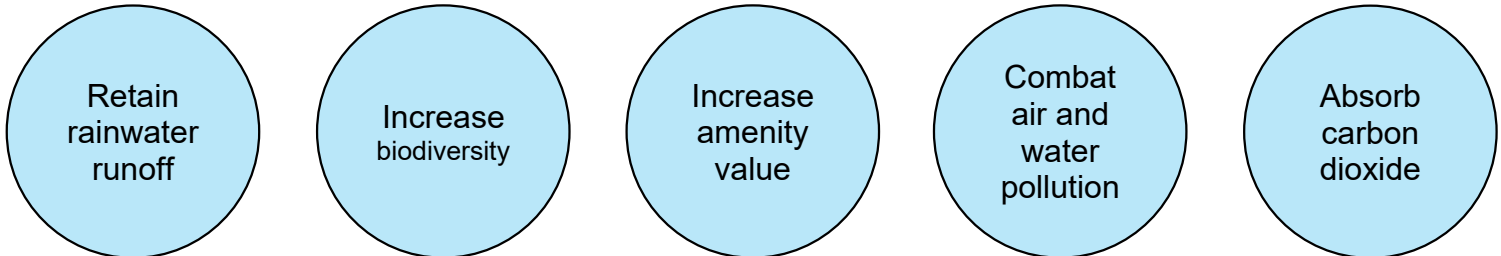
Adapting to a changing climate

The Highways team also have a role to play in adapting our city to the already-changing climate – particularly increased high rainfall events, but also heatwaves and other more unpredictable weather.

During high rainfall events in a city, the rain often falls onto hard surfaces, running quickly and directly into the existing drainage network, rapidly causing the system to become overwhelmed. By implementing green SUDs such as street trees and 'rain gardens', which capture and absorb rainwater, the flow of water into the drains can be reduced or delayed; thus, significantly reducing the risk of localised flooding.

In order to assist not only MCC Highways designers, but also private developers to design SUDs, Highways have recently produced a 'Developer Design Guide'. This provides an approved specification for street trees, and 'rain gardens', so the Council knows that the installation has been done in a prescribed way, which will simplify the longer-term maintenance of the SUDs.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems can:



Case study – Rain Garden, Victoria North-Eastern Gateway

At New Victoria, a private development, the Planning and Highways teams identified issues with the existing drainage system in that area. Discussions were held with the developer, design consultant, MCC Highways team and United Utilities, which concluded with a SUDs feature being the most effective method to divert rainwater from the existing sewer network.

A rain garden was proposed for this area, so that any rainwater which falls onto the hard surfaces runs into the rain garden in the first instance, and NOT into the sewers. Here, it is soaked up by the water-loving vegetation; any remaining water is absorbed slowly into the ground, and only when the ground is totally saturated does it run via a pipe into the sewer system. This drainage solution helps to prevent flooding in storm events by slowing down the entry of water into the drainage network. In addition, rain gardens deliver biodiversity and environmental benefits, as well as adding aesthetic value for the developer.

The newly developed SUDs Developer Design Guide enables MCC to sign off the design and agree to the long-term maintenance of the rain garden.

In summary, the Highways team are making progress towards quantifying, in advance of reducing, emissions associated with the lifecycle of our roads and streets. As the case study shows, the introduction of the SUDs Developer Design Guide in the last few months will also allow progress to be made to further adapt our city to climate change, bringing additional benefits along with it.

Communication and Engagement Highlights

This section highlights the communications and resident engagement activity during this quarter. Below are examples of how the Council is aiming to influence positive behaviour change both internally with staff and across the city with residents and other stakeholders.

Neighbourhood Engagement

As part of our climate leadership role across the city, MCC's Neighbourhood teams support local communities to proactively engage in local climate activity to reduce their carbon footprint. Examples of activities delivered during this quarter include:

City-wide

- Neighbourhood Officers distributed SUP ban leaflets across the city to raise awareness of the national law changes in October 2023

- A Student Welcome door to door campaign was held to encourage students to act responsibly especially in relation to waste
- Events took place across the city for Road Safety Week, with a focus on schools and air quality
- Sustainability Fairs were held across the city in November, including 'Repair to Rewear' Fallowfield Sustainable Fashion Sessions
- Ward Climate Change Action Plans were published on MCC website
- The Refill campaign was launched locally across the city
- Neighbourhood teams received Air Quality training, which included monitoring, delivered by the University of Manchester.

North

- The Harpurhey Recycling Extravaganza took place across two events in October, the first including a free clothing upcycling workshop, LED light bulb swap, free recycling materials, referrals to Energy Works services and the second incorporating a launch of the Refill campaign with local businesses
- Cheetham Cultural Festival included fashion upcycling classes and clothes swap events.

Central

- An E-waste repair workshop at Aviva Studios was held in October
- An Active Travel event was held in Gorton in partnership with Groundwork and Healthy Me, Healthy Communities.
- An introduction to climate change in education event was held at Loreto Sixth Form College

South

- Wythenshawe Age Friendly Energy Efficiency Roadshow distributed LED lightbulbs to older residents to help make homes more energy efficient, saving money and helping to save the planet. Multiple events took place including at Wythenshawe Forum and Northenden Library.
- A Dragons' Den Climate Emergency event was held in Didsbury, through the process £9,000 of Didsbury West and East Neighbourhood Investment Funding was allocated to eight Climate Change projects.

Culture and Events Engagement

In November, the Zero Carbon team co-delivered a workshop on 'Sustainable Events' at the 2023 British Arts Festivals Association (BAFA) conference at Aviva Studios.

Event organisers discussed what sustainability-measures they had implemented across Waste, Water, Energy, Travel, Food & Drink – aligned to the engagement approach the Council is currently taking to encourage event organisers to consider the environmental sustainability of their events.

66 delegates took part in the workshop, including representatives of 13 Manchester-based cultural organisations. Seven Manchester organisations received a bursary place, thanks to a partnership between BAFA and Manchester City Council.

Communications Highlights

Activity to promote our zero carbon ambition through campaigns, ongoing social media activity and regular press releases continued throughout the quarter.

Social Media

Topics covered this quarter:

- October SUP ban
- Sustainable Events
- Active Travel
- Cycleway improvements
- Recycling Week
- Retrofit and Energy Efficiency
- Estate Decarbonisation
- E Waste Day
- Green Bee Relay
- In Our Nature Funding
- Low carbon food
- Green Skills
- Trees and Woodland Action Plan
- Road Safety Week
- Greener Festive Markets

148
posts
across all
social
media
channels

3,555
likes

632,392
views

Internal Communications

Topics covered this quarter:

- No disposable cup day
- Recycle Week
- Green Careers Week
- Carbon Literacy Action Week

7k+
staff
reached

Outcomes:

- 33 visitors to our single-use plastic page.
- Directed 20 colleagues to find out more about how they can recycle at home.
- 29 colleagues explored more about green careers and skills.

Carbon Literacy Action Week Newsletter 4th December

- Covered a variety of topics from workshops to top tips, shared staff stories.
- Most popular section with 154 visitors was the Quiz.
- Second most popular was Top Tips for a sustainable festive season.
- Of those who answered, 70% said they enjoyed the content.

82
visitors to
3 in-
focus ZC
pages

Press Releases

During this quarter, there was a broad range of Zero Carbon related press releases, which resulted in media coverage on issues including housing retrofit, zero-carbon regeneration, air quality, active travel, solar energy and green spaces. This helps MCC to communicate our Zero Carbon progress and ambition through various media channels to ensure a wide reach across different demographics.

Topics include:

- 9th October: MCC seeks development partner for Wythenshawe Civic Centre (references net zero aspirations).
- 11th October: Moston Lane regeneration consultation backs plans (references ambition for more green spaces.)
- 20th October: New measures brought in to improve road safety and air quality in Manchester
- 2nd November: One million cycling journeys record on Oxford Road
- 3rd November: Trees and Woodland Action Plan
- 12th November: More than 2000 solar panels being installed on the roof of Hammerstone Road Depot
- 16th November: Improvement works on Fallowfield Loop
- 20th November: Wythenshawe Civic Redevelopment to get £20m kickstart
- 22nd November: Manchester's new economic strategy unveiled ('Transition to a zero carbon and resilient economy' one of 5 key themes)
- 8th December: Manchester become European Capital of Cycling
- 11th December: Ward Climate Change Action Plans

Zero Carbon Communications in Focus: SUP October Ban

On the 01 October, a national ban on more single use plastic items was introduced. Our communications campaign around the ban has faced challenges due to limited communication from DEFRA on the ban and low awareness amongst businesses on the ground. For instance, an industrial survey in September found that more than 50% of people needed help understanding what the plastic ban means for their business.

In recognition of this challenge, we continued to consistently promote the ban throughout Q3. The intention was to help businesses and residents manage the transition and go above and beyond the legislative requirements to help achieve our target of becoming an avoidable SUP city by 2024. This included a sustained social media campaign, a letter to businesses, and a flyer that Enforcement and Neighbourhood teams distributed - 2,000 copies to businesses across the city, which included an attached flier promoting our Refill campaign.

This case study demonstrates how we use our communications strategy to identify need, embed broader zero carbon messaging (in this case around sustainable consumption) and align physical and digital media to achieve engagement.

Appendix 1 – Action RAG Rating and Progress Update

The tables below provide an overview of the progress of actions across all five workstreams included in the CCAP 2020-25 using a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating system.

Overall, of the 48 actions, 28 are green and 20 are amber – which demonstrates that the Council are on track to deliver over 50% of the CCAP actions. Future focus will be put on amber actions to ensure these are back on track as soon as possible.

Key

Working to target (Green)	Work in progress (Amber)	Not started / missed critical milestones (Red)	Complete (Grey)
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Workstream 1 – Buildings and Energy

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
1.1 - Green	MCC Estates carbon reduction programme	<p>Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funded work continues with works on two building completed this quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall Lane Resource Centre expected to save 107 tCO₂ per year Arbeta Building expected to save 202 tCO₂ per year. <p>A further £284k funding has been secured through PSDS for decarbonisation work on the Claremont Resource Centre.</p> <p>The ERDF funded solar car ports at the National Cycling Centre, delivered in partnership with the Energy Catapult, are now fully installed and expect a carbon saving of 36 tCO₂ per annum.</p> <p>A Zero Carbon Estates Strategy is in development and will be shared with Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee in Q4.</p>
1.2 - Amber	Manchester Build Standard	A full review of the Manchester Build Standard is planned for 2024. Once the review is complete, plans to disseminate the Manchester Build Standard to partners will be developed in line with the Local Plan.
1.3 - Amber	Large scale renewable energy generation	A provider has been selected following a procurement process, an update was provided to Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee in December 2023. Contractual arrangements are being finalised.
1.4 - Green	LED street lighting	Design work for the small number of remaining non-LED streetlights is complete and plans for the installation of the replacement LED streetlight is underway.
1.5 - Amber	Civic Quarter Heat Network	Connection of the Town Hall to the Manchester Energy Network is scheduled for late 2024/25. A decarbonisation working group has been established to explore how the network can achieve its net zero targets. The working group are currently writing an action plan, which will be shared in early 2024.
1.6 - Amber	MCC Housing Carbon Reduction	<p>The Council is progressing a full stock condition survey across the whole Council owned housing stock, this includes collecting energy efficiency data to provide a more accurate assessment of housing energy ratings. These surveys will inform future retrofit planning.</p> <p>Prework across the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) schemes has begun including housing surveys, retrofit assessments and design works.</p> <p>Forever Consulting have been commissioned to support the development of a Retrofit Engagement Strategy and Resource Plan.</p>
1.7 - Amber	Citywide Housing Carbon Reduction	Planning colleagues continue to engage with the Manchester Housing Provider Partnership Zero Carbon Sub Group to share best practice, approaches to applications and provide peer support.

1.8 - Amber	Commercial and non-domestic building carbon reduction	To date support provided by the Greater Manchester Growth Company to the Commercial Sector is claimed under the ERDF Carbon Reduction contract: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 'Enterprise Company's' supported • Savings of 888 tCO₂ across the businesses supported • Financial savings of £433,425 resulted from carbon reduction measures • 19 companies investing in green technology
1.9 - Green	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)	A response was submitted on behalf of the Council to the Government's consultation on District Heating Networks: Consumer Protection in October. Work continues updating the energy policies in the Local Plan. Co-ordination work on the submission of development and programme data for ENWL, which is provided on a quarterly basis.
1.10 - Green	Leasing and disposing of Council buildings and land	Zero carbon and environmental credentials are a key element of the Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan and feature as part of the asset review process.
1.11 - Amber	Manchester Local Plan	The Greater Manchester Joint Local Plan (Places for Everyone) is expected to be out for consultation on Main Modifications by the end of 2023. Policy development to support Manchester's Local Plan continues, the evidence base for zero carbon new build developments for Manchester's Local Plan is being finalised.
1.12 - Amber	Partnerships e.g., Green Building Council	Engagement continues to understand national best practice, which will inform the review of the Manchester Build Standard (see Action 1.2).

Workstream 2 – Transport and Travel

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
2.1 - Green	Electric refuse collection vehicles (eRCVs)	Options are being explored for the decarbonisation of the remaining 50% of the fleet, which will feature in a full Options Appraisal before a decision is made. Considerations include lifespan of the remaining fleet, the feasibility of using an alternative such as vehicle size and distance range and the cost.
2.2 - Green	Replace operational fleet with EVs	Electric vehicles are encouraged for all lease vehicles. Fleet management are currently exploring opportunities to trial EV maintenance vehicles such as street cleaners, although there are currently limited options available.
2.3 - Green	Business Travel Policy	Staff travel engagement workshops are progressing well, Parks & Manchester Adult Education Services are booking in workshops and presentations have been made at senior leadership level of Children's and Adult's services. The 'Staff Travel digital guide' was published and promoted as part of the Carbon Literacy Action Day communications in December. Feedback questionnaires are being developed to understand usage of the Ultra Low Emissions vehicle leasing scheme to gauge employees experience and roughly estimate CO ₂ saved.

2.4 - Green	Environmental actions within Highways	Processes have been established for identifying environmental opportunities in early project development, carbon management plans will be developed in the next 6-12 months for major capital projects. Integration into the wider Highways Infrastructure Programme will follow.
2.5 - Green	Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040	Progressing with early baseline and audit work on the City Centre Bus and Streets for All Connectivity programme - aim to progress to Outline Business Case in late 2024, for 5 radial corridors. Consultant teams appointed and the development process will continue into early/mid 2024.
2.6 - Green	City Centre Transport Strategy	Work is ongoing to scope out the City Centre Transport Strategy implementation plan. There is a lot of competing demand for space in the City Centre and works are being done to establish how best to allocate road space.
2.7 - Amber	EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy	Work is ongoing in relation to the procurement of a charge point operator to supply, maintain and operate public EV points however this has been delayed due to changes to grant funding, which requires all GM authorities to collaborate in relation to a procurement processes.
2.8 - Green	Active Travel	Internal business case approval received for Cycle Hangars pilot scheme, Parsonage Road Safer Streets trial evaluation continues, and a full Business Case has been submitted to TfGM for to secure Mayors Challenge Funding for Levenshulme Active Neighbourhoods.
2.9 - Amber	Sustainable Travel Incentives for MCC Staff	Sustainable travel related communications have been shared with staff through internal communications to highlight the various schemes in place to promote sustainable commuting, including discounted annual passes for public transport, cycle to work scheme and the ULEV lease scheme.
2.10 - Amber	Aviation Emissions	Work is underway to prepare for an aviation emissions item at Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee in January 2024. The reports will include a covering report drafted by the Council as well as a paper by Manchester Airport Group and one by the Centre for Aviation and Transport Emissions.
2.11 - Amber	Air Quality	A follow-up action plan to Manchester's Air Quality Action Plan 2016-21 is on hold whilst awaiting the outcome of the GM Clean Air Plan. A progress report about the Clean Air Plan is currently in development and will be shared in the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Committee in January 2024.

Workstream 3 – Sustainable Consumption

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
3.1 - Amber	Sustainable Procurement	The Council is working with carbon accounting specialists CO2A to better understand the Council's Scope 3 emissions. As part of this work to monitor Scope 3 emissions, a new contract management system is being implemented to better understand what the Council procures. This system is intended to monitor the carbon related KPIs of all contracts including tracking suppliers' carbon emissions as part of the contracts KPIs.

3.2 - Green	Reducing Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in the Council	MCC's SUP Action Plan was approved by Executive in December, which includes 20 objectives to ensure avoidable SUPs are eradicated from Council operations by 2024. Significant progress has already been made by cafes on estates and in parks, Mcr Active are also engaged and currently reviewing the use of SUPs in their leisure centres.
3.3 - Green	Sustainable Events	Ongoing engagement with event organisers to understand areas of progress and challenges when trying to make events as sustainable as possible. This includes two Community Event Fund events and three large sport events (the Great Mcr Run, Para Swim World Championships and the Davis Cup). MCC also co-delivered a workshop at the British Arts Festival Association conference 2023 and shared learnings about the sustainability measures implemented across Waste, Water, Energy, Travel, Food & Drink offer at events.
3.4 - Amber	Waste Services	MCC are working with colleagues as part of the GMCA Waste Officers Group to understand how the national Waste Strategy will impact businesses and residents, and our current waste provision.
3.5 - Amber	Supplier Toolkit	Work is ongoing to put together suppliers and guides/toolkits to assist Commissioners to procure and monitor the carbon emission reductions through their contracts.
3.6 - Green	Influencing Single Use Plastics reduction in the city	The Parks team are developing an educational programme, which will aim to inform and influence park community groups running their own activities and small-scale events to reduce their usage of SUPs.
3.7 - Amber	Manchester Food Board	A scoping meeting took place in December with relevant MCC services, Manchester Climate Change Agency and FoodSync to start to develop Manchester's Sustainable Food Policy by looking at best practice examples.

Workstream 4 – Adaptation and Sequestration

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
4.1 - Green	Tree Action Planning	The Tree Action and Woodland Plan was presented to Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee in November 2023. An online consultation survey has been shared with responses being collected for 8 weeks starting in November.
4.2 - Green	Nature Based Solutions	SUDs have recently been installed at a private development at Victoria North, which utilised the new recently published Developer Guide.
4.3 - Green	Parks CCAP	As part of the ongoing Parks CCAP, planning is taking place for future actions which will kick off in Spring 2024, such as a change to some mowing schedules.
4.4 - Green	Green and Blue (G&BI) Strategy	Further consideration is needed on the interrelationship between the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and other strategies including Local Nature Recovery Strategy (GM level); Our Rivers, Our City; work on Biodiversity Net Gain; Tree Opportunity Mapping; Tree Action Plan; and Biodiversity Strategy. It is important to align and manage expectations of these strategies to ensure buy in from external partners and departments across the Council.
4.5 - Green	Biodiversity Strategy	Work is ongoing with consultants to prepare for the introduction of the national Biodiversity Net Gain statutory obligations, which will

		come into effect in January 2024. A member's briefing session was held in October 2023 and a full report was completed in December 2023.
4.6 - Green	Tree Planting	Expenditure on tree planting is being calculated for the latest planting season in 2023/24. This will be included in the next Green Infrastructure report to Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee in March 2024.

Workstream 5 – Catalysing Change

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
5.1 - Green	Carbon literacy training	<p>Over 2,600 members of staff are Carbon Literacy Certified including elected members and partner organisations. A new 'pledge' form has been created aiming to improve the quality of pledges made and improve the return rate to speed up the certification process. Service specific training sessions have increased making it easier for frontline employees to complete the training.</p> <p>04 December was Carbon Literacy Day, MCC hosted several activities on the day including carbon literacy taster sessions for young people and two Climate Fresk workshops in libraries.</p>
5.2 - Green	Embedding zero carbon within Council decision making	<p>Work continues to ensure zero carbon themes are included in key Council strategies such as 'Investing in Success' Economic Strategy, Our Manchester 2025-2035 and 'Starts with a Spark' Cultural Strategy.</p> <p>VCSFE Our Manchester grant funded recipients are receiving Carbon Literacy Training, delivered by MCC to strengthen subject knowledge.</p>
5.3 - Green	Finance & Investment	<p>£7m has been awarded by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) for a Net Zero Neighbourhoods Accelerator project in partnership with GMCA and Oldham Council. Funding terms for the 2-year project are currently being agreed.</p> <p>MCC continue to actively engage with the national 3Ci programme (Connected Places Catapult) and potential investment opportunities across the city have been highlighted for inclusion in a 3Ci COP28 investment prospectus.</p>
5.4 - Green	Community Engagement	<p>Ward level CCAP plans are now online and include SMART targets to allow for measurement of progress. Ward level carbon footprints are also being produced by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research as part of the 'In Our Nature' project – 5 Wards have been completed so far and are online.</p>
5.5 - Green	Citywide Communications Strategy	<p>Zero Carbon communications continue, to promote initiatives such as Carbon Literacy Action Day, Green Careers Week and National Tree Week.</p> <p>The Council, Manchester Climate Change Agency and Partnership are collaborating on a citywide communications campaign, which will be launched early 2024.</p>
5.6 - Green	Fund Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA)	<p>MCC continues to fund MCCA for 2023/24, covering four core posts and a small operational budget.</p>

5.7 - Amber	Support Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP)	<p>At November's MCCP Board, the Council working with the Carbon Literacy Project set out a proposal for Manchester to become a Carbon Literate City, building on the existing Carbon Literacy work across Manchester. The proposal was approved, and work is now underway to develop a delivery plan, a launch and communications.</p> <p>The Council has been working MCCA, GMCA and the NHS Manchester to progress work on Climate Adaptation. With MCC taking a leadership role by developing a Climate Adaptation Plan for the public sector in the city. The plan will set out the priorities for the Council to manage climate risks across our buildings and services and how the Council will play its full leadership role in ensuring the city can become more resilient to climate change.</p>
5.8 - Amber	Support Education Providers to reduce carbon	<p>A meeting of all three Green School Networks was held to discuss nature based solutions to coincide with the launch of the National Education Nature Park programme. More information about the Schools Networks can be found in the spotlight section above.</p> <p>A Green Education Survey is currently underway to understand how many schools in Manchester currently have climate action plans and identify any areas of support the council can provide.</p>
5.9 - Amber	Influence GM stakeholders to decarbonise	<p>The Council has continued to work with GMCA on the implementation of the March 2023 GM Trailblazer Devolution Deal, which includes net zero and retrofit as part of the single settlement. The Memorandum of Understanding was published as part of the Autumn Statement in November.</p>
5.10 - Amber	Government Lobbying	<p>Work continues to develop lobbying documents for all parties ahead of the next General Election and will provide Manchester specific content to accompany the recently published 'Asks of National Government' document, published by MCCA. The Council submitted a formal response to the Local Government Association White Paper at the end of November, which included a section summarising the Council's climate change asks from a new Government to deliver the Council's Climate Change Action Plan and Manchester Climate Change Framework.</p> <p>Manchester also continues to work through the Core Cities UK group to engage with UK Government on initiatives such as COP28 and 3Ci.</p>
5.11 - Green	International networks and projects	<p>International partnerships continue to focus on climate change with activity this quarter including, Manchester hosting the second UK-China Hydrogen Forum on 30 November with attendance from a range of stakeholders including a delegation from Wuhan and hydrogen businesses.</p> <p>A senior level delegation from Greater Manchester including Cllr Bev Craig, Leader of the Council travelled to Osaka and Tokyo in December 2023. One of the themes of the visit was low carbon and a visit to Daikin, who are investing in heat pump installations across Greater Manchester.</p>

5.12 - Green	Green Skills Plan	<p>The Work and Skills team ran a Green Careers Week Campaign in November with a special Work and Skills bulletin.</p> <p>The team are working with GMCA, building on the work of 'Every job a Green job' to establish a sustainable funded resource model for Greater Manchester.</p>
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