

Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan

Progress Update Q4 January - March 2024

Introduction

This report provides an overview of the progress made in delivering the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25 during January - March 2023 (Q4 2023-24) and highlights some of the work delivered during this period to reduce direct carbon (CO₂) emissions, as well as examples of leading by example and influencing wider change and action across the city.

This report highlights key achievements and challenges faced during the reporting period and showcases CCAP actions which have progressed during the last three months. The *Seeing is Believing* section focuses on our Culture 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

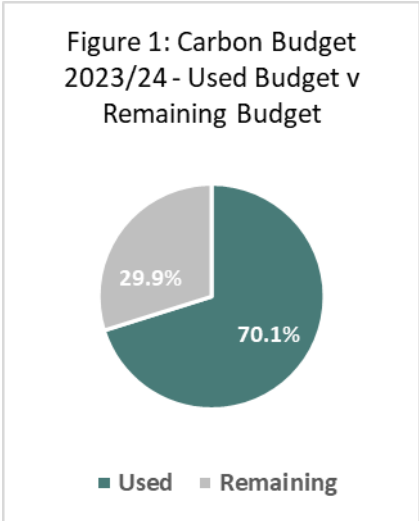
- We have used 68.8% of our 2020-25 carbon budget so far (out of a total of 126,336 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂), which means the Council has made good progress to date and is on track to remain within this five-year carbon budget.
- So far, the Council has used 70.1% of its 2023-24 carbon budget (April – December 2023) and is therefore on track to remain within its budget for this year.
- During Q3 (October – December 2023), MCC emitted 6,208 tonnes of CO₂, which is 0.1% lower than the same period last year.
- Key achievements include progression of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) programme with installations of first retrofit interventions on residential properties in North Manchester, awarding of over £100,000 of Neighbourhood Investment funding to community climate change projects, solar panel installation on the Hammerstone Road depot, publication of the new staff sustainable travel guide, uptake of the Refill campaign, public consultation on the Tree and Woodland Action Plan and a green skills and jobs event for North Manchester primary school children.

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
15,120 tonnes CO₂ – Emissions produced 2023-24*



The annual carbon budget for the current year (2023-24) is **21,562 tCO₂**. During the first three quarters (April – December 2023), the Council has used 70.1% of this carbon budget (emitting **15,120 tCO₂**), which means the Council is currently on target. This is shown in Figure 1.

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

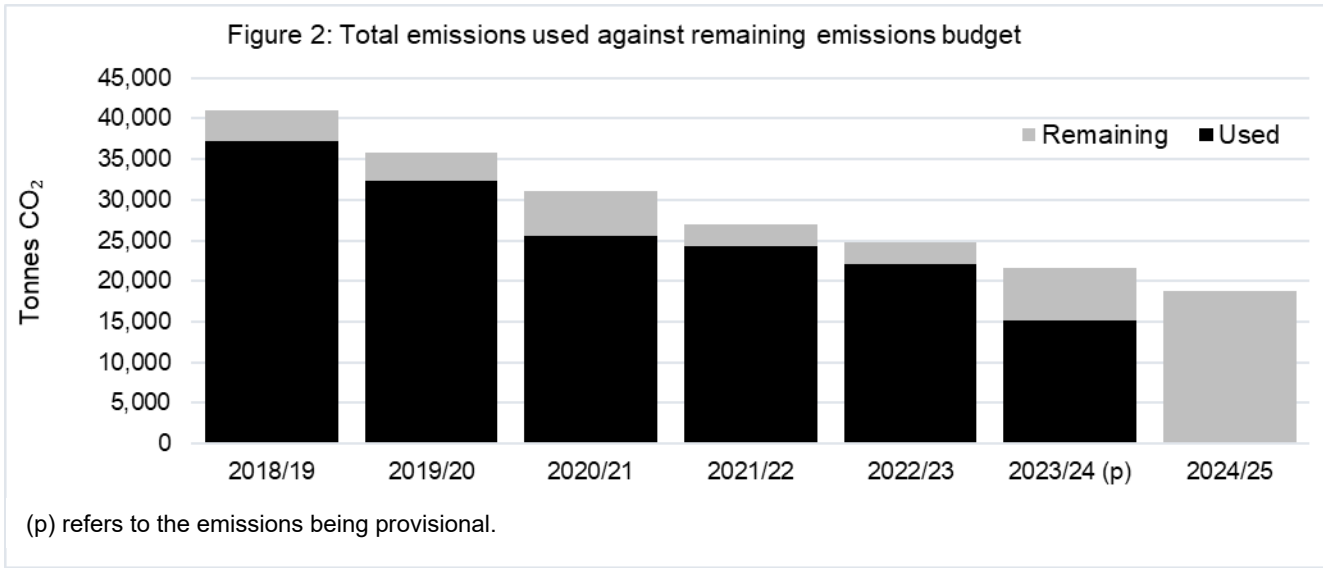
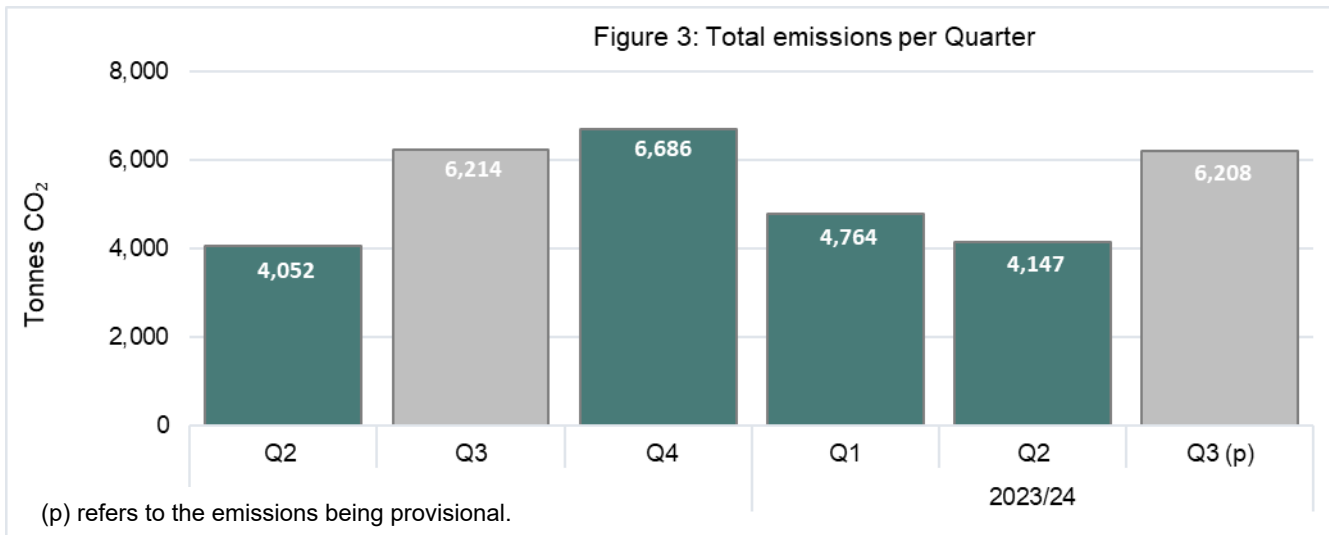


Figure 3 shows a quarter-by-quarter view of the Council’s total emissions from April 2022, enabling comparisons from one quarter to the same quarter in the previous year.

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 may need to be revised periodically if energy data changes.



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 3 (Q3) 2023-24 is 6,208 tCO₂, which is **0.1% lower** than Q3 the previous year.

The information below shows the changes in emissions for each Council area for Q3 2023-24 compared to Q3 2022-23, highlighting where the Council's direct emissions have increased and decreased:

Increases

- Streetlights 10% increase

Decreases

- Staff Business Travel down 0.05%
- Council Buildings down 0.5%
- Council Operational Fleet down 9%
- Waste Collection Fleet down 2%

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 10% increase in the emissions from streetlights in Q3 2023-24.

Whilst the quantity of electricity used to power the streetlights has increased marginally (1%) between Q3 2022-23 and 2023-24; when that the conversion factor is applied, this leads to a 10% increase in carbon emissions.

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.

Key Achievements

- During 2023-24 over £100,000 of Neighbourhood Investment Fund (NIF) has been allocated to 68 community climate change projects across the city. Projects ranged widely in area of focus, in Didsbury and Burange local primary school pupils presented their ideas for projects to an audience who then voted for the winning idea. In total over £18,000 was awarded to make these ideas a reality.
- The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) is progressing with the first installations of air source heat pumps, cavity wall installation and loft insulation. Retrofit work began in properties in North Manchester in March. There is a target of 70 properties by the end of the year, currently with 20 signed up.
- Hammerstone Road Depot solar installation is now underway. This is expected to supply approximately half of the site's electricity requirement.
- The new sustainable staff travel guide has now been published and been shared with all staff via bulletins and the intranet, the guide highlights healthier modes of transport and support available to staff.
- 352 businesses and publicly accessible buildings have signed up as Refill destinations surpassing the original target set in the SUP action plan of 348 locations – the target has now been increased to 406 locations by World Refill Day on the 16th June 2024
- The public consultation for the Tree and Woodland Action Plan was completed in January with 549 responses received. 94% of respondents reported it is extremely important to them to have trees as part of the urban environment.
- In December an interactive green skills and careers event for primary school children was hosted at Harpurhey Youth Zone, in collaboration with contractors delivering the Victoria North development. 160 young people attended the "Have a Go" event, which promoted low carbon and net zero skills to pupils.
- The Procurement and Commissioning team has won an award for carbon reduction work at the iNetwork Innovation Awards. This award recognises public sector organisations with innovative and collaborative procurement practices to help tackle social outcomes that are important to the public sector such as climate change.

- Keep Manchester Tidy won the Best Council Support for Volunteers Award at the Keep Britain Tidy Network Conference and Awards 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)

These key challenges are longstanding and are unlikely to change in the near future.

Seeing is believing – Zero Carbon Culture

This section showcases the Council's leadership and influence in driving climate action across the city, particularly across the culture sector as cultural organisations in Manchester continue their pioneering response to the climate crisis.

Zero Carbon Action Plan

To ensure Manchester City Council is leading the way for other organisations in the culture sector to follow, the Council's culture team developed a Zero Carbon Action Plan in early 2023, based on guidance from Julie's Bicycle, focusing on influencing the sector, as well as improving internal practices.

Actions include; developing a structured communications plan that informs funded partners on zero carbon related news, sharing a travel survey with attendees for all events hosted by the team to inform how to make future events accessible and sustainable, such as the annual Culture Awards. Zero Carbon is also now a key consideration when deciding whether to join international cultural partnerships as outlined in the action plan.

Zero Carbon Monitoring for Grant Recipients

In 2023, the culture team continued to focus on developing Zero Carbon monitoring and how to best measure reductions of the carbon footprint of Council-funded cultural organisations.

To establish effective monitoring, the team explored best practices and surveyed the twelve organisations funded through the Cultural Partnership Grant (CPG) scheme to understand current monitoring practices, opportunities, and barriers. From April 2024, a new Zero Carbon reporting model will be implemented across the CPG portfolio, focusing on building energy, waste, water and sewage, and staff travel emissions.

Organisations unable to provide full data will receive support to improve data collection and reduce emissions. This grant reporting model will help the council achieve Action 5.2 of the climate change action plan: *“ensuring all MCC grant programmes positively address climate change.”*

Eurocities call to action on Sustainable Culture

At the 2022 Eurocities Culture Forum in Lille, the host city presented their “Call to action on sustainable culture” as an invitation for mayors and council leaders to also commit to the list of proposed priorities. The Leader of the Council Cllr Bev Craig signed the [“Call to Action”](#) at the Eurocities Urban Summit in 2023, strengthening Manchester's profile in Europe and opening opportunities for collaboration with other cities in the future.

Manchester is already making significant progress on many of the priorities set out in the document having incorporated them into the culture team's Zero Carbon Action Plan.

Cultural Impact Survey

Sustainability Culture Award

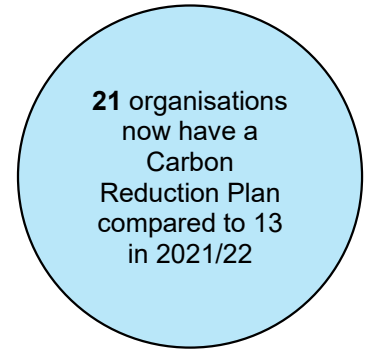
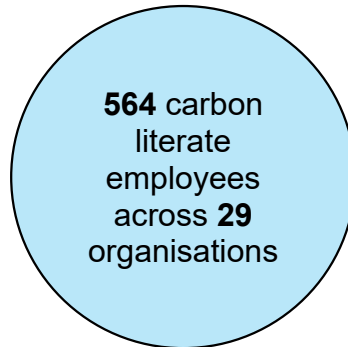
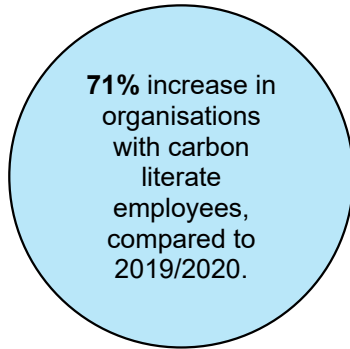
The Manchester Culture Awards continue to recognise achievements in the field of arts and environmental sustainability with the dedicated category - Promotion of Environmental Sustainability.

In 2023 Manchester Histories won the award for their climate-focused festival which promoted climate action and carbon literacy training among volunteers.

It was reported the training gave volunteers more confidence in having informed conversations with members of the public on issues surrounding climate during the festival.

Feedback from Manchester Histories volunteers was very positive regarding the carbon literacy training, reporting it also gave them opportunities to meet new people and engage with different organisations and communities to act on climate change.

The Cultural Impact Survey, an annual survey of economic and social impact of the culture sector, showed in 2023 the following results for the 43 organisations which took part:



Many organisation also shared some of their good practices via the survey such as encouraging audiences to travel sustainably by applying for Bee Network Bike stands outside their venues, and ensuring onsite cafés offer plant-based options from local and ethical supplier.

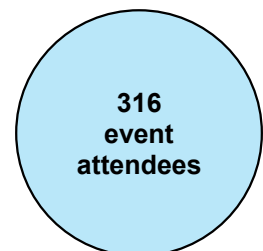
Communication and Engagement Highlights

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:

- Climate Fresk Workshops.
- Refill Business Engagement Events.
- Recycling Drives.
- Park Action Days.
- VCSE Energy Scheme.
- Community Litter Picks.
- Burnage Community Dragon's Den.
- Clean Air Events.
- Energy Efficiency Events.
- International Women's Day Climate Events.
- Community Garden & Allotment Clear Ups.
- Neighbourhood Climate Change Officer Achievements:
- Signed up over 20 new businesses as Refill stations.
- Picked up over 80 bags of litter.
- Planted over 1000 bulbs.
- Distributed over 200 energy efficient LED lightbulbs.



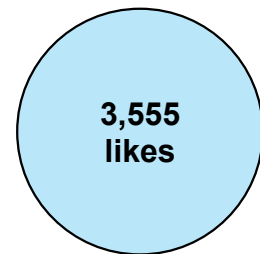
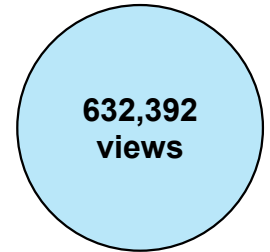
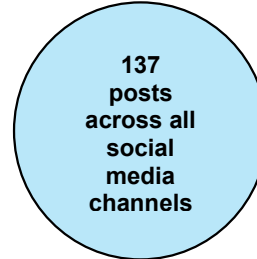
Communications Highlights

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:

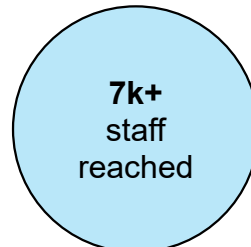
- Capital of Cycling
- Christmas Tree Recycling
- Veganuary & low carbon food
- Energy Savers Week
- Sustainable Events
- Great British Spring Clean
- Active Travel
- Cycleway improvements
- Retrofit and Energy Efficiency
- Estate Decarbonisation
- Green Regeneration (Ancoats)
- Green Bee Relay
- In Our Nature Funding
- Low Carbon Housing (Silk Street)
- World Wildlife Day
- Pedestrianisation consultation
- Air Quality
- Trees and Woodland Action Plan



Internal Communications

Topics covered this quarter:

- Sustainable Travel Forum Takeover
- Great British Spring Clean
- Carbon Literacy Action Log call out
- Ward Carbon Footprint
- VCSE Energy Scheme
- Sustainable Cooking Classes
- Green Alleyways



Outcomes:

- Coverage of The Great British Spring Clean has generated 36 clicks with a further 13 clicks to Volunteering Leave page after we suggested colleagues use this to contribute their time to the cause.
- 36 Clicks to the In Our Nature Carbon Footprint page and 6 clicks from this story to the ZC Hub
- Work is ongoing to refresh the Zero Carbon intranet pages, with completion expected in Q1 2024/5.

Press Releases

During this quarter, there was a broad range of zero carbon related press releases, which resulted in media coverage on issues including zero-carbon regeneration, air quality, active travel, climate awards 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.

Zero Carbon Communications in Focus: Active Travel

In December 2023, Manchester was announced as the ACES European Capital of Cycling. Following this high-profile announcement, there has been an emphasis on active travel in our communications for this quarter.

In January, a celebratory event to commemorate Manchester's award of the European Capital of Cycling was held at Station South - a cycling workshop and cafe in Levenshulme. We have also included cycling events as part of our International Women's Day programme, which demonstrates how we embed zero carbon initiatives within a variety of MCC activities.

A bespoke website has been created where residents can discover everything around Manchester as the European Capital of Cycling 2024. With information on events, hands-on experiences with bikes, guidance and support in making the switch to pedal power - the website can be found by visiting <http://www.mcrcapitalofcycling24.com/>

We have launched the Green Bee Relay, a friendly competition designed to encourage active travel in the school run, with a video that includes Cllr Bev Craig and Dame Sarah Storey.

Cycling is at the forefront of the Council's future transport policies. By the end of 2028 the Council aims to have doubled the modal share of people using bikes to travel, meaning that most short journeys in the city would be done via pedal power. To help achieve these aims this quarter, we have been consistently promoting consultations on improvements that would aid pedestrianisation, improve air quality and facilitate active travel.

To ensure a link between our external and internal communications, we have launched a brand-new Sustainable Staff Travel Guide in a dedicated forum takeover. This guide will enable staff to learn more about the alternatives to driving and healthier modes of travel as well as understanding their benefits to discover what financial and practical support is available.

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, 30 are green and 18 are amber – which demonstrates that the Council are making good progress across the whole programme. Future focus will be put on amber actions to understand any key barriers and the potential to move these to working to target 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	The Estates carbon zero strategy has been shared and agreed/supported at ZCCG. Funding has been secured as part of a strategy to continue surveys and deliver a roadmap to zero carbon by 2038. The roadmap is expected in October 2024. The Hammerstone Road Depot solar installations are underway and are expected to supply approximately half of the sites electricity requirement. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 3a (PSDS) continues to be delivered across 6 sites. 2 are complete, 2 are due for completion, and the final 2 to be complete by May (extended from March due to roadworks/closures required by electricity supplier and Highways). There is an expected 470 tCO ₂ pa saving.
1.2 - Amber	Manchester Build Standard	The Carbon Build Standard has been shared and endorsed by Manchester Climate Change Agency.
1.3 - Green	Large scale renewable energy generation	A press release is to be issued in late February / early March outlining the details of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Including chosen partner and scheme.
1.4 - Green	LED street lighting	All the streetlights have been replaced to LED lanterns resulting in over 50% energy saving and CO ₂ reduction. A potential dynamic lighting (lighting on demand) trial is currently being considered by the Head of Network Management
1.5 - Green	Manchester Energy Network	Work to produce a decarbonisation strategy has commenced. A clear decarbonisation statement and accompanying decarbonisation pathway has been produced and will be published on the Network's website imminently.
1.6 - Amber	MCC Housing Carbon Reduction	Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) is progressing. Projects are at various stages. The first project on site will be the boiler replacement project - this involves replacing old gas boilers with renewable heating and installing other retrofit measures. Some installations will be complete by the year end. There is a target of 70 properties. Successful implementation of resident engagement strategy which has been created by 3rd party specialist support to deliver positive sign up levels with residents to date
1.7 - Amber	Citywide Housing Carbon Reduction	Various arrangements and opportunities are continuing e.g. GM Low Carbon and Asset Management Group, GM Retrofit Taskforce to

		support joint working etc. A useful session was held involving planning colleagues at MPPP ZC sub-group and good connections made between planning and RP partners. Stage 1 works commissioned with external consultant 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"> • 3 'Enterprise Company's' supported • Savings of 74.88 tCO₂ across the businesses supported • Financial savings of £32,469.90 resulted from carbon reduction measures • 5 companies investing in green technology
1.9 - Green	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)	Consultants have been commissioned to produce a Renewable Energy and Storage Report which should be completed in April. Consultants have been appointed to provide initial analysis to provide a basis for a Cross Tenure Housing Retrofit Plan to be completed end of March.
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 - Green	Manchester Local Plan	Joint Local Plan (Places for Everyone) is due to be adopted 20 March 2024. Specific evidence based on zero carbon development in new buildings for Manchester Local Plan is being finalised.
1.12 - Amber	Partnerships e.g., Green Building Council	Engagement with other Local Authorities on carbon calculation and construction projects is underway.

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, with alternatives including EV and hydrogen fuel being considered. During 23/24 the Waste and Recycling team (alongside BIFFA) will be considering the future of the remaining ICE refuse collection vehicles based on the most viable options and funding sources before a full Business Case is developed.
2.2 - Green	Replace operational fleet with EVs	Electric vehicles are encouraged for all lease vehicles. Currently the operational fleet includes 44 electric and 6 hybrid vehicles, but cost and limitations of charging infrastructure remain a barrier.
2.3 - Green	Business Travel Policy	The 'Staff Travel digital guide' has been published and promoted as part of the internal comms forum takeover in March. Other content in the takeover includes information on the MCC bike club, refresh of the town hall extension bike store and a short travel survey. An Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle (ULEV) feedback questionnaire was launched in December to gain some insight into staff experience of the scheme and any limitations they have encountered. There has been a positive response to date. This questionnaire will be sent out periodically to gain feedback and raise urgent issues with the lease company.

2.4 - Green	Environmental actions within Highways	An embodied carbon model has been created for two different Highways major projects. One has been created using the National Highways carbon tool and the other using the TfGM carbon tool. These tools will be used throughout the projects lifecycles and be updated as the projects progress. Work will be carried out with contractors and suppliers to help further reduce the embodied carbon emitted by the projects.
2.5 - Green	Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040	Work continues on the baselining and audit work for the City Centre Bus and Streets for All Connectivity programme with the aim to progress to Outline Business Case in late 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, works are ongoing to establish how best to allocate road space.
2.7 - Green	EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy	<p>Work is ongoing in relation to the procurement of a chargepoint operator to supply, maintain and operate public EV points however this has been delayed by issues beyond the council's control in relation to grant funding and the requirement for all GM authorities to collaborate in relation to procurement processes.</p> <p>A Temporary Project Manager has been engaged to assist in taking schemes forward.</p> <p>The MCC EV strategy is due to be reviewed and revised this year</p> <p>3 locations for taxi/PHV have now been installed with a 4th location being installed although there has been limited take up initially.</p>
2.8 - Green	Active Travel	<p>Levenshulme Active Neighbourhood Full Business Case is set for approval for funding of £3.589m. It is on the agenda for the March Bee Network Committee. Work is ongoing to deliver a pipeline of active travel schemes including Alan Turing Way junction upgrade and A34 improvements (both out to consultation Feb/March 2023).</p> <p>Wythenshawe Active Travel Study is in progress and £85K revenue funding from TfGM has been secured for Medlock Street and Stretford scheme development.</p>
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. However, it is difficult to gage the uptake of incentives as there is currently little data available to track the uptake of these schemes. A staff survey is being considered to get base line data about current staff commuting methods.
2.10 - Amber	Aviation Emissions	A report on Aviation emission was presented to the <u>Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee</u> by Manchester Airport Group in January 2024. The report provided an update on aviation emissions attributed to Manchester residents, an update on Manchester Airport and update from the Centre for Aviation, Transport and the Environment.

2.11 - Amber	Air Quality	<p>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.</p> <p>A progress report about the GM Clean Air Plan was shared in the <u>Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Committee</u> in January 2024.</p>
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Workstream 3 – Sustainable Consumption

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
3.1 - Amber	Sustainable Procurement	<p>The Council is working with carbon accounting specialists CO2A to better understand the Council's Scope 3 emissions. As part of this work, 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. The system is due to go live by the end of March</p>
3.2 - Green	Reducing Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in the Council	<p>Wider action on influencing beyond Council's own operations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Directorate level plan complete - focused meetings planned for to enable cross-sharing on catering. 2. Refill is now included in majority of Ward Climate Change Plans 3. SUP Action Plan including objectives related to packaging such as ICT (packaging), IC&P (stationery) and FM (cleaning products) 4. FM are part way through reviewing 200 products on approved supply list to understand further opportunities for plastics reduction, working with supplier to identify highest priority areas for biggest impact
3.3 - Green	Sustainable Events	<p>An analysis of survey and data collection across all the three event categories is currently ongoing. This will contribute to MCC taking part in Green Event Code Pilot (GECOP) with 10 other Local Authorities- a national initiative to establish clear, consistent, and applicable best practise standards for environmental sustainability across the UK outdoor events industry. We have access to tools to use alongside the code itself to test how we could embed from 2025 onwards.</p> <p>There is ongoing engagement with internal event organisers to understand areas of progress and challenges when trying to make events as sustainable as possible. We will also be refining the five-question approach.</p> <p>Sustainable events will now be included in service plan templates. CLT slides for sustainable events will have been provided to HROD by the end of the quarter. A copy for the intranet will have been provided to Comm by the end of the quarter as well.</p>
3.4 - Amber	Waste Services	<p>The Waste Strategy for England (2018) is key for shaping the future of waste and recycling collections requirements. The strategy has been subject to extensive consultation and there have been considerable delays due to various factors. We understand that a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) will be introduced in England in 2025. The scheme will include PET plastic bottles and aluminium/ steel cans. The English scheme does not include glass. Officers are attending regular briefing sessions by LARAC and DEFRA on the</p>

		details which are emerging about how the strategy will be implemented. 'Consistent collections' has now become 'simpler recycling' and is to be implemented from 31/03/2026 when pots, tubs and trays will need to be added to the mix and then plastic films are to be added from 2027. The GMCA waste officer group meet monthly to review these developments.
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. Work is also taking place with HR to produce an e-learning module on sustainable procurement that should be available at the beginning of the new year. The first part of the module should be ready to review by the end of March.
3.6 - Green	Influencing Single Use Plastics reduction in the city	Markets are ensuring lease agreements are updated with SUP information. No avoidable SUPs included in Licensing Policy. This has been added into events engagement document to be shared to colleagues for onward sharing to organisers this quarter.
3.7 - Amber	Manchester Food Board	The Manchester Food Board has been led by FoodSync as part of a commission via Public Health. This arrangement ended at the end of February 2024 and the Board will not be managed directly by the Council's City Policy Service.

Workstream 4 – Adaptation and Sequestration

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
4.1 - Green	Tree Action Planning	The Tree Action and Woodland Plan public consultation finished in January 2024 with 549 responses collected. Following the public consultations, the plan was endorsed by Executive in March 2024.
4.2 - Green	Nature Based Solutions	A case study on the West Gorton Sponge Park has been provided to the environmental charity Ashden at their request. Further SUDs continue to be incorporated throughout highways following the publication of the SUDs Developer Guide last year.
4.3 - Green	Parks CCAP	An <u>update on the Parks CCAP</u> was provided to the Environment Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny committee in February 2024. The report highlighted how the first 9 months of delivering against the Parks CCAP have enabled progress to be made across all workstreams of the plan and has been critical in identifying the actions that the service can undertake that align with the Councils CCAP.
4.4 - Green	Green and Blue Infrastructure (G&BI) Strategy	Annual <u>update on the G&BI Strategy</u> was provided to the Environment Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny committee in March 2024. The report provides the annual review on Manchester's Great Outdoors – A Green & Blue Infrastructure (G&BI) Strategy for Manchester.
4.5 - Green	Biodiversity Strategy	Work is ongoing regarding Biodiversity Net Gain and Urban Green Factor, presentations were made to the GI officer group and bespoke training for planning, housing and development officers took place in March 2024.
4.6 - Green	Tree Planting	In total, so far in the 2023/24 planting season 7063 trees were planted on known schemes by the council and their partners, including 10 orchards and 3634 hedge trees. Working with continued, active support from key organisations including City of

	Trees, the Council identified over 390 new locations, along roadsides, verges and in parks, for large mature standard trees and again secured significant additional funding, with all new planting to be delivered by the end of March 2024.
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Workstream 5 – Catalysing Change

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
5.1 - Green	Carbon literacy training	2,950 members of staff are Carbon Literacy Certified including elected members and partner organisations with the aim to maintain an average of 100 certified staff per month. Recent Climate Fresk Training has been well received, with a clear interest expressed in arranging more sessions.
5.2 - Green	Embedding zero carbon within Council decision making	It's expected that Zero Carbon will be a key theme of the next Our Manchester Strategy 2025-2035 which is currently in the engagement phase as well as the "It Starts with a Spark" Culture strategy. VCSFE Our Manchester grant funded recipients are undertaking Carbon Literacy Training, delivered by MCC to strengthen subject knowledge. Specific workshops with VCFSE sector leaders were well attended.
5.3 - Green	Finance & Investment	GMCA (with MCC and Oldham Council as partners) have been awarded £6.2m from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) who will now enter into a funding agreement with GMCA and partners for delivery of this funding in 2024/25 and 2025/26 to develop local project and investment opportunities linked to the GM Local Area Energy Plans. MCC continue to engage actively with the national 3Ci programme (Connected Places Catapult).
5.4 - Green	Community Engagement	Over £100,000 of Neighbourhood Investment Fund has been allocated to 68 different projects this year. Further work to refine KPIs and improve collection of data for 24-25 is underway.
5.5 - Amber	Citywide Communications Strategy	Zero Carbon communications continue to promote initiatives such as Veganuary, Big Energy Saving Week, World Wildlife Day, Food Waste Action Week, Great British Spring Clean, Global Recycling Day, World Water Day, and Earth Hour. Connections with key external stakeholders such as MCCA, In Our Nature, Groundwork and Hubbub have been maintained and strengthened - with a continual channel of communication open to promote each other's work where relevant. This action is amber this quarter due to delays in the Citywide Communications campaign which is now due to launch in May.
5.6 - Green	Fund Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA)	Council funding for MCCA in 2024/25 has been agreed which maintains a contribution to the four fulltime core staff members.
5.7 - Amber	Support Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP)	Work is ongoing with partnerships across the city. Meetings have been held with the Carbon Literacy Project to continue planning for the Carbon Literate city project.

5.8 - Amber	Support Education Providers to reduce carbon	60 settings have completed the green education survey and 15 new schools have been selected to directly support with climate action planning/target setting. 5 LA maintained schools are having initial roof surveys done for solar PV. There is continued planning of school climate assemblies.
5.9 - Amber	Influence GM stakeholders to decarbonise	The Council has been supporting and shaping the GM 5 Year Environment Plan including completing a survey and feeding in suggested areas of focus to support delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan. Council officers have also attended GMCA adaptation and resilience workshops to feed in Manchester specific issues.
5.10 - Amber	Government Lobbying	The Leader of the Council became Chair of Core Cities in January 2024 and has met with members of the Shadow Cabinet to discuss accelerating Net Zero in cities including funding. These discussions are part of the 3Ci initiative and also build on Manchester's role in the DESNZ Net Zero Accelerator programme which has provided £7m of funding to the GMCA.
5.11 - Green	International networks and projects	European funding opportunities are being assessed via Eurocities membership and funding meetings. Officers are also working on considering opportunities from Horizon Europe given the recent change in status. As of 1 January 2024, the UK became an associate country to Horizon Europe providing access to funding and research programmes.
5.12 - Green	Green Skills Plan	An interactive green skills and careers information event was delivered to primary schools in North Manchester supported by a number of construction contractors and the Manchester Climate Change Agency. 160 young people attended with the aim to raise the awareness of low carbon and net zero skills to pupils. W&S team are continuing to work with Business Growth Hub and their Green Economy Team to further develop, support and promote their green offer to businesses locally in relation to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of 'Enterprises Supported' carbon reduction - Tonnes of carbon savings - Cost savings - Business investment in green technology