

Annual Report

Purpose

This report provides an overview of progress made in delivering [Manchester City Council's Climate Change Action Plan \(CCAP\) 2020-25](#) during its second year; April 2021 – March 2022.

Background

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and developed the 5-year Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25, setting out its plan to respond to the Climate Emergency, tackle climate change and take action to become a zero-carbon organisation by 2038.

The Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 sets a target for the Council to reduce its direct CO₂ emissions by 50% between 2020 and 2025 based on a 13% year on year reduction trajectory to reach zero-carbon by 2038.

The CCAP includes 43 individual actions. These are organised into five thematic workstreams, each split into two sections – Council direct actions and City-wide leadership actions. The five workstreams are:

- Buildings and Energy
- Travel and Transport
- Reducing Consumption Based Emissions & Influencing Suppliers
- Adaptation & Carbon Sequestration
- Influencing behaviour & Being a Catalyst for Change

CO₂ Emissions

The current CCAP has a target to reduce the Council's direct emissions by 50% over the five-year period of 2020-25. This is a science-based target based on research conducted by the Tyndall Centre in 2018.

- Since the start of this CCAP (2020-21), emissions have reduced by 29.4%.
- To stay within its carbon budget, and achieve the overall 50% reduction target, the Council must reduce its emissions by 13% every year, for five years.

The budget for the period of this report (2021-22) was 27,056 tonnes of direct CO₂ emissions. The Council emitted 22,807 tonnes of CO₂ – using 84% of the available budget.



27,056 tonnes CO₂ – Emissions budget 2021-22

22,807 tonnes CO₂ – Emissions released 2021-22

These emissions are associated with Council buildings, streetlights, waste collection, operational fleet, and staff travel. As well as the carbon savings created by a range of proactive measures (detailed throughout this report), additional savings were delivered as a result of the decarbonisation of the national grid.

Figure 1 shows the Council's total emissions in the last three years.

In 2021-22 emissions are 10.6% lower than the previous year.

Figure 1: Percentage reduction in emissions relative to the previous year

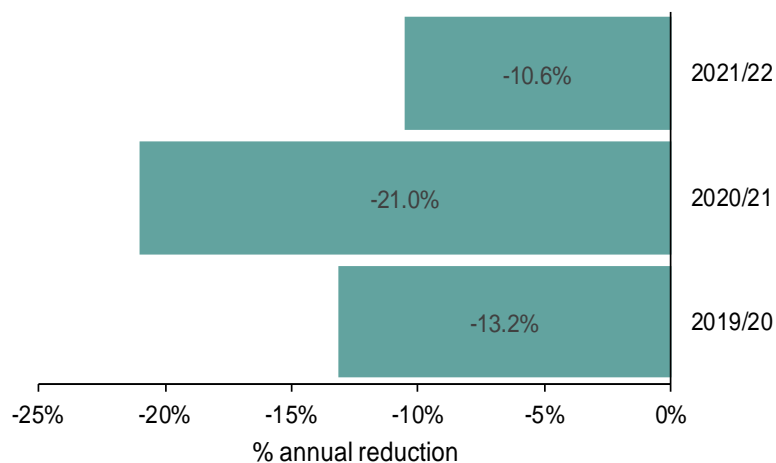
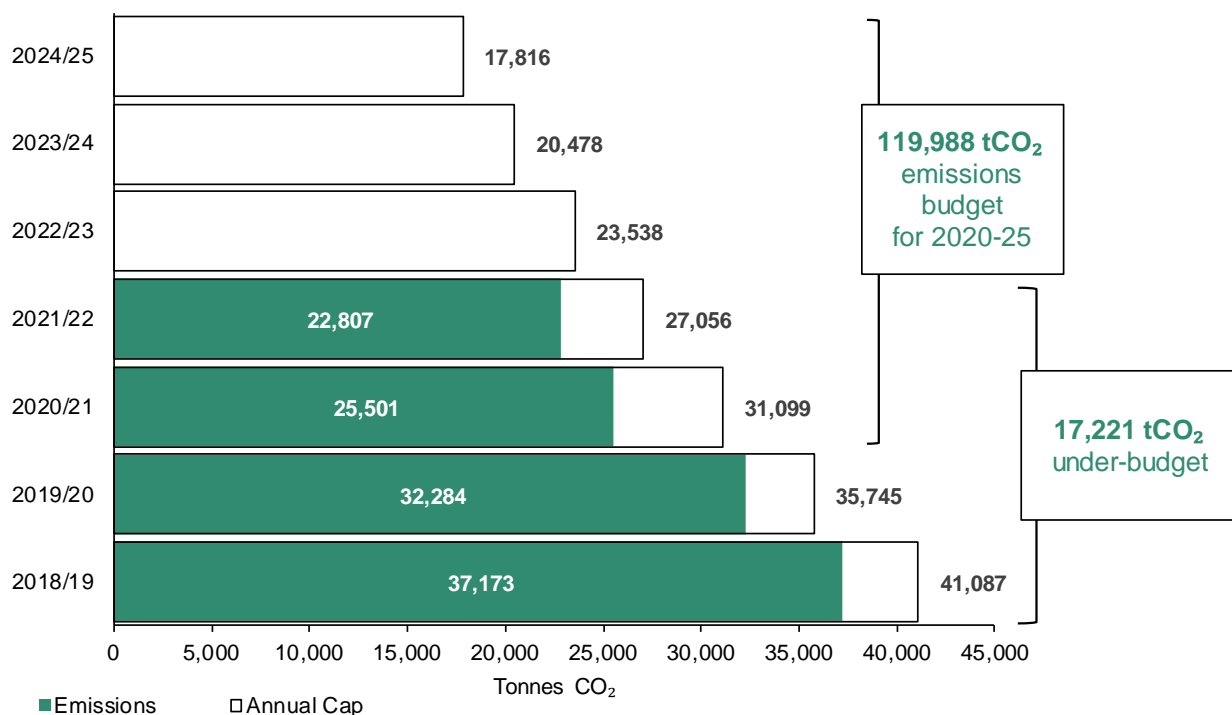


Figure 2 shows the carbon budget since 2018-19 and, the actual emissions generated by the Council.

Between April 2018 and March 2022, the Council's direct emissions totalled 117,765 tonnes of CO₂, which is 17,221 tonnes - 15%, under-budget.

Figure 2: Total Council emissions vs annual budgets



The Pathway to Zero Carbon 2038

In addition to the targets for 2020-25, the Council has a target to reach zero-carbon by 2038 (at the latest). The trajectory to this point is shown in Figure 3.

The Council's carbon budget extends beyond 2038 (covering the period 2018-19 to 2099-2100). But as would be expected, most of the carbon budget is allocated to the start of the pathway to zero carbon, as this is the period when the greatest savings need to be made.

Figure 3: Pathway to zero carbon by March 2038

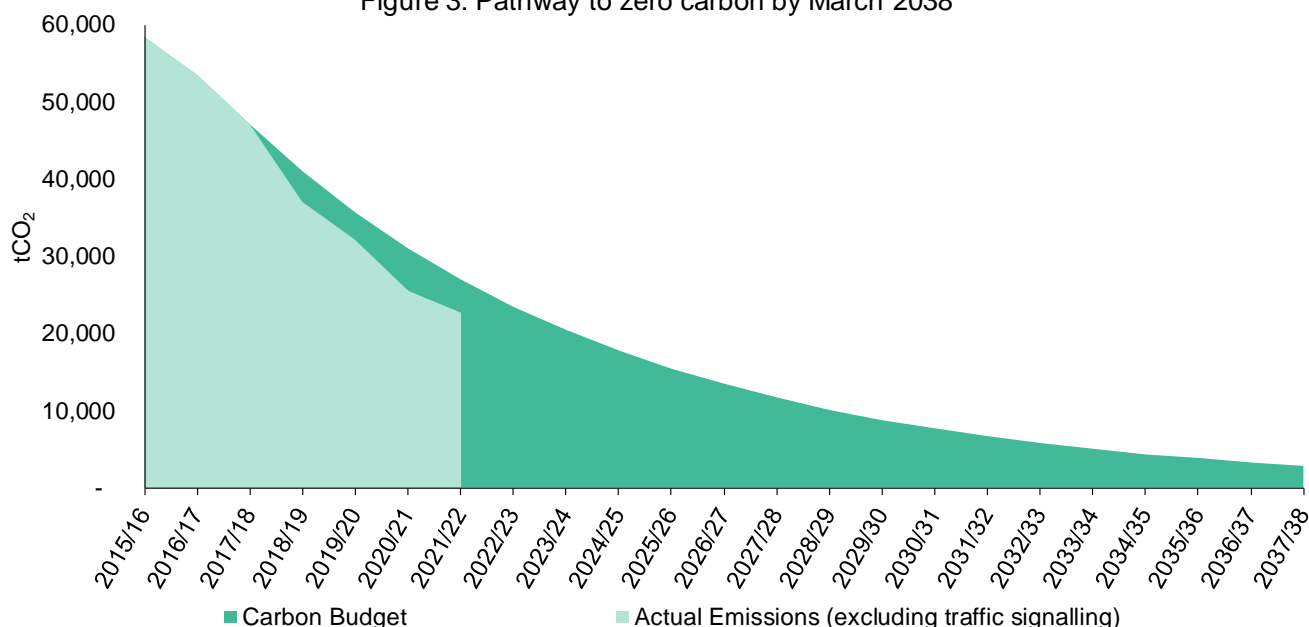


Figure 4: Council emissions 2021/22

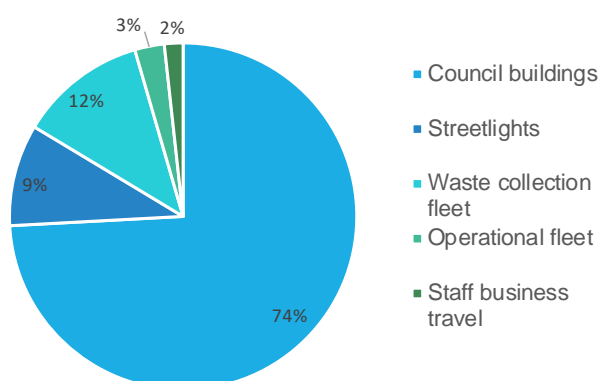


Figure 4 shows a breakdown of the council emissions for this period 2021-22.

Buildings are the most significant contributor to the Council's direct emissions (74%), followed by the waste collection fleet (12%) and streetlights (9%).

All these emissions have been targeted for proactive change which is detailed later in this report.

The following charts (figures 5 – 10) show emissions for each of these five categories over the last thirteen years, starting in 2009-10.

Figure 5 shows emissions from energy use in Council buildings have steadily declined over the 13 years since 2009-10 and that the total energy used in 2021-22 (kilowatt hours of gas, electricity, and oil) is 10% lower than the year before.

The reductions in energy use have been driven by the proactive installation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation capacity across the Council's estate, as well as the decarbonisation of the national grid.

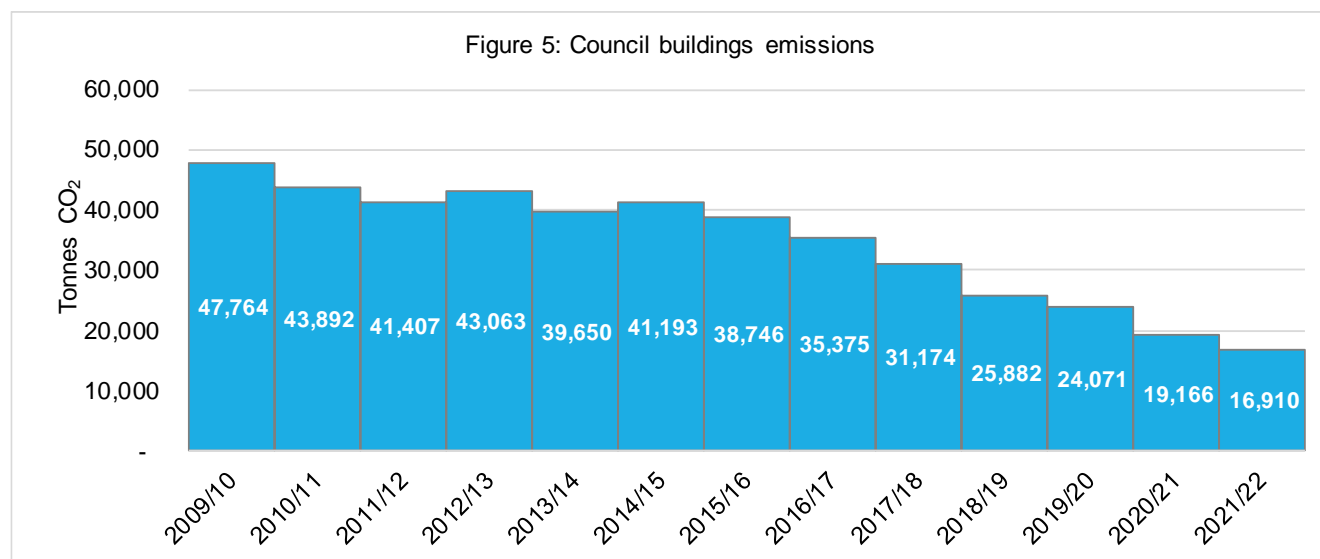


Figure 6 shows that emissions from streetlights have significantly reduced over the past three years due to the large-scale retrofitting of LED lightbulbs. The streetlights replacement programme was completed in December 2021. Total energy used by streetlights in 2021-22 was 3% lower than the previous year and emissions were 86% lower than in 2009-10. The full impact of this work will be seen in 2022-23.

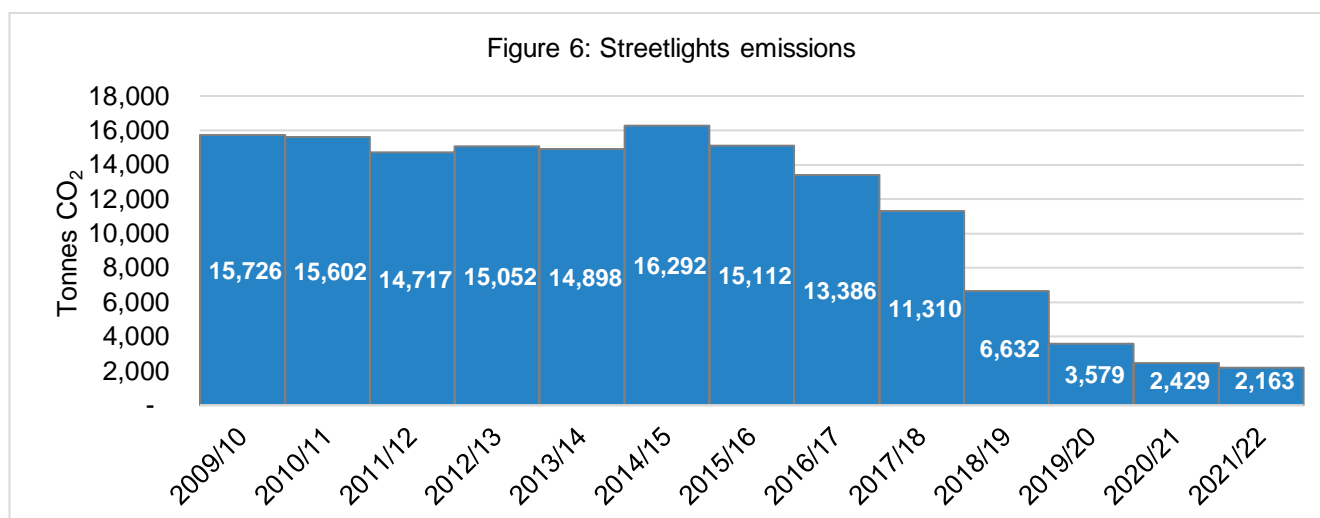


Figure 7 shows that emissions from the waste fleet have remained relatively consistent since Biffa began delivering the Councils household refuse collection and street cleansing services in 2015 (marked with an *asterisk in Figures 7 and 8).

As part of this change, 28 road sweepers and 40 refuse collection vehicles were transferred from the Council to Biffa and the emissions from this equipment transferred from operational fleet to waste collection. The changeover can be seen in both Figures 7 and 8.

Emissions from the waste collection fleet in 2021-22 are 9% lower (-281 tonnes CO₂) than in the previous year (2020-21).

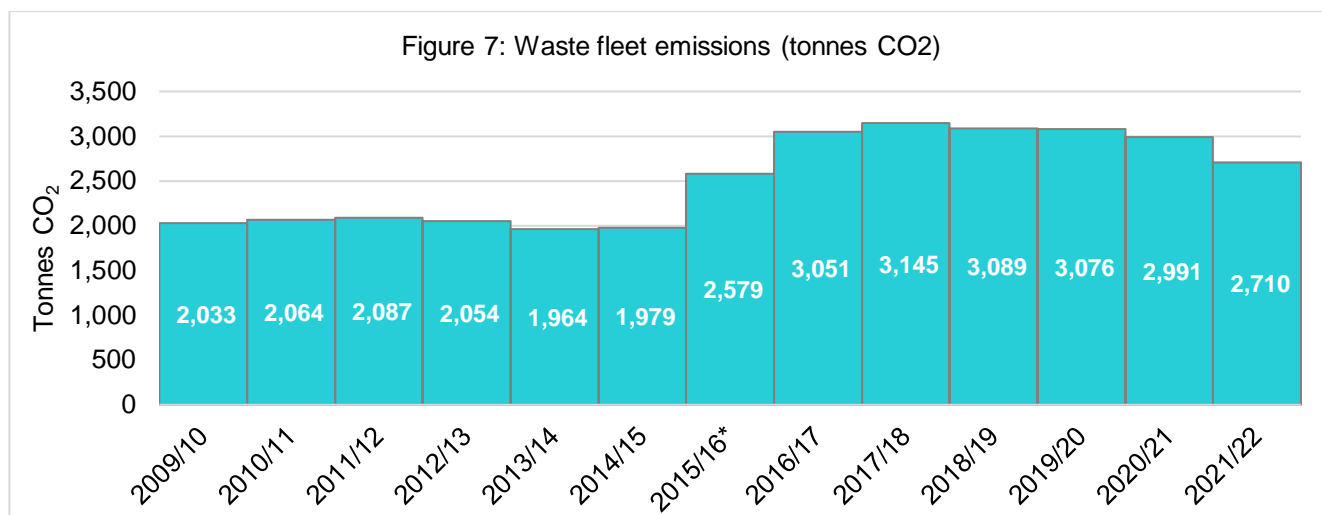


Figure 8 shows emissions from the Council's operational fleet have reduced by 78% over the last 13 years and in 2021-22, emissions were 1% lower (-8 tonnes CO₂) than the previous year (2020-21). Switching fleet vehicles to electric has contributed to this reduction in 2021-22.

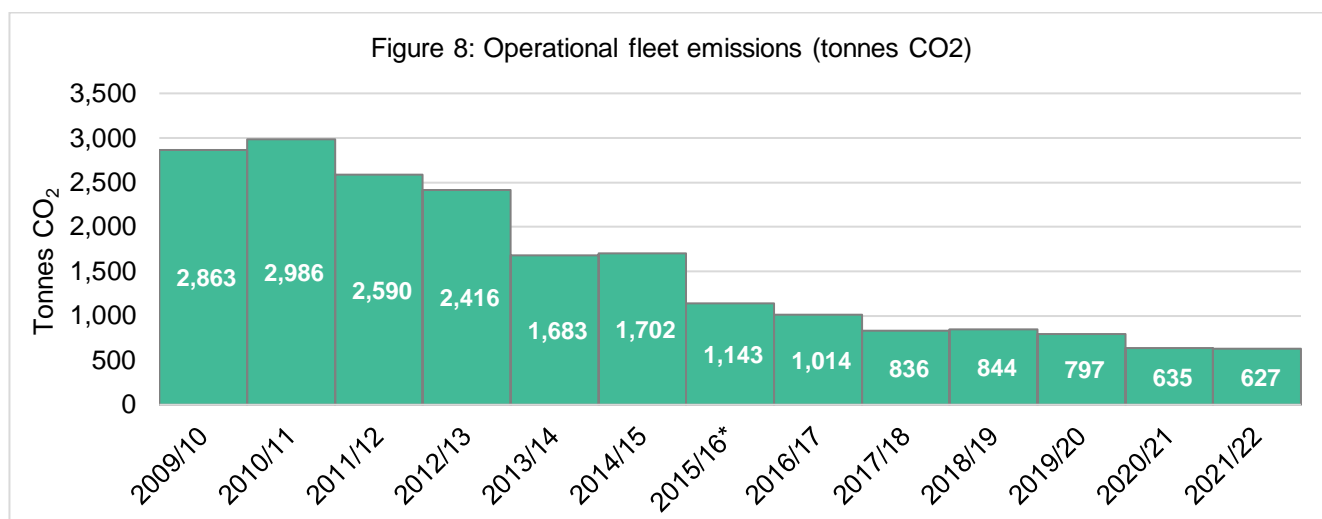


Figure 9 shows a 41% increase in emissions from business travel in 2021-22 (+116 tonnes CO₂) compared to 2020-2021. The easing of COVID-19 restrictions may have contributed to the figure increasing on the previous years, although levels remain significantly lower than pre-pandemic emissions.

The miles travelled by car (e.g., staff mileage in their own vehicles, taxis, or car club) increased by 87% compared to the previous year, and miles travelled by rail and air were up by 227% and 260% respectively compared to 2020-21. Again, this is a result of activities resuming after Covid-19.

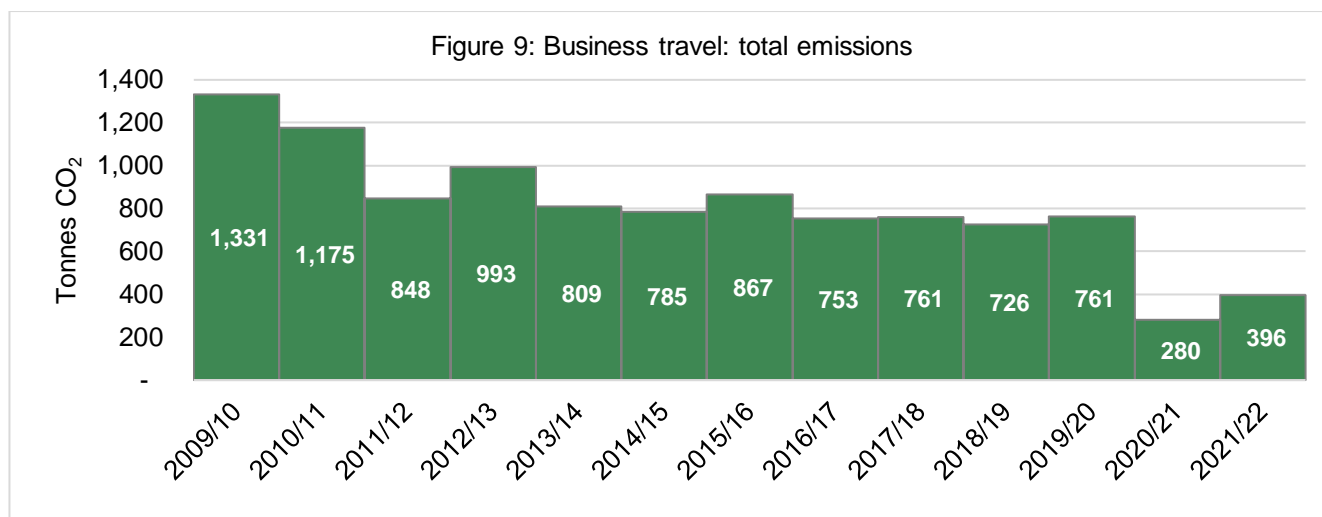
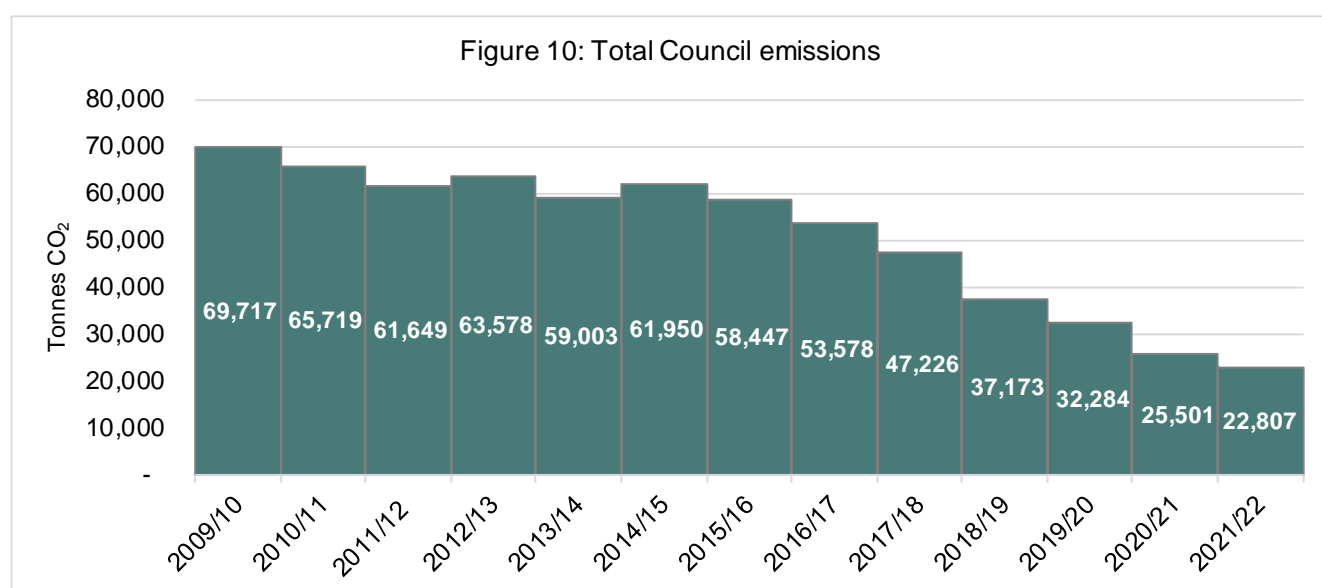


Figure 10 shows the Council's total emissions over the last 13 years and reflects the overall downward trends seen in Figures 5-8.

CO₂ emissions in 2021-22 were 10.6% lower (-2,694 tonnes CO₂) than in the previous year (2020-21) and 67% lower than in 2009-10.



Key Achievements



Manchester City Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25 has been rated one of the strongest in the country, being 1st place amongst single tier authorities and 3rd overall out of 409 UK Local authorities. This was rated by Climate Emergency UK who support Local Authorities to deliver climate ambitions



The West Gorton Community Park has won two awards: a '**Golden Pineapple**' Award from the Festival of Place, the Excellence in Flood and Water Management award at the Landscape Institute Awards and has been Highly Commended in the Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Resilience Awards



The Executive Member for Environment attended COP26 and formally signed the Food and Climate Declaration on behalf of the Council



The Council secured an additional £4.9m of funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, to continue the Estates Retrofit programme



69 new low carbon Council properties are being developed by the Council in Newton Heath. These properties will have innovative features including solar PV, Electric Vehicle charging, ground source and air source heating, plus living green roofs and walls.



The Council's own housing development company known as "This City" was launched in February 2022. The focus is to deliver high-quality, low-carbon, affordable homes in Manchester



£600,000 funding has been secured as part of the Greater Manchester Warm Homes Fund to install central heating systems in fuel poor homes for up to 50 homes



All 32 Ward Plans contain localised positive climate action, which have been developed through engagement with the Neighbourhood Climate Change Officers, Ward Members, residents, and local businesses



26 eCargo bikes and 6 eCargo trailers are now being used by Council teams, city partners and a public hire scheme as part of a project launched in January 2022 in collaboration with The Energy Savings Trust.



A range of walking and cycling improvement across the City as part of the Mayor's Challenge Fund



The Council has launched a "Reusable Cups Guide". This adds to the suite of sustainable events guides, which are being rolled out across Manchester events



A "Zero Carbon Culture Guide" was launched to support Manchester's culture sector to become zero carbon in collaboration with sustainability specialists, Julie's Bicycle



Working with Manchester City Council, the National Football Museum has taken significant action to put environmental practices in focus. The Museum drafted its first Carbon Reduction Plan, trained staff in carbon literacy, secured a new waste collection contract which guarantees no waste to landfill, and updated travel advice to encourage visitors to use low carbon modes of transport.

The Museum building is also part of the Council Estates Retrofit Programme and will receive £1.9million from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to upgrade its air handling, heating, and cooling systems in 2022-23.



The Council has committed a further £800,000 of revenue investment as part of the 2022-23 budget setting for the Council, which will provide vital additional capacity to support delivery of the CCAP across the Council. New posts include:

- Zero Carbon Project Manager within Strategic Housing to develop and deliver the Zero Carbon Housing Strategy.
- Zero Carbon Workforce Development Manager to further embed Carbon Literacy across the Council, delivering bespoke programmes tailored to specific needs
- Sustainability Project Manager working specifically to eliminate avoidable Single Use Plastics within the Council and events

Risks and Issues

In 2021-22, a number of project risks and issues were identified and managed as part of the formal programme management process. The two issues highlighted below are ongoing risks, which impact several actions within the Climate Change Action Plan:

- There are ongoing supply chain issues following COVID-19, which are impacting progress. For example, over half of the electric refuse collection vehicles arrived approximately 9 months later than originally planned. This means the associated carbon savings will need to be reviewed to assess the impact on annual emission reduction targets and the overall carbon budget.
- Increases in gas and electricity prices are having an impact across programmes, and this is reinforcing the need to take action. For example, there is greater urgency for buildings to be retrofitted, particularly housing; and there are more organisations looking to purchase solar farms, leading to the market becoming challenging. Furthermore, to ensure the Civic Quarter Heat Network and its connected buildings remain as efficient as possible, the Council is monitoring the supply and demand on a daily basis.

Progress Report by Workstream

Buildings and Energy (Workstream 1):

Action 1.1 Carbon Reduction in Council Estate

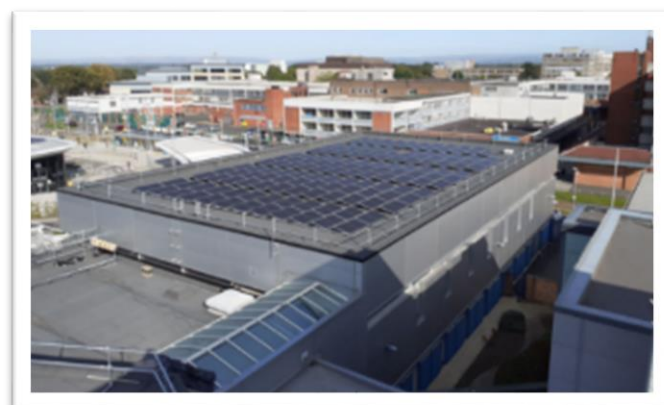
In 2021-22, work continued to decarbonise the Council's operational buildings, using Council budget and grant funding, which included:

- **£19.1m** secured from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 1 (PSDS 1)
- **£1.2m** from European Regional Development Fund '**Unlocking Clean Energy in Greater Manchester**' project (UGCEM)
- Over **£6m** of **Council's own capital investment** as well as our own planned schemes of work

PSDS Phase 1 Buildings	Forecast tCO2 Saving PA
Arcadia Leisure Centre	58
East Manchester Leisure Centre	119
Hough End Leisure Centre	80
Moss Side Leisure Centre	55
North City Leisure Centre	182
Space Studio	33
Sharp Project	53
Town Hall Extension	-
Wythenshawe Forum	188
Manchester Aquatic Centre	505
National Cycling Centre	354
Zion Arts Centre	79

Targeting the most carbon intensive buildings first, PSDS1 work covered **12 Council buildings** which have undergone retrofit work, due to be completed by summer 2022.

The improvements include fitting a range of low carbon technologies such as air and ground source heat pumps and LED lighting, as well as measures to improve the efficient running of the buildings, such as new Building Energy Management systems. Energy generation and storage in the form of solar panels and batteries have also been installed on suitable buildings.



Examples of the work completed to date includes:

- **The National Cycling Centre** - parts of the building fabric as well as the heating, lighting and power were addressed to enable the building to run more efficiently. Specially designed car ports with solar panels will also be installed in the car park
- **Hammerstone Road Depot** - a refurbishment programme has been complemented by a new insulated roof, window replacement, wall and cladding insulation, new mechanical and electrical installations including LED lighting, building controls, energy monitoring and an expansion of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Again a solar photovoltaics (PV) array on the roof will follow
- **Gorton Library** - an innovative new hydrogen boiler has been installed.



The target CO₂ savings for the Carbon Reduction Programme is **3,754 tonnes** per annum.

The Council has secured an additional **£4.9m** of funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3, to retrofit eight more buildings, including the National Football Museum, One Central Park, Harpurhey District Office and several resource centres throughout 2022-23.

Action 1.2 Manchester Low Carbon Build Standard

A Manchester Low Carbon Build Standard has been developed and is now being implemented in Capital Programmes. The standard contains design guidance for Manchester City Council's new build and refurbishment projects with the aim **to reduce the carbon impact of new build developments delivered by the Council.**

The areas covered include fabric improvements, decarbonising heat, energy efficient lighting, controls and metering, ventilation, renewable energy generation, reducing water consumption, use of low energy equipment, performance monitoring and recycling. All new projects put forward for inclusion in the Capital Programme must now demonstrate how they comply with the new standard as part of the business case process.

Action 1.3 Building and Energy Strategy

Manchester City Council's Building and Energy Strategy sets out the approach for reducing carbon emissions across the operational estate, including the procurement of green energy, the generation of renewable energy, and infrastructure to support the wider take-up of electric vehicles. It informs the ongoing retrofit of the Council's estate to reduce carbon emissions.

Action 1.4 Large Scale Renewable Energy Generation

In April 2021, a feasibility study and options appraisal were completed following identification by Manchester City Council that more radical measures were needed to achieve a 50% reduction in the Council carbon emissions by 2025.

The study recommended two options for the Council:

- to purchase a Solar PV facility,
- to negotiate a suitable Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

Work is now ongoing to progress these options.

Action 1.5 LED Streetlights

A programme to retrofit Manchester's streetlights with LEDs, completed in December 2021.

55,000 LED streetlights have been installed across the city. Emissions from streetlights are down **86%** from 2009-10.

Action 1.6 Civic Quarter Heat Network

The Civic Quarter Heat Network (CQHN) provides a heat and power solution for some of Manchester's most iconic buildings. There is **2km** of insulated pipework and cables distributing electricity, heat and hot water to the **six buildings** connected to the Energy Centre (the Town Hall Extension, Central Library, Manchester Central Convention Centre, the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester Art Gallery and Heron House). The Town Hall will be connected following the completion of its current refurbishment in 2024.



Heat and power are generated by a **3.3MW**

Combined Heat and Power Unit (CHP), based at the new Energy Centre, with the iconic 'Tower of Light'. The CHP Unit is currently running on gas, however, it has the potential to further decarbonise, for example by adding hydrogen.

Action 1.7 Energy efficient housing across the City

A stock condition survey was undertaken across the Private Rented Sector. The Council have continued to work with the Zero Carbon Working Group of the Manchester Housing Providers Partnership to ensure all social housing properties are on a path to zero-carbon.

In February 2022, the Council launched its own housing development company known as **"This City"**, with the focus being to deliver high-quality, low-carbon, affordable homes in Manchester.

Action 1.8 Energy Efficient Housing



In January 2021, the Council began work on a mix of **69 low carbon social houses and apartments**, that will feature solar PV panels, electric vehicle charging points, ground source heat pumps, a green roof and green walls. Once complete, the Newton Heath site will be managed by Northwards Housing. Discussions are ongoing with the Council's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contractors to identify savings from other work to cover low carbon improvements.

Works have been carried out on the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Demonstrator scheme in partnership with One Manchester Housing Association. Around **90 properties along Grey Mare Lane in Beswick will undergo deep retrofit works**, with **70%** taking up a heat pump. As part of the Greater Manchester Warm Homes Fund, around **50 Manchester homes** will benefit from first time central heating systems, utilising **£600,000** funding delivered by AgilityEco.

Action 1.9 Energy Efficiency in Commercial and Non-Domestic Buildings

The Council has ongoing engagement with partner organisations, such as the Growth Company which provides advice and support to businesses across Manchester to take energy efficient measures on their own buildings. This programme of support is ongoing.

Action 1.10 A Local Energy Plan for Manchester

Manchester City Council has a Local Area Energy Plan for Manchester, which was developed as part of the Greater Manchester Local Energy Market project. The plan will assist the Council and partners to make sure the city's energy infrastructure meets the needs of the city, whilst identifying locations to increase renewable energy and determine suitable sites for innovative energy projects. The Council is now using the plan to consider the next steps.



Action 1.11 Leasing or Disposing of Council Land and Buildings

The Council's Development Team is creating a way to assess the carbon impact of land and asset disposal. It is looking at the impact of asset disposal on a wide range of related issues, e.g. capital receipts, achieving best value, links to the delivery of other policies, and the impact on procurement and state aid. It will look at thresholds for transactions, the skills and resource needed and ways to measure impact.

Action 1.12 A New Manchester Local Plan

The Manchester Local Plan is progressing with consultations due to take place during summer 2022. Adoption of the Local Plan is scheduled for autumn 2023.

In August 2021, Manchester Climate Change Partnership published its "Roadmap to Net Zero Carbon New Buildings in Manchester". This sets out a proposal for all new buildings in the city to be zero carbon from 2023, without offsetting or a carbon tax. This will be incorporated into the Local Plan process.

Action 1.13 Partnership Work with Experts on Buildings

Work has been continuing to support the University of Cambridge with the development of supporting KPIs and scoring metrics for their 'Achieving Net Zero' Carbon Code, which has been developed in conjunction with the Construction Leadership Council, HS2, Environment Agency, Highways England and the wider construction industry.

The proposals which have been drafted in such a way to support both the largest contractors and SMEs to deliver on their existing Achieving Net Zero Plans and to develop such plans where required. The Code was launched at COP26 in October 2021.

Travel and Transport (Workstream 2):

Action 2.1 Decarbonise Waste Collection

The Council has invested **£9.8m** into decarbonising its waste fleet and improving air quality by purchasing **27 electric** refuse collection vehicles - **50%** of its existing diesel fleet.

25 vehicles were operational throughout 2021-22. The remaining 2 vehicles will be operational in Spring 2022. Some delays were experienced due to the impact of COVID-19 on the supply chain, resulting in the receipt of the new vehicles being later than originally planned.

Following delivery of the new electric waste fleet, each vehicle was fitted with the additional camera and software installations, along with being wrapped in the Council's zero carbon branding.

Once fully operational, these trucks will save around **900 tonnes of CO₂** per year.



Action 2.2 Decarbonise Operational Fleet

At the beginning of the year, the corporate vehicle leasing contract was re-procured as part of the ongoing programme to replace petrol and diesel vehicles with more sustainable alternatives.

During 2021-22, the Council's electric fleet increased from **17 to 37 vehicles** (**17%** of the total fleet) and one of the hybrid vehicles was returned to the provider as it was no longer needed, leaving two hybrid vehicles remaining in the fleet.

New electric vehicles have been deployed across Facilities Management, Grounds Maintenance, Highways, Pest Control, Bereavement Services, Galleries, Mail Room, Arboriculture and Manchester Contracts.

There are currently **69** vehicles that require towing capabilities and specialist heavy goods vehicles in the fleet, which cannot be replaced as there is no non-internal combustion engine alternative on the market yet. The supply of new electric vehicles is challenging due to the increased global demand and the shortage of components, such as batteries. The Fleet Services Manager is maintaining an ongoing dialogue with suppliers.

In January 2022, the Council launched the eCargo bike project. **£173,000** was awarded to the Council and partners to purchase a fleet of 26 electrically assisted cargo bikes and trailers. The project, funded by the Energy Savings Trust, aims to speed up the local delivery of goods and services as well as reduce carbon emissions. Twelve bikes and three trailers form part of the Council's operational fleet, the remaining bikes are being used by the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, three social enterprise organisations and providing a 'bike library' for short-term leases to local residents.



Action 2.3 Sustainable Travel Policy

In April 2021, a **Senior Project Manager** was appointed to support the development and delivery of our **Sustainable Staff Travel Policy** and travel incentives (action 2.8), which complement the policy.

Personnel Committee approved the [Sustainable Staff Travel Policy](#) on the 15 December 2021. As a result of work on the policy, a car club vehicle is now available at Etrop Court, the Council's Wythenshawe district office. Further implementation will continue throughout 2022/23.



Action 2.4 Walking and Cycling

Manchester City Council has secured **£325,000** from the Department for Transport's (DfT) Active Travel Capability Fund to support the development of the Active Travel Strategy for the city and develop a pipeline of potential schemes. Calls to tender for the appointment of a consultant to develop the strategy and investment plan opened in January 2022. An appointment is expected to be made during the first quarter of 2022-23.

The Council was awarded **£3.95m** during 2021-22 via Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) from DfT's Active Travel Fund, to make improvements to Alan Turing Way and High Street and Fountain Street traffic free streets. The funding will be used to develop high quality walking and cycling routes, improve safety of the existing ones and connect segregated cycleways. Further work to develop both schemes will be progressed throughout 2022.

Funding from the Active Travel Fund and the Mayor's Challenge Fund is supporting work on the following Bee Network schemes:

- Northern Quarter scheme is well underway, with the first phase complete. The new signalised crossing at the junction of London Road and Ducie Street (close to Piccadilly Station) provides improved crossing for pedestrians and cyclists at the busy intersection
- Plans for the next phase of Stevenson Square are out for consultation
- Work started on the Northern Eastern Gateway scheme in January 2022
- Most of the Manchester to Chorlton Cycleway is complete, with the remaining works expected to complete in 2023
- Rochdale Canal towpath proposals have been agreed
- Withington proposals for improvements and road safety measures are being developed
- Consultation has taken place for the development of the City Centre Triangle, which will be followed by the development of more detailed plans.



In October 2021, TfGM eHubs project launched in Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Whalley Range, Ancoats and Beswick with eCargo “Cargoroo” **bikes available to the public** on an hourly hire charge.

In November 2021, the first phase of the **Bee Network Cycle Hire scheme** was operational with bikes available along Oxford

Road, and Piccadilly Station to Fallowfield. Docking stations in this phase were deployed in January 2022.



Action 2.5 Strategic Transport Infrastructure

In November 2021, the Greater Manchester Streets for All Strategy was approved by Manchester City Council’s Executive Committee. The purpose of the strategy is to set out Greater Manchester’s progressive approach to managing our streets and making them easier to access and get around by all.

In February 2022, a draft annual progress report for the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 was published. The report reflects key developments during 2021, setting out delivery priorities for the year ahead as well as update on progress in delivering the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy and Five-Year Transport Delivery Plan 2021-26.

GM Cycle Hire Scheme

The scheme is being rolled out across the GM region and Beryl – nationwide UK shared mobility provider - was chosen as the preferred supplier. Between November 2021 and January 2022 work was undertaken with TfGM and Beryl to approve the locations for **35 docking stations** along the Oxford Road Corridor.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

The Council continues to work with TfGM on rolling out electric vehicle charging infrastructure as funding becomes available, including through the Government's On-Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme.

Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan



Clean Air
Greater
Manchester

The Government instructed many local authorities across the UK to take quick action to reduce harmful Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels following the Secretary of State issuing a direction under the Environment Act 1995.

The 10 Greater Manchester local authorities, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) are working together to develop a Clean Air Plan to tackle NO₂ exceedances at the roadside, known as the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan. The Plan is a package of measures to deliver NO₂ reductions to within legal limits within the shortest possible time and by 2026 at the latest. Development of the Plan is underway in consultation with Government.

Action 2.6 City Centre Transport Strategy

The Council secured funding to support key sustainable transport schemes across Manchester, including Metrolink, bus priority corridors, walking and cycling infrastructure. This funding forms part of the wider bid in collaboration with other Greater Manchester Local Authorities to secure

£1.07bn in capital funding for transport infrastructure in Greater Manchester (GM) as part of the GM City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement.

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is working to measure carbon reduction benefits expected through the delivery of active travel targets set out in the City Centre Transport Strategy.

Action 2.7 Aviation Emissions

Manchester Airport Group (MAG) was listed as one of **300 companies that achieved the greatest reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions** between 2014 – 2019 by the [Financial Times Europe Climate Leaders](#). This takes account of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions (those directly produced by the organisation and those produced in generating the energy used by the organisation).



In December 2021, MAG shared a report with [Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee](#) to give an overview of the relationship between aviation and the city's carbon emissions. It sets out how aviation-related emissions need to form part of a nationally agreed carbon budget for aviation, which should be compatible with the Paris Agreement, rather than being accounted for directly in the city's own carbon budget.

The Airport has been working hard to reduce the ground-based carbon impact of their activities, as well as the work that the wider Group is doing to ensure that the UK aviation sector achieves net zero emissions by 2050.

Action 2.8 Sustainable Travel Incentives

Promotion of staff travel incentives are a regular feature in staff communications, including discounted and flexible public transport tickets and the Council's Cycle to Work scheme. Cycle September was promoted and prizes from TfGM were on offer for staff.

124 applications totalling almost £160,000 were paid out during 2021-22 via the Cycle to Work scheme. This figure shows a continuous uptake and interest in active travel amongst staff. The average payment was **£1,285**.

Reducing Consumption-based Emissions (Workstream 3):

Action 3.1 Sustainable Procurement

The Council introduced a **10%** environmental weighting taking the total social value weighting to 30%. During 2021-22, following a successful trial, this became a standard requirement for all new tenders except in exceptional circumstances.

This additional 10% weighting asks suppliers to **highlight how they are supporting the city's zero carbon ambition** and what steps they are taking to incorporate environmentally friendly practices.

The Integrated Commissioning and Procurement (IC&P) team has worked with commissioners and contract leads across the council to support the implementation of the new weighting and has provided additional guidance and training to enable staff to assess tenders.

Action 3.2 Tyndall Centre Report on Manchester's consumption emissions

A key recommendation from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research into the City's consumption emissions relates to estimating emissions associated with particular goods and services and taking steps to reduce them. The IC&P team has been working with key stakeholders, including Core Cities to establish how best to approach this challenge and identify solutions for capturing this data.

Work is being carried out with specific teams within the Council, such as Highways and ICT to identify areas where carbon emissions can be monitored, and further efficiencies made.

Additionally, the Council has been working to develop **a range of supplier toolkits** to encourage and support zero carbon practices across our supplier chain.

Action 3.3 Single Use Plastics (MCC Operational Estates & Markets)

The Council has pledged to take action to **reduce avoidable Single Use Plastics (SUPs) by 2024** in line with the Plastic Free Greater Manchester Pledge. To achieve this, a new **Sustainability Project Manager** was appointed to develop and deliver an action plan to reduce avoidable SUPs on Council land and to implement a strategy for influencing external partners.

New UK Government legislation introduced in October 2020, banned the use of specific SUPs (straws, cotton buds, drinks stirrers) across all Retail and Wholesale Markets, which has been incorporated into our trader licensing agreements. Whilst it is the Traders responsibility to comply with the legislation, the Markets team has been reminding all traders of the requirements set out in the legislation, which was particularly important this year on the return to 'business as usual' post COVID-19 restrictions.

In February 2022, a new Waste pilot project began to review how the supply and demand of wheellie bins can be improved to reduce plastic waste. This involved a trial with the supplier **to recycle the plastic from old bins as content for the new bins**. Findings of the trial will be provided in 2022-23.

Action 3.4 Citywide Supplier Toolkit

A Supplier Toolkit '[Social Value and Environment Guidance for Suppliers and Bidders for Council Contract Opportunities](#)' has been published on MCC's website, with an opportunity for the wider public to provide feedback.

The Toolkit, developed by the Council's IC&P team with support from the Business Growth Company aims to support suppliers, particularly SMEs to respond to the **10% environmental weighting**. The Toolkit has been shared with Procurement and Commissioning Leads across Greater Manchester to share knowledge and best practice.

Action 3.5 Single Use Plastics (licensing and events)

In 2021/22, large scale events were able to recommence following COVID-19 restriction easing.

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, research was undertaken to identify how Council events could be made more sustainable. Two key focus areas were identified:

- 1) Single Use Plastic reduction across cold drinks cups, and
- 2) Using alternative power supply for events to avoid diesel generators.

In October 2021, a [Reusable Cups Guide](#) was launched for event organisers as a result.



In January 2022, an initial scoping project began to identify need and outline specification for improving access to grid power for live events. The study looks at **3 parks sites** and approximately **10 city centre sites**. As a pilot project in 2021, the Council worked with the Manchester International Festival (MIF) to install access to grid power from the National Football Museum to **remove the need for diesel generators to power stages and cabins** for its Festival Square. This new power source will feed into the power improvement project.

Action 3.6 A Sustainable Food System

In January 2022, the Manchester Food Board (MFB) produced an action plan to better align with the Our Manchester principles and include a key objective to “*Reduce environmental impacts throughout the food system with a focus on food waste and a shift to more ecological practices*”. **The MFB is chaired by Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment & Transport.**

The Council's Food Response Team is working with the MFB to assist with the delivery of the action plan. There is also ongoing engagement with Greater Manchester Food Operations Group to ensure best practice and regional resources are being shared.

Ongoing engagement between the MFB secretariat, FoodSync, the Manchester Climate Change Agency and the Council's Zero Carbon team is underway to better understand the priorities of the Manchester Food Board and how the Council can support these priorities.

Climate Change Adaptation and Carbon Sequestration (Workstream 4)

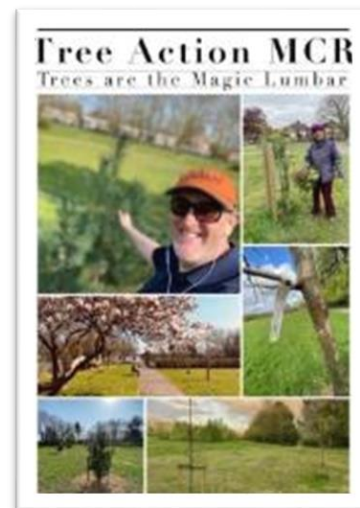
Action 4.1 Manchester Tree Action Plan

In total, **7021 trees** were planted across the City on known schemes, including **2620** hedge trees and **8** Community orchards.

Watering programmes continued throughout to protect the trees planted to date. Five new Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) were also declared in 2021, taking the overall number to **404**.

Over the course of the year, the Council's tree officers have continuously liaised with Neighbourhood teams' Climate Change officers, Ward Councillors and community representatives to understand local needs and priorities.

In 2021, significant work was undertaken to develop a new fundamental appraisal of the City's tree resource. This work will shape the development of the new Tree and Woodland Action Plan in 2022 and will draw on information from the Managing Manchester's Trees and Tree Opportunity mapping work.



Action 4.2 Embedding Nature Based Solutions

Work to embed nature-based solutions (NBS) for flood resilience in open spaces, highways and new developments across the city continued in 2020/21.

Mayfield – In 2021, work began on site at the Mayfield mixed use development. As part of the landscape led approach, the **six-acre public park** on the outskirts of the city centre was one of the first elements to begin. It includes the **historic “daylighting” of a 400 metre stretch of the River Medlock**, making this part of the river visible again for the first time in nearly 100 years. The Park is scheduled to open to the public in September 2022.

West Gorton Community Park – Since its opening in July 2020, West Gorton Community Park (the ‘sponge park’) has **won several awards**, including a Landscape Institute Award for Excellence in Flood and Water Management. Multiple activities have been organised on site by regeneration charity Groundwork Greater Manchester to help the development of a Friends group.



Our Rivers, Our City vision – In September 2021, MCC commissioned the River Valley Strategy (funded by the EU Horizon 2020 GrowGreen project). This comprehensive study sets out the importance of the Rivers Irk, Mersey and Medlock to the City, especially in terms of maximising their flood mitigation potential.



Resilient River Valleys Programme – Led by Groundwork Greater Manchester, this ambitious two-year, **£1m** programme will focus on delivering nature-based solutions to enhance the climate resilience of our river valleys. It will help improve access to, along and across our river valleys for people and nature. This will be achieved using sustainable management and new employment and training opportunities.

Implementation Plan for the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy – The updated plan was shared with [Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee](#) in March 2022. The plan includes

over **£150m** worth of expected environmental improvements that will support the Our Manchester Vision over the coming five years. This work will shape climate resilience and environment policy within the Local Plan that is currently in development.

Action 4.3 Tree Opportunity Mapping

Using detailed data sets, the Council City Policy Team was able to deliver **ward level insight into tree capacity**, identifying where and how tree canopy can be increased effectively, sustainably, and appropriately.

Capacity mapping will help steer new local campaigns for tree planting and will help address environmental inequalities, allowing better prioritisation.

Further work will be undertaken in 2022-23, investigating efficiency and effectiveness of management systems and processes across the City's treescape.

Action 4.4 Maximising Council Contribution to the Northern Forest

£148,000 of funding was secured by the Council working with City of Trees for additional tree planting via the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Urban Tree Challenge Fund.

Tree Action – the 2021/22 planting season marked the second year of the Council's **£1m** tree planting programme. All wards have been surveyed for the new street tree planting.

Four new community orchards were planted with community support and training delivered by The Orchard Project in Delamere Park (Openshaw), Platt Fields Park (Fallowfield), Mersey Bank Fields (Chorlton) and Kenworthy Wood (Northenden).

Manchester saw three events take place as part of the **Queen's Green Canopy** - a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". Further details of these events are included below.



Oak Trees being planted to form a brand-new feature avenue at the Heaton park in December 2021. The event was attended by Councillor Tracey Rawlins and the Deputy Lieutenants of Greater Manchester. This also formed part of the Tree Action MCR programme.

Planting of a Covid Beacon Oak Tree took place in Fog Lane Park, Didsbury, as a living legacy for all those lost and affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. This event, held in December 2021, was attended by Friends of Fog Lane Park, green champions from St Cuthbert's Primary School and Council staff. Further Covid Beacon trees have been planted in Manchester parks and cemeteries as a legacy of the pandemic.





An Oak Tree has been planted in Wythenshawe Park in March 2022. This event was attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Councillor Tracey Rawlins and Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar.

Catalysing Change (Workstream 5):

Action 5.1 Carbon Literacy

During 2021-22, the rollout of Carbon Literacy training for staff and elected members continued through virtual learning sessions.

In the first quarter of 2021, a data cleanse was performed to ensure that the Council still meets the requirements for **Silver** accreditation, following the uptake of a Voluntary Redundancy and Voluntary Early Retirement offer in 2020-21. While the overall number of certified staff reduced by 163, we were still above the Silver accreditation threshold of 15% of the workforce certified.

In January 2022, Carbon Literacy training was made **mandatory** for all staff resulting in increased levels of engagement. Between April 2021 and March 2022;

- **1,279 Council staff** (including Northwards Housing staff) and
- **54 elected members** were certified carbon literate.

In addition, the Council's Carbon Literacy trainer trained **57 members of staff from Greenwich Leisure Limited and Manchester Active**, which supports the Council's ambition to achieve Gold accreditation.

The Culture and Events team were the first team within the Council to undertake a **bespoke Carbon Literacy training programme**, delivered by Julie's Bicycle, a not-for-profit sustainability organisation who work with the culture sector to act on the climate change. Officers who attended the training gained additional skills to support external partners from the sector.

As part of the 2022-23 Council budget setting, **additional resource will be available to oversee delivery of the Carbon Literacy training across the Council**. This will include proactively engaging with services to deliver training and commissioning external providers to develop training programmes tailored to needs of individual services.

Action 5.2 Environmental Weighting in Procurement

See update for action 3.1.

Action 5.3 Embedding Carbon in Decision-Making

This action has been built into **the core workstream of Future Shape of the Council as a key area**, embedding zero-carbon ambition into a full range of decision-making structures. Scope of this work was developed further in Q2 with aim to be delivered over the next 2 years, and will focus on the following areas:

- Adding **zero carbon as a priority to the internal Service Plan 2022-23 template**, which will help to understand what action is already taking place within individual services.
- Carrying out a skills audit across directorates to assess the need for more bespoke climate change training.
- Further work on monitoring the benefit of climate actions in decision-making, for example measuring and assessing the carbon impact across our capital programmes and monitoring supplier commitments through the revised procurement process.
- Further research into carbon pricing tools to help calculate the value of carbon reduction and environmental measures.

As part of the Council's 2022-23 budget setting, **£800,000 was secured** to provide additional resources to support delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan. **The added capacity will focus on 6 key areas:**

- Housing Investment & Retrofit
- Energy and Infrastructure Support

- Procurement
- City Policy Zero Carbon team
- Sustainable Staff Travel
- Carbon Literacy

In February 2022, Manchester City Council commissioned Julie's Bicycle to develop a **Zero Carbon Culture Guide**.

Staff from the Culture and Events teams took part in a **bespoke Carbon Literacy training programme** delivered by Julie's Bicycle and designed to equip staff with further knowledge to further support the arts and culture sector in reaching Manchester's Zero Carbon 2038 target

The Guide was produced in line with the principles from the Manchester Climate Change Framework. It outlines the Council's expectations for grant funded recipients, and the new funding agreement requirements, in preparation for the upcoming funding programmes in 2023.



Working with Manchester City Council, the National Football Museum has taken significant action to put environmental practices in focus. The Museum drafted its first Carbon Reduction Plan, trained staff in carbon literacy, secured a new waste collection contract which guarantees no waste to landfill, and updated travel advice to encourage visitors to use low carbon modes of transport. The Museum building is also part of the Council Estates Retrofit Programme.

Action 5.4 Community Engagement

Three Neighbourhood Climate Change Officers

were appointed in early 2021 to engage with communities to raise awareness of climate change and encourage local action.

All of Manchester's **32 wards now have a climate change action plan**. These were developed through a series of engagement events including:

- Ward Climate Summits,
- Climate Emergency events held in Burnage, Whalley Range, and Wythenshawe
- A Creative Climate Resilience Community Pageant in Newton Heath



A Climate Youth Network was also established to further engage with residents in Old Moat and Withington. Promotional materials and a communications plan have been developed to provide as a resource to share good practice and stories across the wards.

In May 2021, a zero-carbon community engagement programme **'In Our Nature'** launched. The programme engaged residents across **6 pilot neighbourhoods** – Hulme, Levenshulme, Moss Side, Newton Heath and Miles Platting, the Northern Quarter, and Rusholme – to drive local climate change activity. The programme was facilitated in partnership with Manchester Climate Change Agency, Manchester City Council, Hubbub, Amity, the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and Commonplace.



In Summer 2021, **Manchester's first ever Community Assembly on climate change was held** as part of the In Our Nature programme. Over **100** Manchester residents came together over 7 weeks to learn about climate action on a city level from a panel of experts to enable them to debate and vote on actions for a **"Citizens Mandate on Climate Action"** for Manchester. This was presented to Manchester City Council before being taken to COP26 in November 2021.

Action 5.5 Citywide Communications Campaign

Climate related content across the Council's social media channels, local media and internal communications has increased. Activities across all five workstreams have been highlighted, with particular focus on COP26, the Civic Quarter Heat Network, Carbon Literacy training, and community engagement.

The communications **team regularly engage with the Deputy Chief Executive, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport**, and the Zero Carbon team to discuss external and internal communication opportunities and shine the light on the positive news stories.

Work was complete to develop a new, coherent structure for content on the Zero Carbon pages of the Council's website. The promotion of neighbourhood community engagement events and activities across the city as well as information on how residents can get involved in local climate action has been added. The pages also contain information such as quarterly progress reports, information on Green Skills and contact details for the Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers.



As part of preparations for COP26, [a film](#) was created to highlight Manchester's journey to Net Zero. The film summarises the actions delivered across the five workstreams.

In January 2022, **two Elected Member Learning Sessions** were delivered in on the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. The aim of these sessions was to provide members with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with climate actions across the Council and gain

the confidence to discuss climate related issues in their wards. These were held in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

Action 5.6 Funding Manchester Climate Change Agency

The Council continues to support the Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA) through funding for staff and day to day operational budget.

During the year the Agency's staff increased to **eight** which included the appointment of **four new roles**:

- Director
- Two x Deputy Directors
- Policy & Strategy Lead

The Council's funding has helped to mobilise activity within the Agency and unlock further contributions from across the Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP).

A key priority for the Agency is to undertake a refresh of the Manchester Climate Change Framework, which is due to be published in Autumn 2022. **Council funding to continue to support the Agency** has been approved for 2022-23.

Action 5.7 Influencing Manchester Stakeholders

Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP)

In May 2021, a progress and priorities update on the Manchester Climate Change Framework was presented to the [Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee](#). The update outlines the ambition for wider engagement with Manchester organisations and proposals to expand the Partnership. **The Council continues to be represented at the Partnership Board by the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Member for Environment and Transport.**

In July 2021, **MCCP formally endorsed and adopted a Net Zero Carbon New Build Policy**, which proposes a zero-carbon standard for all new buildings in the city from 2023. The Partnership continue to engage with those involved in commissioning new buildings in the Manchester to further refine this proposal, with the next steps to be included in the refreshed Manchester Climate Change Framework 2022-25.

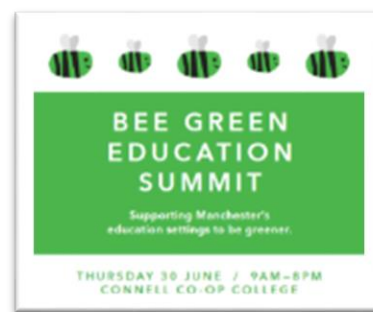
In February 2022, an update on the refresh of the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2022-25 went to the [Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee](#).

In 2021, **Manchester Airport Group became a member of MCCP**. Manchester Airport Group continue to work on reducing aviation emissions through their engagement with UK Government and other cities with airports.

Action 5.8 Supporting Schools with Climate Change

Between March 2021 and April 2022, series of meetings took place between the Council's Education Team and key stakeholders across Manchester schools to discuss their circumstances and challenges around reducing operational emissions.

Information gathered from these meetings informed planning for the **Bee Green Education Summit** which takes place in June 2022. The Summit provides the opportunity for headteachers, facilities management and governors to gain advice and support to decarbonise their estates.



Action 5.9 Influencing Greater Manchester Stakeholders

The Council continues to push the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) to divest from fossil fuels. Further lobbying on fossil fuel divestment has taken place via the Executive Member for Environment and Transport and at officer level.

To take steps towards carbon neutrality, GMPF made a joint commitment with other UK and Nordic pension funds to spend **£95.4bn** on clean energy and climate investments by 2030.

Council officers and the Executive Member for Environment and Transport regularly engage with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) through attendance at meetings throughout the year. **The Council actively engage with a wide range of other Greater Manchester stakeholders** at notable meetings such as:



- Green City Region Partnership
- Greater Manchester Green City Board
- Greater Manchester Climate Emergency and 5 Year Environmental Plan Liaison
- Decarbonising of the Public Estate
- Directors of Place

Officers use these engagements as an opportunity to share best practice, identify synergies and maximise opportunities for the city.

Action 5.10 COP26 in Glasgow 2021

In the lead up to COP26, Manchester City Council was involved in various projects.

One of the most significant being a **collaboration with Core Cities UK, the London Councils, Connected Places Catapult, and UK Cities Climate Investment Commission (UKCCIC)**. The initiative provided a platform to discuss and understand the scale of investment needed to deliver a zero-carbon ambition across the UK's largest cities, as well as associated barriers and challenges. Outcomes of this work have shown that an estimated **£206 billion of investment is needed** to deliver low carbon ambitions across the pilot cities. These findings, along with green investment proposals, were presented at COP26 in a [detailed UKCCIC report](#).



Manchester City Council was represented at COP26 by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, who also attended supporting events such as the **Glasgow Declaration on Food and Climate** and the **Edinburgh Declaration on Biodiversity**.

Both declarations have been signed and officers are exploring how the principles of these declarations can be embedded into the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25, as well as wider city activity, for example through the partnership with the Manchester Food Board.

A Manchester “**Citizens Mandate on Climate Action**” developed as part of the Community Assemblies (see action 5.4) was presented in person by a representative from Envirolution with a video summarising the events held and the purpose of the manifesto.

Action 5.10 is now complete and the learnings from COP26 will be reviewed to inform the development of next steps.

Action 5.11 International Networks

Learning from other cities and positioning Manchester as a key player on climate change continues through the Council’s involvement in recognised networks and leading European partnership projects.

Manchester is one of **10,434** city signatories to **the Covenant of Mayors**. The initiative brings together local governments who are voluntarily committed to implementing European Union climate and energy objectives. It draws on worldwide multi-stakeholder networks with technical and methodological support.

The Council is also a long-standing member of **Eurocities**, the leading network of major European cities.

The Council continued to participate in two **European Commission funded URBACT projects**:

- **Zero Carbon Cities** - a **£688,000** 3-year project, leading **six European cities** to adopt science-based targets to support their transition to zero carbon.
 - **£330,000** of the budget is allocated to Manchester. This has enabled the commissioning of Anthesis – a consulting group who supported the Council and Manchester Climate Change Agency in carrying out a refresh of the Manchester Climate Change Framework. Funding has also supported the development of Manchester’s Implementation Plan, which resulted in a series of community workshops delivered in collaboration with Envirolution.
- **C-Change** - a **£650,000** project working with five European cities to drive positive climate action through the culture sector.
 - **£263,000** of the budget is allocated to Manchester. This has funded consultancy from Julie’s Bicycle to support the development of the Zero Carbon Culture Guide, which offers advice to cultural organisations on how to reduce their carbon emissions. (See action 5.3).
 - In Manchester, the project built on capacity for Manchester Arts Sustainability Team (MAST), **delivered tailored carbon literacy training to sector and produced a series of climate engaged arts** via a series of pilot action programmes
 - The C-Change project completed in April 2021, with a final networking event that was held virtually and saw **120 participants** from across all partner cities, sharing their project achievements and learnings.



Action 5.12 Green Skills

Throughout the year, the Work and Skills team has continued **to deliver awareness raising campaigns** within schools to promote green skills, jobs and opportunities to pupils and careers advisers.

A refresh of the Work and Skills Strategy is underway. This will see green skills outlined as a key priority with several key actions outlined in a Green Skills Action Plan. Skills relating to building retrofit has been identified as a primary area of focus in engagement with the Local Green Skills Partnership Group and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. As part of the strategy refresh, work will be focused on developing a tangible work programme with clear milestones alongside key performance indicators.