

Annual Report 2022-23

Purpose

This report provides an overview of progress made in delivering [Manchester City Council's Climate Change Action Plan \(CCAP\) 2020-25](#) during its third year; April 2022 – March 2023.

The report focuses on the Council's activity to reduce its direct carbon emissions, highlighting key achievements and challenges faced during the reporting period. It showcases the Council specific actions and city-wide leadership actions that were identified as priority within the [CCAP Work Plan 2022-23](#) and an overall RAG (Red, Amber, Green) risk rating of each action within the CCAP has been included in Appendix 1 – Action RAG at Glance.

Background

Manchester City Council (MCC) declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and in response, developed a 5-year Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25, to outline its ambition to tackle climate change and take action to become a zero-carbon organisation by 2038.

The CCAP includes 47 actions 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

In September 2021, the Zero Carbon Coordination Group, which oversees MCC's Climate Change Action Plan agreed a mid-point refresh of the current 5-year CCAP 2020-2025, to show progress made to date, update milestones and include new actions, which are clear and measurable.

The refreshed CCAP was approved by the Council's [Executive Committee](#) on 14 September 2022 and is designed to ensure the Council is remaining on track to reduce its direct carbon (CO₂) emissions and demonstrating how Manchester City Council is leading by example, giving renewed focus to the city-wide actions within the Action Plan.

Key Messages

- Our CCAP 2020-25 has a carbon budget of **126,336 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂)**. The Council has made good progress to date and is on track to remain within the carbon budget having only used **57%** of our budget within the first 3 years of the CCAP 2020-25.
- The Council has only used **89%** of our 2022-23 carbon budget during the year (April 2022 – March 2023), meaning we have outperformed the target by 11%.
- During 2022-23 (April 2022 – March 2023), MCC emitted 22,072 tCO₂, which is **8.5% lower** than the previous year.
- **55%** of the actions in the CCAP 2020-25 are **working to target** (Green in the RAG) and the remaining are work in progress (45% of actions are Amber in the RAG).
- **Key achievements** for 2022-23 include £21.3m invested into energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures to improve 18 Council buildings saving 2,212 tCO₂ per year;

Skate Manchester connected to mains power reducing diesel generator usage saving 50,000 litres of diesel, the equivalent of 90tCO₂e; the opening of Mayfield Park, 6.5 acres of green space within the city centre; and the Council winning the Sustainability and Social Value Award at the Public Finance Awards 2022 for its CCAP.

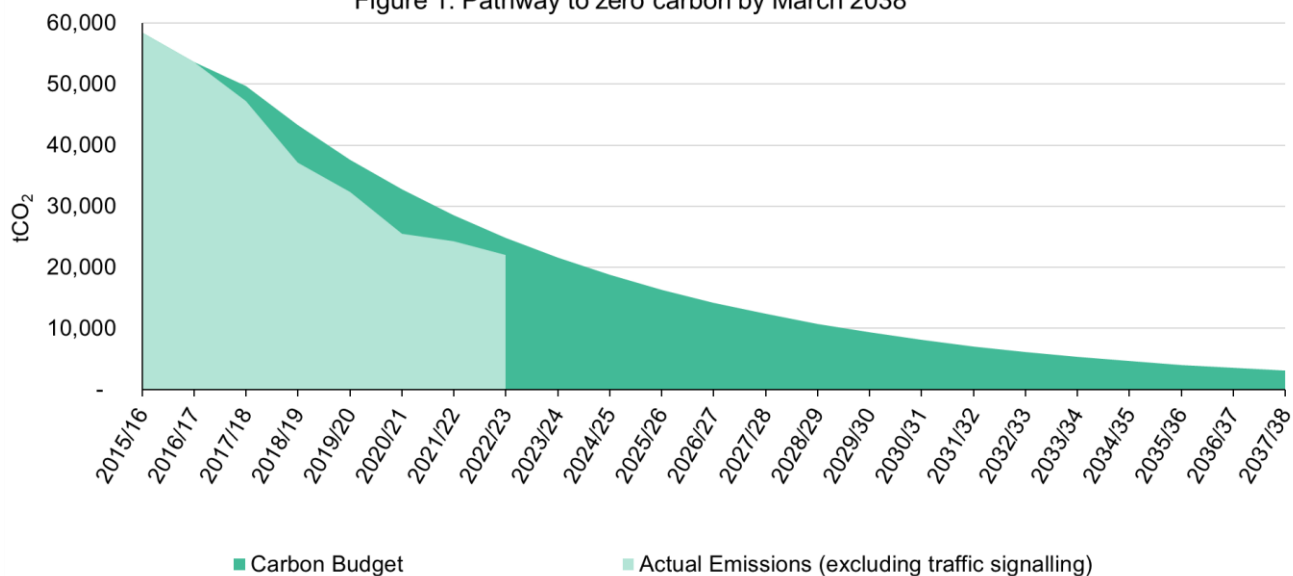
- Risks that arose during 2022-23 included rising inflation costs causing an increase in the cost of materials for infrastructure and retrofit projects; reduced levels of funding and more competitive funding programmes released by UK Government with tighter eligibility criteria and the lack of an established green skills sector to deliver projects.

CO₂ Emissions

Manchester City Council (MCC) worked with the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research to set its science-based target of achieving zero carbon by 2038 at the latest, based on a carbon budget. A carbon budget is the maximum amount of CO₂ emissions the Council can emit to remain on track to be Zero Carbon by 2038.

The Pathway to Zero Carbon 2038

Figure 1: Pathway to zero carbon by March 2038



The Council has a target to reach zero-carbon by 2038 at the latest. The trajectory to this point is shown in Figure 1. The Council’s carbon budget (dark green shading) extends beyond 2038, commencing from 2018-19 (baseline year) up to 2099-2100. Most of the carbon budget is allocated at the start of the pathway as this is the period when the greatest savings need to be made (pale green shading shows the amount of carbon budget used to 2022-23).

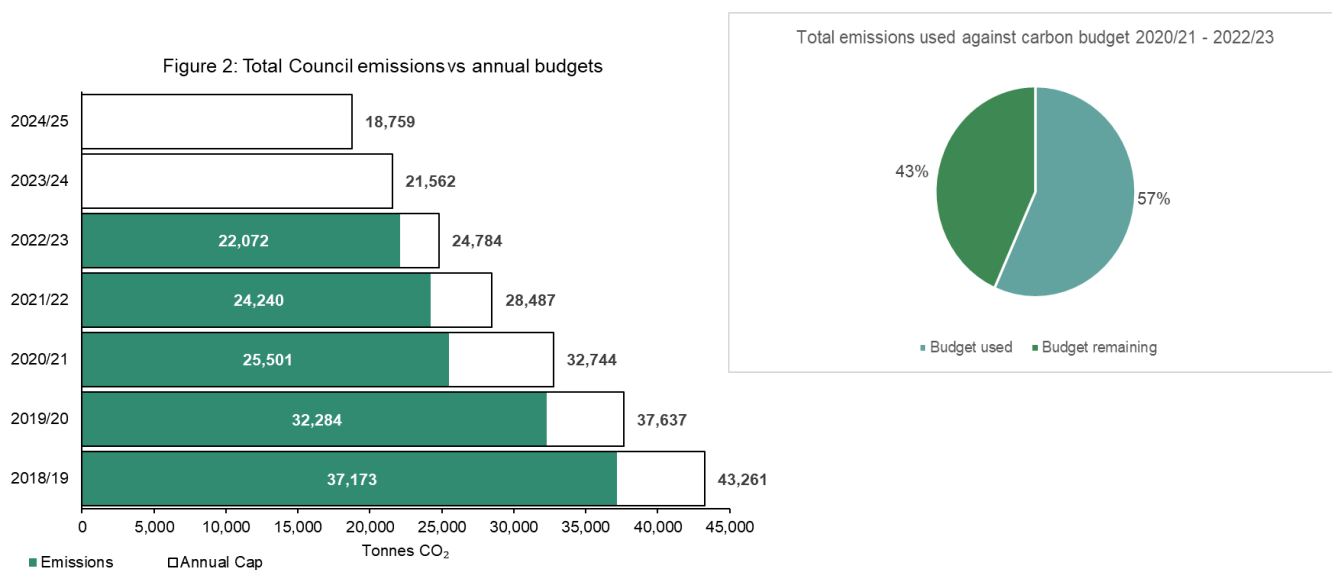
To enable MCC to reduce its direct carbon emissions, the Council’s Executive Committee approved the first 5-year Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 in March 2020. The carbon budget for this 5-year period (2020-25) was originally 119,988 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂), with an annual breakdown for each year.

In July 2021, Northwards Housing formally re-joined Manchester City Council. As a result, carbon emissions generated by Northwards Housing, now designated as Housing Operations within MCC, will be brought under the umbrella of MCC’s carbon emissions reporting.

The direct CO₂ emissions from Housing Operations, which are now the responsibility of MCC (energy supply to offices, and communal areas within residential properties, sheltered housing, staff and fleet travel) have been quantified and are now included in all CO₂ emissions reports. Emissions from residents' home energy consumption is not included within this data, as it is the responsibility of those occupiers as bill-payers and not the City Council.

In order to accurately reflect the inclusion of Housing Operations' emissions, the carbon budget for MCC was recalculated in 2022. This helped to project future emissions up to 2038, in line with the original science-based target model used by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and establish a more accurate carbon budget for the duration of the CCAP 2020-25. The revised carbon budget for the five-year period of 2020-25 is 126,336 tCO₂.

Between April 2020 and March 2023 (the first three years of the current 5-year Climate Change Action Plan), the Council has used 57% of its allocated carbon budget, emitting 71,812 tCO₂ which is shown in Figure 2.



The carbon budget allocated for the reporting year of 2022-23 was 24,784 tCO₂ and Figure 2 shows that the Council remained within budget for this year by 89% (emitting 22,072 tCO₂) as well as highlighting that the Council's carbon emissions have remained within budget each year since the 2018-19 baseline.¹

The Council has made significant progress in reducing its direct carbon emissions to date and has remained below the allocated carbon budget as shown in Figures 1 & 2, however the overall rate of CO₂ reduction is slowing down and delivering further reductions in line with the zero carbon science-based pathway will become more challenging, particularly whilst there is no simple solution for entirely replacing gas.

¹ 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. For example, during 2021-22, there were delays in invoicing and this was only resolved in December 2022. As such, the emissions recorded in our [CCAP 2021-22 Annual Report](#) for that year have been revised (from 22,807 tCO₂ to 24,101 tCO₂). We will continue to take further reviews of our energy data and make any required amendments in future Annual Reports. However, indicative data shows we remain within the allocated annual carbon budget.

MCC Direct Emissions Breakdown for 2022-23

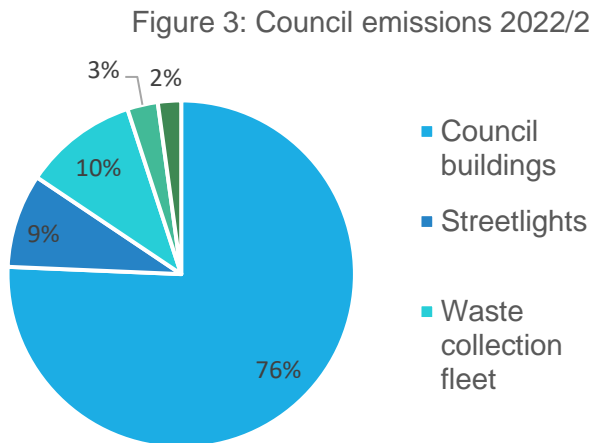
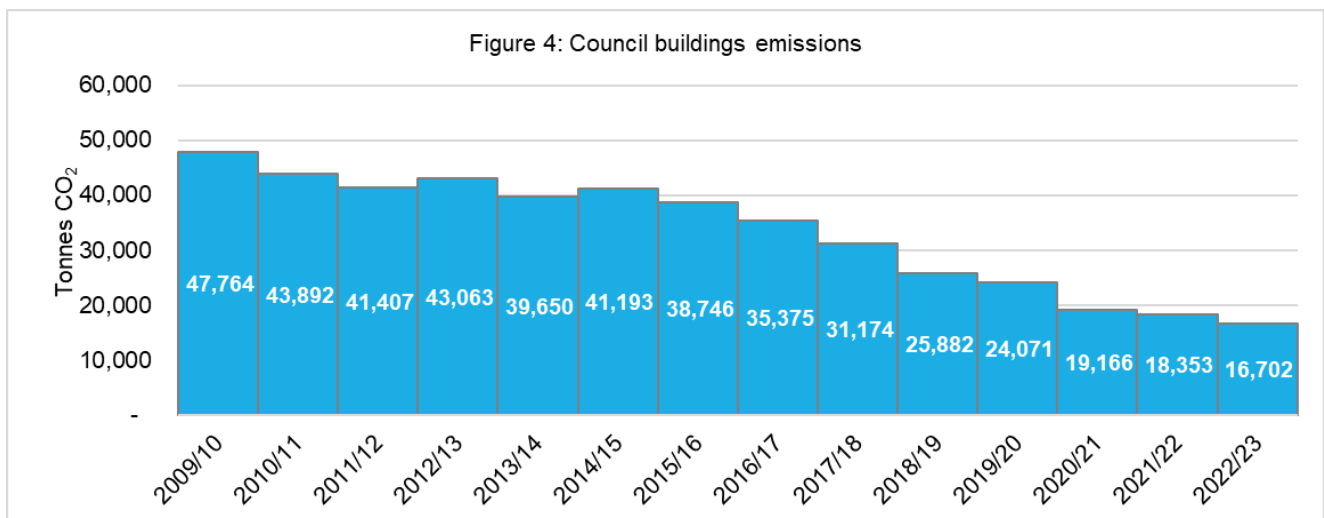


Figure 3 shows that buildings continue to be the most significant contributor to the Council's direct emissions (76%), followed by the waste collection fleet (10%), streetlights (9%), Operational Fleet (3%) and Staff Business Travel (2%). All these emissions have been targeted for proactive change, which is detailed later in this report.

The following graphs (Figures 4 – 8) show a detailed breakdown of emissions across each of these five areas.

Emissions from energy usage in Council buildings has steadily declined since 2009, as shown in Figure 4, and the emissions from Council buildings in 2022-23 (combined usage of gas, electricity, and oil) is 9% lower than the previous year.



The reduction in energy use has been driven by the installation of energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation measures and renewable energy generation capacity across the Council's estate, as well as benefitting from the decarbonisation of the national grid.

Following the large-scale streetlight replacement programme and the switch to LED lightbulbs, which completed in December 2021, emissions from streetlights has significantly reduced, as shown in Figure 5. Emissions generated from streetlights in 2022-23 was 11% lower than 2021-22 and 88% lower than in 2014-15 when streetlight emissions were at the highest prior to the streetlight replacement programme.

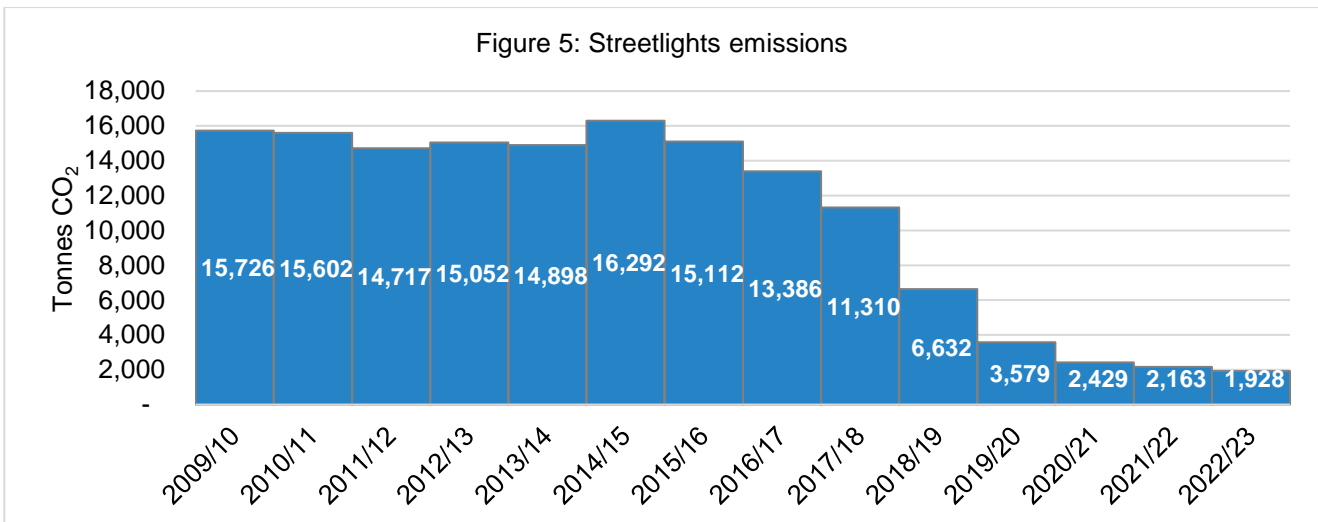


Figure 6 shows emissions from the Council’s waste fleet, which were gradually increasing from 2015/16, when Biffa began delivering the Council’s household refuse collection and street cleansing services (marked with an *asterisk in Figures 6 and 7). As part of this change, 28 road sweepers and 40 refuse 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 6 and 7.

Emissions from the waste collection fleet (Figure 6) started to reduce from 2021 as the Council replaced 50% of its diesel waste fleet with electric vehicles. In 2022-23, emissions from the waste fleet fell by 14% (-373 tCO₂) when compared to 2021-22.

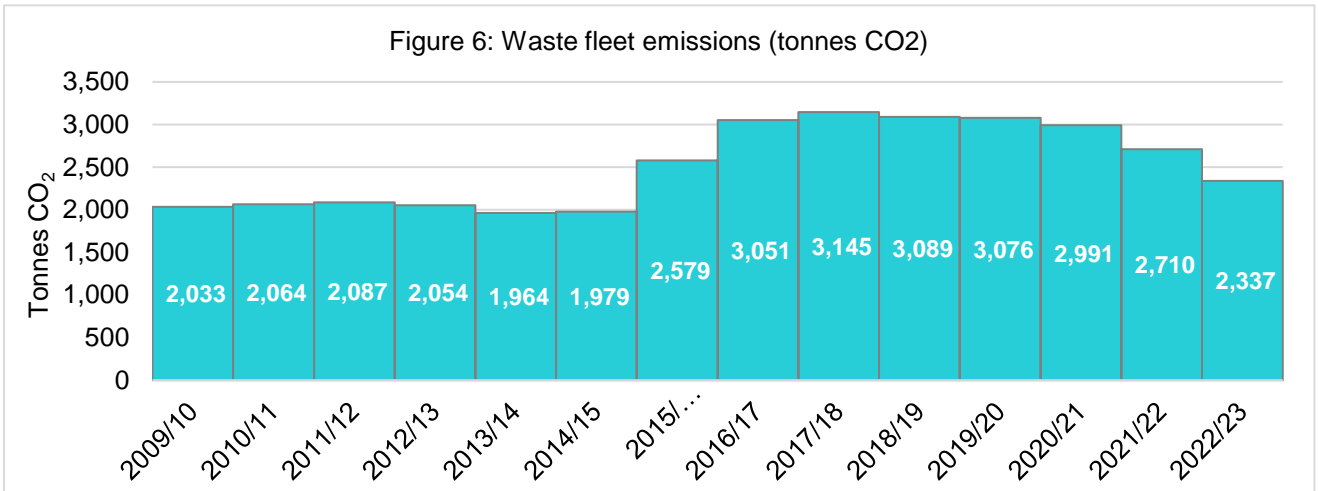
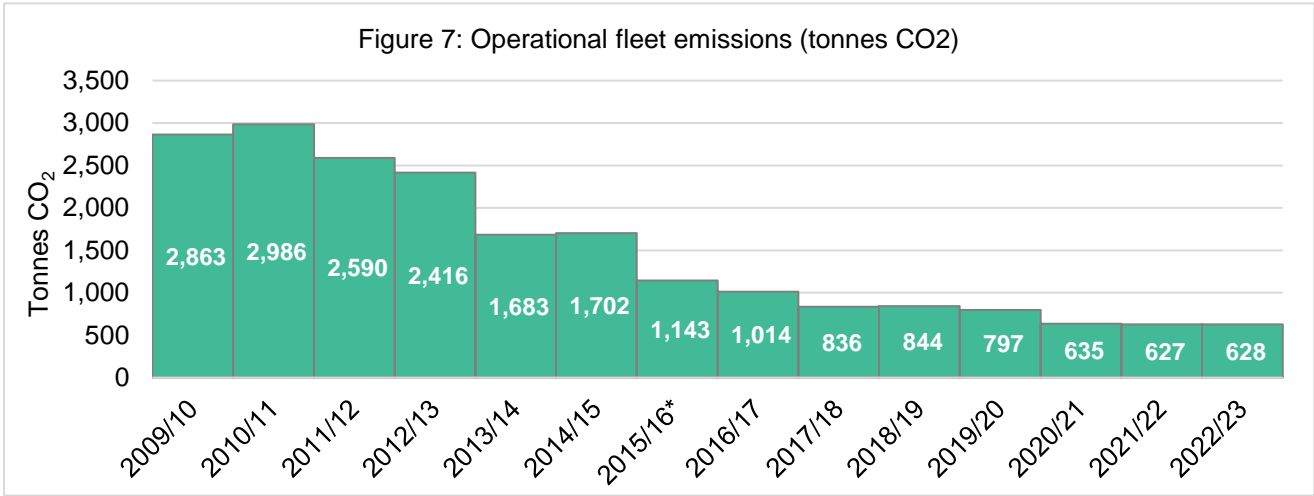


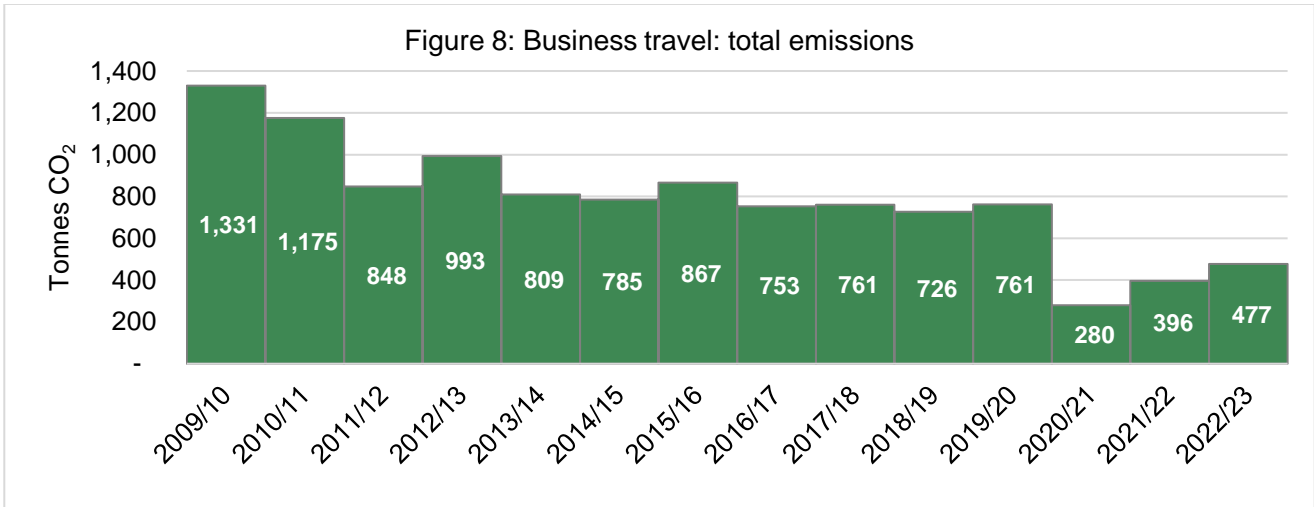
Figure 7 shows emissions from the Council’s operational fleet have reduced by 78% since 2009-10 and 45% since 2015/16². However, minimal change has been seen in the level of emissions from the Council’s operational fleet since the start of the CCAP 2020-25. Whilst 41 vehicles within the Council’s operational fleet are electric and 12 eCargo bikes are also being used; usage levels of operational fleet fluctuate.

² When the contract changes and the appointment of Biffa took place, whereby some of the Council’s operational fleet moved over to Biffa and the associated emissions being reported as waste fleet (Figure 6)

There has also been a small increase in emissions in 2022/23 compared with the previous year of 0.2%. This is due to a change to the way that carbon emissions from diesel are calculated (set by Government) and not from an increase in fossil fuel use by our operational fleet.³



As can be seen in Figure 8, business travel has reduced significantly since 2009-10 (-64%) and pre-pandemic travel in 2019-20 (-37%) when compared with travel in 2022-23. Since the pandemic, business travel has started to increase slightly each year (20% increase in 2022-23 when compared with 2021-22) but this is expected as more face-to-face meetings are being held and the Council re-engages in international events.



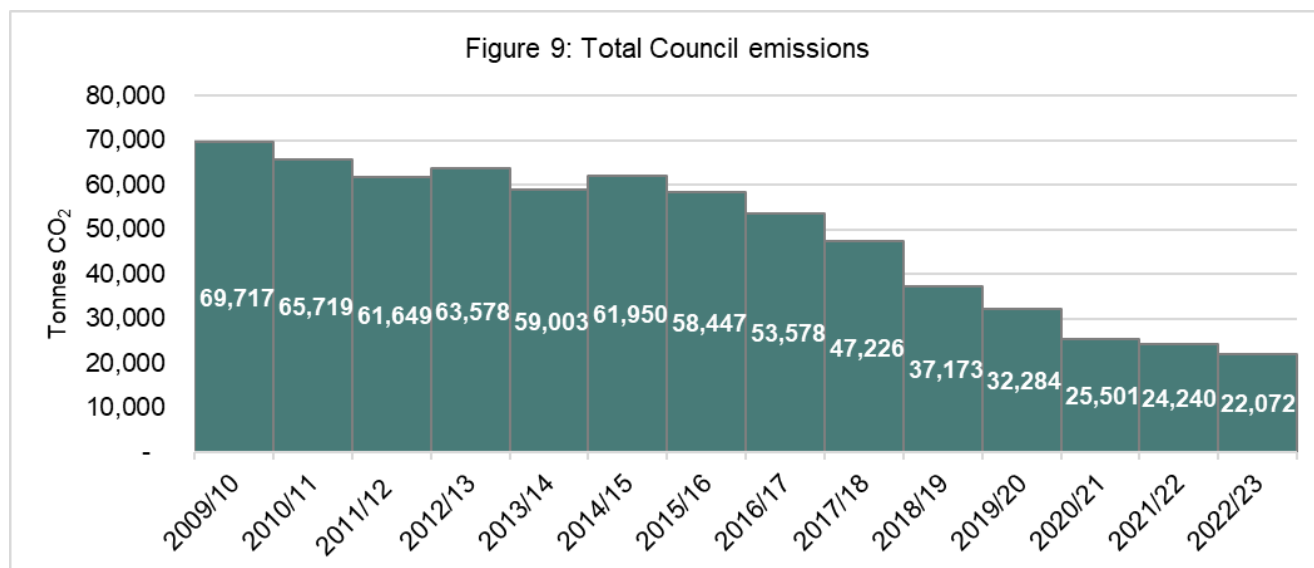
Due to the nature of the way we now work, as a result of the pandemic and the increase in online meetings we continue to see reduced emissions from staff travel. In 2022-23 MCC created a new Sustainable Travel Officer post. This officer is working across Council services to embed the Council’s Sustainable Business Travel policy with the aim of reducing business travel where possible and moving to more sustainable modes of transport.

³ This calculation is known as a conversion factor (for converting energy use or fossil fuel use into carbon emissions) and the conversion dataset for calculating carbon emissions is provided by the Department for Energy Strategy and Net Zero.

MCC Total CO2 Emissions









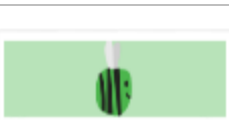
Figure 9 shows the Council's total emissions and reflects the overall downward trends seen in Figures 4 - 8).

CO₂ emissions in 2022-23 were 8.9% lower (-2168 tCO₂) than the previous year (2021-22) and 41% lower than the baseline in 2018-19.



Key Achievements

	<p>The Council's refreshed Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 was approved by the Council's Executive Committee on 14 September 2022. The refreshed action plan expands on the original actions, considers wider co-benefits, and reinforces the Council's leadership role to support the city to decarbonise.</p>
	<p>13 additional MCC-funded Zero Carbon focussed posts created to support delivery of the CCAP 2020-25. Regular updates on the work delivered by this additional resource were provided to Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee throughout 2022-23.</p>
	<p>The Council's CCAP 2020-25 won the Sustainability and Social Value Award at the Public Finance Awards 2022.</p>
	<p>A new Housing Strategy for Manchester launched in June 2022, setting out the ambitious low carbon retrofit plans for existing and new homes across the city.</p>

	<p>Installation of energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation and energy generation measures completed across 18 buildings, funded by £21.3m from the UK Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. These measures are expected to save 2,212 tCO₂ per year.</p>
	<p>Manchester's Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan was endorsed by Executive Committee in February 2023. Key objectives for the five-year plan include making walking the natural choice for short journeys and doubling cycling journeys from 6% to 12%.</p>
	<p>An Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Strategy for Manchester was approved by the Council's Executive Committee in December 2022. It sets out the Council's role in providing more EV charging points across the city.</p>
	<p>As part of the 10% environmental weighting within new contracts, carbon considerations and a requirement to track emissions data has been included within the Home to School Transport tender.</p>
	<p>Manchester Cathedral Gardens Ice Rink connected to mains power for the first time from the National Football Museum (on a green tariff), reducing its usage of diesel generators to deliver carbon savings. By bringing together stakeholders from across the Council and partner organisation, the Council's Sustainability Project Manager was able to progress this project.</p>
	<p>An 'oasis in the city', Mayfield Park opened on 22 September 2022, with a ribbon cutting ceremony lead by Councillor Bev Craig, the Leader of Manchester City Council. Mayfield is the first park built in the city centre for over 100 years.</p>
	<p>An 89-hectare former tip in South Manchester, 'Kenworthy Woods', was declared a local nature reserve, helping to protect the wildlife habitat and opening up funding opportunities for long-term maintenance.</p>
	<p>Manchester Climate Change Agency secured £2.5m of National Lottery Funding to deliver #InOurNature for a further 3 years. The funding will provide four additional posts at the Agency to support wider community engagement and delivery of the programme across the city.</p>
	<p>Green School Networks across North, Central and South Manchester were established in early 2023. The networks will share best practice, explore opportunities for education settings and work collaboratively on issues related to climate change.</p>

Risks and Issues

This section highlights the strategic challenges associated with delivering the CCAP that were identified during 2022-23 and highlights the mitigating measures that have been put in place.

- Rising inflation and increasing costs of materials for infrastructure and retrofit schemes put pressure on being able to deliver projects within allocated budgets. Project costs were monitored closely, and additional funding sought where required, action owners took measures to manage this risk in order to continue delivering the projects.
- UK Government tightened budgets for public transport services, such as funding for the Greater Manchester Bus Service Improvement Plan being 50% less than requested, risking plans for easier access to public transport and associated benefits for decarbonisation targets. A small number of projects were deprioritised until further funding is secured (Action 2.5).
- Lack of availability and the speed at which green skills, particularly retrofit skills are required to deliver UK Government funded programmes and the capacity of supply chains to keep up with demand for green technology. Action owner is working with the education sector to provide and promote green skills courses to expand and upskill the workforce (Action 5.12).
- Competing national demands on housing funds, such as complying with the Decent Homes Standard, fire safety regulations and damp prevention, affected the delivery of housing retrofit across the Council's housing stock. However, additional resource was created in the Housing and Residential Growth team to focus on the development of a Housing Retrofit Plan and to identify funding opportunities to support delivery (Action 1.6).
- The financial landscape for upcoming 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 (Action 5.2).
- The increase in extreme weather events presents a risk to Manchester remaining a resilient and liveable city. The Council, along with partners are working collaboratively and taking action to adapt as well as mitigate the risks of climate change.

Under the Spotlight: Within the Council

This section is focused on the activity to reduce the Council's direct emissions and wider impact on the environment, which has taken place between April 2022 and March 2023. This section includes progress against milestones and areas of focus that are outlined in the [Climate Change Action Plan Work Programme for year 2022/23](#).

Workstream 1 – Buildings and Energy

Estates Carbon Reduction Programme

The Council's estate consists of 316 operational buildings and the Zero Carbon Estates Programme was designed to reduce emissions across this estate.

Energy audits were undertaken initially to prioritise work on the buildings with the highest level of CO₂ emissions.

Having invested over **£30 million** into the Council's Zero Carbon Estates Programme on a variety of energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation and energy generation measures, CO₂ emissions from the operational estate have reduced by almost 35% since the baseline year 2018-19. To support the delivery of the programme, grant funding has been secured from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and UK Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

Six buildings have been the focus for energy savings measures this year, utilising £2.9m PSDS funding and estimating a reduction of 470 tCO₂ per year:

- Arbeta (Manchester Creative Digital Assets),
- Harpurhey District Office,
- Denmark Road Active Lifestyle Centre,
- Didsbury Library,
- Hall Lane Resource Centre,
- The Place at Platt Lane.

Decarbonisation measures installed:

- LED lighting & controls upgrade
- Combined Heat and Power Engine
- New swimming pool covers
- Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels
- Solar PV battery storage
- Ground and Air Source Heat Pumps
- New Building Management Systems
- Fabric improvements

During 2022-23, the **National Cycling Centre (NCC)**, has also undergone works to install **solar carports**, which will complete in June 2023, saving a further 40 tCO₂.

More information on the Council's Zero Carbon Estates Programme can be found in a report to [Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 10 January 2023](#).

Large-Scale Renewable Energy Generation

The Council continued to progress the proposed project for Large Scale Renewable Energy Generation during 2022-23.

Global energy markets, higher energy prices and the UK's new [Energy Security Strategy](#) (March 2022) had a negative impact on the availability and the cost of assets such as solar farms, which has impacted the Council's ability to purchase a solar PV facility.

Late 2022, the Council identified a potentially suitable large scale solar PV facility available for purchase and submitted an initial non-binding offer to the developer. A report on the potential purchase was made to [Executive in January 2023](#). However, during the Council's detailed assessment of the proposition, the Council took the decision to withdraw from this potential

purchase as the site did not pass our due diligence thresholds for viability and therefore did not offer a sound investment opportunity for the Council.

The Council is now working with advisors to secure a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to meet the emissions reduction target by 2025. Further details are included in the [June 2023 report to Executive](#).

Housing retrofit programme for Council housing stock

Additional capacity was added to the Housing and Residential Growth team during 2022-23 to support the delivery of a housing retrofit programme across all tenures including the Council's housing stock. The work programme for these posts includes the development of a housing retrofit plan that meets the Council's zero carbon ambitions, producing and delivering a resident engagement plan and identifying funding opportunities to support delivery of the housing retrofit programme.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contractors who manage part of the Council's housing stock have been working with the Council to agree a sustainability strategy, which will be rolled out and complete mid-2023.

A report detailing a roadmap for retrofitting all homes across Manchester was presented to [Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee](#) in September 2022. Noted within the report is that funding for both social housing and private housing retrofit remains the biggest risk to delivering the retrofit plan.

During 2022-23, the ERDF and Homes as Energy Systems (HAES) project was delivered, completing in June 2023. Retrofit schemes covered multiple property types involving the installation of both Air & Ground Source Heat Pumps, Solar PV and battery systems. A total of 629 properties received interventions with an estimated carbon saving of 1,879 tCO₂.

In March 2023, the Council was successful in securing £11.6m from the UK Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF), providing retrofit works across 1,603 Council properties over the next 2 years and £10.4m from the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) programme, to deliver retrofit to c500 properties in the private sector.

Workstream 2 – Travel and Transport

Sustainable materials in Highways

In September 2022, the Council appointed a Highways Environmental Sustainability Lead to oversee the implementation of sustainable practices within Highways. This new role has been the driver behind the team adopting the National Highways Carbon Tool to gain a better understanding of the emissions produced from highways maintenance and development works. The tool will be incorporated into the new Major Construction Works Framework and trialled on the A34 Corridor project.

A Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guide has also been developed by the Highways team, which takes the learnings from Grow Green - a European funded Nature Based Solutions (NBS) project, which explored innovative solutions to adapt to climate change. These learnings incorporate NBS measures, such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into new and existing projects across the city.

Electrification of the operational and waste fleet

In May 2022, the remaining two electric Refuse Collection Vehicles (eRCVs) were added to the waste collection fleet, taking the total eRCV count to 27 (50% of the waste fleet), with a

carbon reduction target of 400 tCO₂ per year. Emissions from the waste fleet continue to be monitored.

The Council's operational fleet continues to be electrified, with electric vehicles (EV's) increasing from 37 to 41 (+11%) in the fleet. Further EV's will be added to MCC's operational fleet as vehicle leases need to be renewed.

eCargo bikes deployment

In 2022, 26 eCargo bikes and 6 eCargo trailers were purchased as part of an e-Cargo bike project funded by Energy Savings Trust.

Twelve bikes and three trailers have been successfully integrated into the Council's operational fleet, which are being used across parks, cemeteries and leisure centres across Manchester, helping to reduce the use of diesel vans and grey fleet. One bike is even being used by our Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers to transport event resources around the city.

“Using the bike is not only important for our own Net Zero ambitions but also to show other organisations that it can be done. It's also a breeze to ride!”

Climate Change Neighbourhood Officer

The remaining eCargo bikes and trailers from the project are being used by Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Manchester and three social enterprise organisations; a 'bike library' for short-term lease is also available to the public. Mileage data from the Council's eCargo fleet is being monitored to assess usage levels and emissions savings - this information can also help to build a business case for the purchase of additional eCargo bikes in the future.

Over **300 miles** travelled on Council eCargo fleet during April 2022 - March 2023, equivalent saving of **70 kg CO₂**

Staff Travel Policy

A new Council Sustainable Travel Project Officer role was created in 2022-23 to lead on embedding the [Staff Travel Policy](#) (approved in December 2021) across the Council alongside the promotion of staff travel incentives.

“The tickets have had a positive impact, reducing the use of taxis each month since they were introduced.”

An example of this is the trial of public transport travel passes purchased by Coroners & Registrars team, supporting officers to travel by public transport as an alternative to taxi. The results of the trial will be reviewed to consider the potential rollout across other services during 2023-24. Early feedback shows a steady increase in the usage of the public transport tickets as more of the team are finding it easier and **“less hassle”** than waiting for a taxi. ***“Once the staff have tried it, they seem keen to continue to use it!”***

Incentives to support staff to commute sustainably

Two new incentives have been introduced this year, which can benefit Council staff when considering their travel choices, these are:

1. A registered car users can now also register as a cycle user to claim a cycle allowance for the days they use a bike for in-work travel. Previous Council staff could only be registered as a car or cycle user, not both!
2. An Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle scheme has been introduced for staff who are looking to purchase a more efficient vehicle.

Take up of all staff travel incentives are being monitored to gauge the success.

[Love to Ride - Cycle September](#) campaign was promoted internally to staff with the aim to encourage more travel by bike, unfortunately the publicity had to be withdrawn prematurely due to the Queen's passing and a hold on business communications. However, 54 Council officers signed up to the campaign and cycled over 7,400 miles, of which 2,241 were commuting miles. By the end of the campaign the Council ranked 3rd in the regional table and 25th nationwide, saving over 600 kgCO₂ in the process.

Regular internal communications have been shared across the Council throughout the year to highlight climate support initiatives and the cost-savings benefit, including:

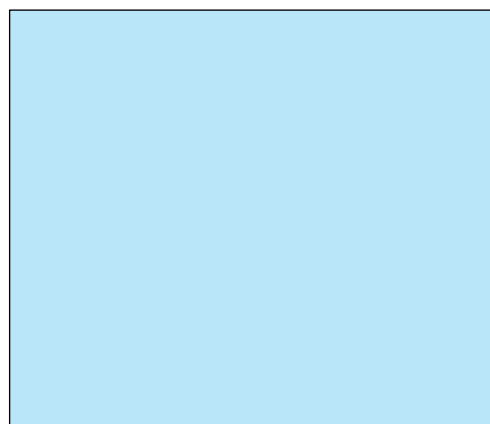
- Cycle to Work Scheme – making buying a new bike, accessories, and clothing more affordable with a tax-free loan
- Public Transport discount tickets - discounted flexible, weekly, monthly, and annual public transport tickets
- Annual Travel Tickets interest-free loans – allowing staff to purchase annual travel tickets making them more affordable, accessible and spreading the cost.

Workstream 3 – Sustainable Consumption

Establish a monitoring framework for the 10% environmental weighting

Following the Council's Executive Committee approving an additional 10% environmental weighting, taking the total social value weighting to 30% as standard across all procurement contracts, dedicated training for commissioners got underway. The aim of the training is to equip commissioners with the knowledge they require to consider sustainability and climate change as part of tender specifications and provide guidance on how to score potential supplier responses to the environmental tender questions.

The new Social Value Portal will be used to record supplier's social value and environmental commitments so that these can be monitored by the contract managers. To aid the monitoring process, work to gather emissions data from goods and services purchased by the Council (known as Scope 3 emissions) is underway but proving challenging, however this data is crucial to establish a baseline for our supply chain (Scope 3) emissions, which can then be used as a measure to influence carbon reduction across our supply chain. Work is ongoing to understand how this data can be captured, technical experts have been engaged to support.



Reduction of Single Use Plastics within the Council

A new role, Sustainability Project Manager has been created within the Council to deliver the Council's commitment to be avoidable Single Use Plastic (SUP) Free by 2024. There has been extensive engagement with teams across the Council, to understand the scale of avoidable SUP's used and to identify opportunities for reduction. The outcome of this engagement informed the development of a draft SUP action plan. An Officer Working Group has been established to oversee the development and implementation of the action plan, and the development of a council-wide SUP policy. Analysis of the Council's SUP purchases remain an area of challenge but work on this is ongoing with Procurement, Finance and Performance, Research and Intelligence teams.

A detailed report was presented to [the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee in December 2022](#), outlining the progress and next steps, with a follow up report due in October 2023.

Implementation of Sustainable Events

Engagement has taken place with Council officers who deliver and support events to promote sustainable practices at Council-owned events, Council-funded events, and external events hosted on Council land. [The Sustainable Events Guides](#) provide the focus for this with additional supporting communications that has been produced.



Training on smart power, waste, and carbon footprinting was delivered across 5 community events funded by the Council. We have worked closely with key event organisers during the year to

contribute to sustainability improvements, such as the Para Swimming World Championship, to provide guidance on sustainable measures including a Sustainability Action Plan, Sustainable Procurement Code and carbon footprinting at the event, which took place in Summer 2023.

A Greener Future were commissioned to carry out an independent assessment of three community events and the Manchester Christmas Markets to demonstrate green credentials. This highlighted good practice, including SUP reductions and recommendations, such as more sustainable power options and improved waste management to prioritise recycling. These findings will inform planning for future events.

Further positive action was seen with the Cathedral Gardens Ice Rink, which significantly reduced diesel generator use by accessing mains power from the National Football Museum saving 50,000 litres of diesel, the equivalent of 90 tCO₂.

Following this success, a scoping exercise of potential mains power improvements for outdoor events in licensed spaces was completed, gathering data from 30 event organisers. The findings will inform a recommendation for improvements to grid power infrastructure along with estimated costs, and potential carbon savings.

Workstream 4 – Adaptation and Sequestration

Green and Blue Infrastructure

Following the refresh of the [Green and Blue Infrastructure \(G&BI\) Strategy](#) in 2021, work has continued throughout 2022-23 to improve climate resilience across the city, delivering against four key objectives:

- Improving the quality and function of Green and Blue Infrastructure to maximise the benefits it delivers,

- Using appropriate Green and Blue Infrastructure as a key component of new developments to help create successful neighbourhoods and support the city's growth,
- Improving connectivity and accessibility to Green and Blue Infrastructure within the city and beyond,
- Improving and promoting a wider understanding and awareness of the benefits that Green and Blue Infrastructure provides to residents, the economy and the local environment.

The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy contributes to the delivery of the CCAP 2020-25, specifically in relation to climate resilience and adaptation, as well as informing the evidence and strategic context for the city's local development frameworks, including the refresh of the Local Plan.

Tree planting across Manchester

Key Performance Indicators:

In the planting season 2022/23 the following trees were planted:

- **7861 Trees**
- **1.5 km Hedgerow**
- **5 Community Orchids**

Of these, 165 trees were planted as part of the commemorative national Queen's Green Canopy project.

Planting programmes delivered during the 2022-23 planting season, have been done in accordance with the [Tree Action Plan](#), which was refreshed this year. As part of the refresh, the City's treescape was mapped to look at current tree coverage at a ward level to identify priority areas for future planting.

Tree planting across Manchester has been supported with funding from the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Urban Tree Challenge fund, £130,000 was secured via a City of Trees bid. More than 300 new trees were planted across Manchester and will be maintained

using this funding.

City of Trees also delivered a workshop to Council officers on the Woodland Creation Accelerator Programme, where information about the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund and the support it offers was provided, as well as creating an opportunity for interdepartmental discussions around potential planting opportunities using maps.

Workstream 5 – Catalysing Change

Carbon Literacy Training

Additional capacity was created within the Council to support delivery of the Carbon Literacy Training (CLT) programme and to embed a zero carbon culture within the workforce.

Having achieved Carbon Literate Silver Accreditation in 2021, the focus has been on engaging more staff to undertake CLT to enable the achievement of Gold Accreditation in 2025. In order to achieve this, CLT is now mandatory for all staff and included as part of the Council's new starter induction programme, proactive engagement is being carried out and to increase the training offer, six train the trainer volunteers have been recruited. The training booking system has also been improved making it more accessible.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Average **150** officers attending training sessions every month
- **26%** of the workforce (1928 officers) certified Carbon Literate including:
 - **93** elected members
 - **136** Senior Leadership Group officers

Complimentary training has also been provided to Commissioning Managers across the Council to support the embedding of zero carbon consideration across our procured contracts.

Other bespoke training is being considered to support other Council services, such as Highways and Estates teams.

Opportunities to deliver CLT outside of the organisation have also been explored, with Manchester Adult Education Services rolling out CLT to learners via its certified tutors and working with materials produced by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to produce an online training package for school staff.

Decision Making

Following the inclusion of a zero carbon priority within the Our Manchester Strategy, other ways of ensuring zero carbon is being embedded across the Council is by using annual Service Plans, every year services within the council are expected to set out how they will embed Zero Carbon into Service delivery. This approach provides a thread from the strategy to each member of the workforce in relation to how everyone will contribute to achieving zero carbon status.

Finance and Investment

During 2022-23, the Council established a Zero Carbon Finance and Investment Group to explore the scale of investment needed to deliver the Council's zero carbon agenda and to look at funding models and opportunities to support delivery. The group developed a project pipeline in line with the Council's zero carbon ambitions, which contributed to a successful bid to Government's Innovate UK. The Council secured £75,000 to deliver a three-month feasibility study for a Net Zero Neighbourhood, outcomes from the feasibility will feed into a second bid later in 2023.

The Council also invested £800,000 into adding capacity to support delivery of the CCAP 2020-25, thirteen posts were created to focus on actions across procurement, energy infrastructure, housing, sustainable business travel, carbon literacy, communications, sustainable events and reducing SUP's.

A update on additional zero carbon investment for 2022-23 was included in [a budget report to Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee in November 2022](#).

Climate action commitments have also been embedded within the Cultural Partnership grants programme emphasising the expectation for organisations to express their commitment to addressing climate change in line with Manchester targets. A report on the Zero Carbon Culture Guide and climate change action in the culture sector was presented to [Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee in March 2023](#).

The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise grants programme have also followed a similar approach.

Seeing is Believing: Across the City

This section provides an overview of the activity between April 2022 and March 2023 focusing on the city-wide actions to enable and influence positive change across the city. This section illustrates progress made against milestones and priority actions outlined in the [Climate Change Action Plan Work Programme for 2022/23](#).

Workstream 1 – Buildings and Energy

Supporting city-wide housing retrofit

The Council has been working closely with Manchester Housing Providers Partnership's Zero Carbon working-group to develop an emissions monitoring framework for Registered Providers housing stock. Emissions data collated from Registered Providers operating in Manchester has been used to establish a baseline for future monitoring.

Housing efficiency data is also being refined to produce a list of fuel poor private properties who may be eligible for UK Government's Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2). A successful bid for £10m from the HUG2 funding will support improvements to approximately 500 privately-owned homes. Homeowners and private landlords not eligible for HUG2 continue to be signposted to Greater Manchester Combined Authority's housing retrofit accelerator scheme 'Your Home Better' for advice on how to retrofit their homes. Further details can be found at www.yourhomebetter.co.uk

A report to the Council's [Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny on 09 March 2023](#) outlined the housing retrofit targets within the Council's Housing Strategy and a commitment to develop a Housing Retrofit Plan.

Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)

A Local Area Energy Plan for Manchester was developed as part of the Greater Manchester Local Energy Market project in 2020. Relevant officers from across the Council have been engaged on the content of the LAEP and dedicated capacity has been created to coordinate the delivery of activity that supports the LAEP. Officers are exploring how the LAEP will compliment development and infrastructure strategies, and planning policies, examples include the new Manchester [Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy](#) and the Manchester [Housing Strategy](#).

Workstream 2 – Travel and Transport

City Centre Transport Strategy

In Spring 2022, £1.07bn of UK funding for Greater Manchester was confirmed. Funding secured from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for 2022-2027 will support a number of key schemes in [the City Centre Transport Strategy](#), which will continue to be delivered:

- **Deansgate, Bus Corridors and Victoria North Streets for All** - designs and outline business cases developed, work continuing to late 2023.
- **Oldham Road, Rochdale Road, Ashton New Road, Stockport Road and Wilmslow Road** - £3.28m funding secured to develop outline business cases for each site.

- **Ancoats Mobility Hub** - £25m secured from Homes England. The Hub will feature low carbon measures such as green walls and solar PV panels.

Work on the refresh of the Manchester Local Implementation Plan has commenced which will set out Manchester's priorities for delivering the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040. The refreshed Implementation Plan will also align to the priorities of the City Centre Transport Strategy and a 'vision' of what the city will look like in 5 years, 10 years and beyond.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure

Funding secured for the Greater Manchester City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement for 2022-2027 will support delivery of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Manchester.

In December 2022, the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy was shared with the Council's [Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee](#) and Executive Committee. Following the strategy's approval, a soft marketing exercise was planned to take place during Spring 2023 to assess market interest and feasibility in the proposal for a supplier to fully fund the installation, operation, and maintenance of public EV charge-points on Council owned assets.

Walking and cycling infrastructure across the city

Regional funding from the Active Travel Fund (ATF) and the Mayor's Challenge Fund is supporting work across several Bee Network schemes including Levenshulme and Burnage, Fallowfield Loop/Manchester Cycleway, Victoria Northern Eastern Gateway, Chorlton Cycleway, Northern Quarter and Stevenson Square, and Deansgate.

Work continues to change temporary cycle filter measures previously installed to permanent measures across the city.

A further £3.95m funding was secured from ATF this year, to fund development plans for Alan Turing Way and Fountain Street/High Street active travel schemes. Alan Turing Way CYCLOPS concept designs are complete and a feasibility study is underway for the Fountain Street/High Street scheme.

During 2022-23, a [Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan](#) (MATSIP) was developed and endorsed by [Executive Committee in February 2023](#).

MATSIP key objectives:

- Making walking the natural choice for short journeys
- Doubling cycling's share of journeys from 6% to 12%; a School Street in each ward
- Installation of secure cycling parking; reduction in default speed limit in residential areas to 20mph
- Improve access to schools, parks and other key destinations; and remove inaccessible barriers.

Workstream 3 – Sustainable Consumption

Influencing a reduction in Single Use Plastics across the city

As part of the Council's commitment to be avoidable Single Use Plastic (SUP) Free by 2024, external stakeholders have been engaged to support their SUP reductions, examples include:

Central Library Café (operated by Manchester Central Catering), worked closely with the Zero Carbon team to implement a series of SUP reduction measures, such as:

- Replacing plastic milk bottles with carton alternatives
- Replacing plastic drink bottles with cans and cartons

- Increasing promotion of 'Bring Your Own Cup' discount
- Using refillable sugar dispensers

The Council contributed to a '**Reusable Cups Guide**', aimed at community event organisers and created by the charity, **City to Sea** (who aim to reduce plastic waste nationally and lead the *Refill* campaign to promote reusables over disposables). The Council engaged further with City to Sea and its **Refill campaign**, laying the groundwork for further collaboration in 2023-24.

MCC Supplier Toolkit and collaboration with GMCA and city partners

As part of the additional resource dedicated to delivering the CCAP 2020-25, capacity was added to the Integrated Commissioning and Procurement team to support Commissioning Managers with the rollout of the 10% environmental weighting and also to support suppliers to respond to open tenders.

The Council's [Social Value Supplier Toolkit](#) was adapted for small to medium-sized businesses to ensure it is relevant and accessible. Learnings from the Sustainable Events Guide and Zero Carbon Culture Guide have also been taken on board to improve the Supplier Toolkit guidance.

The Council continues to engage with partners across the city and other Local Authorities such as Cornwall Council and Transport for Greater Manchester, to share knowledge and good practice on the inclusion of zero carbon in procurement.

Working with the Manchester Food Board

Manchester Food Board's (MFB) refreshed action plan aligns MFB's priorities with the updated Manchester Climate Change Framework and MCC's Climate Change Action Plan. Colleagues from FoodSync (MFB Secretariat) were invited to present Council officers, the strategic priorities of the MFB and discuss how the Council can support these. Other projects delivered by FoodSync were also highlighted to explore further opportunities for influencing sustainable practices across the city.

As a result, work is underway to develop a 'Manchester Sustainable Food Policy' which will address the priorities of the Manchester Food Board, as well as the food actions within the Manchester Climate Change Framework and the CCAP 2020-25. The policy is expected to be published in 2024.

Waste reductions across the MCC estate and the city

The Council continues to explore opportunities for reducing its carbon emissions from waste, however progress in this area has been slow due to lack of information from Central Government on the new National Waste Strategy. Officers continue to monitor Government announcements, which will inform plans for the local waste collection and disposal.

The Events team and Sustainability Project Manager have been working with officers from the Waste and Recycling team to explore options for improving waste collection at events, to improve recycling rates and data monitoring. Work is also underway to develop clearer bin signage in the Central Library café to encourage visitors to dispose of their waste correctly and understand opportunities and challenges for increased recycling across Council services.

Workstream 4 – Adaptation and Sequestration

Grow Green – Horizon 2020

In November 2022, the GrowGreen project hosted its final event in partner city Brest, France, which ended a five-year collaboration between six European cities with the aim to research and develop Nature Based Solutions (NBS) for climate adaptation.

Led by Manchester City Council, GrowGreen has delivered innovative Nature Based Solutions to adapt to both higher temperatures and increased rainfall. In Manchester, the project delivered:

- The development of the award winning [West Gorton 'sponge park'](#), a brand-new park with the features designed to 'drink' excess rainwater monitored by the University of Manchester.
- ['Our Rivers Our City'](#) Manchester's first River Valley Strategy – highlighting the value of Manchester's rivers for biodiversity and flood prevention, but also for physical and mental wellbeing.
- An update to [Manchester's Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy](#), with added focus on climate resilience.

As a key outcome of the GrowGreen project, MCC were looking to generate evidence for social impact to build investment confidence, and as a result, we estimate that £150 million will be spent citywide within the next 5 years on future green schemes through the Green and Blue Strategy.

Reducing mowing to improve biodiversity

In an aim to improve biodiversity across the city, grass cutting on road verges has now been reduced to a four-week mowing schedule.

Cutting the grass less often in areas such as road verges gives wildflowers the chance to grow, flower and produce seeds. These wildflower areas can provide food and shelter for insects, birds, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Additionally, reducing the use of our diesel mowers reduces air and noise pollution as well as a carbon reduction and cost saving.

Recreation areas such as parks are still being cut and maintained more regularly to ensure they are fit for purpose for everyday use.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

The new post created in the Highways team to lead on environment and sustainability has been developing a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) [Developer Design Guide](#).

The aim of the Design Guide is to encourage and standardise the approach of implementing SuDS on Major Highways Projects and into new private developments by outlining the requirements to install and maintain rain gardens and SuDS-enabled street trees (as diagram).

Workstream 5 – Catalysing Change

Resident engagement

Manchester City Council's Neighbourhood officers continued to engage with residents as part of our climate leadership role across the city. A variety of activities took place across neighbourhoods to proactively engage with residents to reduce their carbon footprints. Examples of this work are covered in more detail in the 'Communications and Engagement' section starting on page 26.

Officers also worked with elected members from the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee to improve existing Ward Climate Change Action Plans. A Member-led task and finish group convened to develop SMART (specific, measurable, assignable, realistic, and time-related) targets for the Ward Climate Change Action Plans, with a focus on the following themes:

- Community Engagement and Awareness Raising
- Children and Young People (Our Year 2022)
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Active Travel, Clean Air and Transport
- Nature Based Solutions and Green & Blue Infrastructure
- Energy (specifically awareness raising of energy efficiency)

These improved Ward Climate Change Action Plans will help identify carbon savings at a local level and allow the Council to support residents and communities to live more sustainably.

An update on this activity was presented to [MCC's Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee in November 2022](#).

Manchester Climate Change Agency, supported by the Neighbourhoods team, secured £2.5m from the National Lottery Fund, to deliver the next phase of **#InOurNature** up to 2025. The funding provides additional resource for the Agency (4 new posts), to support wider community engagement and delivery of the programme across the city. This project will complement the work undertaken on the Ward Climate Change Action Plans.

Zero Carbon Communications

Zero Carbon communications has increased during 2022-23 due to the addition of dedication capacity within the Communications team providing much needed support, sharing positive news from all five workstreams and building strong foundations for developing the Zero Carbon Communications Strategy.

Messages promoting key zero carbon projects and achievements have regularly featured across all communication channels. These messages aligned with wider activity across the Council and national action days, covering topics such as recycling Christmas trees and wrapping paper, reusing or donating unwanted goods, promoting sustainable diets and travel, sharing information on low carbon developments and events for residents relating to climate change.

Between August and September 2022, a resident facing behaviour change campaign went live, promoting sustainable behaviours and encouraging residents to take climate action. Messages were displayed on digital screens, billboards, and buses around the city. Lamp post banners were also placed in wards with low levels of climate change engagement. The campaign has continued throughout the year across social media platforms. Assessing behaviour change and carbon reduction as a direct result of the advertising campaign is not possible, however officers continue to monitor online statistics for the follow up campaign, which can be found in the 'Communications and Engagement' section starting on page 26.

The Communications team continues to work closely with the Neighbourhoods team and Executive Member for Transport and Environment to ensure messages across our communications platforms are engaging and relevant.

Working with the city partners

Manchester City Council continues to engage with partners across the city, sharing good practice and leading by example. In 2022, the Council collaborated with Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester Climate Change Agency and the Met Office to develop [a heat map for the city](#). The map will allow for better understanding of heat related vulnerabilities across the city and will aid adaptation planning.

Manchester Climate Change Agency

Manchester City Council continues to provide ongoing financial support to the Manchester Climate Change Agency, which has unlocked other contributions from members of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership. This funding has enabled the creation of a second Deputy Director role at the Agency to support with the strategic delivery of the Manchester Climate Change Framework and other projects.

Manchester Climate Change Framework 2022 Update

On 14th September 2022 the update [Manchester Climate Change Framework](#) was endorsed by the Council's Executive Committee. The updated Framework outlines specific actions and targets to support the transition to zero carbon and a more climate resilient city. The updated Framework will serve as a tool for effective engagement with partners across Manchester and beyond. An exercise has been carried out to understand the Council's role (own actions, enabler, influencer, lobbying) against each action in the updated Framework, this has been assessed against the Council's refreshed CCAP 2020-25 and will also inform actions in the next CCAP.

School engagement

Throughout 2022-23, significant progress has been made in engaging schools. Dedicated capacity within the Education team created to lead on engaging schools in Manchester's zero carbon ambitions. A range of activities have been delivered, including establishing a Green Schools Network and organising a Bee Green Education Summit to share good practice and work collaboratively on issues related to climate change.

Further details on the Bee Green Summit are detailed on [page 28](#).

Influencing Greater Manchester (GM) stakeholders to decarbonise

Manchester City Council continues to work closely with partners across the region on a variety of projects and initiatives, including the GM Housing Retrofit Accelerator and Green Spaces Fund. The Council has also been successful in securing various funds via GM bids, such as the Mayors Challenge Fund (cycling & walking infrastructure), the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, and Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme. The Council has also made good progress in delivering against the Greater Manchester Avoidable Single Use Plastics pledge and is sharing good practice with The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the other GM Local Authorities.

Executive Members and Senior Officers continue to represent Manchester on a range of GM Boards, such as the Green City Region Partnership, the Wider Leadership Group and Directors of Place, as well as working closely with GMCA officers.

International networks and projects

In June 2022, the European URBACT funded Zero Carbon Cities project came to an end, hosting a final event at Central Library, which was broadcast online. The event provided an opportunity for all partner cities to come together to showcase their Zero Carbon Cities projects and the outcomes.

In November 2022, the EU Horizon 2020 funded GrowGreen project also came to an end. This project remains a flagship project for highlighting the benefits of accessible green spaces and SuDS. Learnings from this project continue to inform the design of future development projects.

The UK China Hydrogen Forum launched during 2022-23 at an event attended by the Chinese Embassy. This project aims to improve an understanding of the opportunities and challenges of using hydrogen, particularly in cities, and will focus on Manchester and Wuhan as pilot partners.

Green Skills

During this year, the new Manchester Work & Skills Strategy 2022-27 was adopted by the Council's [Executive Committee](#). A Green Skills Action Plan based on the five priorities in the "Liveable and Low Carbon" section of the [Work & Skills Strategy](#) has also been developed to sit alongside the Strategy.

To further promote green skills across the city, the Work & Skills team commissioned Groundwork to deliver 'Every Job A Green Job' programme, working with schools and career leads to raise awareness with young people of the job opportunities in the Green Sector. Developing the Green Skills Sector is critical to delivering several of the CCAP actions, housing retrofit is one of the actions reliant of green skills.

A dedicated Manchester Adult Education Services (MAES) Officer has been appointed to lead on embedding sustainability across the service, including delivery of a new "**Sustainability and You!**" five-week course providing residents with an opportunity to engage with their local community, whilst learning practical ways to live more sustainably.

Engagement and Communications Highlights

This section highlights the engagement and communications activity which took place during 2022-23. Examples of how the Council aims to influence positive behaviour change both internally with staff and across the city to residents and other stakeholders are outlined below.

Engagement Highlights

Neighbourhood Leadership

Below are highlights of the variety of climate-related activities led by the Council's Neighbourhoods team for local communities to engage in during 2022-23. The range of activities encouraged climate action and sustainable behaviour change:

- In collaboration with the Education team – BEE GREEN posters were delivered to all education settings using modes of active travel as this coincided with World Car Free Day.

This engagement aimed to raise the profile of the Zero Carbon 2038 target and encourage all settings to work with the Council on tackling climate change.

- 'Cost of Living' events were held in Levenshulme, Whalley Range, Withington and Didsbury, providing opportunities to discuss energy saving tips with residents, to save money whilst also tackling climate change.
- City of Trees engagement meetings to encourage residents to volunteer to improve local woodlands.
- Visited repair cafes to learn about how they work and could be replicated across the different neighbourhoods.
- Supported residents and Manchester Youth Zone to apply for GMCA's Green Spaces funding.
 - Redesigned Ward level Climate Change Action Plans and delivered guidance workshops for Neighbourhood Officers to support climate action within the local communities
 - Delivered a family event promoting cycling and active travel
 - Promoted Manchester's zero carbon ambition and climate change action through distribution of the sustainability produced merchandise, such as reusable water bottles or Z-Cards

Education Engagement

On 30th June 2022, a citywide climate focused engagement event – **BEE Green Education Summit 2022** - for educational settings was held to provide a platform for school leaders, business managers and governors to learn practical ideas, access resources for climate change action and share challenges they face. The BEE Green Education Summit covered subjects such as reducing energy consumption, promoting active travel, waste management and recycling, nature-based solutions and more.

A Hub with environmental resources was launched following the event to support schools to develop their own climate change action plans.

A two-day Student Assembly also took place alongside the Summit with the aim to encourage young people to work together, influence Government and work with their schools to tackle climate change.

The Summit was attended by over 120 Headteachers, Business Managers and Governors from more than 80 education settings as well as several Councillors and Council officers who support the education sector.

The aim of the Summit was to:

- Understand the climate crisis challenges and opportunities facing the education sector
- Provide practical ideas and resources to support change
- Provide access to expert advice and tools to enable climate action planning

Bee Green Student Assembly

A three-day event attended by 66 students from across Manchester ran alongside Bee Green Summit.

Students took part in a range of activities, from a podcast camp and workshops on campaigning to placard making and engaging with decision makers.

In line with the ambition to lead by example, the venue – Connell Co-op College – was specifically selected for its high sustainability credentials and great links to public transport making it accessible for attendees. A fully vegetarian, locally sourced lunch was provided, and the organisers went to great lengths to ensure minimal rubbish was created by reusing materials from previous events, marketing the event virtually and ensuring all materials used on the day were sustainably sourced.

Feedback gathered from the Summit has informed the development of a Climate Change Strategic Action Plan.

The City Council's Education and Neighbourhoods teams continue to work together engaging with schools on a range of events to support the zero carbon agenda, highlight funding opportunities and exploring Carbon Literacy Training opportunities for staff. Green Schools Networks are being developed, the Central Network has been established, North and South are expected to follow in 2023-24.

Communications Highlights

Manchester City Council has actively promoted its zero carbon ambition through campaigns, ongoing social media activity and regular press releases during this year.

A detailed update on this activity was presented to the Council's Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee in February 2023.

Social Media

137
posts across
all social
media
channels

1689
likes

541,057
views

Topic highlights for 22/23:

Q1 (April – June)

- Sustainable travel
- Clean Air Day
- Green Space Fund

Q2 (July – September)

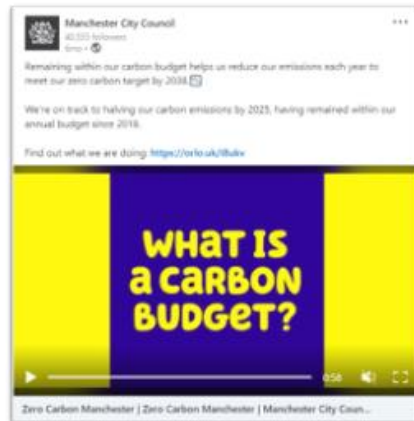
- Sustainable clothing
- Reduce car travel
- Habitat preservation

Q3 (October – December)

- Green Skills
- E-waste
- Eat less meat

Q4 (January – March)

- Veganuary
- Carbon footprints
- Green regeneration



Internal Communications

Topics Covered in 22/23

Q1 (April – June)

- Plastic reduction
- Biodiversity
- Cycle to work scheme

Q2 (July – September)

- World Car Free Day
- #BeeActive campaign
- Carbon Literacy training


Q3 (October – December)

- Reducing printer waste
- Sustainable diets
- Green skills

Q4 (January – March)

- Veganuary
- Reducing Carbon Footprint
- Green Bee Relay





New Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle staff offer

We are working in partnership with **EVs Fleet Solutions** to encourage and enable you to take out a lease on an Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle (ULEV). With our new ULEV scheme you can get a brand new, completely green, electric or hybrid car. You can enjoy a monthly lease that covers all of your vehicle-related costs, for a new vehicle, no deposit requirement or credit checks, maintenance included, fully comprehensive insurance included.

[View our EVs Fleet Solutions website for more information.](#)



Blog of the week

Green British Spring Clean 17 March – 2 April

Have you heard of the Green British Spring Clean? It's part of Keep Britain Tidy, a movement to restore pride in our communities and to help take real action against climate change.

This is a great chance to use your 'flexible' volunteering skills as an individual, team or department as you can join the Manchester branch into action and show pride in our city. If you need any support, you can contact the [Keep Britain Tidy team](#), or register on [Keep Britain Tidy](#).



Zoe Heaton, part of the Keep Britain Tidy team, talks about how she encourages and takes part with her granddaughters across Manchester to help keep our spaces clean and tidy.

"Best of all though, I enjoy seeing the green spaces and nice public footpaths looking clean and tidy, and knowing we have contributed to a better place for the adults and people's pets."


[Read the full story over on the blog.](#)

6.5k
Members of staff reached per month on average

We only get four minutes to save the world


Help the Manchester Climate Change Agency by completing [this short questionnaire](#) to help them understand how we can collectively take climate action. Help our city move towards a greener future and get our name on track to our goals.

[Complete the questionnaire](#)



Saving energy in our buildings

As we head into the winter months, we'll be seeing extra energy used to heat our buildings and increase our carbon emissions for warmth in the Town Hall Buildings. Turning the temperature down by just one degree will save around 100kg of carbon emissions a year! There are lots of other ways you can help save the most important resource we have - our planet - what else can't be taken for granted for the planet for the present.








8
staff blog posts and case studies focused on sustainable behaviours and sharing good practice

Behaviour Change Campaign

Key stats

- 60** PVC free, eco friendly lamp post banners across 10 target wards
- 16** Large outdoor media signs with potential views of **2.6 million** per fortnight
- 12 weeks Zero Carbon Campaign coverage across **116 digital screens** with potential views of **30 million**
- Large commercial banner site outside Town Hall benefiting from the continuous footfall traffic of St Peter's square
- Bus campaign with expected reach of **91% of residents** in Manchester

National Road Safety Week ran from 14 to 20 November (extended to 25 November across Manchester)

39
Theatre workshops delivered in schools

14
Bike maintenance events

43
PCNs issued to drivers across 20 schools

Press Releases

Q1 (April-June 22)

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Round One
[Greener Greater Manchester Construction.co.uk](https://www.greenergreatermanchester.co.uk)
- Wythenshawe Climate Emergency Event
[manchesternews.com](https://www.manchesternews.com) (link expired)
- New Low Carbon Housing Developments in Northern Quarter
[Manchester Evening News About Manchester](https://www.manchestereveningnews.com)
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Round three
[Manchester Evening News About Manchester](https://www.manchestereveningnews.com)
[Place North West](https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk)
[Greener Greater Manchester.com](https://www.greenergreatermanchester.com)
[New Start magazine](https://www.newstartmagazine.co.uk)
- Reducing traffic in city centre
[Manchester Evening News](https://www.manchestereveningnews.com)
- Decarbonising housing strategy
[Place North West](https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk)



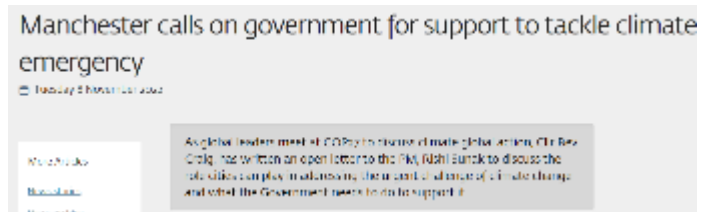
Q2 (July-Sept 22)

- Ancoats regeneration
[Business Manchester](https://www.businessmanchester.co.uk)
[Greener Greater Manchester](https://www.greenergreatermanchester.co.uk)
[North West Property News](https://www.northwestpropertynews.co.uk)
[Place North West](https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk)
[NewStartMag](https://www.newstartmagazine.co.uk)
- Manchester Housing Strategy
[I Love Manchester](https://www.ilovemanchester.com)
- Wythenshawe Low-Cost Homes
[Manchester Evening News](https://www.manchestereveningnews.com)
- Wythenshawe Levelling Up
[Manchester Evening News](https://www.manchestereveningnews.com)
[About Manchester](https://www.aboutmanchester.com)
[The Manc](https://www.themanc.com)
[Manchester World](https://www.manchesterworld.com)
- Climate Change Framework Update
[Manchester Evening News](https://www.manchestereveningnews.com)
- Cyclops in Whalley Range
[Manchester Evening News](https://www.manchestereveningnews.com)



Q3 (Oct-Dec 22)

- Biodiversity Strategy
[Place North West](#)
- Wythenshawe regeneration
[Manchester Evening News](#)
[Place North West](#)
- Leaders' Open letter to Prime Minister to discuss Climate Change
[Manchester City Council](#)
- Project 500 sustainable housing
[Manchester Evening News](#)
[Place North West](#)



Q4 (Jan-March 23)

- Central Retail Park consultation
[The Manc](#)
[Manchester Evening News](#)
- Work to begin on final stage of Manchester to Chorlton walking and cycleway
[Manchester Evening News](#)
- Former Chorlton Leisure Centre site to provide low carbon affordable housing for older people
[Manchester Evening News](#)
[Business Manchester](#)
- Ancoats Green Transformation
[Manchesters Finest](#)
[Secret Manchester](#)
[The Manc](#)
[Place North West](#)
- Publication of Manchester's Active Travel Strategy and Investment plan
[Business Manchester](#)



Manchester Set For A New Green Space With Plans For Ancoats Green Unveiled

Appendix 1 - RAG Rating at a Glance:

The tables below show the overall progress of each action within the CCAP 2020-25 using a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating system.

Several actions recorded as complete in previous Annual Reports (e.g., the roll out of 27 electric waste collection vehicles), have been updated as part of the CCAP refresh (approved by MCC's Executive Committee in September 2022) to reflect the next course of action, therefore the RAG has been updated to reflect progress against the refreshed action.

Key:

Working to target (Green)	Work in progress (Amber)	Not started / missed critical milestones (Red)
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Workstream 1 – Buildings and Energy		
Action	RAG	Action Summary
1.1	Amber	MCC Estates carbon reduction programme
1.2	Amber	Manchester Build Standard
1.3	Amber	Large scale renewable energy generation
1.4	Green	LED street lighting
1.5	Amber	Civic Quarter Heat Network
1.6	Amber	MCC Housing Carbon Reduction
1.7	Amber	Citywide Housing Carbon Reduction
1.8	Green	Commercial and non-domestic building carbon reduction
1.9	Amber	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)
1.10	Amber	Leasing and disposing of Council buildings and land
1.11	Green	Manchester Local Plan
1.12	Amber	Partnerships e.g., Green Building Council

Workstream 2 – Transport and Travel		
Action	RAG	Action Summary
2.1	Green	Electric refuse collection vehicles
2.2	Green	Replace operational fleet with EVs
2.3	Amber	Business Travel Policy
2.4	Amber	Environmental actions within Highways
2.5	Green	Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040
2.6	Green	City Centre Transport Strategy
2.7	Green	EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy
2.8	Green	Active Travel
2.9	Green	Sustainable Travel Incentives for MCC Staff

2.10	Amber	Aviation Emissions
2.11	Amber	Air Quality

Workstream 3 – Sustainable Consumption

Action	RAG	Action Summary
3.1	Amber	Sustainable Procurement
3.2	Amber	Reducing Single Use Plastics (SUPs)
3.3	Green	Sustainable Events
3.4	Amber	Waste Services
3.5	Amber	Supplier Toolkit
3.6	Green	Influencing a reduction in Single Use Plastics
3.7	Green	Manchester Food Board

Workstream 4– Adaptation and Sequestration

Action	RAG	Action Summary
4.1	Green	Tree Action Planning
4.2	Green	Nature Based Solutions
4.3	Green	Parks CCAP
4.4	Green	Green and Blue Strategy
4.5	Green	Biodiversity Strategy
4.6	Green	Tree Planting

Workstream 5 – Catalysing Change

Action	RAG	Action Summary
5.1	Amber	Carbon literacy training
5.2	Green	Embedding zero carbon within Council decision making
5.3	Green	Finance & Investment
5.4	Green	Community Engagement
5.5	Green	Citywide Communications Strategy
5.6	Green	Fund Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA)
5.7	Green	Support Manchester Climate Change Partnership
5.8	Amber	Support Education Providers to reduce carbon
5.9	Amber	Influence GM stakeholders to decarbonise
5.10	Amber	Government Lobbying
5.11	Green	International networks and projects