

## MANCHESTER

### City baseline

#### Facts and figures

**Population and history:** With a population of 547 000, as a former textile capital, the city of Manchester played a key role in the industrial revolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today, Manchester is one of the frontrunners in the energy revolution with the aim to become a zero carbon city by 2038, at the latest.



**Location:** Manchester is a major city in Greater Manchester, in the north west of England. It is the fastest growing city in the UK outside of London, with high density housing development especially in the city centre. Manchester is the third most visited city in the UK, after London and Edinburgh. As Manchester is situated in the middle of a green belt region, this reduces urban sprawl, prevents nearby communities from merging and preserves the countryside.

**Economic indicators:** Manchester is one of ten local authorities which make up the Greater Manchester conurbation. Greater Manchester is the second largest economy in the UK. In 2017 Manchester's Gross Value Added (measure of the value of goods and service produced by an area) was £19.7million. Between 2016 and 2017, Manchester's overall GVA grew by 4.3%, compared to 3.6% for the UK, and is the third-highest growth of all the UK Core Cities. In March 2019 there were 22 630 enterprises in Manchester<sup>1</sup>.

**Energy and Climate:** The city has a long history of flooding. Surface water flooding has increased tenfold between 1945 and 2008, and is predicted to increase further with climate change. In its vision, Manchester has the ambition to become a fully climate resilient zero carbon city. Manchester signed the Covenant of Mayor in 2009.



<sup>1</sup> [https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200088/statistics\\_and\\_intelligence/2162/economy](https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200088/statistics_and_intelligence/2162/economy)

## General context

In 2016 Manchester committed to ‘play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change’. In 2018 this was defined as emitting only 15 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> during 2108-2100, Manchester’s science-based ‘carbon budget’. The budget was developed by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and was formally adopted by Manchester City Council in November 2018, on behalf of the city.

Manchester’s climate change objectives and targets have been reviewed in late-2019/early-2020 by the Tyndall Centre and Manchester Climate Change Agency. This work has been used to inform the development of the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25, the city’s high-level strategy.

The Framework was published by Manchester Climate Change Agency and Partnership on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The Framework is scheduled to be formally endorsed by Manchester City Council on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, on behalf of the city.

The Framework sets out the aim that ‘Manchester will play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change and create a healthy, green, socially just city where everyone can thrive.’

The Framework has four objectives:

- Staying within our carbon budgets
- Climate adaptation and resilience
- Health and wellbeing
- Inclusive, zero carbon and climate resilient economy

The carbon budget objective covers three sub-objectives:

- Direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: from homes, workplaces and ground transport; 15 million tonne carbon budget 2018-2100; five-year carbon budgets for 2018-22 and 2023-27 (aligned with the timescales or the UK carbon budgets); 13% year-on-year emissions reductions; 50% emissions reduction 2020-25
- Aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: a formal recognition that flights from Manchester and all UK airports need to stay within a limited carbon budget for UK aviation, as part of a wider international budget; for Manchester Airport and Manchester City Council to work with UK Government on a Paris Agreement-aligned aviation strategy for the UK
- Indirect / consumption-based CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: a formal recognition that Manchester has a responsibility for emissions from the products and services consumed in the city; a commitment to better understand these emissions and to take action to tackle them; indirect emissions are estimated to be 60% higher than the city’s direct emissions.

To meet the objectives there are six headline areas of activity plus cross-cutting enabling actions:

1. Buildings (existing and new)
2. Renewable energy
3. Transport and flying
4. Food
5. The things we buy and throw away
6. Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions
7. Supporting and enabling residents and organisations to act

## Governance and Partnerships

Manchester has established a devolved, partnership-based approach to meet its climate change commitments. It is built on two key components:

- Engaging and empowering Manchester residents and organisations to take action, using the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and its networks as the key engagement mechanism, and
- Joint working between Manchester City Council, Manchester’s strategic partners, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, UK Government, and their agencies to provide the support, incentives, standards and infrastructure residents and organisations need

The Manchester Climate Change Partnership is the city’s main mechanism for engaging and inspiring organisations and residents to act. The Partnership currently has 60 members, across 10 sectors, with responsibility for 20% of Manchester’s direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Its members also have reach into the remaining 80% through their staff, students, customers, tenants, football fans, theatre-goers, worshippers, and others. By working with their supply chains members are also starting to take a make an impact on the city’s consumption-based CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The concept of a ‘framework’, rather than a traditional council-led ‘strategy’ is to create structure that enables households, communities, businesses, schools, and public sector organisations to ‘plug in’ their own commitments and plans to contribute towards the implementation of the Framework.

Each of the 10 sectors is putting in place a sub-group in place for the development of bespoke action plans and knowledge sharing. For example, the Our Faith Our Planet group (faith sector), the Manchester Arts Sustainability team (arts and culture sector), Manchester Housing Providers Partnership Zero Carbon Group (social housing sector) and the Oxford Road Corridor Zero Carbon Group, which brings together Manchester City Council, the two universities, Central Manchester Hospital and Bruntwood (private property company).

### Reporting Progress

As well as setting a clear climate action trajectory for this century (2018-2100), Manchester’s carbon budget also allows for calculating the city’s contribution towards achieving the UK’s carbon reduction targets (i.e. locally determined contribution), and thus represents a valuable, measurable and trackable tool for demonstrating the important role of cities in national climate policy.

The city has been producing an annual progress report since 2013, published by Manchester Climate Change Agency. Independent monitoring groups are currently being established to monitor progress against the Framework’s objectives.

As a member of the Covenant of Mayors Manchester reports progress to the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System. Copies of the reports are available from [www.cdp.net/en/responses](http://www.cdp.net/en/responses).

### Institutional context

Reaching these ambitious targets requires the necessary governance structures.

Externally, the relevant stakeholders are engaged via the *Manchester Climate Change Partnership* composed of public, private, community and academic partners from the faith sector, local property companies, the Manchester City football club, the two local universities, the social housing sector, the

climate change youth board (16-25-year-old residents), the culture sector etc. The Climate Change Partnership was set up in its current format in February 2018.

Internally, Manchester City Council set up the *Manchester City Council Zero Carbon Coordination Group* chaired by the deputy chief executive. The kick off was in September 2019. This group involves different municipal departments via the directors/heads of the respective departments: Planning, Strategic development, Neighbourhoods team (community focused), Legal, Finance, Communications, Housing, Human Resources, Policy, Building estates (municipal buildings).

The *Climate Change Partnership* is part of the *Our Manchester Forum*, a local governance structure that goes beyond climate change and covers all sectors, responsible for championing and overseeing the delivery of the Our Manchester Strategy 2016-25. The Chair of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership is a member of the Forum. This enables the Partnership and Agency to work with strategic partners to help embed climate change as part of their core activities.

*The Manchester Climate Change Agency* was established in September 2015. The Agency and Partnership are jointly responsible for championing, coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the Framework. Their activities are focused on working with partners on the following headline objectives:

- 1) Helping our city to set the right objectives and targets, in line with the Paris Agreement and the latest science
- 2) Helping our city to establish the strategy, governance and partnerships needed to meet the targets
- 3) Helping our city to take action
- 4) Helping our city to understand its progress

## On energy and climate policies

### ➤ Local

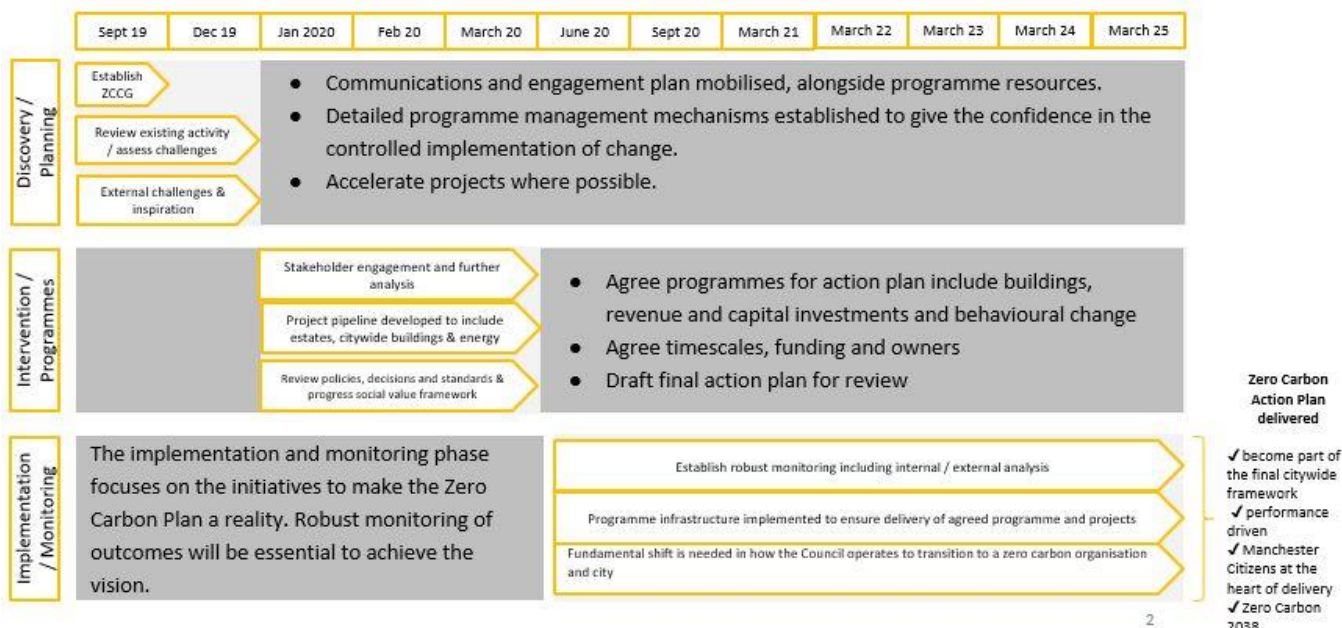
The Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 is Manchester's high-level strategy, with further details set out in sector and organisation-specific action plans that 'plug in' to the Framework. The Framework is scheduled to be formally adopted by Manchester City Council on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Manchester City Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 sets out how they will contribute to the implementation of the Framework

- Internal direct emissions
- External influence / policy
- Quantifiable carbon savings
- 50% reduction target in 4 - 5 years

The aim is to attract the necessary funding to deliver Manchester's ambitious agenda and to contribute to the overall vision: Our Manchester. A key focus is also maximising influence over external partners and stakeholders at a local, sub-regional and national level including government.

## Indicative Zero Carbon 5 year plan



### Local Projects

The Greater Manchester Community Renewables project started in 2015, as a first phase with 7 schools from Greater Manchester. Citizens want to make bigger actions and there is a real demand to upscale the investment of the community into real energy production. Tapping in this investment potential is an absolute priority (4% return is offered). Installing PV on schools is also a way to involve the entire community. The project started with the schools having higher energy consumption and the best orientation of the roof, in order to develop an efficient “business oriented” project.

Manchester University has implemented diverse carbon literacy schemes. With the increased internationalisation of the university and increased travelling needs, the offsetting is done via funding carbon literacy projects. Students are given all tools to understand and act on climate change. The University did a bottom up carbon literacy course where for 108 senior staff were trained by the students.

#### ➤ National

The national Government has committed to UK to ‘reach Net Zero by 2050 with investment in clean energy solutions and green infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions and pollution’. Manchester is currently considering the potential presented by COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2020 to build a collaborative partnership and programme with UK Government. This work will need to be developed Greater Manchester and the other UK Core Cities.

The Carbon literacy project is currently being funded by the UK government, 6 local authorities are testing a special training course (3 of Greater Manchester, Midlands England, Bristol, Leicester). This tool is used by the Manchester Climate Change Partnership members to deliver their commitment to a zero carbon city, it is an educational tool that can be used to change the culture around climate change. It also helps individuals to understand the impact of their lifestyles as well as organisations through a peer to peer learning process of all actors involved.

## Important aspects of climate and energy planning

### Main achievements in past SEAPs

In 2018/19 Manchester City Council achieved their current Climate Change Action Plan 2016/20 targets to reduce emissions by 41% (based on a 2009/10 baseline) by achieving a 48.1% reduction.

### Projects to build on

In the framework of the European H2020 funded GrowGreen project (<http://growgreenproject.eu/>), Manchester will refresh its current Manchester Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, to take on board the learning from GrowGreen and its partner cities. Manchester has a long history of flooding and nature-based solutions developed in GrowGreen will help tackle this problem via a demonstration project in the West Gorton neighbourhood, a priority area for housing development. The project will deliver detailed green infrastructure masterplan for the neighbourhood (green spaces, community food growing, green roofs, attenuation ponds and drainage channels).

The TRIANGULUM project ([www.triangulum-project.eu](http://www.triangulum-project.eu)) focusing on the Oxford Road Corridor to become one of the largest knowledge driven low carbon districts in Europe. The aim is to decouple the link between a reduction in carbon emissions whilst at the same time increasing economic activity.

### The URBACT Local Group

In Manchester, the ULG will be based on the already existing and very dynamic Manchester Climate Change Partnership described above. The Partnership is planning to review its membership and structures during 2020, including identifying sectors and organisations not currently represented, for example, Manchester Airport, the hotels sector, the retail sector, food and drink sector, and others.

### Initial SWOT

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <p>Designing long-term roadmaps has shifted away from being purely a dialogue among experts to a real public debate involving all citizens.</p> <p>Ownership and long-term dedication of different stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Stronger and more diverse partnerships with all actors of society via the Manchester Climate Change Partnership.</p> <p>Setting up of a high-level strategy for 2020-25.</p> <p>Setting up an internal Manchester City Council Zero Carbon Coordination Group.</p>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <p>There are no financial institutions in the Climate Change Partnership.</p> <p>Small businesses and particularly the retail sector are not involved in the Climate Change Partnership.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <p>Designing long-term roadmaps has shifted away from being purely a dialogue among experts to a real public debate involving all citizens.</p> <p>Working with the different sub-group of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership in order to develop specific zero carbon roadmaps and specific action plans with a timeline for implementation.</p> <p>Setting up active exchange networks for the different sub-groups on the model of C-Change that is focusing on the culture sector.</p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <p>The carbon budget approach will only be successful if it is embedded in the daily decision making process of Manchester City Council and organisations across the city.</p> <p>Risk of failure if on a yearly basis the carbon budgets are exceeded and major action is needed to get on track. .</p>

<p>Enlarging the focus of the zero carbon approach from direct emissions to indirect/ embedded/ 'consumption-based emissions.</p> <p>Increase carbon literacy of the local councillors (so far only 50% are carbon literate).</p> <p>Decrease the aviation footprint – setting up a sustainable transition fund for instance by applying a tax/flight.</p>	
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## How Manchester wants to use the ZCC project?

Manchester’s Climate Change Framework 2020-25 (Version 1.0) was published on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and is scheduled to be endorsed by Manchester City Council on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The document sets out the city’s four objectives and targets and the high-level strategy for meeting them. However, the Framework acknowledges that further details are required. For example, it sets out that Manchester needs 100% of its energy to be from renewable sources but doesn’t set out how much by 2025 and the projects needed to achieve it. It also sets out a high-level objective on consumption-based CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but states that further work is needed to understand Manchester’s consumption-based footprint in further detail. ZCC will enable Manchester to address these current gaps in the Framework and support the development of Version 2.0. The ‘Keeping Our Targets and Framework Up to Date’ already commits to the need for the document to be further developed.

Manchester will work with the different subgroups involved in the Manchester Climate Change Partnership. The MCCP meets regularly and will form the URBACT Local Group for Manchester. We will work with the partnership to identify which sub-groups have priority actions that can be supported through the implementation of a small scale action. As the prioritisation and development of the action will come out of the ULG in Phase 2, we are not wanting to pre-empt what it will be at this stage. However, some of the potential areas are to focus on the faith sector and/or the community and voluntary sector, as these are diverse sectors with relatively limited resource, and where the impact of the small scale action can add value and help leverage other funds and activities

The objective is to develop a sector based zero carbon action plan or shared activities similar to the example of the culture sector.

In the local ULG meetings, these subgroups will be actively involved and encouraged to develop a local project to bring their sector to zero carbon and share knowledge, expertise and best practice among using the example of how MAST (Manchester Arts Sustainability Team) has worked on behalf of the cultural sector, which is at the best practice example shared through the URBACT Knowledge Transfer Network C-Change (<https://urbact.eu/c-change>).

Manchester could enlarge the local Climate Change Partnership to other sub-groups that are currently not represented such as the financial sector (e.g. Pension Funds), small businesses and particularly the retail sector.

It is important for Manchester’s Climate Change Framework to and the the Zero Carbon Cities project more widely to incorporate actions on nature-based solutions, Manchester’s Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and the learning from the GrowGreen project.

### Sources:

Interviews with:

- Claire Stocks, Extinction Rebellion Manchester

- Mark Burton, Steady State Manchester
- Rogers Govender, Dean, Manchester Cathedral
- Director of the art Centre? Dave Moutrey, CEO, HOME?
- Sophie West, Bruntwood Sustainability Officer
- Ali Abbas, Campaigner, Manchester Friends of the Earth
- Professor Liz Price, Head of School of Science and the Environment, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Helena Tinker, Head of Environmental Strategy, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Ash Farrah, Manchester Climate Change Youth Board
- Professor Nalin, Vice President for Social Responsibility, University of Manchester
- Dave Coleman, Director, Cooler Projects
- Dr Paul Tobin, University of Manchester (for links to new city climate governance project)
- Jonny Sadler, Manchester Climate Change Agency
- David Houlistan, Strategic Lead Policy and Partnerships, Manchester City Council
- Mark Duncan, Strategic Lead Resource and Programmes, Manchester City Council