

Greater Manchester Green Summit 2019

#GMGreenCity





Welcome to our **Green Summit** edition of the Manchester Friends of the Earth newsletter.

Climate experts at the Tyndall Centre have calculated a carbon budget for Greater Manchester - how much carbon can be emitted between now and 2100 to play our fair share in keeping the rise in global temperatures to less than 2°C. This budget of 71 million tonnes means we have to halve our emissions in the next 5 years and become carbon neutral no later than 2038.

For this to happen, not only do all ten councils need to agree to the plan but all 2.8 million of us need to get on board and make different choices about how we get around, what we eat and buy, and how we warm, cool and power our homes and workplaces.

Often it seems difficult to know what we can do as an individual and so we have put together some examples of what great work is already happening in Greater Manchester and some ideas for individual action. Of course, this is not a definitive list and we welcome your own ideas through our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds.

www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

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“Today, we use one hundred million barrels of oil every single day. There are no politics to change that. There are no rules to keep that oil in the ground. So we can’t save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed. Everything needs to change and it has to start today.” - Climate activist Greta Thunberg, 15

WE'LL BE LESS
ACTIVIST
IF YOU'LL BE
LESS
SHIT.

#Fridaysforfuture

Find us on Facebook
or join an event
@ st. Peters square!

Greater Manchester Transport

The way we get about our city is important for our economy but also has implications for our health and wellbeing. As you might be aware Greater Manchester has some of the highest rates of road congestion and air pollution, with private cars being the largest contributor to this.

At last year's summit Andy Burnham announced Greater Manchester's goal to 'double and double again' cycling in Greater Manchester and to make walking an easy choice for shorter trips. With this came a pledge to spend £1.5 billion over the next 10 years. Since then, communities have been working to design local routes or 'Bee networks' that meet their needs and that once built will provide safe and attractive routes.

Flying shouldn't be forgotten as a significant contributor to climate change. Flights into and out of Manchester's airport are increasing year on year with Manchester Airports Group (which is two thirds owned by the ten Greater Manchester councils) having ambitious plans to grow its passenger market from 24 million trips per annum in 2016 to 45 million.



Key actions for the Mayor and the Combined Authority:

- Introduce a Clean Air Zone which includes all of the most polluting road vehicles, including private cars as soon as possible
- Introduce a workplace parking levy for large and medium-sized businesses in Greater Manchester.
- Deliver the agreed £1.5 billion of investment in walking and cycling across Greater Manchester, and commit to work in partnership with the community to design and deliver it.
- Invest in a high-quality, affordable, integrated public transport network in Greater Manchester.
- Introduce a cap on emissions from flights to and from Manchester Airport.

Find out more at: (www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/21-key-actions-for-the-mayors-green-summit/)

Get Political

Push your MP/councillors through petitions, personal emails or by meeting with them personally to:

- ☐ Extend the proposed Clean Air Zone to include all of the most polluting road vehicles, including private cars
- ☐ Support the introduction of bus franchising in Greater Manchester to make buses cleaner, more frequent and more affordable
- ☐ Introduce a cap on emissions for flights to and from Manchester Airport

Organisations

If you own a business or organisation, please think of:

- ☐ Setting up a cycle to work scheme for your employees along with small personal loans against salaries to help pay for yearly passes on public transport
- ☐ Allowing remote working, which cuts out transport emissions for your business
- ☐ Set up teleconferencing equipment to cut back on long train journeys or flights around the world

How you can give your time

- ☐ Walk, cycle, use public transport or carpool to work at least one day a week!
- ☐ Instead of flying or driving on holiday, make an adventure out of the journey by taking a train or other public transport for as much of it as possible!
- ☐ Ask your employer about options for you to work from home some days a week, to save on transport emissions during the week

How you can use your money

- ☐ When buying a new car, try to go for a low emission petrol car or even electric car if you can afford it!
- ☐ Buy a bike, so it's ready for you to use when the weather is good!
- ☐ Cut down on online next day deliveries which will reduce the number of back and forth miles a driver needs to do in a day to the same areas, when they could do single round trips a day or two later.

How you can get involved over social media

- ☐ Post pictures of your new green way of travel to work this summer when walking, cycling, using public transport or carpooling!
- ☐ Join online discussions about cycle lanes and public transport in your area, what would make you use them more? Are there issues which need highlighting? Are they regular and safe enough to use? Get involved to fix issues stopping you from trying them out!

Plastic-Free Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester has launched the first city-region wide plan to drive down avoidable single-use plastics!

#PlasticFreeGM asks businesses, organisations and individuals to pledge to take action to reduce avoidable single use plastics across Greater Manchester. #PlasticFreeGM works with campaigning partners to provide information and advice to guide more sustainable choices.

The Plastic-Free Greater Manchester campaign was launched following last year's Green Summit, and the campaign is organised in collaboration with Manchester Friends of the Earth. Find out more about the campaign and what can you do - "The Plastic-Free Greater Manchester campaign has a new website (<https://plasticfreegm.com/>)!



Key actions for the Mayor and the Combined Authority:

Set a new Green Standard for public events in Greater Manchester.

The Mayor and the GMCA should implement a new sustainability standard for public events in Greater Manchester - for example, ensuring that all events have segregated recycling facilities, don't use and single-use plastics, and have a deposit return scheme for food and drink containers.

Provide a network of public water fountains across Greater Manchester.

To provide an alternative to unhealthy and environmentally damaging drinks in plastic bottles and encourage the use of refillable bottles, the Mayor and the GMCA should work with United Utilities to install a network of public water fountains across the region.

Get Political

Push your MP/councillors through petitions, personal emails or by meeting with them personally to:

- ☐ Support the Plastic Pollution Bill in Parliament - see <http://bit.ly/mp-visit-plastics-bill>
- ☐ Introduce new licensing rules for takeaways that prohibit the use of plastic food and drink packaging
- ☐ Help schools to go plastic-free by procuring milk in plastic-free containers

Organisations

If you own a business or organisation, please think of:

- ☐ Switching to plastic-free alternatives as soon as your plastic stock runs out.
- ☐ Offering discounts to customers who use reusables.
- ☐ Setting up a deposit scheme for products which need expensive containers, to offset the costs.

How you can give your time

- ☐ Shop around for plastic free food like loose veg and refillable options from food counters!
- ☐ Join a local litter picking group to remove plastic in the environment that animals will mistake for food!
- ☐ Do your own research on plastic and how you can make better decisions in your everyday choices!

How you can use your money

Buy reusables to reduce your disposable plastic waste, such as:

- ☐ A water bottle
- ☐ Cotton bag for life
- ☐ Small fabric bags for produce shopping
- ☐ Reusable straws
- ☐ A reusable coffee cup

How you can get involved over social media

- ☐ Ask your local shops and favourite brands to go plastic free
- ☐ Share plastic free products and businesses
- ☐ Sign and share petitions calling for government action on plastics, e.g. bit.ly/foe-plastic-action

Greater Manchester Homes

Keeping our houses warm every year can be a struggle for many with poor insulation or no central heating systems, which leaves ever more of us in fuel poverty, forced to choose between feeding our families or heating our homes during the cold winter months. Unfortunately, this is both expensive for us and the environment, as burning more gas pumps yet more harmful carbon dioxide in our atmosphere.

Thankfully, £1.8 million has been secured from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to fund installing new central heating systems for 500 homes in Greater Manchester throughout 2019, but we need to be insulating 50,000 homes a year to meet our carbon targets!

Making our homes trap the heat we spend so much money on is a great way to start reducing our dependency on gas, and when the contract for your current provider of gas and electric is coming to an end this year, have a look at switching to a renewable energy provider. You might save some money too!



Key actions for the Mayor and the Combined Authority:

- Make existing building stock fit for the 21st century by implementing an ambitious GM retrofit programme.
- Make new buildings fit for the 21st century by setting a GM standard requiring all new construction to be zero carbon and climate resilient.
- Make private rented accommodation fit for the 21st century by introducing a landlord licensing scheme.
- Make the construction sector fit for the 21st century by setting up a Greater Manchester Academy for Sustainable Construction.

Find out more at: (www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/21-key-actions-for-the-mayors-green-summit/)

Get Political

Push your MP/councillors through petitions, personal emails or by meeting with them personally to:

- ☐ Enforce current building regulations and introduce a zero-carbon standard for all new buildings from 2021
- ☐ Set up Greater Manchester Academy for Sustainable Construction, which would give workers the skills to build and retrofit buildings to a zero-carbon standard
- ☐ Push for more funding from the GMCA to make sure every home in Greater Manchester are properly insulated and has an efficient heating system

Organisations

If you own a business or organisation, please think of:

- ☐ Switching to a green energy supplier to support renewable energy generation and helping your employees do the same
- ☐ Replacing fluorescent tubes, halogens and filament bulbs with more efficient LED lighting, and install motion sensors so lights turn off when not needed

How you can give your time

☐ To better trap heat in the house make sure to: keep doors closed to any rooms not in use like spare rooms, close doors when moving between rooms and close curtains when it goes dark at night.

☐ Check the heating systems of elderly relatives and family with small children, as these people are most affected by the cold

How you can use your money

☐ Switch to a green energy provider, to support renewable energy! (see: bigcleanswitch.org/gmcr)

☐ Buy draft excluders to stop heat escaping under external doors along with long curtains to close off cold spaces like conservatories from the rest of the house

☐ Get your insulation updated as 25% of heat lost in the home is through the roof!

How you can get involved over social media

☐ Look for, sign and share petitions calling for more sustainable practices in the building industry

☐ Share details of green energy providers to build support for renewable energy!

☐ Share tips of trapping heat in the home to help everyone conserve energy!

Greater Manchester's Food

When you think of carbon emissions, you probably imagine that the main culprits are power station smokestacks, heavy lorries and the ever-increasing growth in aviation.

However, another major contributor to climate change is the food we eat. A study published last year in the respected journal *Science* revealed that 26 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions is due to the production of food, of which more than half is due to animal products. Beef and lamb alone account for half the emissions due to the livestock sector. Even though a cow or sheep may never leave the UK, much of its feed is grown in recently deforested areas of South America.

Bearing the above figures in mind, the first and most important step is to cut the amount of animal products we eat - in particular, high-carbon red meat is where the quickest savings can be made. Cutting meat and dairy products from your diet can reduce the carbon footprint of your food by two-thirds according to the same study. Even though some people may not want to cut out meat and dairy products all at once, the 'flexitarian' concept of reducing meat bit by bit has become popular. Those people who were surprised how easy Veganuary was will only need a bit of encouragement to keep going!



Key actions for the Mayor and the Combined Authority:

Introduce a ban on toxic neonicotinoid pesticides across Greater Manchester.

- In light of the latest evidence of the impact of neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics) on bees and other pollinators, the Mayor and the GMCA must follow the lead of councils such as Cornwall by introducing a GM-wide ban on neonics, and work to phase out the use of other pesticides.

Set a new Green Standard for public events in Greater Manchester.

The Mayor and the GMCA should implement a new sustainability standard for public events in Greater Manchester, covering issues such as:

- Food: All food traders to offer a range of vegetarian and vegan options.

Get Political

Push your MP/councillors through petitions, personal emails or by meeting with them personally to:

- ☐ Put a ban on toxic neonicotinoids in Greater Manchester which kill bees and put harmful chemicals into our food
- ☐ Push every eatery and food outlet in Manchester to provide Vegetarian and Vegan options
- ☐ Push education at school for low carbon food and the benefits of a plant based diet for health and reducing climate change

Organisations

If you own a business or organisation, please think of:

- ☐ Having Vegetarian and Vegan options when providing food
- ☐ Advertising the benefits of a plant based diet and events like Veganuary to staff
- ☐ Installing compost bins for staff to reduce food waste going to landfills which causes build ups of harmful methane gas, which is 28 times worse than CO2

How you can give your time

- ☐ Veganise your favourite recipes once a week when cooking at home!
- ☐ Start a compost bin in your garden, or ask for a food waste bin from your council to avoid sending food to landfill, which releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere
- ☐ Watch documentaries like:
 - ☐ Cowspiracy
 - ☐ What the Health
 - ☐ Forks over knives

How you can use your money

- ☐ Buy Organic produce as much as possible to support farmers who do not use bee-killing pesticides!
- ☐ On a night out, have a go at a well reviewed Veggie/Vegan restaurant in Manchester:
The Allotment, V-Rev or '1847' are great choices!
- ☐ When eating meat, buy high-quality local and organic from the Butchers not the supermarket!

How you can get involved over social media

- ☐ Share your favourite veggie/vegan recipes with friends and challenge them to try them out!
- ☐ When you find a new veggie/vegan restaurant or cafe, share it online to spread the word!
- ☐ Take part in Veganuary, Meat Free May or Meat Free Mondays and share your progress online!



Manchester Friends of the Earth is an award-winning environmental group creatively campaigning on local, national and international issues. We are fuelled by volunteer energy and funded by membership subscriptions and donations.

As well as our plastic-free work, we are also involved in anti-fracking and divestment campaigning and are working to encourage the Greater Manchester authorities to take action on air pollution, protecting nature and improving the provision of sustainable transport.



**Friends of
the Earth
Manchester**

For more information on our work and how you can get involved see:

www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

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We hope you have enjoyed reading the Green Summit edition of our Magazine.

Comments and ideas for future copies most welcome!

Thank you to Georgie, Chris, Steve, Damian, Pete,

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