



Manchester Climate Change: a non-profit aiming for carbon neutrality by 2038



The Board of the Manchester Climate Change Agency

Manchester, the United Kingdom

IN A NUTSHELL

Back in 2009, the industrial city of Manchester decided to gather all the city's stakeholders and design the first climate change strategy in its history. In 2015, the non-profit Manchester Climate Change (MCC) Agency was created. In 2018 the Manchester Climate Change Partnership emerged, bringing together businesses, NGOs, the City Council and the MCC youth board, with plenty of scope for citizens to get involved. Their roadmap contains CO₂ emissions reductions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2038.

Raising awareness through climate-friendly education

Since climate change is a highly technical topic, citizens need to learn about it at an early age. The Manchester Climate Change Agency has a major focus on campaigns to raise awareness in schools and local communities. For example, the NGO Hubbub runs climate change and sustainable action campaigns to ensure the fight against climate change is community-driven. The sooner good practices are learned, the more likely it is that the 2038 zero-carbon objective will be achieved. A related objective is to develop individual and community initiatives that can plug in to the Manchester Climate Change Framework, so citizens can contribute at their own level.

Citizen involvement in decision-making

Manchester Climate Change Framework is a global programme in which stakeholders participate to achieve the 2038 objective. Citizen involvement is essential to success. Anyone can apply for the position of Chair of the MCCP, which is a strong symbol that civil society will play a key role in the city's future.

MANCHESTER



Population
533,230

Area
115,6 km²

Signatory to the Covenant of Mayors since:
2009

CO₂ emissions reduction target:
50% by 2020/25,
neutral by 2038



Innovative tools are used to boost citizen participation, mainly digital tools such as apps and websites. The Commonplace platform is used to enable Manchester's communities to express opinions, give feedback on policies and projects, participate in consultation and submit proposals. New digital tools like Commonplace ensure climate action goes hand in hand with policies that strengthen social cohesion.

Some avenues for improvement

The case of Manchester shows that citizens need to be more included in climate change mitigation policies. The role of Chair of the MCCC, which is open to anyone to apply, was vacant in 2019, in the absence of a suitable candidate. This is still one of the aspects of the process that is difficult to improve, but there are ways it can be done.

First, climate change mitigation plans must make better use of new technologies and social media to match the way people interact. Communication campaigns are key to the success of any plan, and must be broad to engage people online. But although online tools are essential for the plans to work, nothing replaces human contact. There is a lot that can be done: canvassing to promote the campaign, district-scale events, public meetings, and so on. The best way to get citizens engaged is to go out and meet with them, in their neighbourhoods and districts.

USEFUL LINKS

- ▶ [Manchester Climate website](#)
- ▶ [Manchester climate change 2020-2025 framework](#)
- ▶ [Manchester climate plan progress report](#)



3.6 million tonnes is the CO₂ budget of Manchester for 2023-2027, 52% lower than its 2018-2022 budget.

36%: Energy-related CO₂ emissions were reduced by 36% between 2005 and 2018



FINANCING THE PROJECT

- + **Financing sources:**
 - Manchester City Council:** €192m
 - EU's Horizon 2020 programme:** €169 EU funding from H2020 (293 projects funded)



CONTACT

For more information on the project, please contact: info@manchesterclimate.com