

GREATER MANCHESTER YOUTH COMBINED AUTHORITY: ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP





Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority was approved by council leaders at the Combined Authority meeting in September 2017. The Youth Combined Authority held their first meeting in February 2018. The aim of the Youth Combined Authority is to give young people in Greater Manchester the opportunity to have their voices heard and influence GMCA policy and decision making, and its purpose is to:

- Advise the Mayor and GMCA on key issues and concerns of young people, and provide solutions;
- Provide a critical voice and scrutinise the work of the Mayor and GMCA;
- Undertake specific pieces of work (previous examples include developing Our Pass, future projects include a Climate Change Summit)

The Youth Combined Authority also consists of a number of Working Groups, which have been established to bringing particular projects to life. The Working Groups are open to anyone aged 11-18 (or up to 25 for those with additional needs) from Greater Manchester. The Working Groups tend to meet monthly in Manchester city centre. Previous Working Groups have focused on Curriculum for Life and Health. We recently created a third Environmental Working Group who are responsible for organising a Youth Green Summit in Summer 2020.

This booklet will introduce you to some of the young people who are currently part of the Environmental Working Group and have played and continue to play a key part in voicing and bring environmental issues and policy to the forefront within Greater Manchester.





Davina Adesanya



Hi I'm Davina, I am 16 years old and I am the member of youth parliament for Manchester.

I am extremely passionate about the environment and I have been campaigning in my school since year 9. I attended the youth climate change action summit last year and I was moved by the turnout of young people that cared about the environment. So the youth council decided to create the climate wheel.

The climate wheel is a wheel that is split into different sectors that advises suitable ways to reduce carbon emissions for young people, when they complete the wheel they become Manchester Youth Council climate ambassadors. We are also creating another wheel to inform young people about sustainable energy.

Emilie Yau Anderson



Hello, my name is Emilie Yau Anderson and I'm 15 years old. I am currently working on a workshop surrounding green spaces for the annual Green Summit. I want to educate my peers surrounding the environment as well as green spaces as I think it is important for people to understand about the environment as not many people are as educated as they should be. The environment is important to me because I value nature and its beauty.



Kea Bell

Hi I'm Kea and I am 18 years old. I am a member of the GMYCA group and a young volunteer for the Caribbean and African Health Network (CAHN). I am also a representative in the Green Spaces Focus Group, which is going towards the organised Green Summit event this year. In the past year, I was the Head Girl of Withington Girls' School. This role allowed me to have an impact on how my school approaches the issues of climate change, which it has actively aimed to tackle for many years. This year we wanted to achieve a sustainable environmental project which would reduce the amount of non-biodegradable plastics being thrown into landfill by the families of the school. To tackle this we started a project to create enough 'Eco-Bricks' made out of compressed non-biodegradable plastics) to create outdoor furniture for our school's new outdoor spaces. Although it is unfortunate that I was not able to continue with this project because of the current situation of COVID-19 I hope that families and students will continue to get involved in this wonderful project in future.



Elle-Sue Calderbank

I am passionate about the environment as it has a significant impact on climate change. I believe the environment needs to be promoted on a much wider scale to broadcast the importance and effects it has on the world. The work we have done and continue to do through the Greater Manchester environmental group has created more awareness creating national movements, for example the climate change strikes in Manchester. Schools now promote climate change and this is simply done by more recycling, more vegan/vegetarian options on the menu or giving students reusable water bottles. Small changes like these have a significant contribution to help climate change and the awareness of this is on the rise. Due to this the hard work from this group is having a positive impact, changing perspectives for the better. So that is the reason why I believe the environment has such high value.

THE
SOLUTION
IS LESS
POLLUTION

My name's Lucy Coleman, and I'm a 16-year-old climate activist from Wigan.

In February, I became the Member of Youth Parliament for Wigan, with my manifesto focusing on protecting the environment and mitigating the climate crisis. At the moment, I'm working to create more Eco Schools in my area, as well as reduce the use of single use plastics and organise a clothes swap too. I can't wait to see what the future holds for my campaign and for our climate!



Lucy Coleman



I'm Milly and I'm 16 years old. I live in Tameside in Greater Manchester and use my voice on Tameside's youth council to try to promote protecting the environment and encourage young people to change their lifestyles and small habits to affect positive change for the climate. As a POSH ambassador I plan to do work in schools and educational settings to educate others on how they can also affect their environment and living spaces to make them cleaner and more sustainable. I have also worked with people in the borough on projects that clean up the local spaces to make them greener and protect them. I hope this work will help to make them better places to be and protect the Earth for the future.

Milly Greaves





Emma Greenwood

Hi I'm Emma, I'm 16 years old and I am the Youth MP for Bury. I am a passionate environmental activist and I started campaigning for climate justice in February of 2019 when I attended the first ever Youth Strike 4 Climate in Manchester. From there, I got involved in local, national and international activism where I have had the opportunity to connect with environmental activists around the world and push for change.

I help to coordinate the Youth Strikes 4 Climate in Manchester, I am part of the UK Student Climate Network and the international Fridays For Future movement.

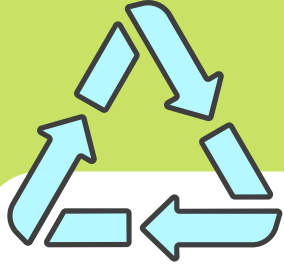
I work to push for inter-generational work between adults and young people so that we can strive for climate justice both in the present and future.



Hi! I'm Liam Harris, a member of Oldham Youth Council and GMYCA. My involvement with the Environmental Working Group stems from the hope of a greener environment, one that encompasses many aspects of society we hold so dear, whilst ensuring that they are benefitting our environment, and are taking care of the land we step on, and the air we breathe. My involvement for environmental work has varied, depending on what I could get involved in. Protests, working groups, and consultations have been a few examples, however it has been amazing to see a variety of work to be thinking eco-friendly, to ensure work that can be benefitting the environment, is! My hope is that in the future, it has become normality that eco-awareness thought about in every stage of development within society, ensuring that we can develop and grow as humans, and look after the foundations of life that give us the ability to grow.

Liam Harris





My name is Bethan Heatley. I am 18 and have been a part of GMYCA since Jan 19. The environmental crisis and making a change to this is a key area I am interested in. My first event was the 2019 Green Summit. Since then I have participated in several climate protests and taken part in a documentary where I created a community restaurant using food waste to feed the less fortunate. My involvement in environmental justice is largely linked with my interest for societal inequalities and helping those in the community. The things that I do in my everyday life to reduce my environmental impact include becoming vegan, limiting my plastic use and cycling to my destination instead of using a car.

Bethan Heatley



Hi, my name's Gulliver Hubbard and I am a part of Tameside Youth Council and GMYCA. I recently joined the GMYCA environmental working group and have enjoyed working with other like-minded, tireless young activists. My activist journey began last year through my participation in school strikes facilitated by Youth Strike 4 Climate MCR, a campaign which I have also been volunteering with, helping to organise our outreach and social media operations. These global strikes have created the pressure and discourse necessary to bring issues of climate change into the unavoidable spotlight and the unity and focus of the young people involved in this cause inspires me to unapologetically fight for action on an international level. I am deeply involved in local environmental activism, ensuring my school's certification as an eco-school, an accreditation I am hoping to spread around other schools in my area. Another environmental project I am exploring is the inclusion of more environmentally-friendly options on menus for schools and businesses within my community to avoid the devastating impacts of animal agriculture through more local sourcing, looking at the lowering of our carbon footprint through greener food choices.

Gulliver Hubbard





Harrison Humby



I'm Harrison Humby, I'm 16 years old,

I live in Greater Manchester and I am a climate activist. I have been involved in climate related activities for almost a year now and I am determined to continue to help solve the climate crisis in any way that I can.

The latest project I've been working on is helping to bring all schools in my local area together to both educate and encourage people to do their best for the climate crisis as well as help to put together the Greater Manchester Green Summit. I've loved being actively involved and am excited for what more help I can provide for the future.

My name is Michael, I am 17 years old and from Trafford in Greater Manchester. The environment is one of the most important issues to me because climate change is the biggest threat humanity faces and will have a devastating effect on my generation. Mitigating the effects of climate change on the most disadvantaged in society, and making sustainability affordable, is one area I am passionate about because global warming impacts the poorest the most. Protecting green spaces and wildlife is another area I am interested in, because I care deeply about preserving earth's ecosystems and natural environment. Within my local area, I have been involved in litter picks, school/college environment groups and environmental campaigns. However, I am excited to be involved with the GMYCA Environment Working Group because it is a unique platform to engage and educate both young people and business leaders so we can begin to turn the tide against global warming.



Micheal Jarkowski



Hi, I'm Connie I'm 15 and I'm from Stockport.
I am passionate about creating a better, greener Manchester for future generations to live and work in. I want us to have sustainable values at the core of our lifestyles so that we can create a better future. Manchester is an incredible city, and if we think green we can be even better! We need to take action now so that Manchester can be a better, greener city for many generations to come.

Connie Lupton



Ismail Malik

I am Ismail, I am 13 and am deputy member of Rochdale Youth Council. I am passionate about climate change and how children can help make change as well as the adults.





Hello, my name is Phoebe McCoy and I am 15 years old. In my school, I have been engaged in copious activities surrounding the environment and I have assisted to make our school more eco-friendly. Similarly, I am also involved in one of the workshops at the Green Summit this year and I am enthusiastic to educate people around 'Green Spaces'. Additionally, I am also engaged in Bury Youth Climate Group and I enjoy participating in numerous events.



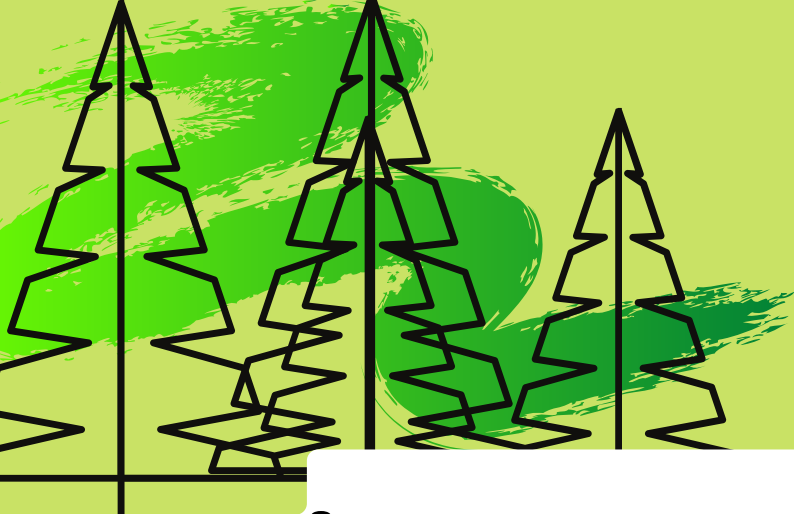
Phoebe McCoy



Anita Okunde

I'm Anita Okunde, I'm 16 years old with she/her pronouns. Over the last year I have actively become more involved in advocating for climate change and holding governments and polluters accountable for their role in it. I started off in year 10 by asking my school to change from plastic cutlery to more sustainable materials which has made are carbon footprints smaller. Over this lockdown especially I have continued to educate myself on climate change and dedicated my time to helping other organisations such as Youth Strike Manchester and Friday for Future Digital and international in order to help them reach their goals for climate change! With climate justice there is social justice and I believe that intersectional environmental justice is an important aspect that needs to lead the youth climate movement.





Harriet Potts

Hi I'm Harriet and I'm the POSH Steering Group Rep for the North West.

POSH stands for 'Pioneers of Sustainable Hope' and is our environmental project. Apart from this project I'm involved in the GMYCA environmental working group and my local climate group.

I love looking into sustainability and helping others do the same.



Lily Rimmer



I'm Lily and I'm a member of the Greater Manchester Environment Working Group. As a self proclaimed politics nerd, I have a huge interest in national and international environment policy, and would love to see our event creating policy change.

Being in the group has also led to me having an increased interest in other aspects of the cause. I am now in a smaller focus group for green transport and feel more passionately for increased accessibility to environmentally friendly public transport, and for striving towards more affordable electric cars. Furthermore, in my local youth council that I chair, we have been working on a Youth Environment Summit, partnering with the local schools to spread a positive message and introducing the issue of climate change to the future generation.



Taylor Rooke



My name is Taylor & I'm the newly elected MYP for Tameside. I started advocating for environmental awareness after attending the Tameside Green Summit in 2018. From there, I have worked towards devising lesson plans within my local area to teach primary school children about recycling & its importance. As well as organising community clean ups with young people to show them the importance of caring for their community and green spaces. Most recently, I partook in a skype meeting with the UN around planning and preparing for GM Goes Green. Ultimately, my goal is to have as many young people aware and informed of the small changes they can make that will make a big difference.

Márcio Silva



Hi, my name is Márcio Silva, I'm 17 and live in Ashton-under-Lyne in Tameside and I represent my borough at GMYCA meetings. I emphasise on public transport during these meetings, as well as greener transport at environmental GMYCA meetings. I have been part of these in the last year and half, and will continue to contribute ideas about greener transport, such as more cleaner electric buses, higher uses of cycling, as well as clean and electric/hybrid car usage, which can help to reduce Greater Manchester's carbon footprint, as well as general air pollution. Currently, I have been looking into Stagecoach's initial introduction of their new 36 electric-only buses that have been placed on Oxford Road routes, one of the most polluted routes within the city centre itself. I will continue to be part of environmental GMYCA meetings and will continue to push on for cleaner air, transport and social mobility methods within our county.

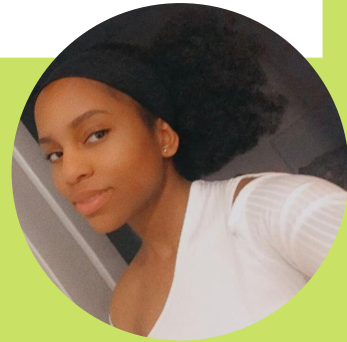


Hi I'm Shekinnah and I'm 17 years old. I am a young volunteer for the Caribbean and African Health Network (CAHN) and recently joined the GMYCA group in January 2020. I am also a representative in the Green Transport Focus Group, while being one of many contributors for the upcoming Green Summit event.

Last year, I assisted the Canal and River Trust in Manchester to help clean the canal and raise awareness of its positive impacts on the environment and on people's mental health. This was done as part of a continuous campaign to make Manchester greener.

Helping the environment flourish means so much to me and I continue to be inspired by environmentalists and climate change activists who stand by what is right for our planet.

Shekinnah Willberforce



Thank you reading about just some of the amazing young people that are part of the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority's Environmental Working Group ensuring that young people are part of decisions and change across Greater Manchester.

