

# CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION IN MANCHESTER: A GUIDE FOR BUSINESS AND ORGANISATIONS

You can make a difference to your organisation's energy and water bills, the efficiency of your organisation, and to the local and global environment. Manchester has committed to take action on climate change, and getting involved can help both your organisation and the city: this is your guide.

## WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

When we heat and light our homes, travel by car, or buy food or other goods, we use energy. Most of this energy comes from burning fossil fuels such as coal and gas, and this releases carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere.

Over the past 200 years increased levels of CO<sub>2</sub> have been making the planet steadily warmer by making the 'blanket' of gases in the atmosphere thicker than before. This overall warming is changing the climate around the world in different ways: here in Manchester it has already begun to mean wetter winters and more extreme weather such as storms and heavy rainfall. In other parts of the world, higher summer temperatures and worse flooding are now more common.

## WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

Manchester has agreed a climate change action plan for 2010–20. It's called Manchester – A Certain Future and you can read it at [www.manchesterclimate.com](http://www.manchesterclimate.com).

The plan aims to reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that is produced across Manchester, and to prepare for a changing climate. Everyone in the city can play their part – you can too, and this leaflet tells you how.

## ENERGY – HOW DO I REDUCE OUR ENERGY USAGE?

TOP TIPS

An energy audit can help you understand where, when and how you use your energy, and what it costs. Understanding your usage helps with future energy and financial planning, while identifying otherwise unknown trends.

Make sure that your organisation is on the correct energy tariff for your needs. Energy switching can save money every year; for advice, contact: [www.enworks.com](http://www.enworks.com)  
[www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk)  
Energy comparison websites  
[www.getmetoasty.com](http://www.getmetoasty.com)

## BUILDINGS – INCREASE THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR PREMISES AND BUILDINGS

TOP TIPS

Increasing the energy-efficiency of your premises will add value to your premises/building, and reduce your day-to-day operational costs.

How? By simple measures such as draft exclusion, insulation, and upgrading inefficient glazing, lighting and boilers so they are more energy-efficient. A wider, whole-building retrofit programme would make a big difference.

A review of how your building is used may be helpful in order to maximise your property's performance: if you have unused space you could switch off the heating or lighting, and reduce employee cost per square foot.

Green Deal provides opportunities to cost-effectively improve the energy-efficiency of your buildings/premises. Benefits can be achieved by landlords and tenants through approved interventions and measures, which can be installed with Green Deal funding: [www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures](http://www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures)  
[www.manchestercarbonliteracy.com](http://www.manchestercarbonliteracy.com)



## TRANSPORT – SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

TOP TIPS

Cut your costs, emissions and promote your sustainable credentials to employees, suppliers and customers with a green travel plan that covers customers, employees, visitors and freight.

Cycle facilities, car club membership and other smarter travel initiatives will all reduce costs and help to support your corporate social responsibility.

[www.tfgm.com/cycling](http://www.tfgm.com/cycling)  
[www.citycarclub.co.uk](http://www.citycarclub.co.uk)

Remember – members of staff who walk or cycle to work are healthier and more productive than those who commute by car. Training and grants for cyclists are available for employers who want to invest in encouraging commuting by bike.

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – IMPROVE YOUR SURROUNDINGS WHILE REDUCING COSTS

TOP TIPS

The use of soft landscaping, tree planting, living walls and green roofs can reduce your surface water charges and insurance premiums by reducing your building's flood risk and adapting your premises to withstand extreme weather.

A green roof can expand the lifespan of a roof by reducing its exposure to UV and protecting it from weather damage. Green infrastructure can also improve the desirability of a property for both investors and occupiers alike.

## SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION – CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

TOP TIPS

How and what your business buys, and how you manage your operations, all add to your carbon emissions. Sustainability should be a key part of your operations; it's a way to lower your organisation's carbon footprint while saving on running and maintenance costs.

Implementing an Environmental Management Plan is a way of tracking and measuring your environmental impacts.

The development of an Environmental and/or Sustainability Policy can reduce operating costs while providing your business with an economic advantage in the marketplace.

More information on operating sustainably can be found here:  
[www.gmchamber.co.uk](http://www.gmchamber.co.uk)

## THE LOW-CARBON ECONOMY

TOP TIPS

The low-carbon economy will be the economy of the future! Your business can be part of this, and help Manchester develop its low-carbon economy more quickly – that means more jobs and more business activity in the city. Taking one or all of the steps above will help to build a green economy in the city, as they contribute to the scale of the market for low-carbon goods and services, and help promote Manchester as a low-carbon business centre.

## FARESHARE NORTH WEST

TOP TIPS

Are you a food business with surplus stock of fresh, frozen or longlife foodstuffs? If so, you could become a FareShare food donor and cut your waste disposal costs while helping some of the most disadvantaged communities across the city: [www.emergemanchester.co.uk/fareshare-north-west.html](http://www.emergemanchester.co.uk/fareshare-north-west.html)

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

There are lots of organisations in Manchester that are already involved in tackling the challenges and opportunities of climate change. Some of these are listed in the leaflet, and others that can help you in your business or organisation are listed below:

**Enworks**

**Groundwork**

**NW construction hub**

**Growth Hub**

**Manchester City Council Travel Change Team**

**Manchester Carbon Literacy**

**Transport for Greater Manchester**

**Green Roof Centre**

**Red Rose Forest**

**Environmental Business Pledge**

**Greater Manchester Energy Advice Service**