

# CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION IN MANCHESTER: WHAT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE DOING

Lots of Manchester organisations are involved in action on climate change, and many of our schools, colleges and the universities are taking a lead. You can also make a difference by getting your organisation to join in, reducing its running costs, and benefiting your students, the city and the global environment. Manchester has committed to take action through *Manchester – A Certain Future*, and this guide can help you get involved.

## 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.

### TOP TIPS ENERGY

- Learn about your energy bills and how to monitor your electricity and gas consumption. This will help you realise what power can be switched off and if unnecessary energy is being used. Make a difference by engaging the whole campus, including the facilities staff and business managers.
- Incorporate low-carbon learning throughout the curriculum. There are resources, activities and programmes to help all levels of education, whether it's educating students in energy-efficiency, or learning about future green careers and renewable technologies.

The Carbon Trust can provide advice on how to start looking at your energy consumption: [www.carbontrust.com/resources/guides/sector-based-advice](http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/guides/sector-based-advice)

Schools can focus on energy reduction to work towards their Eco-Schools Green Flag [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)

### TOP TIPS BUILDINGS

- Take time to make an audit of the building, looking at where improvements can be made and where there are opportunities for renewable energy measures. Create a plan to make your campus buildings as energy-efficient as possible, involving the building management team and the users.
- Invest to save. Take time to look at the benefits of investing in new lighting, insulation and draughtproofing, and work out how long it would take for your building to recoup the costs. Your building will become more energy-efficient and lower your CO<sub>2</sub> consumption.

Further support can be found at: [www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/buildingsanddesign/environmental](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/buildingsanddesign/environmental)

Manchester City Council can provide advice and support on how you can make your campus more efficient. [www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500117/green\\_city](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500117/green_city)

TOP TIPS

## TRAVEL

- Make sure your Travel Plan is an up-to-date, 'living' package of measures. Encourage all students, staff and visitors to learn more about the benefits of sustainable travel for saving money and time, cutting carbon and boosting health, and find out how you compare with others in your area. Once your plan is up to date make it happen!
- Encourage cycling by providing secure bike storage and lockers. Free Bikeability cycle training is available for schoolchildren aged 9–12 years, adult commuters, and for other adults living in or regularly travelling to Manchester.
- If everyone left the car at home and walked, cycled or used public transport just one day a week, car journeys would fall by a fifth.
- Grants for commuter cycling facilities are available.

Manchester City Council can help you revise your travel plans. For more information visit [www.manchester.gov.uk/info/100011/parking\\_travel\\_and\\_roads/2730/green\\_travel\\_and\\_travel\\_change/1](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/100011/parking_travel_and_roads/2730/green_travel_and_travel_change/1)

Two other organisations that can offer support: [www.bikeright.co.uk](http://www.bikeright.co.uk)  
[www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com)

TOP TIPS

## MANCHESTER CARBON LITERACY

Carbon Literacy is about raising awareness of climate change and the impact it will have on us. The programme is suitable for individuals, organisations, businesses, students and community groups – anyone can get involved. Get as many colleagues, neighbours, friends and students involved in the Carbon Literacy programme as possible – a day's training will provide you with an accreditation and make you stand out in the crowd.

Learning about Carbon Literacy will allow you to understand what you actually need to do, how you can get help to do it, and about actually doing it and seeing that you've done it. To learn more visit [www.manchestercarbonliteracy.com](http://www.manchestercarbonliteracy.com)

## SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PROCUREMENT

- Implement an Environmental Management System, such as ISO14001, to track and manage your environmental processes.
- Create your own Environmental or Sustainability Policy. This should cover the aspects of those operations you hope to improve.
- Develop a Sustainable Procurement Policy. Consider the environmental impact of all the products and services you buy.

- Seek opportunities to reduce your food and packaging waste. Work with the catering staff to review what is not being used, and when there is waste, make sure that it's recycled – even your food or cooking oil waste.
- Donate surplus foodstuff to FareShare.

For more detailed information and advice visit: [www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/gettingstarted/Green\\_Procurement](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/gettingstarted/Green_Procurement)  
[www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)  
[www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)

TOP TIPS

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Carry out a biodiversity audit of your grounds and create a plan to develop them – it doesn't have to be expensive. The audit will identify areas for potential development.
- Discover the value of Green Infrastructure. Knowing what to plant and why will benefit your grounds. Wildflowers, shrubs, herbs, vegetables and trees – each has a beneficial effect on wildlife and lowering carbon emissions.

For more on Manchester's wildlife visit: [www.wildaboutmanchester.info](http://www.wildaboutmanchester.info)  
For further resources and activities try [www.opalexplornature.org/](http://www.opalexplornature.org/)  
Green Roof Centre  
[www.thegreenroofcentre.co.uk](http://www.thegreenroofcentre.co.uk)

## 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 school, college or university are listed below:

**Carbon Trust**

**Eco-Schools**

**Green Roof Centre**

**Green Schools Revolution**

**Manchester Carbon Literacy**

**Manchester City Council**

**Manchester Environmental Education Network**

**Recycle Now**

**Wild About Manchester**

**Manchester City Council Travel Change Team**

**Transport for Greater Manchester**