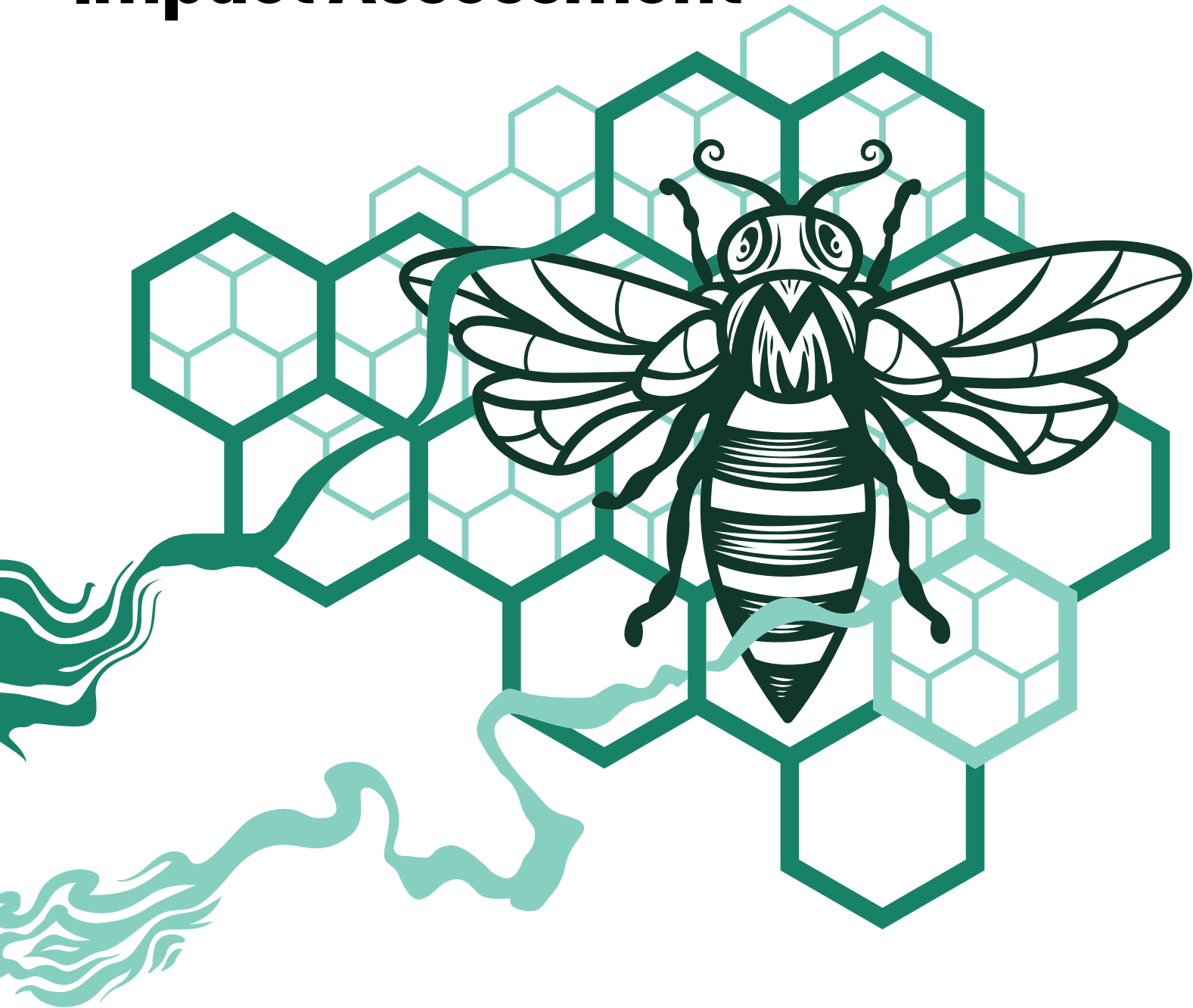


Manchester Climate Change Assembly 2021 Impact Assessment



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Introduction

This document is an impact assessment of Manchester's first ever community assembly on climate change, which took place throughout 2021. It contains an overview of what was covered in the assembly and why, project outcomes, feedback from participants on the process, conclusions and recommendations. The project had an aim of being fully transparent throughout and all data was captured and uploaded onto the open access sharepoint for everyone to see:

<https://zerocarbonmanchester.commonplace.is/proposals/in-our-nature-community-assembly/step1>

This assessment is also freely available to everyone, so it can be used for any similar future projects and for others considering using similar methods to engage communities about the climate emergency at this most crucial time.

The key aims of the Assembly were:

1. Each geographical area group engaged to produce actions plans of responses which are relevant and appropriate for their local areas. These represent actions which are very possible to implement with the right people, capacity, energy, support and funding.
2. A mandate, which represents which actions are crucial for us as a society to take in order for us to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets. Importantly, the Mandate details those actions which are not possible for the citizens of Manchester to be able to implement alone. Therefore, citizens require the support and leadership from the local council, businesses and national government to make the necessary policy and infrastructure changes.

Rationale

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), human caused greenhouse gas emissions from the pre-industrial period (1850–1900) to the present (1998–2018), have caused the global average temperature over land to increase by 1.41°C (IPCC, 2019). Even with significant and immediate reductions, GHG emissions have already led to major changes to our ecosystems (IPCC, 2019). Yet the IPCC states we need to halve our GHG emissions by 2030. At this point current international governmental pledges will still push global temperatures over the 1.5°C target set out in the Paris Agreement and subsequent IPCC reports. This will cause current extreme weather events to intensify, rates of species decline to accelerate and other mass extinction signifiers to be triggered. The most deprived communities will be hit hardest, especially those Global South countries who have caused almost none of the emissions or damage, but nevertheless already bear the brunt of the most catastrophic impacts.

We have to act now.

National governments and business are the key players in enforcing or instigating the societal changes needed to set us on the right path. That is the role of those in power. Unfortunately, the decisive societal changes needed are not being implemented and global GHG emissions continue to rise. The IPCC project that we have until 2028 to significantly decrease our GHG emissions before the global 'carbon budget' is used up and we reach the projected tipping point of 1.5°C (IPCC, 2021). Therefore, communities and individuals need to form groups and deliver informed responses to those in power, requesting or demanding these changes to be made. This is the rationale behind the Manchester Climate Change Assembly.

The assembly was run by Bob Walley, Researcher in Climate Change Engagement and Communication with the University of Central Lancashire and co-founder of Envirolution, a Manchester based volunteer-led

cooperative which organises community engagement events concerning climate change. The group creates spaces where a praxis of learning and reflection can take place in a holistic, accessible and relevant way, aiming to empower and connect with those individuals who are not currently engaging with climate change as a subject, inspiring them to take positive actions. At events Envirolution has organised or been involved with, the group has interacted with 189,400 attendees across the UK, involved 785 volunteers and provided a platform for 1142 educators, community organisations, performers and artists. At a local level Envirolution aims to play a key role in helping Manchester City Council achieve goals set out in its Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025, which includes supporting and influencing the city to reduce emissions by at least 50% by 2025. Envirolution aims to raise widespread understanding, connection and engagement with the natural world, mobilising transitions toward a more sustainable future for us all. A recent award-winning impact assessment with a University of Manchester team of researchers can be seen on the website here: <https://envirolution.org.uk/>

The project was delivered as part of Manchester Climate Change Agency's (MCCA) 'In Our Nature' programme, which aims to engage people and communities across Manchester to find new and creative ways to inspire climate action. By collecting ideas, stories and actions the programme aims for people to have their say on what's happening in the local area, find practical tips and get involved in local initiatives. More about these projects can be found here:

<https://zerocarbonmanchester.commonplace.is/> <https://www.manchesterclimate.com/>

Environmental charity Hubbub, the communications and campaigns lead for the 'In Our Nature' programme, also supported the assembly and made a documentary film about the project:

<https://www.hubbub.org.uk/>

Methodology

Throughout June and July of 2021, 102 participants were recruited to take part in the Manchester Climate Change Assembly. Advertising for the assembly was done all across the city, with posters and flyers being translated into different languages and distributed in shops, salons, cafes, chip shops, libraries, supermarkets and any other appropriate spaces to try and engage a diverse range of participants from across the community. Online advertising was also pushed through various portals by all project partners and facilitators: Envirolution, Manchester Climate Change Agency, Hubbub and the Manchester City Council Climate Change Neighbourhood officers.

The online recruitment portal could be monitored throughout the process, meaning that if there was a lot of involvement from certain demographics or geographical areas, strategies could be changed to try and include equal participation from across the city. The aim was to involve a good representation of the people of Manchester. Although this was only partially successful as detailed below, project coordinators still believe this is a good method of recruitment and further learning from this is detailed in the recommendations section.

Assembly posters and flyers used terminology such as *'have your say in how you want your city to be'* or *'we need your help to improve our city'* to try and entice people who would not usually engage with an assembly about climate change. However, all the adverts were still promoting the *'Manchester Climate Change Assembly'*, so it was accepted by project leads that there were limitations to this strategy. Therefore, this would only partially affect the demographic of participants and primarily attract people who were already engaged or interested in the subject in some capacity. However, the assembly did attract those who were aware climate change was happening but were also aware their knowledge was limited or what actions they should take.

Reasons for applying include:

“I would like to know more about climate change, what can be done about it now and contribute to strategy in Manchester”

“This is a good opportunity for me to learn more about climate change”

“I’m really worried about our planet”

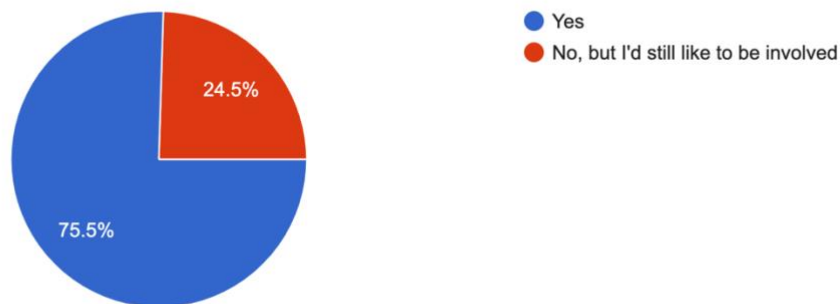
“I am honestly quite frightened about the issue of climate change. I have children and I fear for their future. I have made lifestyle changes but I feel I am not able to make changes big enough to have any effect on climate change. By joining this group I would feel as if I was doing something positive which have some more significant affect than I can make on my own and help me to not feel as overwhelmed by the issue of climate change.”

For a full list of reasons why participants took part, please see Appendix 1.

Some participants were unable to commit to all of the workshops and others could not attend at all, but were interested in the project and being involved in some way.

Are you able to commit to attending all (or almost all) of the 6 weekly workshops?

102 responses



A further 6 participants joined the project after the official recruitment window was closed, meaning there were a total of 108 participants involved in the project.

Project leads were pleased with the level of geographical representation. The recruitment strategy of monitoring geographical information meant energy could be focused on areas which were under-represented. This resulted in five groups being formed with participants from across Manchester. Once participants had been recruited, venues could be booked that would be the most accessible and convenient for participants from that area to get to.

The final groups were as follows:

Group 1 Levenshulme and East

Group 2 City and North

Group 3 Moss Side and Hulme

Group 4 Wythenshawe and South

Group 5 Chorlton and Whalley Range

For a full list of all the areas represented by participants, please see Appendix 2.

The demographic as far as ethnic group was less successful. A week before the application deadline, the number of participants who had chosen the 'White' category was around 65%, so recruitment was pushed in areas with more of a diverse ethnic background demographic. However, in the last week many more

'White' category applicants signed up. The final results of the recruitment regarding ethnic background can be seen below:

What is your ethnic group?

102 responses



Thoughts and suggestions for future strategies concerning this common issue with environmental projects (Taylor, 2020) can be seen in the recommendations section.

The application process also captured the gender information of participants:

64.7% Female

34.3% Male

1% Prefer not to say

Participants were then contacted with information about times, dates and venues for assembly workshops. Weeknights and times after normal working hours were chosen. Although it was accepted by project leads this may exclude some parents who have childcare duties and others who may have other commitments at this time, it was also accepted that there is never going to be a perfect time for everyone. Further reflections on this can be seen in the recommendations section. Workshop times of 18:00 – 20:30 were chosen, with a break of 30 minutes in the middle for food and refreshments.

Firstly, there were four workshops conducted with each of the five area groups which focused on the following themes:

- 1 Introduction to the subject and the emotional impact of climate change
- 2 Transport and Food and Agriculture
- 3 Fashion and Retail and Buildings and Energy
- 4 Development of Action Plans and recommendations for the Mandate

In this final area group workshop participants were invited to form contact groups using WhatsApp (or something similar) so they could carry on conversations, swap ideas and think about actions going forwards.

The two final workshops were conducted with all of the group participants at a venue in the city centre. This was to allow all participants to meet each other and discuss what actions needed to take place on a city-wide level. These two workshops also created the opportunity for the creation of the Mandate with participation from all participants. Equal participation was a key aim of the assembly, and thoughts on this can be found in the recommendations section. These final workshops also allowed time for presentations on Policy and Leadership and for participants to learn about how Manchester was doing in achieving its GHG emissions reduction targets.

For the final workshop executive members of Manchester City Council, councillors, MPs, other local community leaders and businesses were invited. Participants could then present the project findings and make requests of those present. There was also a celebration at the end where the achievements of participants were recognised. Reflections on this can also be found in the recommendations section.

The assembly took place during the Covid-19 pandemic when restrictions on gatherings had eased and so in-person meetings could take place. It was decided by project leads that this was crucial for the outcomes, so all possible precautions were made. All participants were required to wear masks throughout the workshops and spaces were arranged so that social distance could be maintained. Hand sanitiser was available on every table and spare masks and lateral flow tests were provided if needed. For the large group workshops in the city centre, all participants were asked to have a negative lateral flow test in order to attend.

Project outcomes:

- The Mandate

The Mandate represents which actions participants identified as crucial in order for us to be able to achieve our greenhouse gas emission targets - limiting global temperatures to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels as set out in the Paris Agreement and subsequent IPCC reports. This document sets out the requirements of local council, businesses and national government made by the concerned citizens of Manchester who took part in the climate assembly.

Manchester Climate Assembly - Mandate Final Findings

The Manchester Climate Change Assembly recruited over 106 participants from across the city to take part in seven weeks of workshops. Here the five area groups identified the most relevant and appropriate actions for their neighbourhoods to take in order to make the largest impacts towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitions towards more sustainable living. Participants also worked together to create this mandate which represents actions the communities are unable to take and so require policy and infrastructure changes to be made by local council, business and national government. Our mandate has an international focus, not just Manchester in isolation, and changes need to be made from the very top down as well as from the grass roots, which includes emphasis on big corporations and businesses, not just individuals and communities. We are all being affected by the impacts of the climate emergency, and we can all do more in response.

Although it is recognised that the drastic changes needed may upset people and be politically unpopular, strong leadership and effective communication of the benefits of creating a more sustainable, connected and conscious society is crucial in bringing the population on board. Outreach activities like those of Envirolution (<https://www.envirolution.org.uk>) and the In Our Nature programme (<https://zerocarbonmanchester.commonplace.is>) are vital in positively influencing public opinion. Further initiatives for education and awareness of both the benefits of sustainable transition options and of unsustainable practices, including school curriculums, is crucial for all of the following themes.

Buildings and Energy

The retrofit of buildings is seen as a key priority in reducing emissions. The work of Red Cooperative and the Carbon Co-op is recognised as crucial in Manchester and potential economic models were explored with

Charlie Baker from Red Co-op (<https://red.coop>). Climate pressures like heat stress could mean we rely more on options like air conditioning for our increasing energy use. A need to utilise retrofitting as well as nature based solutions (green roofs) needs to address this.

A main priority here is to retrofit every home as near to zero carbon as is practical. The creation of a strategy and monitored program to retrofit all buildings to radically reduce energy demand, reducing heat demand by 75% on average by 2038, is the kind of radical action needed in order to achieve this. A commitment to A or B Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings for all buildings needs to be made. To begin, whole house retrofit proposals with costs AND benefits like bill savings need to be prepared so people are aware what is possible and where to start. Each building must be customised to that property, so that people get the retrofit they want not the one industry wants to give them. The creation of community advice hubs, which provide data on homes and adoption of retrofit measures will help raise awareness and provide information. The provision of green mortgages, with variable rates depending on energy performance, will help get people started. Information needs to be available on the environmental and social impacts of retrofit materials. Community forums could help drive ways forward in conjunction with carbon reduction targets.

The carbon footprint of building and operating new developments in planning decisions must be considered, with measures like automatic electricity saving measures as standard. No green field sites should be developed until all previously used (brown field or those that have not 're-greened') sites are used up. Development around rural or urban centres should be encouraged, at densities that enhance them and enable access without car use to make them more sustainable. The assumption of refurbishing, not demolishing buildings, when redevelopment is proposed should be the starting point in order to retain any embodied carbon.

For renters, landlord licensing should include measures for the improvement of energy performance and letting agents should publicise the total cost of occupation including bills not just rent. Property owners (landlords) should pay the excess for poor performance standards.

For delivery, it was recognised there was a huge gap in the number of retrofitters needed and the current level of skilled workers. An attractive and positive green apprenticeship scheme should begin as soon as possible, with regional business models created. An industrial strategy should be developed, based on the need to mitigate the climate crisis like the Lucas Plan (<https://theecologist.org/2016/nov/02/lucas-plan-how-greens-and-trade-unionists-can-unite-common-cause>) which highlights the importance of Trade Union engagement in this process.

New training centres or re-provision of existing training centres to deliver retrofit and energy skills fit for the future is key. Peripatetic or mobile construction teaching, wood and metalwork workshops in schools and colleges needs to be pushed, where Design and Technology can be used to introduce retrofit skills. Specialised training for new entrants into retrofit and energy needs to be provided and additional training for existing tradespeople and property maintenance operatives, so there are opportunities for public sector involvement to fill gaps (like direct labour organisations). The enforcement of long-term performance guarantees on work will also remove performance gaps.

Public and community owned ventures that fill in the gaps in provision, enabling changes to happen with any surpluses deployed where they are most needed, will help with the aim of developing ways of doing this that can enable the industry to grow faster, not just be a token gesture.

Energy production priorities include the creation of programs to enable all homes and business to be fitted with PV (solar) and energy storage. These can be community, publicly and/or privately owned. Decentralised and neighbourhood energy storage (e.g. batteries, pumped hydro, hydrogen) should be an

infrastructure priority, as this will reduce the monopoly of the large energy companies and give more control to communities. Federating all the batteries will also generate more income to help pay the bills. Community ownership of wind turbines (on-shore or off-shore) which are in areas of sufficient wind resource should be encouraged. A larger public or community owned vehicle to bring all the small energy providers together to maximise benefits to all needs to be explored. Energy demand reduction plans across the region and sectors, with participation from the largest energy users including public sector and industry, needs to be created. In line with this push, all council buildings should only using low carbon fuels.

To pay for this transition, institutional investors need to be encouraged to re-invest in our future to capitalise a loan fund. Also, a socially or publicly owned revolving loan fund, with different loan products (e.g. equity and interest only loans) could be explored. Personal Retrofit Investment Funds (like building societies used to be) or local Green Bonds to capitalise loan funds could be other possibilities. Councils should also be encouraged to use their borrowing powers to capitalise a loan fund. The priority should be to develop different forms of lending based on the ability to pay (with fees instead of interest). The Ethex platform (<https://www.ethex.org.uk>) could be a good place to start exploring community share offers and the expansion of renewable energy capacity around Greater Manchester.

Ideally there should be zero VAT on all energy improvements and variable council tax and business rates if certifiably retrofitting building or homes. Affordable green housing needs to happen now, with councils pushing for legislation and funding strategies to be explored so all buildings and communities can begin the transition process.

Fashion and Retail

Alison Carlin and Camilla Cheung from Manchester Fashion Movement (<https://manchesterfashionmovement.com>) ran workshops about the possibilities of sustainable retail practices. Participants recognised that this is a global issue where the public has little knowledge of where our products come from, how they are made, or importantly how much greenhouse gas emissions are produced in manufacture. More transparency is needed across the production process and ties need to be strengthened with producers (local or global) to ensure more equality and support for garment workers to improve unsafe working conditions and more fair pay. Manchester's history as a giant in the textiles and cotton industry could be utilised so that the new 'Cottonopolis' can be a world leader in sustainable fashion and retail, acting as an inspiration to others across the world.

Damaging practices need to be dealt with at all levels for the protection of the environment, but there is also a requirement for retailers to meet certain ethical standards to pay workers fairly and support better industrial conditions overseas. A more proportionate tax system could be introduced for large corporate clothing producers and an ethical tax could be imposed on the biggest polluters and unethical/unsustainable manufacturers. Taxes per garment or item could ensure companies take responsibility to recycle clothes at end of life. Alternatively, enforcing manufacturers to include repair instructions on items, and to supply reconditioned items would help to curb the destructive fast fashion industry. Financial dis-incentives for fast fashion and unsustainable materials or a levy on non-sustainable fashion would help to change manufacturing practice. A ban on fast fashion adverts, or tighter controls on unsustainable producers in advertising and promoting, could have the same positive effects as with the tobacco industry. Legislation also needs to be pushed for washing machines filters to capture harmful nanofibers in clothing and a tax or ban on harmful chemical processes and dyes for garments entering the UK should be imposed.

For consumers, a labelling system like in the food industry which details nutritional information should be adopted. Tags could provide information on the materials used, workforce origins, who gets paid what, production conditions, etc, would categorise the sustainability of clothes to inform buying decisions. A push

for a sustainability scoring system for clothes (similar to the food traffic light system but for environmental footprint) would provide consumers with information they need to be able to make ethical and environmentally friendly informed choices.

Window displays or graphic stamps for 'ethical fashion hygiene stores' (like food hygiene) could be a good incentive for businesses. Reductions in rental and business rates costs or tax relief for any clothes repair stores and sustainable/ethical brands (such as Patagonia or stores that encourage repair and reconditioning of items) would discourage built in obsolescence.

Education was identified as crucial in encouraging people not to buy in to fast fashion and instead the positives of reusing and recreating should be championed. After school or community sewing and mending groups or create your own clothes workshops could help. Greater attention needs to be given to addressing the UK throw away culture (participants learned the average UK citizen buys 68 items a year, some worn only 2 or 3 times). Champions or celebrities of reusable or longer lasting clothing could be sought in the form of football clubs or popular figures to help change mindsets and highlight the amount of clothes purchased by consumers.

More information on how fabric is recycled is required, as there is no data on what happens to clothing waste bins and the recycling of cloth materials and fibres. Incentives could be explored for companies to take back clothes to reduce them back to fibre and repurpose. Second-hand textiles could be reprocessed for local commodity markets to increase capacity and agency amongst new Manchester makers.

Big brands and big stores should dedicate floor space to drop off points for reuse and repair and help promote and incentivise affordability of sustainable brands or lines. A pilot programme of reusable items in local shops could be introduced so consumers can buy new and used in all places. They could also give a discount on purchasing other items if old ones are brought back to add incentives. Dedicated shopping spaces in empty buildings could be utilised for independent second-hand repair shops (like the empty Debenhams building).

As vintage clothing is better quality and lasts longer than present day garments, councils should have a requirement to increase the number of second-hand shops on high streets and encourage initiatives that make them more appealing. Baby banks for all new-borns (similar to Scandinavian schemes) and encouraging the promotion of reusable nappies would also help to reduce harmful waste.

Transport

Claire Stocks from Walk Ride Greater Manchester (<https://walkridegm.org.uk>) and the Our Streets Chorlton project (<https://ourstreetschorlton.co.uk>) highlighted the need to encourage and enable active travel options for people so they choose them over car use. For Manchester, the removal of through traffic from the city centre within five years (apart from access for emergency vehicles, deliveries, taxis, blue badge holders), in line with other progressive initiatives across the UK, was identified as a crucial step. Although there may be initial backlash, the benefits would quickly present themselves and could be celebrated. The introduction of 20mph as a city wide default speed limit (like in Paris) would also be of huge benefit. Influence and inspiration could be taken from other cities, like Birmingham's sectoral quadrant plan. A more localised approach to procurement like the Preston model could be explored with the introduction of a city import maximum cap initiative. Participants welcome the introduction of a ULEZ zone in Manchester up to the M60, but think that a traffic-free city centre is more beneficial than a congestion charge. Traffic slowing strategies (like Poynton shared car and pedestrian way) were celebrated. However, it was noted that most motorists do not drive the 20mph limit, highlighting the need to make public transport a realistic

and attractive alternative. Effective role models and voices for living car free would provide valuable incentives.

It was identified that most journeys are less than one kilometre, so journey mapping evaluations of the costs of car vs public transport would help to inform responses. These could add to other meaningful targets and measures to reduce private car use by 2030, such as fully embedding walking and cycling in any new development, regeneration or highways plans (not just when funded by Bee Network initiatives).

Functional, well connected public owned control of key issues, like transport, that can make the biggest impacts on our carbon emissions is crucial. Sustainable transport is of multiple benefit to emissions, accessibility, public health and community resilience. The aim must be for public transport to cost less than driving, so public ownership of transport is vital and there is wide support for the Mayor's plans regarding this. An aim to make bus and train journeys cheaper must be paramount, as it is currently too expensive to travel distances by bus or train so people drive instead. Cheaper monthly bus tickets, or tickets which can have 5 different people on but be the same price as 1, and a price cap on train tickets (even for the longest journey) are good options. Although progress is being made, more link ups between public transport routes across the city are needed to increase reach, capacity and frequency in Greater Manchester. Joining up public transport tickets which connect different services would help. The feasibility of free public transport for necessary commutes or travel should also be trialled and explored.

Participants identified the need for the community to be engaged and input into future travel plans in the borough at a neighbourhood level (not the just city centre). Participants also request the introduction of the 15/20-min neighbourhood concept into local developments and housing. Demonstrator projects such as low-carbon mobility hubs or low-carbon neighbourhoods should be created to explore positive ways forward. A pipeline of more schemes involving bike lanes and active neighbourhoods should be developed in the next 12 months. Any funding and other opportunities for active travel support (e.g. grants) need to be championed and communicated well to continue this drive.

The entitlement currently given to cars on the street must change to allow more bike parking and social activity (like children's play equipment). To bring the public onboard with the advantages of this more one off street closures for social and awareness events should be held. Enabling more access to green spaces is also needed to build deep connections between local green, open spaces and communities. Social outdoor meeting places with rain protection (which can also help youth work provision) for educational events are also needed.

Participants welcome proposals for walking and cycling improvements or initiatives which present how to make transport more enjoyable, safe and accessible (especially for vulnerable groups and the elderly). Safety was highlighted as a major concern for many, leading to questions like: Are the roads safe enough for cycling? What can be done about this? Bicycle security and safety are key to improved access. A new bike hire scheme should be introduced (taking the learning points from the Mobike scheme) using a simple, app-based initiative (like Santander bikes) and should be trialled in the city. For example, the first 15-30 minutes could be free, then afterwards 5p per minute. E-bike and e-cargo bike hire/delivery schemes could compliment this. Numerous and accessible bike repair stops with tools, spare parts and learning and confidence initiatives should also be encouraged.

Where appropriate, car share schemes should be introduced as an option using the latest technology, taking the learning from what has worked well elsewhere. The expansion of electric vehicles should be pushed and car share schemes could incorporate this. Inequality regarding transport options is a major concern with car ownership (particularly multi-car households) being highest in affluent areas. Poorer areas often have fewer cars and worse transport links, which needs to be addressed. Disincentivising multiple car use is needed.

Neighbourhood forums and community involved masterplans would help explore what citizens mean by “safe” journeys and how they would like to improve them, helping to discover why people travel and then develop responses. A post Covid reduced need to travel means the values of working from home can be celebrated, with local support hubs ensuring social contact.

Regarding Manchester Airport, it was recognised that it brings in income for public services, but the carbon footprint is huge and this cannot be ignored. The availability of cheap flights that make other options unfeasible is of major concern. Does the taxpayer really want to subsidise cheap flights in the face of climate catastrophe? A Genuine carbon reduction plan for the airport is needed which has to involve staff and stakeholders of the airport, who need to be brought on board with this. The implementation of a Lucas style plan involving airport staff could help stakeholders plan for the mass reduction of flights needed. At government level, this mandate requires a tax on aviation fuel at the same degree as petrol to be implemented. Other requirements involve the introduction of a levy for frequent flyers and a ration on flights. No airport expansions can be accepted until more sustainable methods of air travel are introduced, using more environmentally friendly technologies. A ban on short haul domestic flights (like they have in France) where journeys can be taken using cheaper and more reliable land based travel options is crucial. It is recognised that associated actions like the divestment from public body pensions in fossil fuels will be a challenge with Manchester Airport, but this is essential if we are to meet our carbon reduction targets and curb our greenhouse gas emissions.

Food and Agriculture

Rachel Oelbaum from Manchester Food Board and the Foodsync project (<https://www.foodsync.co.uk>) presented on the vulnerabilities of the food supply chain and a need for greater food sovereignty and resilience. The links in the chain between producer and consumer need to be reduced. As national and international agri-business has a bigger part to play than any individual consumer, implementation of more sustainable practices at that level are crucial. Cattle farming for meat and dairy need to be reduced with initiatives towards more plant-based consumption habits. Higher council tax (or other tax) for farms producing meat or dairy could be introduced. Changes in farmer subsidies (additional to Environmental Land Management schemes) which are not based on land ownership but on organic, permaculture or regenerative growing methods, weighted towards plant-based diets, would encourage biodiverse positive farming. These schemes would not be available to meat or dairy industries. A ban on well researched damaging pesticides is required immediately. To help these aims, an environmental labelling / rating on food production or out of ten score will enable consumers to see the environmental impact of their choices and make informed decisions.

Greater awareness of the importance of seasonal and local diets needs to be a key aim. Restricting or lowering the amount of certain food stuffs at certain times of the year would help, introducing labels with a traffic light system for miles travelled, water and energy used in production, etc. Positive messaging of this and associated seasonality aisles at the front and centre of shops and supermarkets is vital, as well as greater education of the negative impacts of transportation and food miles.

As a city, Manchester can push for a national ban of harmful monocrop practices like palm oil. A palm oil free city campaign with associated education drives for this could be of considerable value. Delivery of takeaway food by motor vehicle/car can also be banned where a functioning active travel network is established. Educational campaigns for sustainable food in partnership with Manchester food retailers must be explored.

The demand for community produced food should be developed with an aim of becoming the default option for public contracts with the NHS and schools. To begin with, these should only source low impact food

supply chains, whilst all school governors and headteachers introduce sustainable food policies and procurement of local food. Meanwhile, investment in 'incredible edible' style movements to encourage food growing in public spaces, community greenhouses and the reintroduction of municipal composting (and food/raw waste separation) is needed alongside educational schemes. Children and young people should be trained as food growers where environmental education and formal food growing and gardening clubs are championed.

Steps toward the elimination of food waste during transportation and at retail shops (through donation, reduction in price, or give away) has to be implemented. Strict food waste regulation (particularly for large stores like Tesco, Sainsburys, M&S etc) is a good start. Packaging also has to be reduced with an aim of no plastic packaging through a ban on non-compostable packaging being imposed. Until this is introduced, a heavier tax on plastic packaging needs to be enforced until it can be phased out in favour of sustainable or recyclable packaging options and refillable receptacles. Zero packaging and refillable stores should be incentivised with the aim for them to be in every neighbourhood where they are affordable and of high quality.

Internationalism is important and we need to involve countries who are more vulnerable to support local growing projects there. School partnership projects can help. Closer to home, we need to effectively utilise the land and expertise we have to grow what we can here. The repurposing of land for combined food production and biodiversity benefits would be huge benefit. For instance, three golf courses were identified in one local area, showing an inefficient use of land.

Conclusions

There are many transferable ideas here that could be used across all the themes. The main requirements identified throughout the mandate are those of transparency, education and awareness of the reasons why positive responses are needed and are of value. Co-benefits of positive climate action need to be championed and celebrated (e.g. greening the city centre). Issues involving climate change cannot be tackled in isolation. Everyone involved needs to be part of the conversation and win-wins need to be identified where possible. Workers need to be kept in mind, as an example, it was recognised plastic packaging is made by people who need to make a living. A ban on plastic packaging needs to also involve the provision of options in the form of green jobs that replace previous damaging practices. The actions we take must also address social inequalities.

We are aware many of the requirements here involve the transition of capitalism and wide scale system change. We also recognise the scale of the climate emergency, and that global problems require global solutions. Variations in perceptions to the climate crisis must be taken into account. Not everyone feels it is relevant to them or has the capacity to change their lifestyle or behaviour, so need help and support in order to explore this.

The emotional impact of the climate emergency cannot be ignored. Feelings such as guilt, grief, loss, anger, feeling overwhelmed, fear and sadness are all natural responses. Spaces need to be created for discussions of this impact on individuals and society, using language which is appropriate and relevant. These emotions need to be processed in order for people to be able to respond effectively. Understanding and support mechanisms are crucial for this to succeed. We need to educate everyone better about the climate emergency in an emotionally conscious manner. The voices and concerns of the future generation of children and young people in this process are especially vital. Therefore emotional support for schools and community groups need to be promoted. Caroline Hickman and others from the Climate Psychology Alliance (<https://www.climatepsychologyalliance.org>) offer advice and resources concerning this theme and all participants of the climate assembly valued their involvement.

This assembly identified three ways to sustainable action:

- 1. Self-care and the importance of your own mental and physical health on the effectiveness of your response and continued motivation and energy*
- 2. Join a group or community where actions can be amplified and widened*
- 3. Identify your superpower. Don't do too much on your own – we are in this together and everyone has a role to play which can be different but just as valuable.*

People can feel too small to make any kind of difference and that the problem we face is so big that they don't know where to start. Guidance is needed to support emotionally informed strategies to move out of this space, which acknowledges people may feel threatened and there may be arguments or frustrations felt along the way. Many participants felt anger and frustration at those who have caused the climate crisis. Finding effective dialogue methods is crucial in bringing the people we need into the conversation, whether it's the majority of the population or those with vested interests and agendas. The aim has to be for people to want change, not resist it, so the focus has to be on influencing everyone about the positive aims and outcomes of this transition.

Through delay or inaction, there is a danger of paying the emotional and mental health cost 'twice', first in the anticipation, fear, anxiety and stress. Then second, when climate induced catastrophes like floods, droughts or wildfires intensify. One participant stated "I've done all I can for the last 50 years, and everyone I know has. Without the political will, nothing changes". Everyone needs to take responsibility and people need to be held to account. Now more than ever before in human history, effective leadership, political change and progressive guidance is needed.

The challenges of adapting and changing our society due to the climate emergency are unprecedented, but the alternatives offered by not acting are terrifying. Effective communication is crucial in bringing people together to work towards our common goal. Positive storytelling and reframing the challenge is key, because we can, and we must fix this. We can all do more than we are currently doing.

This climate assembly marks a single yet important point in our transition towards a better society for us all. We have all the tools we need, and all the issues are solvable. How do we get to a sustainable and carbon neutral 2038? Get everyone on board.

- Action plans

The Action Plans represent the major issues that should be tackled as a priority on a local level. These were identified by participating residents of these areas, who after learning about different subjects at the climate assembly decided as a group that these action points were the most relevant and appropriate for each geographical area.

Levenshulme and East Action plan





Fashion and retail



Buildings and energy

Transport

What things can be done readily in my community, especially if people team up?

- Create proposals for walking or cycling improvements in your community
- Organise community schemes - bike delivery, bike to school rides or walk to school weeks, wheels for all rides
- Create a neighbourhood forum to discuss issues
- Hold regular temporary School Streets - parents & kids to walk/ cycle with street closures at drop off and pick up

There is funding, support or 'free stuff' available for:

- **Bike access** - Bike, e-bike & e-cargo bike hire & loans
- **Car share clubs** (Manchester discounts)
- **Public electric vehicle charging points**
- **Daily Mile tool kit**, maps etc. to encourage walking & cycling
- **Events**, groups or schemes to encourage walking and cycling
- **Bike beginner training**, family, women-only, kids & trainer training
- **Group ride rewards & incentives**
- **Bike schemes** focused on reaching certain groups who walk or cycle less (TIGM)

Other thoughts:

- Organise walking buses to schools
- Subsidise households for not having a car
- Grants to businesses to increase cycle infrastructure and decrease parking
- Meet with headteachers re. low carbon travel plan
- Create local advocacy groups to meet with council re priorities
- Work from home more
- Group ride rewards and incentives

Food



- Encourage more **plant based** and **seasonal diet**
- Reduce food waste
- Encourage **organic food** and farming
- Educate on **benefits of healthy eating**
- **Cooking classes using local and seasonal products**
- Introduce local **neighbourhood growing clubs** with expert advice and a bit of competition! Review use of parks and women's involvement
- **Tax on food waste**
- **Each park to have support network**, space and staff to teach people to grow food
- Grow at home/Community allotments
- Shares in **coop farms**
- Reduce resources 'air freighted'
- **Education – less meat consumption** – with NHS ICS? (Red meat)
- More urban farms and community orchards
- **Huge financial incentives** for local food growth and eaten locally



Retrofitting

- Create appropriate **funding for all to access retrofit** – based on ability to pay and demand and supply side optimisation (demand is part of energy grid)
- Push for **Government grants to retrofit every house** (means tested based on savings and benefits)
- **Retrofit all Manchester council buildings** and partner organisations like social housing
- **Apprentice courses** on retrofitting and encourage entrepreneurs in this area
- Prioritise Community Energy schemes in street communities (Solar PV lights and batteries)

Energy

- **Solar/renewable subsidies** – bring this back
- Q: Why is no one allowed to have wind turbines?
- **All new-builds to be ambient** – no heating required and with rainwater collection
- **LG and put more pressure in BEIS to re-regulate** and make National Grid move to local grids
- **Distributed Renewable energy** – less loss in grid – can operate all UK electricity with 35% of current prod
- **VAT for carbon reduction** improvement wards
- Force Air Svc and Ground Svc **heat pump**
- **Prevent mis-selling and (dumping) gas boilers** ("free") to people on benefits and landlords
- **Work from home** – don't need to heat higher vol office, computer heat contributions

Advice and sharing information

- **Advice platforms** to help residents choose optimal energy options
- Council to show its **ground source heat technology** and the benefits
- Planning department to start **publicising no-gas replacement of heating** and cooling for all new developments and re-furbs
- Test bed a Greater Manchester low carbon manufacture kitemark (in consultation with manufacturers)
- MCC invest in Department/staff to advise residents on how to reduce carbon consumption in their houses



City Centre and North Action plan



Transport

What things can be done readily in my community, especially if people team up?

- Hold one-day Play Streets - half-day closure for neighbours to socialise/ have fun on the street
- Hold regular temporary School Streets - parents & kids to walk/ cycle with street closures at drop off- pick up
- Hold one-off high street closures e.g. markets/ music etc
- Organise community schemes - bike delivery, bike to school rides or walk to school weeks, wheels for all rides

There is funding, support or 'free stuff' available for:

- Parks and green spaces funding
- Bike access - Bike, e-bike & e-cargo bike hire & loans
- Bike beginner training, family, women-only, kids & trainer training

Other thoughts:

- More access to green spaces needed. Build deep connection between green, open space and community
- Spaces to explore the ability to 'do' better when it comes to the climate emergency
- Emphasise funding for - bike access, bike training, parks and green space funding, bike lanes on every main road



Fashion and retail

- Instigate vintage markets on large scale in city centre
- Start Centralised platform / directory / app / website of all second hand shops in city
- Really high quality, early accessible drop off points for handing in clothes for reuse
- Really high quality easily searchable, sorted sale points for good quality re-used clothing
- Recycling points for non-resellable materials rather than landfill
- School/workwear recycling and reuse schemes
- Scheme to educate people on how to take care of clothes and pick good quality items in shops
- Points code for discount deals (keeping club card on keys)
- Local clothes repair hubs - community led workshops to mend clothing, - school based teaching
- Obvious easy, pleasant ways to recycle clothing

Food



- More street food markets in newly pedestrianised areas - expanding food waste recycling to city centre apartments
- Packaging recycling should be rewarded or incentivised
- Bottle, jar and can deposit scheme
- Eat seasonal - and advocate on seasonal fruits/veg
- Eat local - involve "local" producers / farmers
- Push for localised food - buying, selling, growing, composting. Community groups could also help to educate about food and seasonality. Multiple benefits
- Promote reduced consumption of animal products and products with a high environmental impact (e.g. avocado)
- Utilise / Promote the use of apps such as; Odd box' and 'too good to go'
- Promote meal planning - less packaging



Buildings and energy

- Workshops to explain EPC ratings of people's homes
- Incentivise responsibility for landlords to retrofit homes
- Promote immediate recommendations to be implemented - kitchen appliances
- Raise awareness on building carbon footprint
- Create an advice hub, including data on homes and retrofit measures adoption
- Support for resident groups who want to improve the efficiency of their homes via retrofitting

Moss Side and Hulme Action plan



Fashion and retail

- Push for funding for local repair cafes/shops as well as business rates relief
- Kids clothes / school uniform swaps in schools
- Educate community - training sessions, community meetings - mending clothes and taking care of clothes
- Community warehouse / clothes swap and work clothes, fancy wear etc
- Manchester menders second hand day event
- Repair and recycle are the easiest entry points for most people
- Babies nappies - educate adults to use reusable nappies
- Clothes swaps at local hubs and giveaway days / garage/yard sales (for free)
- Local Community mending / repair hub (pop ups) - permanent
- Community mending / clothes swaps
- More second hand shops - want not waste
- Increase upcycling and repair shops in neighbourhoods

Transport

What things can be done readily in my community, especially if people team up?

- Organise community schemes - bike delivery, bike to school rides or walk to school weeks, wheels for all rides
- Create community maps showing paths & benches
- Organise community schemes - bike delivery, bike to school rides or walk to school weeks, wheels for all rides
- Hold one-off high street closures e.g. markets/ music etc
- Research funding pots and apply for grants
- Create posters in hot spots e.g. engine idling
- Organise social walks or rides

There is funding, support or 'free stuff' available for:

- Bike access - Bike, e-bike & e-cargo bike hire & loans
- Parks and green spaces funding
- Bike schemes focused on reaching certain groups who walk or cycle less
- Car share clubs (Manchester discounts)
- Community asset repairs
- £550k pot in 2021 to help provide cycle parking for small businesses/orgs, NHS, Housing Associations and schools (within 400m of Bee Network schemes)

Other thoughts:

- Promote keeping bike lanes clear. Cars stop to park on bike lanes
- Allow for more 'safe' bike parking
- Loan a bike initiative to give people confidence to try it
- Have or feed in to Community Masterplan - Create community maps showing paths and benches
- Push for more street closures and initiatives to bring communities together and educate and encourage
- Develop and explore street level responses e.g. traffic calming, flood defence, biodiversity, urban heat island
- Creating community resources for local areas to encourage walking cycling and public transport



Food



- Encourage foraging through sharing personal finds
- Create space for local growers to visit and sell their goods in Hulme & Moss Side
- More market gardens
- Push for green bin infrastructure for blocks of flats! It's super patchy
- Local refill stations (supermarkets?)
- Inform decisions - balanced diet taught in school
- Community growing spaces/alleys/land for growing
- Educating on seasonal diets, how to cook veg meals, nutrition of frozen veg and impact of meat and dairy in schools or communities
- Get a local orchard or edible hedgerow planting
- Local businesses - veg lunch meeting menu
- Community classes to learn how to food shop and ignore plastic/single use
- Look into CSA Farms to populate produce sections - cheaper, less plastic, less pesticides (CSA = community sanctioned agriculture). Buy extra unsold not 'pretty' produce
- Schools: veg meals only / veg Monday campaign



Buildings and energy

- Info and advice to residents re energy reduction (homes) eg heat pumps
- Big Manchester green energy push - switch to 100% renewable and new capacity
- Hold landlords to account ACORN model is brilliant - more of that please
- Research and incentivise models for homes sharing and downsizing to make better use of existing buildings
- Raise awareness of gov subsidies (and failure of) for heating and powering homes
- Campaigns to encourage to use less gas/electric/water
- Awareness of how much money wasted on gas - poorly insulated homes
- Push for decentralised energy storage that is community-owned
- Community owned solar panels on all roofs across GM
- Educating on community energy providers
- Focus on renewable energy = solar and rainwater
- Create community retrofit options so everyone can see what they can do

Wythenshawe and South Action plan

Transport

What things can be done readily in my community, especially if people team up?

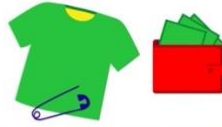
- Create proposals for walking or cycling improvements in your community
- Hold one-off high street closures e.g. markets/ music etc
- Hold one-day Play Streets - half-day closure for neighbours to socialise/ have fun on the street
- Organise social walks or rides
- Hold regular temporary School Streets - parents & kids to walk/ cycle with street closures at drop off - pick up

There is funding, support or 'free stuff' available for:

- Grants of up to £10k for businesses to provide cycle parking, pool bikes, changing or storage
- Events, groups or schemes to encourage walking and cycling
- Parks and green spaces funding
- Community asset repairs

Other thoughts:

- Social walks
- School streets
- Use of vacant shops as cycle storage
- Less driving! - Car share
- Street occupation. Local and urban. Just once, get them to see the benefit and experience impact
- Shared pool of cycle hubs
- Park run but for bikes
- How can we personally make a difference?



Fashion and retail

- Pop up shops/shelters in town to highlight change and showcase 2nd hand and ethical brands
- Educate community about production and recycling methods
- Buy less, fix, second hand campaigns
- Encourage high profile celebs to promote sustainable fashion
- Stop wearing newly bought cotton jeans
- Buy sustainable fibres, e.g.: bamboo, clothing (reduced cotton saves H2O and CO2)
- Redefine fashion, promote longevity, redesign, repurpose, reuse
- Cultural change, fashion icons?

Other thoughts:

- Recycling clothes should be made easier
- Changes may upset people
- There are different types of people, fast fashion and designer, both could reduce consumption
- Vintage clothing lasts, better quality than nowadays
- We can use ideas across food, fashion, goods and services that are transferable
- Fashion trends change too quickly
- Needs to be top down as well as bottom up changes



Food

- Educational programs on eating much less meat/dairy, eat more seasonally, Eat local food (locally produced), Buy it as you need it
- Shared community food production (Kindling Farm structure) to share knowledge and expertise
- Need access to land
- Food climate impact education
- Support food producers that are making positive changes locally/nationally
- Local restaurant/city campaign of CO2 food awareness



Buildings and energy

- Those who can afford to lend money via P2P lending to pay for retrofit
- Renters - join a renters union e.g. ACORN to promote sustainability with landlords
- Education/info sharing about energy efficiency - LED lights, renewable options, switch to renewable, reductions of daily usage
- Local advice centres on heating, cooling, managing energy consumption
- Collective buying, group together as a collection of households to make green/renewable energy more affordable

Whalley Range and Chorlton Action plan



Transport

What things can be done readily in my community, especially if people team up?

- Hold community street campaigns on specific issues
- Research funding pots and apply for grants
- Create a neighbourhood forum to discuss issues

Other thoughts:

- Chorlton has the highest average carbon footprint of any ward in Manchester.
- Tell the residents of Chorlton we are the worst and we need to be the best!
- We've lost the plot - local campaign
- Promote car clubs - car share schemes
- Driving at 20mph - very tricky, the accelerator peddle is set to be at comf level when car travels at 30
- Need to move away from single ownership of a vehicle. Let's push car clubs etc



Fashion and retail

- Utilise the place based carbon calculate from Tyndall Centre - target the streets with highest consumer families
- "We've lost the plot" campaign for Chorlton. Get the community to take ownership of the high consumption and tackle as a community, not as individuals.
- Green jobs in fashion - giving communities skills for mending
- Educating in schools about sustainable fashion
- Support Wythenshawe and South's group of getting sports clubs to reuse strips and make a fuss
- Support local projects - stitched up = and local garment makers - repairs, tailors

Food

- Whalley Range and Chorlton needs much more community growing
- But - community orchards are going to ruin through lack of volunteers - we need paid employees not volunteers
- What is the council's food procurement policy?
- Reverse logistics schemes for takeaways to reuse tubs
- Go vegan or at least eat less meat and dairy
- More local community food projects with proper support and advice and funding
- Chorlton and Whalley Range vs ALDI: need to find global answer to food production and food waste
- Manchester Procurement Policy for food - packaging reduced - how does change impact on living wages of workers? Keep it connected



Buildings and energy

- Street energy champions supported to mobilise communities
- CV-19 mutual aid groups - climate challenge champions
- 60% of our building emissions come from schools and colleges. We need to engage them on retrofitting asap
- Could we have a "climate champion" on each street in Chorlton and Whalley Range? - We need a retrofitting work force first

Thematic analysis:

Throughout the seven-week project a lot of material was covered in weekly workshops run by Envirolution and external workshop providers brought in to cover certain important topics. In a comparative study of the Action Plans of the different areas, there are many similarities to be found in prioritised themes across the city. The following themed headings give a more detailed account of participants priorities for their areas and Manchester as a whole. The following adds detail to the points set out in the action plans or raises new points for consideration or exploration. During the assembly participants were reminded that it is they who are the experts on their local areas, not the workshop providers or project leads. It is their opinions and knowledge of the local area which can provide valuable insight and guidance concerning which actions are the most relevant and appropriate.

a) The emotional impact of climate change

The climate emergency is having a huge emotional effect on people (Clayton, 2020) who are beginning to understand the irreversible impacts across the globe. As awareness of these impacts continues to grow, so too does the amount of people experiencing the many intense emotional reactions that have been observed in climate change engagement research, (Verlie, 2019; Roeser, 2012) which include: *“Sadness, anger, feeling exhausted, overwhelmed, hopelessness, paralysed, despair, lonely, frustration”* and others. Because of the intense emotional turmoil this subject invokes participants found this caused *“difficulties communicating to others”* or feelings of being *“disconnected from others”*. *“Fury”* at the people in power or those who have caused this was also a common response. Participants also described *“fear”* or *“apprehension for the future”*. One participant described how she did not want to have children due to the climate emergency. Another couple noted how they saw not having children as a positive thing: *“At least we don’t have kids”*.

The role of these emotional reactions cannot be separated from engagement on climate change (Roeser, 2012) but these emotions can also trigger starkly different responses and implications. The term ‘climate anxiety’ or ‘eco anxiety’ is widely used, (Stanley et al, 2021; Clayton, 2020) though anxiety is only one emotional response. Nevertheless, the negative emotional reactions described have the potential to induce negative responses such as depression, panic and feelings of disempowerment. Anger or fear can be a driving factor for others. Or these emotions can cause different reactions at different times in the same person, resulting in inconsistent or unsustainable levels of energy or agency (Stanley et al, 2021).

Envirolution aims to encourage positive responses to the climate emergency in those people it engages, empowering them to respond sustainably and pro-actively. As intense emotional responses like those described above cannot be separated with engagement with the climate emergency, members of the Climate Psychology Alliance were invited to give workshops on this subject. In the Levenshulme and East group the first question to the workshop provider Caroline Hickman of the University of Bath was: *“Are we all doomed?”* Caroline stated that actually, *“the people with the emotional responses like fear, anxiety, guilt, feeling overwhelmed, anger, depression, etc are the healthy ones”*. ‘Disavowel’ is a common reaction, where challenging subjects are pushed into the subconscious due to the negative emotional connections.

Participants described the incredible *“relief”* they felt after this workshop, where for many it was the first time they had heard any of this and how *“it was ok to have these feelings”*. Almost none had had the opportunity to discuss this emotional *“roller coaster”* and many described how valuable this session was. Participants recognised the emotional impact of climate change cannot be separated from engagement with this subject. It is only by acknowledging these intense emotional reactions that people can begin to accept them and create a space where they can be processed in order to explore progressive ways forward.

b) Transport

32% of CO² emissions come from transport in Manchester (MCC, 2020), with 61% of those CO² emissions coming from cars (or 18% of the total), making it an important issue for the assembly. Critically, in 2019, atmospheric particulate matter pollutants caused 35,700 pollution-related deaths in the UK (Ortiz et al, 2021). This is in spite of the UK meeting current legal limits (Centre for Cities, 2020), but not EU standards or World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations. Professor Bert Brunekreef from Utrecht University, a member of the WHO Guideline Development Group, said: “Even in relatively clean countries, exposure to air pollution leads to serious health effects. These include premature deaths, but there also effects occurring throughout life: from low birthweight and pneumonia among young children to asthma, heart disease and lung cancer later in life” (Fuller 2021). This is an increasingly recognised issue with 2020 seeing a land-mark case where a coroner made legal history by ruling that air pollution was a cause of the death of a nine-year-old girl (LaVille, 2020). Professor Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, who led the latest European cities pollution study, said: “Our cities are hotspots of air pollution, but also the places for the quickest and best ways to reduce it. Cities are generally more conscious of the problem and more agile in taking decisions. We urgently need to shift private car use to public and active transportation. We can do this by introducing new urban models like the 15-minute city, superblocks or car-free neighbourhoods” (Fuller, 2021).

The ‘15 minute city’ is a concept in which citizens can access their daily necessities by foot or by bike within 15 minutes. The urban planning model was developed by French-Colombian scientist Carlos Moreno to help tackle car hegemony and create more sustainable human-centric urban environments, and won the 2021 Obel Award. ‘Superblocks’ are groups of streets where traffic is reduced to close to zero, with the space formerly occupied by cars given over to pedestrians and play areas.

Claire Stocks from Walk Ride Greater Manchester and the Our Streets project told participants it is highly unlikely, “*almost impossible*”, to get to net carbon zero by 2038 if car use continues to grow, and “*this takes into account the switch to electric cars and vans*”. It was recognised that sources for the energy needed to power the transition to electric cars needs to be addressed. If it remains from burning fossil fuels, then these GHG emissions need to be counted as part of overall transport emissions. Also, harmful mining practices for the rare earth elements needed for electric vehicle production needs to be resolved.

Participants explored how in the UK we currently have a system that prioritises private cars, and explored ways of how we can try and transition away from this. Participants decided the collective benefits of active travel need to be publicised better and more widely, using a variety of methods with different audiences. Some people are not fit enough or able to cycle, and some lack confidence which needs to be tackled through various community cycling and wider health initiatives. Many discussions in the different area groups involved promoting making cycling fun, building a community spirit like with park runs. Former Olympic gold medallist and now Greater Manchester’s Walking and Cycling Commissioner Chris Boardman says: “*if we’re going to have any hope of getting near our carbon targets – which is a hell of a lot more challenging than people realise – we’ve got to give people a viable alternative to driving*”. One participant asked: “*What prevents people from cycling?*” The psychological impact of trying to cycle in busy traffic or next to fast moving or high numbers of cars was a factor all participants could relate to. The Moss Side and Hulme group were concerned about bike theft which they felt was so high it made them cycle less, as they were worried about the safety of leaving their bikes locked up in case they were stolen. Also, participants discussed how cycling safety is linked to more than theft or accidents: “*Being a woman on your own*” was emphasised and also needs to be taken into consideration.

All groups felt the 2040 goals set by Manchester City Council (like for 6% of trips to be made by bike in the city by 2040) are not ambitious enough or happening fast enough. Also, there is currently no target for reducing car use. As the sheer number of cars and cyclists on the road was recognised as a critical issue,

this has to be dealt with. Participants noted that most cars used throughout Manchester are single occupancy and more should be done to encourage car sharing schemes across the city. Speeding fines were discussed and the question was raised about the introduction of *“a fine for driving distances that are too short, or that are easily walkable?”*. This would have to be tested to assess effectiveness and the best method.

The workshop provider Claire Stocks highlighted major issues in the city: *“one in three cars are fuel inefficient SUVs and most journeys (67%) are less than 1km or a ten minute walk in Manchester”*. Participants were also *“shocked”* to learn that cars spend 92% of the time not being used, and the cost of car use has reduced by 15%, whilst buses have increased by 37% and rail by 20%.

There are also wider social inequality issues as well as GHG emissions. In Manchester, 44% of people don't have a car, yet roads take up so much space, pointing to an unequal distribution of resources. The inequalities of car ownership versus the transport network mean that the best transport links are found in the more affluent areas. These cost inequalities mean the argument for having a car or not varies by demographic, age and culture. Also, those less likely to afford a car on low incomes face increasingly costly public transport.

Concerning air pollution, Manchester clean air zone will hopefully help to tackle this issue, but participants felt it was crucial to gain an understanding of why people want or need to drive short distances. It was suggested cars act as *“status symbols”*, which could be something to bear in mind for future initiatives. Incentives need to be explored that will inspire people to move out of fossil fuel cars and instead use active travel or public transportation. It was recognised by all that the government aren't directing funding to the right things e.g.: subsidising short haul and domestic flights instead of lower emission public transport options, which would make them more desirable and accessible.

A question was asked: *“How can employers (especially large) support their staff to make greener choices and provide incentives?”* Resources do exist for tackling this, such as the environmental impact assessment app: Eco-trip (<https://virtualescapes.wixsite.com/eco-trip>) which could prove ideal for trialling with MCC and local businesses.

Closing residential streets to cars was recognised as a great initiative. Although it was recognised initially there may be backlash from some, one participant noted: *“If you can change things for the better for just a weekend, they will get the chance to experience a different lifestyle that they will want to keep”*. To encourage people to accept or instigate the changes needed, a valuable first step is to build on existing connections within communities. Participants proposed that people they engage with in their local area *“do want change!”* Especially when it comes to clean air and less congestion.

City Wide Action

Every participant wanted to see a car free city scheme implemented, with the city centre just being used by buses, taxis, emergency vehicles and deliveries. The rest of the space could be used solely for active travel. This would provide incredible health and wellbeing advantages for all Manchester residents and everyone discussed how clean and fresh the air felt during the Covid-19 lockdown.

All areas felt that any proposals or solutions needed to be co-created with local residents to be effective. The 'Critical mass' cycling movement, which raises awareness of cycling on the roads and slowing traffic in a controlled way, was seen as a positive thing. But it was recognised that others saw this more negatively. Nevertheless, more active travel (walking or cycling) could be increased by a number of schemes which can readily be done in all communities if there are people with the capacity and energy needed to do so. Bike

delivery schemes, bike to school rides or walk to school weeks were all seen as good ways forward. Participants also wanted to see a bike buddy system trialled in communities. Many thought installing bike sheds on roads made sense, as ten bikes take up the same amount of space as one car.

Deprioritising roads for cars and instead making them useful for active travel or social events was supported by all area groups. Participants agreed no new major roadworks should be built without consideration for cycling and pedestrians first. Discussions were had about the introduction of a workplace parking levy, where employers pay for a parking space, with the revenue being used to subsidise public transport. The aim of which would be to bring the price of buses or other services down.

Regular yet temporary 'school streets' initiatives could be held where parents and children can walk or cycle safely due to street closures from drop off to pick up points. One-day or half-day 'play streets' could be held where streets are closed for neighbours to socialise and children and young people to play and have fun on the streets. Participants funding needs to be prioritised for these kinds of initiatives.

Claire highlighted the funding available for the following which were also chosen as priorities for groups: Events, groups or schemes to encourage more active travel (walking and cycling) can be secured from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), British Cycling or UK Cycling. For greater bike access, like bike, e-bike or e-cargo bike hire and loans, can be funded by the bike library, TfGM or community hubs like the bike hive. Bike beginner training for families, women-only, children and trainer training can be funded by Bikeright or Let's Ride North West. Group ride rewards and incentives could be implemented using funding from Love to Ride. Car share clubs were also seen as a great idea that could be implemented across Manchester by either the council or private sector. Other initiatives like community asset repairs could be helped by funding from Screwfix. Parks and green spaces were seen by all as crucial for enabling active travel and acting as hubs for these schemes, and so funding from the council needs to be prioritised for this, especially in more challenging areas with low transport links. Integrated passes for all transport services (like London's Oyster card) is an easy win which will help incentivise the use of public transport. Participants stated that *"pricing for buses is not ideal. Paying by length of trip makes it less attractive and potentially expensive"*. An example from New York was made where one flat rate price is paid for all destinations, which needs to be explored in Manchester if uptake of public transport is to be increased.

Area specific action

Both Levenshulme and East and Whalley Range and Chorlton groups wanted to create a neighbourhood forum to discuss transport issues in the area and develop campaigns and strategies.

Both City Centre and North and Wythenshawe and South groups both thought that holding one-off high street closures for markets or music events would help bring people on board with the idea of less priority for cars on the roads.

Moss Side and Hulme group thought the creation of community maps showing paths and benches would help and social walks or rides could be organised. Posters could also be created of hot spots for things like engine idling so campaigns could be organised for priority areas. They also wanted to see the local bike routes linked up removing gaps. Participants thought that parking in bike lanes should be penalized and that drivers did not respect pedestrian crossings. They also felt access to parks and junctions can be very dangerous for pedestrians.

Levenshulme and East also saw the advantages in providing more public electric vehicle charging points funded by the council or business. Other options the group considered worthy of exploration include: subsidising households for not having a car, providing grants to businesses to increase cycle infrastructure

and simultaneously decrease parking, meeting with local headteachers about low carbon travel plans, creating local advocacy groups to meet with council regularly to review area priorities, and encourage but support people to be able to work from home more whilst also creating mechanisms for social interaction in the local area.

The City Centre and North group recognised there needs to more access to green spaces within the more urban environment, as this is essential to build the deep connection needed between green, open spaces and communities. Other spaces are needed where people can explore the ability to 'do' better when it comes to the climate emergency.

In Moss Side and Hulme the £550k pot in 2021 to help provide cycle parking for small businesses, organisations, the NHS, Housing Associations and schools (within 400m of Bee Network schemes) from TfGM was highly valued. Other key initiatives for the area include the promotion of keeping bike lanes clear and stopping cars parking in bike lanes. Secure and 'safe' bike parking is needed in the area, and the group were keen that communities were included in development and exploration of street level responses like traffic calming, flood defences, biodiversity enhancement and the effects of urban heat islands.

The Wythenshawe and South group want to explore the grants of up to £10k for businesses to provide cycle parking, pool bikes, changing or storage from TfGM. Social walks would work well in the area and a shared pool of cycle hubs. Also, vacant shops could be utilised for cycle storage.

In Whalley Range and Chorlton it was recognised that driving at 20mph should be widespread and is much better for the area. They noted it needs to be recognised this is actually *"very tricky, as the accelerator pedal on most cars seems to be set at comfortable level when at 30mph"*.

c) Food and Agriculture

If current trends continue, population food security and agriculture will be drastically impacted by the climate crisis. Agricultural yields are influenced by a range of factors, but for each degree of global temperature increase, wheat yields are expected to reduce by 4–6% (Parry et al, 2020; Pathak et al, 2018; Liu et al, 2016; Asseng, 2015; Ray et al, 2015; Anyamba et al, 2014; Riu et al, 2014; Challinor, 2014). With average land temperatures up by 1.4°C and rising, global food security is under increasing pressure and weaknesses in the system are leading to horrifying consequences, such as starvation and famine on an unprecedented scale. Combined with the increasing global population, there is an urgent need for agriculture to adapt to ensure future food security for a growing need. Ultimately, there is a limit as to how far agriculture can adapt to the changing climate, and a political will to reduce the impact of burning of fossil fuels on the global climate is essential for long term food security (Bathiany et al, 2018).

Climate change has already caused significant changes to agricultural production and yield, and even with immediate and significant reductions in GHG emissions worldwide, these changes will continue (IPCC, 2019). The degree to which climate change will influence the food security of individual nations is dependent on their geographical location, adaptability and their GDP (IPCC, 2019; Bathiany et al, 2018). Developing nations are predicted to suffer the greatest impact of temperature variability and increased extreme weather events and have restricted resources to adapt to these agricultural changes. The survival of millions could depend on what is done over the next few years.

Workshops provided by Rachael Oelbaum from Manchester Food Board and the Manchester Food Sync project explored how industrial food production is a major driver of the climate crisis, yet can also be incredibly vulnerable to its effects. Food sovereignty and supply chains were explored and participants

learned that at certain times of the year 80% of UK's food is imported, leaving the food system vulnerable to many external stressors which can disrupt supply. The increasing amount of land used to grow crops to feed animals, the levels of deforestation conducted for beef cattle, soil degradation and pollution salination of unsustainable farming practices and problems caused by plastic packaging and transport are all having major long term effects on the natural world and its ability to sustain life.

The global production of food is responsible for a third of all planet-heating gases emitted by human activity, with the use of animals for meat causing twice the pollution of producing plant-based foods (Xu et al, 2021). However, shifts in global food production to plant-based diets by 2050 could lead to a 66% chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C (Hayek et al, 2021), greatly increasing our chances of reaching this crucial goal.

Animal-based food production contributes to the most emissions

Annual global emissions from the top 10 contributing animal- and plant-based foods



Guardian graphic. Source: Xu, et al., 2021, "Global greenhouse gas emissions from animal-based foods are twice those of plant-based foods"

(Milman, 2021)

Participants explored what the influencing factors for sourcing food are for them:

- Awareness of single use plastics
- Limited freezer/fridge space in shared accommodation
- Eating the right thing at the right time
- Cost
- Versatile ingredients and long lasting
- Origin of ingredients
- Plant based
- Label checking – ingredient conscious
- Cost per serving and total
- Flexibility/longevity in storage
- Avoiding waste
- Family and friends (social aspects)
- Nutrition, health, necessity and joy

This was seen as a valuable exercise and one which should be expanded on with other demographics. One theme which re-occurred throughout the food workshop (and all the others) were participants hopes and fears for the future. One participant had a 'flexitarian daughter', but who is "*primarily vegetarian due to climate change worries*". This led to discussions about how mental health, wellbeing and stress can also influence what you eat and how you behave.

When asked 'what would a sustainable food supply chain look like?' Participants answered:

- *UK Farms selling to customers directly to us as customers (smaller chains)*
- *Local cooperative food producing groups supported by government funding*
- *Transformation of food relationships, i.e.: the elimination of 'exotic' and processed*
- *Reduce all round year supply of out of season goods*
- *Grow your own (no air miles)*
- *UK farms to UK supermarkets (no air miles)*
- *Any overseas suppliers use low impact transport*
- *Focus on UK grown food - Develop direct links*
- *Farm to thinking and consideration, including disposal*
- *Make money from waste*
- *Substitute packaging with bioplastics*
- *Agroforestry/permaculture practices*
- *Urban farms - less food miles and more direct engagement and understanding*
- *Cooperative ownership (with farmers not from farmers)*
- *Change in incentives to farming communities*
- *Re-invention of street food markets or local market gardens with fair prices*
- *Community gardens/localised growing*
- *Reduced packaging*
- *Bring your own jars/refills markets*
- *More sustainable transport of food*
- *Food processed locally will mean local green job creations, reduced carbon emissions from transport and less need of packaging*

Discussions in the workshop on this theme included the need for raised awareness and exploration of agroforestry methods. Agroforestry is a land management approach with multiple benefits. Planting trees on farms can give farmers healthier soil and higher yields – not to mention creating vital homes for wildlife including natural predators to many common crop pests, thus reducing the need for pesticides, and trees can be harvested to offer an alternative income if one crop fails. Agroforestry can protect food production from the effects of climate change and has been practised for millennia across the world, being widely used across the UK before farming was industrialised in the last century. "*We need to explore how more people can benefit from this way of farming*" (Soil Association, 2021). Within groups there was also discussion of the pros and cons of some vegan produce and its environmental impact, with some participants instead wanting to see local well-raised, pasture-fed small scale or sustainable meat production.

City Wide Action

Participants explored how growing food has clear mental wellbeing and health benefits and a number of initiatives could help develop this around Manchester. Council tax reductions for those growing their own food was put forward as an idea. Free or subsidised seeds and gardening tools or a library to share these

would also help encourage uptake. The neighbourhood watch scheme could be used as inspiration for a 'neighbourhood gardening scheme'. Participants explained how the allotments tenancy system was no longer fit for purpose and needed to be changed due to long waiting lists. There are other urban green spaces which can be used for community supported agriculture. Cooperative farming schemes, using spaces like private gardens or shared garden spaces, could help. Engagement with local restaurants to make seasonal menus and seasonal aisles at the front of every supermarket would be highly valuable. All of these initiatives can be used to advance awareness of what is seasonal and why this is important.

Participants also recognised people need to learn how to cook. *"There can be a lot of waste"*, however uptake of recipe kits from organisations like Gousto (<https://www.gousto.co.uk/>) can be a good way to inspire people. Pop up cooking shows in the city centre on Saturdays supplied by local chefs would help to bring people on board.

Across all of the areas there was recognition for the need for more awareness of the importance and uptake of localised and seasonal food. To help towards greater sovereignty, all areas need to have the capacity, skills and knowledge to do much more community growing through grow at home initiatives or community allotments. This could also raise the profile of produce which is deemed 'imperfect' by modern supermarkets and consumers, showing everyone that strange looking fruit and vegetables still taste the same. Every area could identify spaces that could be used as community growing spaces, such as alleyways. Local community orchards or edible hedgerow planting were also suggested. More urban farm solutions were explored by each group where spaces can be created for local growers to come and sell their goods. This would then reduce the need for as many 'air freight' goods to be imported. Alongside this, educational initiatives aiming to reduce the consumption of products with a high environmental impact (e.g. avocados) or the importance of less meat consumption are required. These could be tied in with NHS data in cases such as the health risks associated with overconsumption of red meat.

The most important factor was for the public to be able to make informed decisions about what they eat, how healthy it is and what the environmental impact of foods are. This includes the reduction of food waste and the importance of plastic free and sustainable packaging. Reusable packaging that could be themed for neighbourhoods or areas could help to incentivise this. Educational programmes are needed which address all these issues and need to start in schools, although workshops and classes could also be run from the new community growing areas. A bit of friendly competition across areas could help incentivise, such as lowest food waste awards, etc. Schools could also have 'veg Wednesdays' or something similar, and local businesses could have 'veggie lunch meeting' menus, serving vegetarian meals only.

The Whalley Range and Chorlton group noted that local growing projects or community orchards are not able to run on volunteers alone and paid employees are needed, which needs to be funded. One option is the expansion of subsidised Community Sanctioned Agriculture (CSA) farms, which can provide produce to neighbourhoods which are local (reducing transport emissions), use less pesticides and avoid other environmentally harmful practices common in industrial farming. Shares could be bought in CSA networks which could then provide other local community food projects with proper support and advice. The Kindling Farm (<https://kindling.org.uk/Farm>) model could be used as good practice for this.

The main aim for all groups was education and encouragement towards more plant based and seasonal diets, providing communities with the understanding of why these are important.

Area specific action

Levenshulme and East group were quite keen for each local park to act as a hub for the support network, providing the space and staff to teach people to grow food and its benefits.

City Centre and North group wanted to see more street food markets in newly pedestrianised areas and the expansion of food waste recycling to city centre apartments. Group participants also wanted to see a bottles, jars and cans deposit scheme and promotion of apps such as 'odd box' and 'too good to go' which work well in urban centres.

Moss Side and Hulme group wanted to encourage more foraging in the local area and a facility where people could share what they find. The group also recognised there needs to be a push for green bin infrastructure for local blocks of flats as currently *"It's super patchy"*. The group also highlighted the need for local package free tub or jar 'scoop food' refill opportunities, perhaps at supermarkets.

Wythenshawe and South pointed out the support needed from the city council for finding suitable land for community growing initiatives.

The Whalley Range and Chorlton group asked: *"What is the council's food procurement policy?"* If one is not currently being implemented then this needs to be addressed immediately, with targets and strategies for reducing packaging and local procurement. Reverse logistics schemes for takeaways, so that any packaging tubs are reused, was a popular proposal that should be implemented in the area.

d) Fashion and Retail

The rise of 'fast fashion' has had devastating consequences, from its reliance on plastic fabrics and its enormous carbon footprint to its erosion of workers' rights. The fast fashion business model relies on consumers endlessly buying more clothes. Fashion brands have long used new styles and lower prices to attract customers, but previously brands would plan new ranges many months, even years, in advance. The pace of change was relatively slow and there were fewer products on offer. In comparison, fast fashion is focused on responding to ever-changing consumer tastes as quickly as possible. In a BBC 'Breaking Fashion' program, Manchester-based fast fashion company, 'In the Style', reproduced a bodysuit worn by celebrity Kylie Jenner. The company had the piece designed, manufactured and on sale within 10 days of the piece first being worn publicly (Crumbie, 2021).

Brands tempt consumers by offering ultra-cheap garments and ever-changing new ranges. In the last few decades, fashion trends have changed more and more quickly. Pressures on workers to produce more and at lower prices have grown alongside pressures on consumers to turn to the newest trends. Since 2000 there has been an *"explosive expansion"* in fast fashion, led by brands such as H&M and Zara. Clothing production doubled from 2000 to 2014, with the number of garments exceeding 100 billion by 2014. To give this a little context, the world population at this time was around 7 billion (UN, 2014). The average person buys 60% more items of clothing and keeps them for about half as long as 15 years ago (Greenpeace, 2021). Consumption of new clothing is estimated to be higher in the UK than any other European country (Environmental Audit Committee, 2019) and the fast fashion industry continues to react to consumer demand, and also create it (Crumbie, 2021).

Alison Carlin and Camilla Cheung from Manchester Fashion Movement (<https://manchesterfashionmovement.com>) told participants *"the average garment is worn 7 times before being got rid of and 300,000 items were burnt or destroyed last year. We can't continue on this*

unsustainable path. Things have to change. Production, behaviours, manufacturing all have major environmental impacts, and it's the quality of clothes that is at the root of everything". Although the focus of the workshop was on fashion, many of the ideas identified could be attributed to the wider world of retail. It was pointed out by one participant that 2nd hand shoes from the UK last longer than new shoes in Uganda, and an internationally minded focus, which also has supporting individual action of garment workers in other countries as an aim is important.

Participants recognised there needs to be a lot more awareness of the negative impacts on the environment and workers which are intrinsic in the fast fashion and wider consumer industry. Getting the message right was an important point that was discussed, with many agreeing that demonising families or young people for buying cheap clothes is not the answer. This led participants to ask: *"What is the visual message for fast fashion impact on the environment that is equivalent to plastic bottles to motivate people?"*. At present it is not convenient or affordable for most people to buy ethically. However, messages can be championed like those of buying less, by creating more swap shops and repair shops if they can be successfully incentivised. Returning less could also be a useful message meaning less transit, less consumerism, less disposal. The key is to make these options attractive to people by showing the benefits to the environment, but also to people. The stigma of second hand shopping could be improved by simply changing the name. A Manchester centred 'Cottonopolis' theme that people can be proud of could develop a unique expression of identity. Both positive wording and positive marketing around the climate and within education programs of sustainable fashion were identified as vital: *"unless we can start educating the youth and create healthy practices, the situation will not change"*. Fashion needs to be redefined, promoting longevity through redesign, repurpose and reuse. It was recognised that initially changes may upset people, so the associated benefits and positives for people and environmental need to be the main focus. Manchester, the old Cottonopolis, should become the *"new centre of sustainable fashion"*.

City wide action

All groups recognised the need for greater education about the impacts of fast fashion and where clothes and other items come from. It was also recognised that repair and recycle initiatives are the easiest entry points for most people, so skills development and capacity should be built in these areas. Training sessions or community meetings and workshops could be held on mending and taking care of clothes or how to spot good quality items in shops. Education in schools about the importance of sustainable fashion which promotes repairing, mending, altering or buying less is crucial. Children's clothes and school uniform swaps could come into this as part of a wider school (and also workwear for adults) recycling and reuse schemes.

Clothing production or garment alteration shops could be championed locally and the old 'Cottonopolis' theme of Manchester could be used as inspiration for people to take ownership and pride of making their own unique clothing. University Fashion courses could be involved and tasked to include more sustainability, supporting and challenging new designers to make sustainable and attractive clothes. Manchester City Council could also play a central role in this transition. The groups imagined pop-ups shops throughout the city, (the old Debenhams buildings was given as an example) where people have space to experiment with making clothes and there are opportunities for Manchester based independent vendors. Pop up shops throughout the city would help highlight the changes needed and showcase second hand and ethical brands. Reducing rental costs for sustainable local brands would act as an incentive for other brands. Rent, tax or business rates relief could be offered to further incentivise new ventures. Also, a carbon tax for damaging practices could be imposed. A limit on fashion retailers within a certain proximity

was also put forward as an idea. Other proposals were explored such as a ban on unethical fashion advertisement and even rationing a yearly allowance of clothing. This last extreme example of what is needed could be adapted as part of a campaign to challenge people to see how little fast fashion items they could purchase, instead choosing to support the new sustainable fashion industry, spending money on repair and remaking, whilst supporting the new Cottonopolis sustainable fashion centre movement. All of this led participants to question *“how is the current fashion industry regulated?”* When compared to food it was proposed there should be ‘real cost’ clothing tags: RRP vs Environmental footprint (as put forward in the Mandate). There should be two prices: one for emissions and one price for creation. Attractive visual cues for environmentally friendly fashion practices would help to bring people on board.

Participants felt that MCC should support these new initiatives, as well as the involvement of businesses. Everyone felt there would surely be a conflict of interests with existing big business within the industry, but this *“doesn’t mean we shouldn’t ask the questions”*. Participants recognised the scale of the challenge: *“larger fashion companies such as H&M’s financial situation is dependent on fast fashion and they will a) not want to change and b) do not need to change if only a small portion of the population stops buying there”*. However, if these changes were supported and implemented, high street shops may then adapt by combining new and used as the norm. Fashion brands in Manchester (like Boohoo and In the Style) could be contacted through their Corporate Social Responsibility departments to challenge them to support the new Cottonopolis movement. Local football clubs could also provide a way in. Manchester City FC and Manchester United FC could be challenged to make a sustainable football kit, as it was noted there are so many single use kits for single events. Forest Green Rovers were given as a good example as they utilise materials like bamboo and coffee grounds for their football kits. Celebrity football players like Marcus Rashford could alter public opinion on fast fashion with the right campaign with slogans such as: *‘this is my lucky top that I’ve had for years!’*

Mending and alterations are currently too expensive or not common enough to be feasible. In Whalley Range and Chorlton, participants knew of only one or two menders in the area. Local solutions for this issue need to be addressed. Upskilling people as clothes menders or clothes designers could help with training and increased employability helping to create green jobs in fashion, giving members of our communities transferable skills, with the added bonus of extending the life of local peoples clothes. Other solutions like community mending stations with sewing machines could enable people to ‘repair your own’, funded by taking donations or fundraising. The financial benefit if advertised correctly could be a pull factor – *‘this pair of jeans will last you ten years!’* Clothes could be promoted as a service, rather than as something you just buy. As sustainable clothing may at first be too expensive for many, schemes like paying £2 a year for a t-shirt which is replaced when worn out could be explored. This ‘pay monthly’ initiative could then include more environmentally sustainable practices like organic cotton production, whilst promoting garment care and guaranteeing quality.

Local pop-up shops could act as clothes swap shops, educational hubs, repair cafes. Repair shops could also act as tool libraries to facilitate shared use of items such as lawn mowers and other items that are only used occasionally. Work clothes swaps for Manchester employees or school uniform swaps could be organised from these new sustainable fashion centres.

A centralised platform (directory, app, website or something similar) which shows: clothes available or no longer required, the number of litres of water in production, all the second hand and charity shops in the city, and carbon savings, etc, could all help boost awareness. Successful food waste apps like Too Good To Go (<https://toogoodtogo.co.uk>) and Olio (<https://olioex.com>) were highlighted as inspirational examples. This platform could also include info on accessible drop off points for handing in clothes for reuse, or recycling points for non-resellable materials (rather than it adding to landfill) will provide easily searchable, pleasant ways to recycle clothing. Filter systems could be added, enabling users to easily find what they

need. Online jumble sale events could also be trialled through this platform. Good examples of how successful something like this can be include: DePop (<https://www.depop.com/>), Sal's Shoes (<https://www.salsshoes.com>) and Conserving Resources Associating People (C.R.A.P.), an initiative started by members of the community in Cornwall which has swelled to over 16000 members (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/907423615998479>). A city-wide points or incentive system for these swap shops, repair cafe's or use of the app could help to attract customers, and something like a Sainsburys club card could lead to discount deals. Manchester based sustainable fashion organisation Stitched Up (<https://stitchedup.coop>) were recognised by participants as being an inspiration and credit to Manchester for their work in this area. The work of the group should be widely recognised, celebrated and supported. Stitched Up have even put together a map of local places to get your clothes mended which could act as a good place to start: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?ll=53.46901942904896%2C-2.224924049999999&z=12&utm_campaign=later-linkinbio-stitchedupuk&utm_content=later-20090019&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkin.bio&mid=1_hYwIEYF50OjFnEACmm7H8eGAh6FTOhX

Participants called for more transparency in recycling, asking: "Where do the clothes that are falling apart go once you've put them in the recycling bin?". A better dividing system would help reduce landfill with sections like: wearable, denim, only recyclable materials, etc. Some participants gave accounts of actual rubbish being put in some clothing recycle stations, which then devalues everything, therefore it is crucial that clothing and shoe drop off sites don't feel like low end bins for dumping rubbish. The craft of clothes designing and making has become cheap and throw away, a mindset that has to change if we are to move towards a more sustainable fashion industry, which can then be applied to other consumer items.

Area specific action

Levenshulme and East group want to see more second-hand markets where swap shops and repair shops could promote their services. The group also wanted to explore sourcing textile raw materials from other industries and the production of eco-friendly textiles from local food waste.

City Centre and North group want to see vintage markets instigated on a large scale throughout the city centre. A points system for discount deals (like keeping a kind of club card on key rings) should be trialled throughout the high street for reused or upcycled items purchased. The group was keen to make spaces for second-hand items that were more desirable and attractive to inspire use. Markets or pop-up events in disused city centre buildings or a central Manchester Mend and Repair place were popular ideas.

Moss Side and Hulme group also wanted to see a Manchester menders second-hand day event in the local area. They also think clothes swaps at local hubs like Hulme Community Garden Centre and giveaway days or free 'yard' sales would work well. Education programmes for local parents about the value of using reusable nappies needs to be pushed.

Wythenshawe and South group want to see a campaign that asks people to 'Stop wearing newly bought cotton jeans!' and educate them as to the harmful practices in the industry. Instead, sustainable fibres like bamboo clothing or others which are more GHG emission conscious should be championed in the local area. The group recognised a cultural shift needs to happen, and new fashion icons or celebrities could help this push. Bringing the local football clubs onboard to champion slow fashion would be a great start. The value of this approach was also supported by other groups.

Whalley Range and Chorlton group want to see more utilisation of the place-based 'Carbon Targeter' developed by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (2021), focusing on local areas with the

highest consumer families. Local projects like Stitched Up and other local garment makers, repairers and tailors need more recognition and support

e) Buildings and Energy

According to architect Paul Testa, *“there has never been a greater need for a national retrofit strategy. The right time for one was decades ago, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t implement an ambitious strategy now”*. Buildings are responsible for about 30% of primary energy use in the UK and nearly half of all carbon emissions, according to the Climate Change Committee. For the Manchester assembly, Charlie Baker from Red Cooperative (<https://red.coop>) ran workshops with participants which explained how homes contribute to 37% of Greater Manchester’s emissions and that currently 98% of today’s homes will still be standing at current replacement rates. Therefore, *“we have to make much better use of our existing buildings.”* At least 80% of the buildings that exist now will still be in use in 2050, making it vital to reduce the energy demand of all our buildings, including our homes. Home energy demand currently accounts for around 20% of the UK’s GHG emissions and more than three-quarters of this demand comes from space and water heating (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2017). Charlie explained a model whereby whole house retrofits with renewable energy creation and storage could make the sector zero carbon by 2038, with zero fuel poverty by 2030 and at zero net cost to the public. However, *“action is needed across many fronts, and we mustn’t just sit and wait for others. This can and must be a collective effort.”*

According to the government, around 13% of English households are classed as fuel poor (these are people that will routinely have to decide between food and heating). Also, there is an estimated 42p saving for the NHS for every £1 spent on the retrofit of fuel poor homes. So, the benefits of retrofitting homes help improve homeowners’ health as well as lower their long-term energy bills. Yet despite ardent campaigning from groups such as the Federation of Master Builders (FMB), the government has resisted calls to introduce a retrofitting strategy across the UK, even as part of its Heat and Buildings Strategy published in October 2021 (Testa, 2021).

Richard Miller, director of consultancy at Miller-Klein Associates, said the UK *“cannot new-build our way out”* of the problem, so needs *“deep retrofit”* for existing housing. By this, Miller means: *“going to that zero carbon heating, the 2050 target, in one jump. A whole house approach that tackles the whole problem in one go, because that’s the most efficient way to get there.”* This proposal of an *“all in one go”* approach contrasts the government’s current incremental and *“ineffective”* policy approach. Reducing housing emissions is also important since much of the UK’s remaining carbon budget needs to be reserved for other sectors, which are expected to be more difficult to decarbonise. These include aviation or agriculture, for example. Emissions from housing will also have to fall even faster if the UK sets a net-zero emissions target which *“actually aligns with the Paris Agreement goals”* (Timplerley, 2018).

Charlie from Red Coop explained how retrofitting work creates jobs across manufacturing, supply and implementation. Around 30,000 new retrofitters are needed across Manchester in order to meet the current demands, which existing retrofitters like Red Cooperative and the Carbon Coop (<https://carbon.coop/>) cannot keep up with. Cambridge Econometrics estimate that a programme of improving all homes to just Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) level C would sustain at least 108,000 new jobs. Also, according to the Energy Efficiency Infrastructure Group, a £1 spend on retrofit will return £2 to the economy.

Peoples’ general awareness of the climate emergency and the urgency for action is growing daily, yet many are unsure of what actions they can take which are the most valuable. For instance, there are many people who can afford to retrofit their homes or businesses but don’t know how to approach it. Even so, the

industry is not big enough or sufficiently supported through legislation, funding or a useful tax structure, meaning retrofitters like Red Coop cannot deliver at the current, relatively small, pace of demand. *“There are many homeowners or renters who don’t even have this on their radar and could have their awareness raised with the appropriate government drive”* (Testa, 2021).

Charlie Baker pointed to free online resources like: <http://retrofit.support/> and the ‘DECC 2050 calculator’ (<http://2050.hellings.opalstacked.com/>) which is a user-friendly tool for showing what measures can be taken and their impact on building and energy efficiency. Resources like these need to form part of a wider awareness initiative about where our energy comes from and the need for a de-centralised energy vision. By decentralising energy production there will be less waste through leakage over distances travelled. Charlie pointed to some of the 200 community energy initiatives in the UK that are on the right track, such as: Bay Wind (<https://www.baywind.coop/>), Bristol Energy Coop (<https://bristolenergy.coop/>), Brighton Energy Co-op (<https://brightonenergy.org.uk/>), Brighton & Hove Energy Saving Co-op (<https://bhesco.co.uk/>) which are all successful examples. Participants were also told about Energy4all (<https://energy4all.co.uk/>) and Shareenergy (<https://www.shareenergy.coop/>) who have raised funds and helped out a lot of people to start their own community energy schemes.

The workshops concluded there needs to be immediate actions in the following areas:

1. Workforce – at least 250,000 new retrofitters need to be trained across the UK, with 30,000 needed for Greater Manchester, to meet demand
2. Funding – central government and business need to unlock funding for mass retrofit of buildings and homes across the country in order to meet GHG emissions reduction targets
3. Access to funding – mechanisms for home owners and landlords to access this funding for retrofits need to be made available and easy to navigate. This could be based on an ability to pay and demand model, with supply back to the energy grid optimisation. A push for government grants to retrofit every house which is means tested and based on savings and benefits would provide equal opportunities
4. Awareness – participants of the assembly were largely unaware of the retrofit options available and how to go about it. Promotion of this issue and the action needed is crucial for instigating the social change needed

Much of the actions necessary are set out in the Mandate, and assembly participants were initially unsure as to actions they could take at a local level. However, they felt the council should be pushing for key aims on their behalf, such as a larger public or community owned vehicle to bring all the small energy providers together to maximise benefits to all. There needs to be energy demand reduction plans across the region and its sectors, with participation from the largest energy users including public sector and industry. Ideally there should be zero VAT on all energy improvements and variable council tax and business rates if certifiably retrofitting building or homes. All participants wanted to see the return of solar and renewable subsidies and greater rates for selling back to the grid. This was slashed by the UK government after 2010 and a much needed incentivisation would give the industry the boost it requires. Participants felt the council should lobby for this and there were other effective actions that could be taken by the council now. Such as retrofit all Manchester council buildings and partner organisations (like social housing). The council could also ensure all council buildings only use low carbon fuels. Participants were very keen to see action taken for the benefit of renters, so landlords need to be incentivised as it is their responsibility to retrofit their properties.

Affordable green housing needs to happen now, so councils must push for legislation and funding strategies to be explored so all buildings and communities can begin the transition process. Participants asked *“How does Manchester lobby Whitehall and hold ‘them’ to account?”* Participants were all aware of cuts to local councils brought in by the austerity measures of the Conservative government, but wondered how much power the Council has to push for funding for things like solar power community schemes?

City wide action

It was recognised that different solutions or proposals will work differently in different communities and no global energy solution fits all. So people need to be made aware of the range of solutions available. Public awareness events or half day workshops could show what can be done in terms of retrofitting or energy production at a neighbourhood level. Show homes open to the public could demonstrate practical examples of retrofitting and low energy adaptations. Open and educational sustainable homes or eco-communities could present high insulation value properties with features like green roofs and outdoor green spaces, which incorporate and encourage practical actions like composting into sustainable permaculture inspired systems. ‘Ambient housing’ could also show homes where no heating is required, and rainwater is collected for water.

These spaces could act as educational hubs or advice platforms to help residents choose optimal energy options or managing energy consumption. Workshops could explain EPC ratings of peoples homes and community retrofit options, so everyone can see what they are able to do. Information concerning government subsidies (or lack of) for heating and powering homes would inform peoples decisions and highlight what actions need to be taken. In these spaces, communities could discuss collective buying and group together as neighbourhoods to make renewable energy more affordable. Participants felt these initiatives should be fully supported by local council.

Decentralised and neighbourhood energy storage (e.g. batteries, pumped hydro, hydrogen) should be an infrastructure priority, as this will reduce the monopoly of the large energy companies and give more control to communities. Federating all the batteries will also generate more income to help pay the bills. Community ownership of wind turbines (on-shore or off-shore) which are in areas of sufficient wind resource should be encouraged. The Ethex platform (<https://www.ethex.org.uk>) was highlighted as a good place to start exploring community share offers and the expansion of renewable energy capacity around Greater Manchester.

Participants wanted to see city wide campaigns like a ‘Big Manchester green energy push’ with challenges for the city to switch to 100% renewable energy, with community owned solar panels on all suitable roofs across Manchester. Or a ‘Ban the skip!’ campaign which could help encourage less waste and better recycling practices across the building industry. This could lead to a test bed exercise for a Manchester low carbon manufacture kitemark (in consultation and partnership with manufacturers). Participants also gave accounts of mis-selling and ‘dumping’ gas boilers ‘free’ on to landlords or people on benefits, which they wanted to see prevented.

Many assembly participants live in rented accommodation so were unsure how much they could do. There were concerns including: *“how would someone like me who is never in direct contact to my landlord go about telling them the benefits and how would that work be possible for them? Particularly when they won’t even fix a leaky washing machine!”* It was recognised across all groups that there is a need to hold landlords to account. All renters should be made aware of ACORN (<https://acornuk.good.do/northwest/Landlord-Licensing-Manchester/>) who are doing *“brilliant”* work in this area, which participants wanted to see more of and more support for.

Area specific action

Levenshulme and East group advocated for greater support for working from home, lessening the need to heat offices or large buildings. Participants here wanted to prioritise community energy schemes in the local communities. One participant in particular was bewildered as to “*why no one is allowed to have wind turbines?*” which would surely help with renewable energy targets.

City Centre and North group wanted to promote immediate actions that can be implemented by those living in apartments in the city, such as kitchen appliances. They also wanted to explore how the best support could be given for city apartment resident groups who want to improve the efficiency of their homes and explore retrofitting.

Moss Side and Hulme wanted to see initiatives that educate local people about things like heat pumps, and provide information and advice to residents about energy reduction in homes specifically, as part of a wider push for decentralised energy storage that is community-owned. Models need to be researched and incentivised for home sharing and downsizing to make better use of existing buildings. Factors like shared bins and recycling could also be explored.

Wythenshawe and South group wanted to see the launch of a ‘peer to peer’ lending scheme whereby those who can afford to lend money can support others to pay for retrofit. They also wanted to see huge pushes in the area of education and information sharing about energy efficiency and renewable options.

In Whalley Range and Chorlton it was raised that “*Chorlton has the highest average carbon footprint of any ward in Manchester!*” and residents should be told “*we are the worst and we need to be the best!*” A ‘We’ve lost the plot’ local campaign was put forward as an idea to encourage the community to take ownership of levels of high consumption and tackle it as a community, not as individuals. Envirolution’s ethos is to champion positive ways forward instead of pointing out where people are failing, but this point does highlight a challenge which needs to be addressed. The group wanted to see ‘Street energy’ or ‘Climate challenge champions’ supported that can mobilise communities. Taking the Covid-19 mutual aid groups as inspiration, these champions could be recruited for every street in the area to provide information and raise awareness of things like how we need a retrofitting work force. By collecting support, areas could then form lobby groups. Participants also recognised that 60% of our building emissions come from schools and colleges, so they need to be engaged on retrofitting as soon as possible.

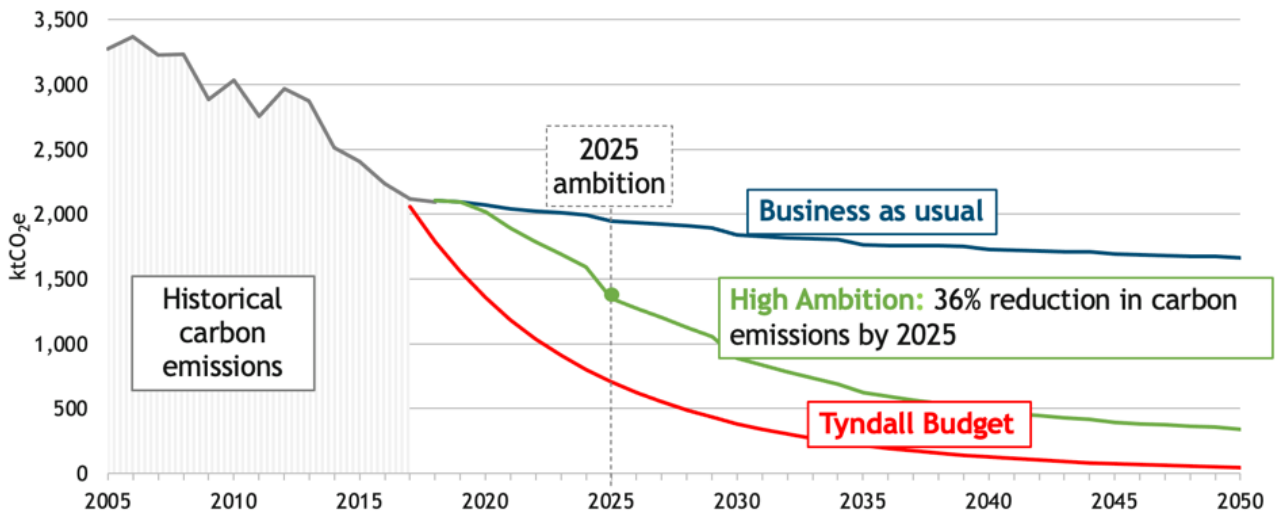
The Manchester City Council framework

Anthesis, a sustainability consultancy organisation (<https://www.anthesisgroup.com>) gave a presentation to all participants on the ‘Manchester Climate Change Framework V2.0’, which details what is required for the city to get to zero carbon and the actions required: <https://www.manchesterclimate.com/framework-2020-25>

The framework states: *Manchester will play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change and create a healthy, green socially just city where everyone can thrive. During 2020-25 Manchester will:*

- *Reduce our direct CO₂ emissions by at least 50% & stay within our carbon budgets*
- *Improve climate resilience and adaptation*
- *Improve health & wellbeing*
- *Create an inclusive, zero carbon & climate resilient economy*

WHERE DOES MANCHESTER NEED TO GET TO?



The thematic areas:

Buildings

Sub-Objective	2025 Target
1.1. Improve energy efficiency for heating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50,000 houses retrofit
1.2. Shift off gas heating systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% of heating is supplied by low carbon alternatives
1.3. Energy efficient cooking, lighting and appliances	Decrease demand from lights and appliances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% in commercial buildings

Renewable energy

Sub-Objective	2025 Target
2.1 Increase solar power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 700 MW of solar power installed
2.2 Explore other renewable technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases in wind power, hydro power and biomass

Transport

Sub-Objective	2025 Target
3.1 Travel shorter distances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17% reduction in miles travelled
3.2 Drive less	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approx. 5% reduction in road transport use
3.3 Switch to electric vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 63% of vehicles are electric or hybrid• 87% of buses and trains are electric
3.4 Improve freight emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6% reduction in road freight mileage

Food

Sub-Objective	2025 Target
4.1 Increase the number of sustainable plant-based diets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the amount of meat and dairy by 20%
4.2 Reduce food waste per person	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit food waste to 125kg per person
4.3 Improve food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase allotment coverage by 20%

Things we buy and throw away

Sub-Objective	2025 Target
5.1 Reduce the quantity of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17% reduction in the amount of waste
5.2 Increase recycling rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9% increase in the recycling rate
5.3 Shift away from fossil fuels and more efficient processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emissions from processing chemicals, metals etc reduce up to 10%

Nature based solutions

Sub-Objective	2025 Target
6.1 Increase tree coverage and tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree planting increases by over 15% from 2019
6.2 Land use management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain existing green spaces

This also feeds into the wider Greater Manchester long-term environmental vision – “to be carbon neutral by 2038 – and the urgent actions we all need to take in the next five years to help achieve this” (<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/five-year-environment-plan/>).

An annual report was published in November 2021 which states: “Even with significant emissions reduction caused by the lockdowns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Manchester has still not reduced its emissions at the rate we need to, to meet our obligations under the Paris Agreement”.

The full report can be found here:

<https://www.manchesterclimate.com/sites/default/files/MCCA%20Annual%20Report%202021%20Final.pdf>

Reaching net zero and other concerns

Dr Chris Jones from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research gave a presentation to participants on the challenges facing Manchester in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Dr Jones also gave a rundown of how Manchester is doing currently and explained concepts like ‘Net Zero’ and what this means. This aligned with the November 2021 report findings and confirmed there needs to be a significantly higher level of action at all levels of society, making initiatives like the climate change assembly even more important.

Policy and Leadership

Professor of International Politics Mat Patterson from the University of Manchester (previously a lead author for the IPCC) provided participants with considerations for developing ‘the Mandate’. In workshop 5 all participants came together as a large group for the first time to discuss ideas for the Mandate and how they can best be presented. Professor Patterson then advised the group on effective methods of communicating their requirements. This included who they should get on board, who would most likely challenge the Mandate and how this could be responded to.

The following gives a rundown of discussion points for participants during the session:

Levels of decisions

Who is responsible for what? If mixed responsibility, what is the distribution of responsibility? Is there flexibility across these levels (i.e. can you shape possible results by choosing the appropriate level?)

National

- *Broad regulatory rules. e.g. building codes*
- *Principal tax-raising and spending powers (especially in UK – very centralised)*
- *Overall governance - sets jurisdictional parameters for local government itself (again, UK-specific)*

City/city-region

- *Local planning decisions*
- *Significant if declining land-ownership*
- *Transport (city-region, in Manchester at least)*
- *Specific programmes (e.g. housing retrofits) but budget constraints often tight*
- *Important authority to 'lead' partnerships, bring actors together*

International

Little direct authority but key site of setting overall 'level of ambition'.

- *Often a site of national government excuses*

Private companies

- *Often significant role in concrete decisions – buildings, notably, and investment.*
- *Also important political power in relation to governments*

Motivations of actors at various levels

How would your initiative(s) help them achieve other goals? Some of these will be motivated by climate concerns, either intrinsically or for tactical reasons, but we can't rely on that motivation.

Politicians

- *Getting elected*
 - *constituency-specific vs broad party platforms*
 - *gaining voters vs broad reputation management*
- *Broad sense of what/who their party represents*
 - *Specific interests*
 - *Broad values/ideas*

Policy-makers

- *Legal/jurisdictional constraints*
- *Interests in budgets/organisational development*
- *Opportunities in new developments*
- *Constraints – budgets ...*
 - *Some resourcing comes from high carbon activity (e.g. Manchester airport)*
- *Prevailing ideas and habits*

Coalition-building

Who has interests in your plans? And who might oppose them? Do you have to persuade them or just build a coalition to beat them?

- *Specific businesses/sectors?*
 - *Businesses*
 - *Labour – job benefits*
- *Other community groups/NGOs? (e.g. health, housing, poverty, food security... but car user groups, unions in sectors affected by the transition...)*

Participant Feedback

At the end of the assembly participants were asked to complete a feedback form to determine whether the project had been successful in its aims and where it can be improved.

1. *'How do you feel the climate assembly has gone generally?'*

Participants were *"very positive"* with one stating it was *"very engaging. I was cynical but the assembly has kept me involved"*.

Feedback collected shows participants found the workshops to be of value: *"very good, informative and interesting"*; *"very impressive – lots of great ideas and informative speakers. Well led and focused"*; *"In my opinion everything was very well organised, resources were good, the invited speakers were very informative, the sessions were well thought out and interactive"*.

Participants also welcomed the chance to be able to work with others on exploring solutions and responses: *"Very good. A variety of people of different areas coming together for common goal"*; *"It was beneficial to connect with other climate concerned everyday folk from within our local community and know that there are others around GM that are taking this seriously"*; *"It appears to have met the primary goal of creating a document for MCC, it brought various disparate people with a common concern together, it has shed light on various aspect of the climate crisis and what little has been done to address it. All these are worthwhile actions"*; *"The assembly was a great opportunity to meet with like-minded people who want to address climate change through action. It was interesting to find out about local initiatives. The talks and presentations were generally very good and informative. I felt inspired and mildly daunted by what is ahead"*.

Other participants stated how they were now more equipped to communicate with others since taking part in the assembly: *"I've been very pleased with the chance to connect with other likeminded residents, outside a particular activism group. I like the focus on local and city-wide action and responsibility, and I've been able to feed a lot of useful information to friends"*.

However, it was also recognised it is essential more people are part of this process: *"Good to bring people of different backgrounds with a shared agenda together. Though needs to reach the not engaged to find barriers"*. All groups felt that a wider range of people needed to be involved, especially those that are not currently engaging with the climate crisis: *"Shame about the poor attendance and diversity of Chorlton and Whalley Range group"*.

One participant questioned the length of the assembly: *"Not bad – was quite long but got me thinking about what we should be doing and what we could do locally"*.

Participants also acknowledged that action needs to be taken at all levels of society, with the most important coming from policy makers and business: *"So much of what needs to be done is only realistic at the national and international level"*.

2. *'Do you feel like it has been a valuable exercise? Why?'*

Most participants recognised the value of the project, particularly with *"learning about climate change, thinking about what we can do, and who we can ask to help"*. One participant stated *"its opened me up to ideas and practices on how sustainability can be enabled"*.

Another from one of the less diverse area groups went a little further in their analysis: *“It was extremely valuable and a positive experience despite some differences of opinion. I feel like it was a good starting point for collaboration for green initiatives. At times I felt that ‘class’ was an issue within the group – the members were chiefly from middle class neighbourhoods with very different experiences and of course having the ability to choose greener lifestyles”*. This is consistent with other research findings and the need to support the environmental working-class (Bell, 2020).

Others noted that the project had acted as a catalyst toward further action: *“I have learnt a lot and it has been great on a personal level to think about what more we need to do as a family and also given me the impetus to engage in activities happening in my neighbourhood and city”*.

Others noted the limitations of the project and the importance of action at a higher more strategic level: *“It has the potential for value. Either as a connecting tool (if we can maintain the wider group connection) or as a programme for change. The latter will depend on what the council does, and what we can change via local ward plans”*; *“We need our leaders from Manchester City Council and central government to listen to the concerns that we have, to take them seriously and begin implementing the changes that are required on a large scale”*.

Some participants were doubtful of the council or others taking notice of their views: *“It’s difficult to say, but I hope that it has been valuable. Why difficult? Because I don’t have confidence that Manchester City Council will respond appropriately, so much of our effort could be in vain”*; *“Yes, if Manchester City Council actually do something differently / better as a result. If it’s just a piece of paper and we still see more skyscrapers, car dependent development, poorly insulated buildings etc then it was almost a waste of time (although I enjoyed it)”*; *“It remains to be seen if this makes any real difference to MCC’s actions on the climate emergency and if so, whether it has a wider impact. For myself, it was pleasant to see other individuals with similar concerns from outside my current circles”*.

3. Which part do you think was the most valuable?

When asked which part was the most valuable, some participants could identify this straight away: *“Local groups meeting and talking about our areas”*; *“Sessions at Friends Meeting House in the large groups”*; *“Making connections with other people. Understanding what I can do to action change”*.

One participant recognised the importance of their role within the process: *“Certainly sharing thoughts and experiencing other views was valuable. I felt like it is important that we all identified as leaders in our own spheres of influence”*.

Another found it: *“Difficult to isolate one part. I think the valuable part for me was doing something that really felt like it may make a difference, helping me to mentally cope with the overwhelming situation of climate change. In terms of the sessions, what I found valuable was the validation that the small steps I was making personally were a step in the right direction and I wasn’t the only one feeling that they didn’t know how to go forward with more effective steps. The sessions worked well and I enjoyed the guest speakers introducing their subjects with enthusiasm and depth of knowledge.”*

Many stated the individual subject workshops were of most value: *“experts on topics related to climate change with the opportunity to ask questions”*; *“All of the sessions were valuable in different ways. The first sessions allowed us to contemplate in more detail the issues of current high emission industries. I enjoyed the climate psychology session the most and the last two sessions allowed us all to meet and share our ideas, but the best thing about them was to hear about all the work that Anthesis have been doing and*

meet with local authority representatives". The Buildings and energy workshop seemed to divide opinion: "Session on energy/housing as it seemed the most tangible"; "The retrofit presentation was challenging and far too much information included". Generally participants got a lot out of the workshops, and there was tentative hope that the outcomes would instigate action: "I hope the mandate will prove valuable"; "The population at large are not as aware of the scale of the issues we face, although the remit of the assembly was very parochial and won't affect the systemic changes we need it may point a way for local areas to take action should those systemic changes occur"; "hopefully these recommendations are getting seen and addressed by those in powerful positions".

Participants did recognise the importance of being able to present the findings to members of MCC City Council at the final session: *"Feeding back to council officers and elected officials was the most valuable for me, as well as increasing my own learning and understanding of other local views".*

4. Which part do you think was the least valuable?

Here it was picked up the need for diverse groups and engaging the unengaged: *"I think it would have been great to have recruited a [group] more representative of our wards. Too much of an echo chamber".*

Others identified individual workshops as not being as helpful for them: *"Sustainable fashion session. It felt a bit like re-arranging the deck chairs on the titanic"; "The first session on psychological wellbeing seemed out of place, if well-meaning, I couldn't see the point of filling up the time with it".*

Some of the participants found the sessions difficult and there was not enough time to do everything they wanted to do: *"Some of the exercises after the presentations were a little unrealistic to achieve and consider in the limited time allowed"; "difficult to say. I think the part that I found a little difficult to digest was the section on housing. Partly because I had very only a small amount of knowledge in this area. Partly because there was a lot of technical information to absorb quickly, and then the activity afterwards was a bit challenging after a long day at work. I thought the speaker was excellent and his enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject was evident".*

Others hoped there would be more involvement from MCC and local councillors *"I had hoped for more engagement with policy makers and budget holders"; "I think there was a real lack of presence from Andy Burnham and his team in the ending sessions".*

Although in the Levenshulme and East group and Wythenshawe and South groups there was valuable involvement from local councillors, others wanted more enthusiasm from local policy makers: *"It would have been good to hear from MCC nearer to the start, or even have them participating in some of the groups rather than just at the end. Knowing in advance about their thinking, objectives and frustrations might have been useful for our discussions"; "The only thing I would change would be meeting local authority representatives and hearing their reports at the beginning of the programme".*

Local councillors were invited to the assembly and some did attend, but if the assembly was done again invitations would be sent out earlier to try and secure more involvement. Some councillors attended numerous workshops and were active and supportive of the process, whereas unfortunately others came for a small part of one workshop and then left without really engaging with participants.

5. *Has the assembly made you more aware of: (please tick all that apply)*

What needs to happen in order for us to meet Manchester's Carbon reduction targets	17
What action I can take myself	12
The Climate Emergency	11
What is going on in my local area	11
What the council is doing about the climate emergency	11

When asked to tick the boxes that applied the most, the most valuable information for participants was what action needs to happen for Manchester to meet its carbon reduction targets (the following figures are from 20 participants who responded to this question).

6. *Would you be interested in being involved in further initiatives going forwards? If so, what kind of subject/area would you like to act on?*

This question was asked of participants to guide actions going forwards and see which subjects participants would be interested in finding out more about or getting involved in. The most popular were:

- Increasing and improving green spaces and parks
- Local knowledge shares and public engagement
- Educating others and engaging others at a community level

The workshops on Buildings and energy and Transport were the most popular subject areas for further work going forwards.

One participant gave the following feedback which gives a valuable insight into the views of some community members *"I am really interested in behavioural change and working with the community to educate and encourage greener lifestyles. I believe strongly that we need to sell greener lifestyles and the positives for people and the environment. It is crucial that people are incentivised to embrace the measures for carbon reduction. It is clear, especially post Covid, that there is little appetite for more catastrophising which has created great division in society already. I think that a lot of the recognised climate change responses from activists such as Extinction Rebellion are taking completely the wrong tack and alienating large sections of the community who need to be engaged"*.

7. *Do you have any other thoughts about how similar climate assembly projects could be improved going forwards?*

Again participants pointed to the need for wider participation: *"Greater diversity of participants"; "Involved more people that are not on board, interested or unaware of climate issues"; "Bring the not engaged in or the worst offending councillors"*. One participant suggested a course of action: *"Longer run in. Using champions to get out and bring a more representative group"*.

As stated, in some areas local councillors came along and got involved. However, some participants wanted much more regular engagement: *"Get councillors to hold these at ward level. Get union branches to hold them"*.

Some participants found that the workshops were too fast paced and that more time is needed for exploration of the subject and reflection afterwards: *"Only have one subject at once as the one we had on"*

buildings was too much to take in”; “Time/financial constraints notwithstanding, a more reflective slower-paced model would enable more original thinking, which was the declared intent. A presentation of the problem in each case, followed by time for both individual and group consideration and suggestions before a further presentation of already identified solutions would allow more scope for new ideas. I also felt the process was rushed, with little, if any, time for reflection”.

8. *Would you like to see more of these kinds of projects in the future? (perhaps engaging different demographics?)*

Participants were all in agreement that there should be more of these initiatives and acknowledged the need for engagement: *“Yes. I think that would be great. I definitely know of people who are living as if climate change was not happening, and I also know people who are worried about it but don’t know how to help. I think targeted community engagement would be a way to educate and facilitate change in the most effective way”.*

Some expressed uncertainty about how best to proceed: *“Yes, but how to reach them? This is my big question. The consequences of inaction are so terrible yet we can’t engage with all these people whose lives and descendants’ lives will be affected”.*

Others wanted to expand the project: *“Yes, I think it’s a good way of getting consultation but needs to be much more representative of the cities’ demographics. Also, could it run across GMCA to effect even wider change?”* and expressed the need to keep up momentum: *“Yes, I think so. We need at least one follow-up in about a year’s time, to hold the council to account. And of course the council should at least commit to responding to our findings and conclusions”.*

9. *What other communities/groups would you like to see involved in similar projects?*

Many participants wanted to see young people involved in the next climate change assembly. Others wanted to see more representation from: policy makers, ‘the wealthy’, ‘the working class’, people with learning difficulties or disabilities and other groups who better reflect the diversity of the city. One participant reflected: *“I don’t think it is possible to have the reach to communicate with the numbers who need to be informed so I think we need to target “influencers”, whoever they may be. If we are serious about affecting the world and not just pretending to empower individuals then community/religious/sporting leaders would be among my targets in the hope that they would spread the message”.*

10. *Have you any ideas about how best to engage these kinds of groups?*

Thoughts on this from participants include:

“Get unions on board for worker led just transition”

“Recruit youth workers, teachers and young activists to spread the word of Youth assemblies, co-designed with young people for young people”

“Ensure that everyone is encouraged to engage. No blame”

“Engage with local businesses to advertise to their staff”

“Free food always works”

“Going into areas such as Crumpsall and Longsight and hold inclusive and fun events in local parks etc”

“I live in a multicultural area, a lot of different groups of people come together through their children at school, so perhaps that is an initial way to engage groups”

“For families, ‘things that entertain their kids’ at weekends and holidays and that are free, are a really good way to engage people. When I was younger I did freelance community art activities for children through local councils and we did nature themed art activities with kids on park open days and celebration events”
“Work with leaders in their communities as they will already have established channels of communication”

11. Have you anything else you would like to say about the Manchester Climate Change Assembly?

Below is a collection of closing remarks from participants about the Manchester Climate Change Assembly and the wider climate emergency:

“It’s been great to be involved. Politicians now need to step up”

“Progress is too slow”

“A very well run assembly. Tried to engage everyone to have their say, ask questions, made sure participants were heard”

“Really appreciate all the work that has gone into making it happen”

“More engagement with local leaders in all sessions – get them to engage, not just sit at the back”

“I am very happy to be involved. I have been acting and campaigning on these issues for many years”

“Lots of events are being held to include ages/families – we need them to happen in areas of deprivation to raise awareness over a larger population”

“Good exercise but only involved self-selected, already concerned individuals”

“I would like to thank you for organising the sessions. I think our representatives who handed over the mandate to the council summed up all our feelings. We are all scared of climate change and we want to do something about it, but have to ask those in power to bring about the changes we can’t make on our own”

“We are all hoping the action takes place and we are thankful for this chance to try. As Caroline Hickman said ‘We have to try even if we fail’. Thank you”

“I still was left with the sense that the goals to hit for Manchester are beyond us and require policy change and renewed economic systems and thinking. For example, a major change required is retrofitting residential and businesses. I can only see that change at the government level “

“We are planning to keep inspiring the wider group and find new ways of working together to reduce carbon”

“It seems to me that the MCCA doesn't have the resources to do anything really significant. This suggests that the council is still not taking the climate emergency seriously enough. Our £25 vouchers are most welcome but in total they could have been used to do something about climate change - the free food was enough for us!”

“Thanks for the invite. Overall, I really enjoyed the process and listening to the presenters and the other participants”

“I’m reserving judgement on the MCCA. I’m not entirely sure what’s been achieved so far. I’m more concerned with the MCC and how they use the agency as a shield against scrutiny on the environment. Though I feel that maybe this is changing now. Thank you so much for being part of this assembly project. The contributions of everyone involved are highly valued and your participation is greatly appreciated at this most crucial time in responding to the climate emergency”

“Big thanks to all of the organisers and presenters for bringing together a valuable series of events and for helping us to establish contacts within our local areas. Fingers crossed our concerns are heard and felt by those who have the ability to make the impactful changes that are necessary”

“I am grateful to have been part of this assembly and I would like to see more of this type of activity in the future”

All of the feedback collected from the feedback forms can be seen in Appendix 3.

COP26

The Manchester climate change assembly was presented at fringe events across Glasgow as part of the International UN COP26 Climate Conference during November 2021. Although the COP26 conference itself was widely viewed as a failure (Hales and Mackey, 2021), fringe events outside of the conference brought together individuals and groups from across the world, providing opportunities for international collaborations at the grass roots level. It was widely recognised by attendees that there needs to be widespread changes made across all the political and industry sectors. Most importantly, there needs to be a *“moral revolution”* if we are to successfully avoid the worst impacts of global climate change and the associated global ecological and societal collapse. Project lead Bob Walley gave presentations to attendees from all over the world, including from across the UK, Brazil and the Philippines. The project was well received and partnership projects are currently being developed in collaboration with Envirolution using the Manchester climate change assembly model and its findings.

Conclusions

“I used to think the top global environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address these problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a spiritual and cultural transformation, and we scientists don't know how to do that.” (Speth, 2013)

It is all sections of society that need to act and do more in the face of the climate emergency. The aim of the Manchester Climate Assembly was to mobilise more people to act. Importantly, participants of the Manchester Climate Change Assembly originally felt a sense of *“impending doom”* and the climate crisis is *“HUGE! So big and I feel like I'm such a little part”* with many feeling they *“don't know how to be heard”* and a sense of *“hopelessness, it seems as nothing is changing”*. Others simply asked: *“Where do you start!?”*

Throughout the assembly groups were asking *“How can we personally make a difference?”* which brought about many interesting conversations. One point put forward is to *“accept its our responsibility not others”*. In the environmental movement one mantra which is repeated often is ‘We are the people we have been waiting for’.

The assembly gave concerned citizens of Manchester something practical and positive to work towards, giving access to otherwise inaccessible policy makers within the City Council. This was an incredibly empowering initiative as can be seen from the feedback, but this process can be improved. The assembly is the catalyst, with the action plans and Mandate providing informed pathways forward to be explored further. Participants recognised *“this needs to carry on after the climate assembly and be built upon”*.

“We can use ideas across food, fashion, transport, buildings and energy and other goods and services that are transferable”. But the changes need to be made from the *“top down as well as bottom up”*. Participants want to see real leadership and require policy makers to *“create legally binding implementation plans, not targets”*; *“We have targets, we must now take concrete action”*.

Participants talked of seeing nothing but *“hot air from governments”* and were demoralised knowing *“lots of countries are declaring climate emergencies, but they're not treating it as an emergency (like the pandemic)”*. Many were disillusioned with those in power and their inaction. They felt the *“money is not being allocated”*, and what little is being done, communities *“don't see the benefits of government spending”*. Increasing frustration and anger at inaction was talked of, with participants recognising that *“global warming has long effects, whereas businesses and government are short term”*.

Some stated that the *“government works in silos, they solve problems by moving them elsewhere, like recycling to foreign countries”*. Closer to home they felt the *“buck being passed to individuals”*. *“Lots of messages from high up have been directed at us”* one stated.

These accounts demonstrate that inaction from high level governments and business actually disempowers people, making them feel as if the gigantic task is being made even more difficult. This creates ‘Solastalgia’: the pain or distress caused by the loss of a comforting place; the sense of desolation people feel, consciously or unconsciously, when their home or land is lost (CPA, 2021). Participants felt *“grief for our world”*.

Many stated *“the government could do a lot more”* and acknowledged that actions at community level can only go so far. Participants stated there is a *“need to change the entire political system through people pressure”*, as it is the actions of big business and national governments that make the large scale changes needed to combat the climate emergency. *“We still have time, but not much”*.

The question was posed: *“how do we respond to all this effectively?”* Caroline Hickman reminded participants that *“failure teaches us emotional resilience”* and participants should try and *“transform that solastalgia into positive actions”*. Going forwards, it was recognised that *“things are going to get better and worse at the same time”* and everyone is going to have to ask themselves: *“Are we really doing all we can do? It’s ok to fail, but not to try...?”*

Nick Drew from the Climate Psychology Alliance told participants: *“We’re moving into uncharted waters”* and there are many challenges ahead: *“Things we need to do will hurt”*. Discussions were had about the pitfalls when trying to engage others and the *“huge variations in perceptions of people around us”* which can create an unproductive *“us and them mentality”*.

Participants spoke of family conflicts that can happen, and that it’s difficult for many to navigate between doing the right thing or the easiest thing. When it comes to consuming ethically, *“the middle classes have more time and capacity for engaging with this”*. The links between education, class and income can heavily affect the amount of action that can be taken. Though it is getting to the stage where *“everyone recognises the issue, but not everyone has the capacity to change their lifestyle”*. Participants also recognised that *“it’s the poorer people that suffer the most”* and were constantly questioning: *“How can we help others to participate, to be heard, to take actions”*. There was concern the climate emergency has *“lost its significance. Now people are used to seeing floods and extreme weather”* and may become desensitised to the issue if it is not presented effectively by the media, who have a key part to play in education and motivating positive action. Something which was widely recognised as severely lacking and yet crucial if we are to respond effectively as a society.

The climate emergency can be incredibly difficult to conceptualise, but it can also be made tangible and relevant. Local parks and green spaces can provide links to the natural world that can build connections, understanding and value. In cities like Manchester they play a crucial role in engaging communities about the climate emergency.

As stated in the Mandate, this assembly identified three ways to sustainable action instead of experiencing burnout:

1. *Self-care and the importance of your own mental and physical health on the effectiveness of your response and continued motivation and energy*
2. *Join a group or community where actions can be amplified and widened*
3. *Identify your superpower. Don’t do too much on your own – we are together in this and everyone has a role to play which can be different but just as valuable.*

Self-care was reiterated as a crucial activity towards sustained action, with participants recognising *“you do have to switch off every so often and that’s ok”* and it’s important to *“make some boundaries”* and *“don’t do too much on your own”*. One participant noted *“This is horrific! But this is our legacy, so we have to put positivity into it somehow”*.

The assembly showed what most participants already knew: *“All the issues are solvable. This is political, not technical”*. The crucial ways forward for further action is the education of others to accelerate the formation of groups. People need to see changes being made and get motivated and inspired to get involved. So communication and engagement of the most appropriate and relevant topics for each area or community is key. An issue like air quality is tangible and immediate, whereas climate change can seem distant and abstract.

Participants were encouraged to hear from Manchester City Council Executives and local councillors who attended the final celebration event where they were presented with project outcomes:

Carol Culley OBE, MCC Deputy Chief exec and city treasurer

Councillor Tracey Rawlins, Exec Member for the Environment

Lee Ann Igbon, Chair of MCC Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

MCC Councillors (including members of the Climate Change Scrutiny Committee) Cllr Eve Holt, Cllr Annette Wright, Cllr Mandie Shilton-Godwin, Cllr Linda Foley.

David Houliston, Head of Policy & Strategy, Manchester City Council

Shefali Kapoor, Head of Neighbourhoods, Manchester City Council

This project recognises that these individuals attended because they wanted to be there, and so are already part of the solution going forwards. For example, Deputy Chief Executive & City Treasurer, Carol Culley gave a speech at the final event showing support for initiatives from the assembly project such as a ‘palm oil free city’ and a ‘transport free city’.

These proposals can now be pushed, and after this catalyst project, the task is now to get more people involved in the conversation and the actions. Involving the individuals and communities participants identified that should be in the room becomes the next aim. Many participants of the assembly are already active in some way concerning the climate crisis, and project leads were conscious of not *“adding more to their plate”*. However, project progression needs to ensure the involvement of more people to build capacity, and everyone must ‘think smart’ as to how this can best be achieved.

The Mandate is to be sent around Manchester City Council and local MPs alongside this report.

Participants will be notified and later asked to contact their MPs to see if they are going to support the recommendations of the assembly. All the documents will be published on the online sharepoint and all the learning from this project will feed in to Envirolution and the In Our Nature programme strategies. Action Plans will be revisited and supported where possible by Envirolution and Manchester Climate Change Agency, with the primary aim of involving more policy makers, businesses, communities and individuals from across Manchester.

One main group that participants felt should be engaged were children and young people under 18 years old. Paul Hoggett of the CPA recognises that when it comes to the climate emergency: *“We are witnessing unprecedented things and 70% of 18-24 year olds are distressed about this. It’s almost like it’s the adults who need to grow up.”* Participants of the assembly also noted *“young people are the drivers of change”* and that they were a key group to be brought in, highlighting the need for an under 18s climate assembly.

Envirolution and the In Our Nature programme are always recruiting volunteers and everyone is welcome to get involved.

To have your say, take action and become part of the movement working towards a more sustainable future for us all, please use the links below:

To join Envirolution get in touch through the website at: <https://envirolution.org.uk/>

To sign up to the In Our Nature programme go to : <https://zerocarbonmanchester.commonplace.is/>

Recommendations

Transparency

Project leads recognised that the learning gained and processes used in the Manchester Climate Change Assembly needed to be transparent at all stages of the process. Although this could lead to greater scrutiny, it was also crucial to build trust amongst participants and others involved and to demonstrate how possible and beneficial it is to work in this way. This project was a 'community assembly' and not a 'citizen's assembly', so instead of following a tried and tested format, the project tried out new ideas and methods of engagement. Transparency was extremely important so others could learn from this project and take this learning forward. To help with transparency, all materials were uploaded onto the online sharepoint as the project went along. Although this is incredibly time consuming, it means that participants are better able to reflect upon topics that were covered and what should be progressed. Materials could be accessed at any time and it still serves as a free resource which anyone can access:

<https://zerocarbonmanchester.commonplace.is/proposals/in-our-nature-community-assembly/step1>

Funding

Funding was secured from Manchester Climate Change Agency for use in public engagement. As many councils across the UK have now declared a climate emergency (as well as the UK government) this could be a good way of approaching potential funders. This report can be used as evidence as to the value of such an initiative. Large citizens assemblies such as the national UK assembly cost around £40,000, but this was due to postal invites being sent out (which has the potential advantage of engaging with a wider demographic) and a hotel for the assembly to take place. The Manchester Climate Assembly was more localised and used venues which were in the centre of each community for ease of access. Some of these were provided for free by the venues due to the nature of the project.

Envirolution advises providing a budget for workshop providers time, and recommends paying 'livescribers' to record workshop findings and discussions. The use of images and artwork can be highly beneficial in providing memory cues for participants and can be displayed at each following workshop to serve as reminders of what has been covered. Also, Manchester City Council had recently appointed 'Climate Change officers' which were incredibly valuable in helping out at assembly workshops and in recruitment. For future climate assembly projects, Envirolution advises project coordinators to find out if there is anyone locally who may have this as part of their remit who can help.

Recruitment

Recruitment was conducted using an online portal which could be monitored, meaning that if there was a lot of involvement from certain demographics or geographical areas, strategies could be changed to try and include equal participation from across the city involving a good representation of the people of Manchester. Although this was only partially successful, project coordinators still believe this is a good method of recruitment.

Both Wythenshawe and South and Whalley Range and Chorlton groups stated how they thought “*we are not representative*” and the groups were not diverse enough to do the areas justice. Although other area groups were more diverse, this still made for an interesting discussion point. Thoughts and suggestions for future strategies concerning this common issue with environmental projects include engaging with established community leaders and connectors early in the process. Finding those who are better placed to be able to engage diverse groups and individuals is key to improving chances of increased involvement from people of all backgrounds, cultures, circumstances and ages.

“It’s all those out there who aren’t engaged and are the vast majority that need to be part of things like this”. The question was asked in every area group: *“How do we get the people in the room who need to be in the room?”* Assembly posters and flyers used terminology such as ‘have your say in how you want your city to be’ or ‘we need your help to improve our city’ to try and entice people who would not usually engage with an assembly about climate change. However, all the adverts were still promoting the ‘Manchester Climate Assembly’, so it was accepted by project leads that there were limitations to this strategy. Holding one off workshops at free events in community spaces may help to bring people into the conversation, especially if these gateway events discuss issues that are relevant and appropriate to that target group whilst they can also lead to wider engagement with the climate emergency.

The Manchester assembly had an application window of just less than two months. But a longer application window could be considered if needed. The danger of choosing a window which is too long is potential participants may become involved in other commitments or lose interest.

It is very important to leave enough time for promotion. For the Manchester assembly this became a major challenge due to time constraints. In the end there was not enough time to properly plan the promotion and get all the stakeholders on board. For future projects more time would be put aside for this at the proposal stage so all relevant stakeholders would be researched and contacted in good time.

Project leads advise that care should be taken of how much time is set aside between the end of recruitment and the project start. Waiting until recruitment had finished until booking workshop venues meant that these could be selected with accessibility and convenience in mind. Project leads wanted to make it as easy as possible for participants to get involved to increase the chances of involving those who would not usually participate in climate change related initiatives, and for participant retention. However, this did mean that booking ideal venues was quite stressful. Although project leads would not advise leaving it too long between the end of recruitment and project start as again you may lose participants interest, or they may become involved in other things (for the Manchester Climate Assembly there was a gap of a week and a half).

Hubbub produced a set of promotional assets for the assembly including leaflets, posters and social media cards. The materials were translated into key languages including Urdu, Chinese, Somali, Arabic and Polish. Hubbub also led on the digital promotion which included paid advertisement and support from social media influencers, which was integral to the assembly project.

Example of the promotional materials:



Envirolution aims to provide positive and pro-active opportunities for people to get involved in which are practical and are of value concerning the climate challenge. The advertising and promotion materials produced by Hubbub showed positive imagery and motivational messages as opposed to doom and gloom imagery and messages which may be distressing. Although Envirolution acknowledges the seriousness and urgency of the climate emergency, we have found when working with the general public, especially those currently disengaged with the issue, it works best when giving people practical activities where they can see the value. These activities act as gateways to greater understanding of the issue and in turn the urgency with which we need to act. This process then happens at participants own pace, where they will not feel pressured to act or pushed into situations they are not comfortable. This process must happen, but in a way which is going to illicit positive responses. Whatever approach is decided, the wording of advertising and promotion is very important, so it is well worth doing some research on effective methods of engaging your target group.

Partner organisations

Think about stakeholders who are going to be supportive of this process and be able to progress the aims and outcomes of this project. Currently disengaged people, local council, businesses and national government were the targets for the Manchester Climate Assembly, but it was accepted that the project may not be able to get everyone in the room who we would like to at the first attempt. More representation from local businesses was certainly needed. Envirolution advises to keep this goal in mind, as the people that can be brought on board now might then provide access to the people who need to get involved in the conversation later.

It's also important not to try and take on everything and burn out or not be able to put as much time and energy into important aspects of the project, so those with the skillsets and expertise to ensure successful engagement should be sought: *“You can’t do everything, so find those that can do the things that are needed”*.

Ethical procurement

Food for the assembly was provided by Open Kitchen MCR (<https://www.openkitchenmcr.co.uk>) who is *“committed to producing food in the most sustainable and ethical way possible. We work with a range of*

food businesses to stop good food from being wasted, and also purchase ingredients, working only with local, sustainable, and ethical suppliers. Our chefs use this ever-changing mix to produce nutritious, seasonal menus that offer the lowest carbon catering possible, while maintaining great quality. Profits from our business go into providing food and supplying meals for people struggling with food insecurity across Greater Manchester.”

This also applies to any printing needed for the project. In Manchester Envirolution regularly uses MARC the printers (<https://www.islingtonmill.com/tenant/marc-the-printers>).

Whoever is used, it's crucial for projects like these to be able to 'walk the walk', not just 'talk the talk', as much as possible. Food, refreshments and printing should be the most ethical and environmentally minded options available. Previous research before the project start is needed here and any businesses going to be used need to be made aware of the project in the planning stages. Their services might be needed more than initially realised as the assembly progresses and numbers or needs change.

Confidentiality

Everyone was contacted in-between workshops by email with any updates concerning venues or things to reflect on or prepare for. However, all of the email addresses of participants were hidden from everyone else until later in the process when the formation of groups was encouraged. Here participants had to actively consent to their details being shared as part of an email or WhatsApp group, or whichever the group saw as the most convenient and relevant for them to keep in contact. Those that did not respond to the request of their details being shared meant the group was formed from those that did respond. Then any others were contacted separately and invited to join the group. All participants were asked if they could be photographed or be included in the project film. If they did not give consent then this was respected. For this final report and other materials, consent was requested for use of peoples feedback and opinions and all the participants were told their data would be anonymised.

Planning the workshops

A good thing to bear in mind is to have a mixture of presentations, time for questions, then activities and feedback. Ideally 10 minutes of presentation is enough before most people start losing concentration, so workshops were mostly structured with this in mind. They would begin with the presentation of a subject then move on to discussions or working on activities.

Each workshop was delivered five times for each of the area groups.

For instance: The same workshop for Transport and Food agriculture was delivered for Group 1 on Monday, Group 2 on Tuesday, etc...

Workshop venues were chosen which were central and most accessible for participants, with rooms that were spacious enough for everyone to feel comfortable and maintain social distance. One venue had to be changed and in another the room had to be changed for a bigger space to accommodate these needs. The set up of the space is very important. An important thing to do is set out circular seating so everyone can see each other and so nobody is left out.

Agreements exercise

Envirolution uses the agreements exercise at the beginning of any project of this kind. Participants are asked to list all those guidelines that make for successful workshops, which can then be listed on a sheet of paper that everyone can see.

Examples should ideally include but not be limited to:

No interrupting

No shouting

Respecting other peoples' views – even if they are not the same as yours, instead enquire

Empathy, remember there are always reasons

Why people think what they think

Treat this as a confidential space – crucial that participants respect the confidential space and understand people may voice things which they find difficult to communicate

Encourage equal participation – no one person should ever be dominating the conversation

These should come from the participants themselves. This list can then be signed by everyone if appropriate and put on the wall for each workshop, so that if one of the guidelines is broken then the group can be reminded of their agreements at the time and throughout the project.

Project timing and length

Some participants thought it was too long and some too short. One participant wanted to “*see this take place every month!*” Another participant suggested holding the assembly outside of school holidays.

The length and timing of a project such as this is difficult to plan. The Manchester Climate Assembly workshops were mostly held over the UK summer holidays, and it was decided that the best time to hold them would be after normal working hours each weekday evening. It was acknowledged that this would potentially be a barrier for parents who had to look after children during these times, but it was felt that during the day would have ruled out more people as they would be at work. If they were not at work then they could be looking after children anyway. School holidays can be a struggle for some whilst term times can be too much for others. Participants can be asked at the recruitment stage which would work best for them which can provide guidance, but it also must be accepted there is never going to be a perfect time for everyone. Whatever is decided, inclusivity and accessibility should always be the main factors that guide this decision with an aim to suit as many people as possible.

After much consideration it was decided that the workshops would be 2 hours long with an extra 30 minutes break in the middle.

For instance: *18:00 – 20:30 with a break from 19:00 – 19:30 for food and refreshments*

Due to capacity and funding, an hour was seen as a good amount of time for topics to be covered. It's possible more than this might turn out to be too much information to take in. However, it might be worth considering longer if it is possible. Some participants gave feedback that one hour was not long enough for some of the sessions and exercises and that it was “*too much too quick*”. Also, 30 minutes break was not enough time for people to reflect on what they had learned. For example, the Buildings and Energy workshop contained a lot of complex information about retrofit and energy use, which were perhaps issues that participants were not aware of before, so it was a lot to take in and then try and make decisions about in such a short time.

One participant advised that *“if there was ever going to be something like this again, it would be great if there was more time for people to discuss. I sometimes need time to process exactly what I've been presented before I can decide what opinion I might have”*. If we were to do it again, we would seriously consider having a longer overall project with each topic taking up the whole of the two hours of workshop activity time. This was not possible for our assembly due to budget and time constraints, but if enough time and money can be secured then this could be more beneficial for the project as a whole. Though a longer project does mean more commitment from participants and increases the chances of drop off. Another factor to consider is providing the materials for group sessions before the actual session for participants to prepare if they are able.

Topics and workshop providers

The topics and workshop providers for the Manchester climate change assembly were as follows:

Introduction to climate change - Bob Walley, Envirolution

The emotional impact of climate change - Caroline Hickman Wendy Holloway, Judith Anderson, Nick Drew and Liz Marks, Climate Psychology Alliance

Transport - Claire Stocks, Walk Ride GM and the Our Streets Project

Food and agriculture - Rachel Oelbaum, Manchester Foodsync

Fashion and Retail - Alison Carlin and Camilla Cheung, Manchester Fashion Movement

Buildings and energy - Charlie Baker from Red Cooperative

The Manchester City Council framework - Matt Rooney, Nicole Dalton and Danielle Thorpe, Anthesis

Policy and Leadership - Professor Mat Patterson, University of Manchester

Reaching net zero and other concerns - Chris Jones, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research

The workshop themes were presented by workshop providers who are experts in their field based in Manchester. Each topic focused workshop presented the current situation, where we need to be, current challenges and potential ways forward. Exercises were designed to explore which actions were practical, relevant and appropriate for each of the areas of Manchester, which would then be put forward for the local area action plans. The actions which participants were unable to implement, where help was required from higher up, were then to be put forward for the Mandate.

The National Citizens Assembly on Climate Change may provide some other ideas for topics (<https://www.climateassembly.uk>) and it might be worth looking into Citizens Assembly training opportunities to provide useful skills and confidence towards informed project delivery. The Climate Assembly UK explored similar core topics: *‘How we travel, In the home, What we buy, land use, food and farming’*

Proposal guide for workshop providers:

Below is an example of the workshop guide sent out to external workshop providers.

Each workshop will be one hour long and take place Monday to Friday weeknights outside of normal working hours from 18:00 till 19:00 or 19:30 until 20:30. These workshops will take place with five different community groups around Manchester in the weeks beginning the 16th of August.

Please choose which time slots and which one of these weeks are best for you (when they have been requested those slots will be filled I'm afraid)

We are aiming for the total number of participants in each group to be around 15.

At the moment we are aiming for the workshops to take place in person but due to the Coronavirus be conducted in a conscious and considered manner.

We have chosen to hold the workshops in the different areas of Manchester on early evenings to try and make it as inclusive and accessible as we can (though we realise this may well exclude some people, but we have to accept we are not able to capture all of the people we want this time)

We will let you know exactly where the workshops will be once we have completed recruitment (recruitment ends on the 31st of July) and we know where is going to be most accessible for participants.

We are aiming to include as wider demographic as possible with varied levels of engagement with climate change as a subject.

What we are asking for

The aim is to present and discuss a theme which focuses on the issue and a range of associated challenges and possible solutions.

As there is only an hour then it could be you decide two or three challenges are the most important to talk about in the time we have.

Within that hour we are asking for:

an introduction to yourself and the subject (why it's important)

a range of solutions that can be implemented now at an individual and community level

a range of solutions that can be implemented with the right political will or infrastructure development

In the last half of the workshop participants will be asked to decide on which solutions are most appropriate and important to themselves and Manchester

1 hour Workshop template/ideas

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Resources needed</i>
<i>10 mins</i>	<i>Introduction to self and what area you are covering. Why this is important.</i>	
<i>30 mins</i>	<i>What are the challenges and what are the solutions? What are other areas/cities doing and what should Manchester be doing? Perhaps an activity/open discussion on this subject with participants?</i>	
<i>20 mins</i>	<i>Options will be run through and voted upon by participants (Envirolution can facilitate the voting process)</i>	<i>Envirolution and MCCA can print all voting survey forms Will need to discuss what we should have on these <u>before</u> the week beginning the 9th of August</i>
<i>10 mins</i>	<i>Feedback and possibilities. What from these presented solutions can be incorporated into participants individual/community action plans? And what needs to go into the mandate as demands/recommendations?</i>	

Wider project

Two main outcomes of the Manchester community assembly project are:

- 1. What action is possible on an individual/community level*
- 2. What is NOT currently possible, so support and infrastructure is needed from higher up (MCC, businesses, national government, other stakeholders and policy makers)*

Learning from all of the workshops will be recorded by a live-scriber.

These findings will be collated and reflected upon for the creation of action plans for outcome 1 (action plans for individuals and communities)

Also in order to be used in the design of the mandate for outcome 2 (most appropriate and important changes that need to be made on a city/country/international level)

Other outputs:

The project will also produce a report publication of all findings and requests, which will be presented to Manchester City Council.

The report will also contain learning points and recommendations for any similar projects in the future.

A project film is also being produced so this learning can be made available to a wider audience.

The mandate will be taken to COP26 in Glasgow and presented to delegates of the conference, representing the views of the people of Manchester and what they think the leaders of the world need to be doing about climate change.

We hope this will result in a larger Greater Manchester wide project in 2022 and would love you to be involved if so.

This pilot is the first of its kind in Manchester and we have put the best project plan together we can.

Any feedback or input is very welcome, especially for the following report when we review the process in order to make improvements.

We really value your involvement.

As coordinator of similar assembly projects it is not necessary to be the expert on all aspects of the climate emergency. Facilitating the workshops, connecting with participants and making sure all the data is captured and recorded takes up a lot of time. Inviting in experts in their fields who can provide a good overview of the chosen subject is crucial in ensuring high quality standards and a good learning experience for all participants.

Outcomes

Careful consideration of project outcomes is essential. It was very important to project leads that this was not yet another consultation project asking what people think about climate change. Project outcomes and progression afterwards was seriously considered at the project proposal stage. The presentation of any project outcomes to policy makers or local leaders is crucial for participants, so they know this has the potential to go somewhere and is not just a tick box exercise. The final event of the Manchester assembly provided the opportunity for residents and local policy makers to be in the same room and start conversations. It was not a photo opportunity or a chance for a rant, but an opportunity to explore actions going forwards. The presentation of the project at COP26 was also important for providing extra meaning for this project.

The Action plans were important for thinking of local actions that could be mobilised. This exercise can be really helpful in order to break down what exactly is possible for those taking part and their peers, what the council can do, what needs to be taken further and what is the immediate and long-term benefits of those actions.

The creation of a Mandate gave this project extra importance. As one participant put it: “*we need to imagine the world we would like to live in and show people what the world could be like*”.

Envirolution decided that something needed to be created to go alongside the Mandate document that symbolises it and can be used in a wider campaign. The document itself is of incredible value, but can easily be filed away and forgotten about. However, an image which can represent it can be used as a visual accompaniment that can be put in shop or house windows as part of a wider campaign that people can get behind. This is more difficult to file away and forget about. Money from the budget was put aside for artists to work on the design and creation of a Mandate symbol which can be seen on the cover of this report.

The importance of post-its

A set of post-its and individual pens were placed out ready for all participants and everyone was reminded to use them whenever they like. These are there for anyone to use when they have a thought, idea or reaction about anything. Questions can be scribbled that can be asked later or privately if the participant is not confident to speak out at that point. Point out that these post-its will be photographed / recorded and typed up later. This ensures equal participation as much as possible and shows participants that they are being listened to and their opinion as concerned citizens is valued. The importance of this needs to be reiterated at the beginning of every workshop.

Evaluation and feedback

Through the use of the post-it notes, any evaluation and feedback could be collected throughout the assembly. Participants were also invited to contact project leads at any point with any other thoughts they may have about the assembly, its outcomes, the effectiveness of the project and improvements they would like to see made for any future ventures. As feedback was collected over the whole time of the assembly, the data captured was quite rich, which explains the length of this impact assessment. However, this was viewed by project leads as worthwhile, as different learning points could be more relevant for certain groups wanting to explore similar ventures, not just in Manchester or the UK, but also across the world through presentations of the assembly (like at COP26).

Considering the timetable

The topics chosen to be covered and the outcomes of the assembly will help determine the length any such prospective assembly project should be. The Manchester assembly was six workshops in total over a seven week period.

An example of a timetable given out to small groups is below:

Levenshulme and East Group

Monday August 9th 18:00 - 20:30

Monday August 16th 18:00 - 20:30

Monday August 23rd 18:00 - 20:30

Monday August 30th 18:00 - 20:30

Levenshulme Old Library,
Cromwell Grove, Levenshulme,
Manchester, M19 3QE.
<https://qoo.gl/maps/CTEYmNXR19m>

Final two large group sessions:

Thursday the 16th of September 18:00 – 21:00

Thursday the 23rd of September 18:00 – 21:00

Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount Street
Manchester
M2 5NS
<https://meetinghousemanchester.co.uk/find-us/>

Decision Making

All decision making for outcomes of the assembly project was done using the Consensus decision making model (<https://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/shortconsensus>) or anonymous voting. Simply raising hands is not advised, as this can lead participants to be influenced by those around them. So again, post-its can be used here to gain a true insight into how people feel about certain subjects

Equal participation

“Some of the group discussions were dominated by the same voices”. Project leads were well aware this could be an issue, especially with a mixed demographic of those who are already engaged and fairly knowledgeable, and others who were less so. Therefore as soon as this became an issue then other participants were asked if they would like to contribute or the activities were mixed up. It is crucial to design all activities designed to encourage equal participation. So if there are a few dominant voices, as no doubt there will be in at least one group, then it’s important that the facilitator can bring in a new activity where everybody gets to have their say, without necessarily needing to speak up in front of the whole group, which they may not feel comfortable doing. To avoid the more dominant voices always asking or answering the questions and not giving the space for others to contribute, it is important to split the group into twos or threes for exercises so everyone has a chance to participate and get their points across. To ensure that everyone’s point is recorded, constant reminders were made for participants to write down their answers or feedback on the post-its provided.

For the Manchester Climate Assembly, all post-its and flip charts were then photographed, then typed up into a findings document and uploaded onto the online sharepoint. This should be done as early as possible after the workshop, so that participants can see it and reflect upon it before the next workshop. This helps to ensure that progression is made. It also shows participants that they are being listened to and their views are being recorded as part of the wider project.

The importance of celebration

It is vital all the hard work done by participants is recognised and acknowledged. Each participant was given a £25 voucher for taking part and vegan cakes from a local Manchester based bakers, Trove

(<https://www.trovefoods.co.uk>), were given out at the end which everybody appreciated: *“the vegan food provided at the end was truly magnificent!”*

This provides a chance for participants to relax a little too and feel more at ease in getting to know each other. Participants of the Manchester Climate Change Assembly formed friendships and strong ties with other members, which is crucial for project progression going forwards and sustained action after the assembly has been concluded.

Envirolution can be contacted anytime about the Manchester Climate Change Assembly and is happy to advise or collaborate on similar initiatives going forwards.

This is a most crucial time in human history.

It has never been more important for us to inspire action, mobilise communities and share the learning we gain from it all in order for us to create a greater impact towards the changes we need.

Acknowledgements

Bob Walley and everyone from Envirolution would like to thank the following for being part of this movement:

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Lee Ann Igbon, Chair of MCC Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee
MCC Councillors (including members of the Climate Change Scrutiny Committee) Cllr Eve Holt, Cllr Annette Wright, Cllr Mandie Shilton-Godwin, Cllr Linda Foley.
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Cllr Mary Monaghan
Open Kitchen Manchester
Trove Bakery
Levenshulme Old Library
The Edinburgh Castle
Moss Side Millennium Powerhouse,

Ben Harrison for West View Court
St. Margaret's Church
Coffee Cranks Cooperative
MARC the printers
Entwistle Printing

Last, but certainly not least, the citizens of Manchester who gave their time and energy to explore and try to instigate the changes we need to see to enable us all to live in a more sustainable, conscious and just society.

Appendices

Climate Change Assembly Applicant Data

This data was collected from the 102 residents who completed applications for the Manchester Climate Change Assembly during the application window (up until the deadline of the 5th of August 2021). A further six people participated in the process and attended later workshops. This resulted in a total of 108 residents participating in the project.

Appendix 1

Questions from the online recruitment form:

Please can you tell us why you would like to be involved?

I believe strongly in the need to come together to determine steps and actions normal people can take to tackle climate change. I also believe we need to push this up the agenda of companies whose products impact negatively on the environment while enabling a thriving economy

I have been an active climate campaigner for many years and am particularly interested to talking to and working with a cross section of people broader than the already committed activists. I have a background in adult learning and community work and the principles of starting where people are, listening to them and addressing their concerns and priorities in finding climate solutions more effective in going buy n than lecturing them or focusing on what they are doing wrong. This is critical now as solutions to the climate emergency will need support from people and communities as well as commercial sectors. I started the Whalley Range Climate Action group to work on climate issues in my local area and campaign at city and national levels as well as establish global links. This has kept going through lock down where we started a study group and a build back greener campaign to link climate solutions to peoples main concerns, especially decent jobs, housing and education. I am also an advocate for retrofit to reduce carbon use and am retrofitting my house. I would like to be involved in the assembly to share ideas and experience, learn from others and to contribute to Manchester developing a people centred contribution to tackling the climate emergency.

Very interested. Member of the Architects Climate Action Network (ACAN). Architect and teacher.

I want to help create a better world

I work for Manchester City Council looking after parks and I am interested in how we can play our part

I take a great interest in local climate action, engagement. Having previously volunteered for MCCA, I would like to continue to be involved in action across the city

This is the defining issue of my generation. The government and local governments aren't doing enough and it makes me feel helpless. I'm desperate to take part and work towards real, impactful change. I want Manchester to spearhead this country's efforts to combat the climate emergency. I am a former environmental protester with experience in building renewable power sound systems, and also have a diploma in permaculture and sustainable living.

Because I believe desperately that we need urgent climate action now and Peoples Assemblies and Community Assemblies will provide the best way forward

I want to support my community to become more sustainable.

I've voted for the Green Party since I was 18 and the climate crisis has worsened since. Manchester has the opportunity to be like its sister cities on the continent, with more green spaces, safe cycle lanes and efficient, clean and cheap public transport options across the entire city, and I'd love to be able to fight for those more publicly.

(PS: I've added no for the workshops below but it really depends on times) I run the Instagram @elm.mcr - where I share plastic free swaps and recommendations for living life more ethically. I share lots of info about Manchester's zero waste shops and encourage people to shop at them. I've lived in Manchester for 5 years and love it. I'd like it to thrive and be a leader in being a green city. It has lots to work on and I'd love to help shape this.

I live in an area where supposed clean air initiatives, such as low traffic neighbourhoods have resulted in worsening air quality for some residents. I would like to be able to influence the debate to ensure that solutions are pragmatic, workable and benefit the community as a whole.

This is the biggest issue of our lifetimes and we all need to speak up and help the City make the difficult choices ahead.

I've been actively tackling climate change for over a year. I've contributed new ways of thinking, new Innovations, and a brand new health-climate-economic framework for the NHS to evaluate suppliers with a climate lens. I worked with the UNDP to develop the world's first social accounting model 8 years ago and have a deep interest in the applied math and science of climate change and it's effect on society is more generally. I'm also keen to ensure that evidence based strategy is applied to the problem, and it not be taken over by false, undemonstrated, or anti-scientific voices, at least without a counterbalance

Because I care passionately about the future wellbeing of my community

I would like to be involved because I want our city to be greener. There are many barriers to people living greener and many people are getting sick because of the air pollution.

I am concerned about climate change & biodiversity loss and would like to have a positive role in dealing with the problems

I am concerned that climate change poses a severe threat to human existence

I have been passionate about sustainability and environmentalism for a number of years now and it would be an honour and privilege to sit on this committee and help in some way to how the city I love is tackling issues important to me.

I'm interested in changing the environment positively in Manchester. I think that more can be done and needs to be too engage with individuals and businesses, setting standards that will improve the quality of life for residents and users of Mcr. I can only attend the first two workshops remotely and not in person.

To participate in constructive discussions about the challenges we have to meet

To try and improve the council's policy on mitigating climate change

I am very conscious on effects of climate change i am a chairperson of local park and want to learn how to adapt also help our environment to adapt to any changes it might bring

It's a vital issue and progress is slow

Reduce climate issues for my grandchildren

My job revolves around climate change, so i talk about it all day, every day. I often however feel I am in an 'echo chamber' with my colleagues and would really love to get involved in this initiative to hear what real people think, where they see our future heading and how they see it possible. I would love to hear different perspectives, even disagreements with my own thoughts to open my mind further and understand the nuances behind climate policy and how it affects everybody differently.

I'm a self employed forest school practitioner, I'm keen to see how forest school can help make Manchester cleaner greener and more connected

Believe that the environment is currently the most important political issue. There is a great opportunity for Manchester to take a lead nationally in the reduction of Carbon emissions. I'd love to be able to play a small part in making that happen. be able to play a small part in

I have two young children

I strongly believe in citizens assemblies as a means of devising effective strategies on issues like the climate emergency

Passion for better environment , learn more

I am very passionate about positive climate action. Enough talk, let's do.

I want Manchester to do more and I want to understand more about what Manchester is doing and what I can do to help.

I research in the area of Sustainability and I'm interested in community/individual action on sustainable ways of living

I am very concerned about climate chaos, I have worked in environmental sector for many years and am now a forest school teacher working in state schools, I am frustrated that little changes that are easy to implement but would make a big difference are not being pushed by our council.

I would like to support Manchester becoming more sustainable.

Manchester seems very committed to net-zero strategies, which I find very exciting, yet difficult sometimes to tell between greenwashing, and genuine actions. Also I believe that the city/community level is a great place to discuss, start understanding what is at stake, and taking actions against climate change.

I strongly believe that the popular narrative on climate change is misguided. Global temperatures are not rising and there is no link with carbon emissions. If there were India and China would not be building coal fired power stations at the rate they are. I think we are embarking on a reckless and destructive course in abandoning efficient energy with inefficient energy and new methods of construction that do not work for people. In addition the stifling of dissent on these matters is damaging free speech and eroding the quality of public life.

I am very interested in climate change. I am a scientist.

I am an Engineer currently working in decarbonisation of transport and would like to lend my knowledge and passion for sustainability to the effort.

I care about the environment

I want to have a more active role in addressing environmental issues.

Climate emergency

Believe people's assembly are a powerful way to galvanise people and would be an exciting opportunity to learn more. I do what I can in my daily life regarding Climate change but feel it is not enough. I work for the Greater Manchester Art Centre HOME and have been working on making our building as environment friendly. Also I have grandchildren and what help make sure the planet is saved for their future . HOME in the city centre and I am involved

To involve with community for green future

Am very passionate about Sustainability and the Circular Economy and am keen to see better practices put in place to reduce our carbon footprint as a City. I am a science graduate from our University and I think I could bring useful experience to this project.

I am interested in environmental conservation and climate change prevention

I care about the environment very much and I want to do as much as I can to help in the effort to minimise climate change

I have always been passionate and proactive about environmental concerns, but also have young children who are equally passionate about the environment and for whom I want to create a better future, AND I manage a community arts centre in Levenshulme, with environmental and sustainability policies at the heart of our ethos.

We need to offer our children a future not an apology. it starts with action

I am interested in sustainability and cities are central to achieve a low carbon future. I want to participate in shaping the future role of cities in delivering on this pressing need for more sustainable, livable, and inclusive cities, with climate and the environment being a top priority.

I want to make some practical suggestions about reducing our carbon in the city

This is the greatest threat to human life and we must act now

The climate is the biggest issue facing my generation and I want to be involved in being part of the change.

This is currently the most pressing issue we all have to contend with.

Having just completed my undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the University of Manchester with a passion for sustainability and the built environment, I've been involved in various volunteering opportunities, academic projects and positions of responsibility within the field. Constantly pursuing different opportunities (attending climate network talks, volunteering, etc.) within the field in order to positively contribute towards our environment. Taking part in a group that shares the same passion will allow me to foster this ambition and exchange various topics related to climate change and raise principal methods to tackle the issue. Currently pursuing a career in Manchester within the field, this opportunity will pave a path towards a career within an industry I am strongly interested in.

Worried about climate and nature in Manchester

Strong personal interest in the topic and work as a professional in climate change strategy

I would like to know more about climate change, what can be done about it now and contribute to strategy in Manchester

Because climate activism is the base for other types of activism and it needs to be built by the citizens. I am a technologist and I think I can help with my expertise.

I would like to contribute to discussions about how to address the climate emergency in a fair, equitable and practical way. I think a community assembly is a great way of gathering ideas and engagement from the community on this subject. I have no special expertise in this area so would be bringing an enthusiasm to learn and engage, along with a commitment to working hard to try to come up with practical strategies to ensure that change happens.

I want to help to build a fairer climate future for everyone and to be part of a group to think of solutions

While working on fuel cell materials to decarbonise the domestic sector in my PhD studies, I also want to take action in the area I live in to make it healthier and greener. We are facing challenging problems, such as the air pollution in the city centre as well as the pollution by packaging and food waste. I hope to increase people's awareness of those problems in the first place and then, convince them to support our strategies. Furthermore, I would like to discuss my ideas with experts and work in a team to develop projects, e.g. promoting cycling in the city or using food and clothes donations in order to organise a green market in the city.

I am passionate about reducing carbon footprints and creating new methods for protecting the environment for future generations. Specifically towards city habitats.

I fully support the involvement of local residents in shaping the city's action plan to respond to the climate emergency. It will be interesting, informative and help me work out what I can do to reduce carbon in my local community.

*I am extremely concerned about the lack of action and political will so far to address the climate emergency and would like the opportunity to be involved to bring about positive change
I'm keen to take action locally on the climate emergency, and am part of social enterprise Stitched Up Community Benefit Society, who have a focus on sustainable fashion.*

I am involved in campaigning for active travel

Because I am extremely concerned about the climate crisis and would like to experience the climate assembly for solutions

I believe it is all our collective responsibility to do what we can to protect our planet/local area

I work in the climate sector and through policy review I see inaction at many levels and wish to have a voice at the table to encourage greater action. For instance leasehold homes are prevented by contract from putting solar on the roof, this must be fixed to reach Manchester's 2024 solar target.

This is a good opportunity for me to learn more about climate change

I run MUD and we'd like to be involved in anyway that helps.

I'm really interested in this topic but would love the opportunity to build on this. Particularly in regards to hearing the ideas and solutions of local people and organisations in Manchester in response to climate change. It would also be amazing to meet like-minded people and make new friends

I'm passionate about climate action and am keen to play my part. While significant action can only be taken by national government, I believe local government has a key part to play. I'd love to see Manchester leading the UK to net zero.

I'm really worried about our planet

I have always had a keen interest in the environment and the ways in which we can live sustainably. The climate crisis has made this more pressing. I've lived and worked in Manchester for 30 years now and consider it home. I love the place and believe the Council is progressive and often listens. I also believe that residents/citizens assemblies are the only way we will make the tough decisions which party political parties are unable to make due to self-interest.

I work for Real Food Wythenshawe - climate change is of concern to all

I am involved in a sustainability working group through my employment with Wythenshawe Community Housing Group, and this would be a great opportunity to get involved further.

I am currently Chairman at Incredible Edible Heaton Park. Always looking to get involved in such things

I want to be an active member of the community in Manchester in tackling issues of climate justice. I also wish to learn more from local experts about the specific issues facing our city and collaborate with a diverse team in order to develop novel solutions.

I would like to be involved in the Manchester Climate Community Assembly to understand more about how the local community is looking at solving the problem of climate change. As an issue that impacts us all directly, I believe it is something we should all try and have an active part in solving where we can. I want to be able to help shape the plans that work towards getting to zero emissions and be involved in discussions to find out more about what can be done.

I deliver climate change activities as part of Green Doctor programme

As an aspiring policymaker, I'm interested in understanding different factors that drive regional climate policy. I'm excited about participating in this Assembly because it is a fantastic initiative to understand the perspectives of citizens living in the Greater Manchester region. As a resident who is extremely worried about the climate crisis and its impact on social and economic inequalities, this Assembly would give me the opportunity to voice my concerns about Manchester's 2038 net-zero target. More importantly, the workshops would be an excellent chance for me to listen and learn from residents from different walks of life and I'm very much looking forward to participating in this Assembly.

Healthy living

I am honestly quite frightened about the issue of climate change. I have children and I fear for their future. I have made lifestyle changes but I feel I am not able to make changes big enough to have any effect on climate change. By joining this group I would feel as if I was doing something positive which have some more significant affect than I can make on my own and help me to not feel as overwhelmed by the issue of climate change.

After just completing a geography and environmental science degree I am eager and passionate to get involved within climate debates to help shape our city for future generations. I have some background knowledge from my degree but also a strong interest and desire to learn more to help make decisions to benefit our city. The climate change emergency is increasingly more important now more than ever highlighting the importance of communities getting involved alongside councils to improve mitigation and adaption within our cities. I would love to be able to use my knowledge and interest to be a part of this.

Green is the future

I am concerned about the environment

Our green spaces are crucial for our health and wellbeing, for conviviality and especially around our urban food growing. I have volunteered for a long time in food growing and would like to help the process of community engagement and conversations to develop in order for as many people as possible to feel they participate in the solutions without barriers, that their strengths and community-shared actions in shared green spaces can happen within agreed aims through shared decision making. I have recently been volunteering at PFMG and they are exemplary in their approach to community involvement and education around sustainable, regenerative, food production, processing and consumption. All this matters for climate actions and zero carbon aims.

Because I care deeply about the environment and want to be part of the transition to a more sustainable and just city of Manchester that I believe is achievable, but only with the input of its citizens. There is a climate emergency and it's hugely important that action is taken urgently - and that this action is informed by a wide cross-section of people and organisations.

I've recently completed the foodwave programme and was inspired by the final week where we discussed policy with Lisa from Manchester Climate Change. I would love to learn more about what options we have and be involved in shaping a better greener city in order to help us meet the big challenges we have facing climate change.

I am the manager of Real Food Wythenshawe we have been leading the discussions about Climate Change and have been leading the discussion and how to make practical changes for the last 8 years.

I have an interest in climate change and run a business that aims to provide our customers with ethically sourced products that help to reduce the impact on the planet.

Take a leading role in getting Manchester to net zero and making the city a leader in climate action

I am involved in planning Our Faith Our Planet and we have encouraged people to community involvement in climate action

I am extremely concerned about the disconnect between MCC's declaration of a 'climate emergency' and their actions which continue to drive up emissions. I am also concerned about the health of our children who are breathing in harmful emissions and the bleak future that awaits them if we don't take action now.

Appendix 2

Information on participants demographic:
Which area of Manchester do you live in?

4 Chorlton/ Chorlton Park

4 Whalley range

4 City Centre

3 Hulme

2 Levenshulme

2 Ancoats

2 Wythenshawe

2 Fallowfield

2 Moss Side

2 Abbey Hey, Gorton

2 Castlefield

2 Baguley, Wythenshawe

Withington

Didsbury

West Didsbury

Burnage

New Moston

Gatley

Gorton
Longsight
Rusholme
Northern Moor
Blackley
Ardwick
Ladybarn
West Gorton
Northern Quarter
Victoria Park
New Islington
South Manchester
Manchester
M20
South

The following were unable to take part due to residing outside of a Manchester City Council Ward:

Salford
Bury
Stockport
Tameside
Worsley
Old Trafford

Appendix 3

Participant feedback questionnaire answers:

1. How do you feel the climate assembly has gone generally?

P1 Very engaging, I was cynical but the assembly has kept me involved

P2 Its been ok. Ive enjoyed most of the process and very much enjoyed sharing ideas, listening to workshop leaders

P3 Very impressive – lots of great ideas and informative speakers. Well led and focused

P4 Very good informative and interesting

P5 Very good. A variety of people of different areas coming together for common goal

P6 Really well

P7 Good to bring people of different backgrounds with a shared agenda together. Though needs to reach the not engaged to find barriers

P8 Really well

P9 Generally very positive

P10 Good. Shame about the poor attendance and diversity of Chorlton and Whalley Range group

P11 It appears to have met the primary goal of creating a document for MCC, it brought various disparate people with a common concern together, it has shed light on various aspect of the climate crisis and what little has been done to address it. All these are worthwhile actions.

P12 I think it has been very positive.

P13 Very well. Been really good to be involved.

P14 The assembly was a great opportunity to meet with like minded people who want to address climate change through action. It was interesting to find out about local initiatives. The talks and presentations were generally very good and informative. I felt inspired and mildly daunted by what is ahead

P15 I feel it's not been too bad on the whole

P16 Not bad – was quite long but got me thinking about what we should be doing and what we could do locally. So much of what needs to be done is only realistic at the national and international level.

P17 I've been very pleased with the chance to connect with other likeminded residents, outside a particular activism group. I like the focus on local and city-wide action and responsibility, and I've been able to feed a lot of useful information to friends.

P18 I generally have a positive view on the climate assembly. It was beneficial to connect with other climate concerned everyday folk from within our local community and know that there are others around GM that are taking this seriously.

P19 In my opinion everything was very well organised, resources were good, the invited speakers were very informative, the sessions were well thought out and interactive.

2. Do you feel like it has been a valuable exercise? Why

P1 Yes, learning about climate change, thinking about what we can do, and who we can ask to help

P2 Yes

P3 Its good to bring people together to discuss and plan

P4 Yes, but time will tell if leads to change

P5 Yes I wanted to learn about what climate change meant

P6 Direct democracy. Increasing communication channels

P7 Yes its opened me up to ideas and practices on how sustainability can be enabled

P8 Yes. It has enabled concerned people to meet together for form friendships and to learn more about the most important crisis facing us, to give us information to make good choices in the future

P10 I have learnt a lot and it has been great on a personal level to think about what more we need to do as a family and also given me the impetus to engage in activities happening in my neighbourhood and city

P11 It remains to be seen if this makes any real difference to MCC's actions on the climate emergency and if so, whether it has a wider impact. For myself, it was pleasant to see other individuals with similar concerns from outside my current circles.

P12 Yes. Definitely

P13 Yes, I have learnt more about the macro issues and also the local goals and challenges

P14 It was extremely valuable and a positive experience despite some differences of opinion. I feel like it was a good starting point for collaboration for green initiatives. At times I felt that 'class' was an issue within the group – it the members were chiefly from middle class neighbourhoods with very different experiences and of course having the ability to choose greener lifestyles.

P15 It's difficult to say, but I hope that it has been valuable. Why difficult? Because I don't have confidence that Manchester City Council will respond appropriately, so much of our effort could be in vain.

P16 Yes, if Manchester City Council actually do something differently / better as a result. If it's just a piece of paper and we still see more skyscrapers, car dependent development, poorly insulated buildings etc then it was almost a waste of time (although I enjoyed it)

P17 It has the potential for value. Either as a connecting tool (if we can maintain the wider group connection) or as a programme for change. The latter will depend on what the council does, and what we can change via local ward plans.

P18 Hopefully! We need our leaders from Manchester City Council and central government to listen to the concerns that we have, to take them seriously and begin implementing the changes that are required on a large scale.

P19 Absolutely! It was great to meet likeminded people.

3. Which part do you think was the most valuable?

P1 Local groups meeting and talking about our areas. Experts giving wider information

P2 Sharing ideas finding out more

P3 Session on energy/housing as it seemed the most tangible. Sessions at Friends Meeting House in the large groups

P4 Making connections with other people. Understanding what I can do to action change

P5 Workshops on various subjects

P6 I hope the mandate will prove valuable. But also building connections with concerned citizens for longevity, action and involvement

P7 Getting input from subject experts to help us guide the mandate

P8 The talks from different people – experts on topics related to climate change with the opportunity to ask questions

P9 The opportunity to learn from experts and meet local people interested in the subject

P10 Food, fashion, construction and transport workshops

P11 The population at large are not as aware of the scale of the issues we face, although the remit of the assembly was very parochial and won't effect the systemic changes we need it may point a way for local areas to take action should those systemic changes occur.

P12 Difficult to isolate one part. I think the valuable part for me was doing something that really felt like it may make a difference, helping me to mentally cope with the overwhelming situation of climate change. In terms of the sessions, what I found valuable was the validation that the small steps I was making personally were a step in the right direction and I wasn't the only one feeling that they didn't know how to go forward with more effective steps. The sessions worked well and I enjoyed the guest speakers introducing their subjects with enthusiasm and depth of knowledge.

P13 Education

P14 Certainly sharing thoughts and experiencing other views was valuable. I felt like it is important that we all identified as leaders in our own spheres of influence. The presentations were good reference. The retrofit presentation was challenging and far too much information included

P15 The commentary on all the topic areas - which was excellently composited by Bob Walley! And the vegan food provided at the end was truly magnificent!

P16 Transport and Retrofitting

P17 Feeding back to council officers and elected officials was the most valuable for me, as well as increasing my own learning an understanding of other local views.

P18 I found all of the content delivered by the speakers really useful, however, the talks by Anthesis in the final two sessions stood out – hopefully these recommendations are getting seen and addressed by those in powerful positions.

P19 All of the sessions were valuable in different ways. The first sessions allowed us to contemplate in more detail the issues of current high emission industries. I enjoyed the climate psychology session the most and the last two sessions allowed us all to meet and share our ideas, but the best thing about them was to hear about all the work that Anthesis have been doing and meet with local authority representatives.

4. Which part do you think was the least valuable?

P1 It was all great

P2 I think it would have been great to have recruited a more representative of our wards. Too much of an echo chamber

P3 Sustainable fashion session. It felt a bit like re-arranging the deck chairs on the titanic

P5 Fashion

P7 Having a whole session (first session) about how climate change makes us feel

P9 I had hoped for more engagement with policy makers and budget holders. Some of the group discussions were dominated by the same voices

P10 I think there was a real lack of presence from Andy Burnham and his team in the ending sessions

P11 I don't think the session graphics added much to the process

P12 Again, difficult to say. I think the part that I found a little difficult to digest was the section on housing. Partly because I had very only a small amount of knowledge in this area. Partly because there was a lot of technical information to absorb quickly, and then the activity afterwards was a bit challenging after a long day at work. I thought the speaker was excellent and his enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject was evident.

P13 Some of the talks were not as well presented as I think they could have. The issues at stake are huge, we need as much as possible presenters who are engaging and creative in winning over not just giving facts and figures. This is especially important to take it to sceptics and the public who are at large completed attached to all the things we need to reduce - cars, dairy/meat, consumption of unethical and cheap goods etc

P14 Some of the exercises after the presentations were a little unrealistic to achieve and consider in the limited time allowed. I didn't like the endless graphs which didn't reveal anything and at times seemed to contradict each other. Speculation and modelling of figures do nothing to inspire

P15 I don't know, but probably the presentation by Chris Jones. I've heard it all before, and I don't like the way he covers up for the City Council's continuing failure to reduce the city's emissions...

P16 The first session on psychological wellbeing seemed out of place, if well-meaning, I couldn't see the point of filling up the time with it. I liked the session on clothing and retail and fashion – the presenters were ace – but I didn't feel that it was an area where there is much potential for local action that would make a meaningful difference. I felt the same about the session on food – it was interesting and it's nice if there are local initiatives to grow food on allotments, community farms, street trees etc and it's obviously important to reduce waste, but Manchester isn't and probably never could be self-sufficient in food so the problems and actions are more appropriate to national, regional and international farming and agri-business. The first of the combined sessions at the Friends Meeting House didn't seem to do anything, I couldn't really follow what we were supposed to be doing and wasn't sure if we were working in our local area groups or mingling with other people from elsewhere. I didn't really understand what our task was with the workshop that led to us adopting a rather predictable green bee as a logo. We could have used the time going into much more detail on subjects where there seems much more potential for meaningful local intervention to improve quality of life and reduced emissions – transport and home insulation / heating

P17 The visualisation/creative aspects at the last couple of sessions were interesting but slightly rushed. I think I would have preferred a more in depth review of the actions and refining them along with the councillors, so they could be bought into that a bit more.

P18 It would have been good to hear from MCC nearer to the start, or even have them participating in some of the groups rather than just at the end. Knowing in advance about their thinking, objectives and frustrations might have been useful for our discussions.

P19 The only thing I would change would be meeting local authority representatives and hearing their reports at the beginning of the programme.

5. Has the assembly made you more aware of: (please tick all that apply)

<i>The Climate Emergency</i>	11
<i>What action I can take myself</i>	12
<i>What is going on in my local area</i>	11
<i>What the council is doing about the climate emergency</i>	11
<i>What needs to happen in order for us to meet Manchester's Carbon reduction targets</i>	17

6. Would you be interested in other being involved in further initiatives going forwards? If so, what kind of subject/area would you like to act on?

P1 Increasing and improving green spaces

P2 I'd like to be involved in educating others and engaging others at a community level

P3 Yes, circular economy, bio-diversity/climate

P4 Yes. Finding ways to influence decision/policy makers

P5 Yes I would especially climate change to green spaces and introducing bio-diversity to our park – Ladybarn

P6 Yes. Open to most things. Direct action. All topics covered

P7 Local knowledge shares and public engagement

P8 Buildings aim for passive housing, private gardens, food waste, transport – alternatives to car use

P9 Yes

P10 Yes, all aspects especially engaging communities in climate action

P11 Yes, but I don't know what kind of plans are in the pipeline. I am active in outreach with XR, I'm in the process of trying to organise a climate café in Didsbury, I would like to set up a repair café but don't have the skills/knowledge. I am somewhat conflicted about concentrating my efforts in this wealthy, middle class suburb but this is where I live and perhaps my neighbours potentially have more to offer in terms of GHG reduction?

P12 Yes. All subjects

P13 Yes. I would like to work in my spheres to build consensus on a way forward.

P14 I am really interested in behavioural change and working with the community to educate and encourage greener lifestyles. I believe strongly that we need to sell greener lifestyles and the positives for people and the environment. It is crucial that people are incentivised to embrace the measures for carbon reduction. It is clear, especially post Covid, that there is little appetite for more catastrophising which has created great division in society already. I think that a lot of the recognised climate change responses from activists such as Extinction Rebellion are taking completely the wrong tack and alienating large sections of the community who need to be engaged.

P15 I would be interested in the subject areas of housing, transport and energy

P16 I'm interested in Transport and Retrofitting as these seem to be practical things that are within local control.

P17 I'd like to be involved in a mix of activity both local e.g. library of things, community garden schemes and city-wide e.g. activism, engagement and working with council (as well as scrutinising them).

P18 Yes, climate change, inequality

P19 Yes, any social / community action that need addressing

7. Do you have any other thoughts about how similar climate assembly projects could be improved going forwards?

P1 Get councillors to hold these at ward level. Get union branches to hold them

P2 Longer run in. Using champions to get out and bring a more representative group

P3 Hold outside of school holidays. Try and include a wider cohort

P4 Greater diversity of participants

P5 Only have one subject at once as the one we had on buildings was too much to take in

P7 Bring the not engaged in or the worst offending councillors

P8 Important to get a good cross section of people

P9 More involvement from policy makers

P10 Including a wider range of neighbourhoods and changing the format / doing what's needed to up inclusivity, especially of those that are less aware/invested in the subject

P11 I felt the mandate and action plans were too much based on input from the presenters, apparently by design. Apart from Chorlton and City Centre, the output was almost identical and could be traced directly to

the presentations. Time/financial constraints notwithstanding, a more reflective slower-paced model would enable more original thinking, which was the declared intent. A presentation of the problem in each case, followed by time for both individual and group consideration and suggestions before a further presentation of already identified solutions would allow more scope for new ideas.

I also felt the process was rushed, with little, if any, time for reflection. In some ways, the participation of the assembly itself lent little to the outcome.

P12 I think perhaps some way of bringing the group together more cohesively, we only started to bond towards the end of the sessions and a lot of people dropped out along the way. It was interesting that in our area most of the people left were of a similar age. Perhaps the different age groups need to be engaged in different ways. Perhaps going into already established groups would work well, but I appreciate that our group was made up of people who really wanted to be there and this wouldn't necessarily be the case with established groups.

P13 Better presentations, some were more engaging than others. To educate beyond highly bought group like the people there will require better presentation.

P14 Definitely needed to bring in a wider section of the community. Social inequities and politics were not addressed as part of the discussions

P15 A clearer distinction needs to be made between the different levels of responsibility for tackling climate change: individual, neighbourhood, city, nation and globe. It wasn't always clear whether this was supposed to be an assembly to address city-wide issues and make recommendations accordingly to the city council or was it something else. Insofar as they had any ideas at all, the councillors seemed to have different ideas of what the assembly was about or what it was for. One councillor took the view that it was up to us residents to take action, which she would then support - all very well but not exactly taking responsibility for tackling the climate crisis

P16 Much more focus on what can be changed locally – miss out some of the “nice to haves” and get to a draft document for discussion far earlier in the process – we saw ours without time to read it properly

P17 I'd suggest something like the community assembly process could focus down on some key challenges e.g. What change is needed to give up our cars. It might be that several of these assemblies could run at the same time (I'd happily get involved in facilitating something like this).

P18 Broader participation from more diverse communities

P19 Involved more people that are not on board, interested or unaware of climate issues

8. Would you like to see more of these kinds of projects in the future? (perhaps engaging different demographics?)

P1 Definitely engage other communities, hold the events locally, perhaps at ward level

P2 Yes

P3 Yes if it leads to action. Leaders need to listen and take action

P4 Yes

P5 Yes

P6 Yes definitely

P7 Yes, engage different socio-economic demographics/age focused groups

P8 Yes, eg student population, people who work in Manchester but live outside

P9 Possibly, our groups were lacking in diversity

P10 Yes engaging different demographics

P11 Yes, but how to reach them? This is my big question. The consequences of inaction are so terrible yet we can't engage with all these people whose lives and descendants' lives will be affected.

P12 Yes. I think that would be great. I definitely know of people who are living as if climate change was not happening, and I also know people who are worried about it but don't know how to help. I think targeted community engagement would be a way to educate and facilitate change in the most effective way.

P13 Yes

P14 Definitely

P15 Yes, I think so. We need at least one follow-up in about a year's time, to hold the council to account. And of course the council should at least commit to responding to our findings and conclusions.....

P16 Possibly

P17 Yes, I think it's a good way of getting consultation but needs to be much more representative of the cities' demographics. Also, could it run across GMCA to effect even wider change?

P18 Yes, projects to engage with folks who are not generally engaged are desperately needed

P19 Yes

9. What other communities/groups would you like to see involved in similar projects?

P1 Workers, working class

P2 Youth groups

P3 Groups that better reflect the diversity of the city

P4 Engage the unengaged

P5 Greenspaces such as volunteers groups in parks to improve skills to help with climate change

P6 Schools and churches and other communities

P7 The wealthy. People with disabilities so we can make sure change is inclusive

P8 Possibly parents of Manchester school children

P9 Schools, businesses, arts organisations, Universities

P10 Great ethnic diversity – huge part of Manchester population which was missing

P11 I don't think it is possible to have the reach to communicate with the numbers who need to be informed so I think we need to target "influencers", whoever they may be. If we are serious about affecting the world and not just pretending to empower individuals then community/religious/sporting leaders would be among my targets in the hope that they would spread the message.

P12 I think all community groups in my area need to be involved. I live in an area where there are a lot of people new to the area who are socially aware and a lot of people who have lived here a long time. A mix of people with wealth and without wealth. A big Irish community, a big Asian community and people of Eastern European origin. I do not know how all aspects of these groups are already involved in tackling climate change, but I know that financial circumstances are a huge barrier to being able to make environmentally suitable choices.

P13 Neighbourhoods. Schools. University. Churches

P14 Not limited to people interested/passionate about climate change. We need more inspirational activities and workshops to educate and reveal choices for ordinary people to find a way forward

P15 All community groups should be invited to participate. This one seemed to be only for South Manchester - I didn't see much representation from North Manchester

P16 Don't know

P18 BAME, lower income families

P19 More local government/MP involvement, younger people, ethnic minorities

10. Have you any ideas about how best to engage these kinds of groups?

P1 Get unions on board, deliver via unions. Lucas plan – worker led just transition

P2 Recruit youth workers, teachers and young activists to spread the word Youth assemblies, co-designed with young people for young people

P3 Link in with community leaders

P4 Ensure that everyone is encouraged to engage. No blame

P5 Go to local parks, etc and invite these groups to have their say and help to improve their knowledge how they can contribute

P6 Most have websites with email addresses. It would take time, but a list could be collected and emailed together.

P7 Through local clubs, door knocking in target areas. Engage with local businesses to advertise to their staff

P8 Free food always works

P9 Strategic networks, industry networks, lot of coordination

P10 Going into areas such as Crumpsall and Longsight and hold inclusive and fun events in local parks etc

P11 Nope, though I am trying to put on a talk at the local mosque.

P12 I live in a multicultural area, a lot of different groups of people come together through their children at school, so perhaps that is an initial way to engage groups. For families, 'things that entertain their kids' at weekends and holidays and that are free, are a really good way to engage people. When I was younger I did freelance community art activities for children through local councils and we did nature themed art activities with kids on park open days and celebration events. After that people come together through cultural hubs such as mosques and churches, so perhaps some engagement activities here. The Inspire Centre in Levenshulme does some community engagement activities. In Levenshulme venues such as The Klondyke and The Gherkin hold community events. Levenshulme WI meet monthly at the Old Library and as a member I know that climate change is on the WI agenda nationally.

P13 Yes. I work with these groups

P14 I certainly have and I'm working on them at Wythenshawe Park!

P15 Just invite them!

P16 No, sorry

P17 Work through the community structures where they already exist e.g. schools, care homes, community groups. Then publicise in neighbourhood shops perhaps?

P18 Work with leaders in their communities as they will already have established channels of communication

P19 I think the £25 voucher not being a secret/free food would have encouraged people from poorer backgrounds. To engage younger people it would be good to be more creative, so art/mixed media/workshops/podcasts etc which will help them to be more creative with their ideas

11. Have you anything else you would like to say about the Manchester Climate Change Assembly?

P1 Well done Bob – you are brilliant at your job, keeping the old women in the room

P2 Not sure you needed to give us £25 vouchers

P3 Its been great to be involved. Politicians now need to step up

P4 Progress is too slow

P5 A very well run assembly. Tried to engage everyone to have their say, ask questions, made sure participants were heard

P6 Really appreciate all the work that has gone into making it happen

P7 More engagement with local leaders in all sessions – get them to engage, not just sit at the back

P8 I am very happy to be involved. I have been acting and campaigning on these issues for many years

P9 Well done Bob and all the experts Thank you Bob! Please email me the form, sorry for the green pen

P10 Lots of events are being held to include ages/families – we need them to happen in areas of deprivation to raise awareness over a larger population

P11 Good exercise but only involved self-selected, already concerned individuals.

P12 I would like to thank you for organising the sessions. I think our representatives who handed over the mandate to the council summed up all our feelings. We are all scared of climate change and we want to something about it, but have to ask those in power to bring about the changes we can't make on our own. We are all hoping the action takes place and we are thankful for this chance to try. As Caroline Hickman said 'We have to try even if we fail'. Thank you.

P13 I still was left with the sense that the goals to hit for Manchester are beyond us and require policy change and renewed economic systems and thinking. For example, a major change required is retrofitting residential and businesses. I can only see that change at the government level

- P14 We are planning to keep inspiring the wider group and find new ways of working together to reduce carbon
- P15 It seems to me that the MCCA doesn't have the resources to do anything really significant. This suggests that the council is still not taking the climate emergency seriously enough. Our £25 vouchers are most welcome but in total they could have been used to do something about climate change - the free food was enough for us!
- P16 Thanks for the invite. Overall, I really enjoyed the process and listening to the presenters and the other participants.
- P17 I'm reserving judgement on the MCCA. I'm not entirely sure what's been achieved so far. I'm more concerned with the MCC and how they use the agency as a shield against scrutiny on the environment. Though I feel that maybe this is changing now. Thank you so much for being part of this assembly project. The contributions of everyone involved are highly valued and your participation is greatly appreciated at this most crucial time in responding to the climate emergency.
- P18 Big thanks to all of the organisers and presenters for bringing together a valuable series of events and for helping us to establish contacts within our local areas. Fingers crossed our concerns are heard and felt by those who have the ability to make the impactful changes that are necessary.
- P19 I am grateful to have been part of this assembly and I would like to see more of this type of activity in the future.

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