

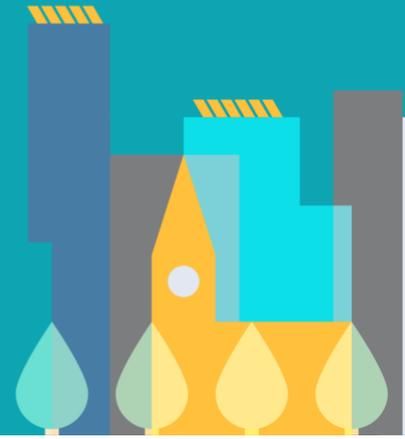
MANCHESTER ZERO CARBON BUSINESS WORKSHOP

SUMMARY REPORT

WORKING DRAFT

MAY 2021





INTRODUCTION

Businesses globally are acting on climate change. Over 1,700 companies have committed to set science-based emission reduction targets, ensuring they are cutting emissions at the rate required to keep global warming within safe limits. Action from businesses is essential, with 31GT of GHG emissions produced by companies globally each year, that is equivalent to 8,139 coal power stations.¹

Climate action for companies is not only crucial; it constitutes a substantial business opportunity. The global market for low-carbon goods and services is estimated at \$5.5 trillion. That's half of China's GDP in 2015.

With businesses holding such a unique and important role in climate action, Manchester wants Manchester-based businesses to thrive, compete, play their part, and help the city remain a global leader in business and climate action.

This is why Manchester is participating in the [City Business Climate Alliance](#) (CBCA) initiative from [C40 Cities](#), [CDP](#) and [World Business Council for Sustainable Development](#). Through the initiative, Manchester aims to launch a Zero Carbon Business Programme to support Manchester-based businesses to take the necessary actions to reduce their emissions to net zero.

In March 2021, Manchester and the CBCA partners held a workshop with key Manchester-based businesses with two key aims. Firstly, to carry out a landscape assessment of existing climate change commitments, activities and support programmes Manchester's business community are already engaged in. Secondly, to identify gaps in the existing support and begin shaping a new programme for Manchester-based businesses, which is replicable in cities around the world.

This report summarises the key findings of this workshop and lays out the next steps in the development of the Zero Carbon Business Programme.

¹ <https://www.cdp.net/en/companies>

CITY-BUSINESS CLIMATE ALLIANCE

By bringing leading city governments and climate champions from the private sector together, the City-Business Climate Alliance (CBCA) will help deliver action at the pace and scale we need to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

The CBCA is an initiative of CDP, WBCSD and C40 Cities - a global alliance forging city-business partnerships on climate action. It is well positioned to engage with business and city partners on decarbonising key sectors whilst stimulating social and economic benefits.

The CBCA provides the most ambitious city and business leaders with a platform to convene, set joint commitments, co-create, and implement projects that help cities deliver on their climate action plans and businesses on their climate targets in line with the Paris Agreement.

THE MODEL

The CBCA framework builds on a comprehensive review of 30+ city-business partnerships from around the world and a pilot project in London, which led to the successful establishment of the London Business Climate Leaders initiative.

The initiative operates a two-tier global model: closely supporting cohorts of cities in building city-business partnerships from conception to long term self-sustainment, while convening a wider network of cities and global businesses to share expertise, advocacy and learnings. In doing so, the CBCA drives both concrete city-level action and systemic transformation on a global scale.

LOCAL CITY-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

At the local level, the initiative works with a select group of cities to build local platforms for city-business collaboration. The first eight Cohort cities, recruited in March 2020 through an Expression of Interest process, include Dallas, Durban, Lisbon, Manchester, New York City, Stockholm, Tel Aviv and Vancouver.

These Cohort cities will receive three years of in-kind, direct support to set up - or further develop – their local city-business partnerships.

Given the many different urban- and business-related contexts in which cities and the private sector operate, there is no single, 'one size fits all' model to build a local city-business partnership. However, all the local partnerships joining or established through the CBCA will be expected to act as non-commercial spaces based on transparency and data, and to build a pipeline of projects creating resilient, healthy and prosperous places to live and work.



CBCA GLOBAL NETWORK CITIES

Within the Global Network, CBCA cities are divided into three levels: Cohort, Network and Fellow. Cohort cities receive a high level of one-to-one support to establish and progress a city-business partnership. Network cities receive less support and form a global group of cities sharing knowledge and experience. Fellow cities (or 'Fellows', when the partnership platforms operate as separate legal entities) have substantial and valuable experience of existing city-business partnerships and share insights and knowledge with Cohort and Network cities to aid their development.

The Global Network currently consists of 20 cities (visualised in the map below), and aims to engage 100 cities by 2025.

CBCA GLOBAL NETWORK ACTIVITIES

The Global Network activities comprise the following:

1. Learning by Sharing - peer-to-peer learning through closed-door webinars, workshops and a dedicated online platform.
2. Communication & Advocacy - showcasing the importance and impact of city business collaboration on climate action during public events, at key summits and through communication campaigns.
3. Access to Information on external support and collaboration opportunities.



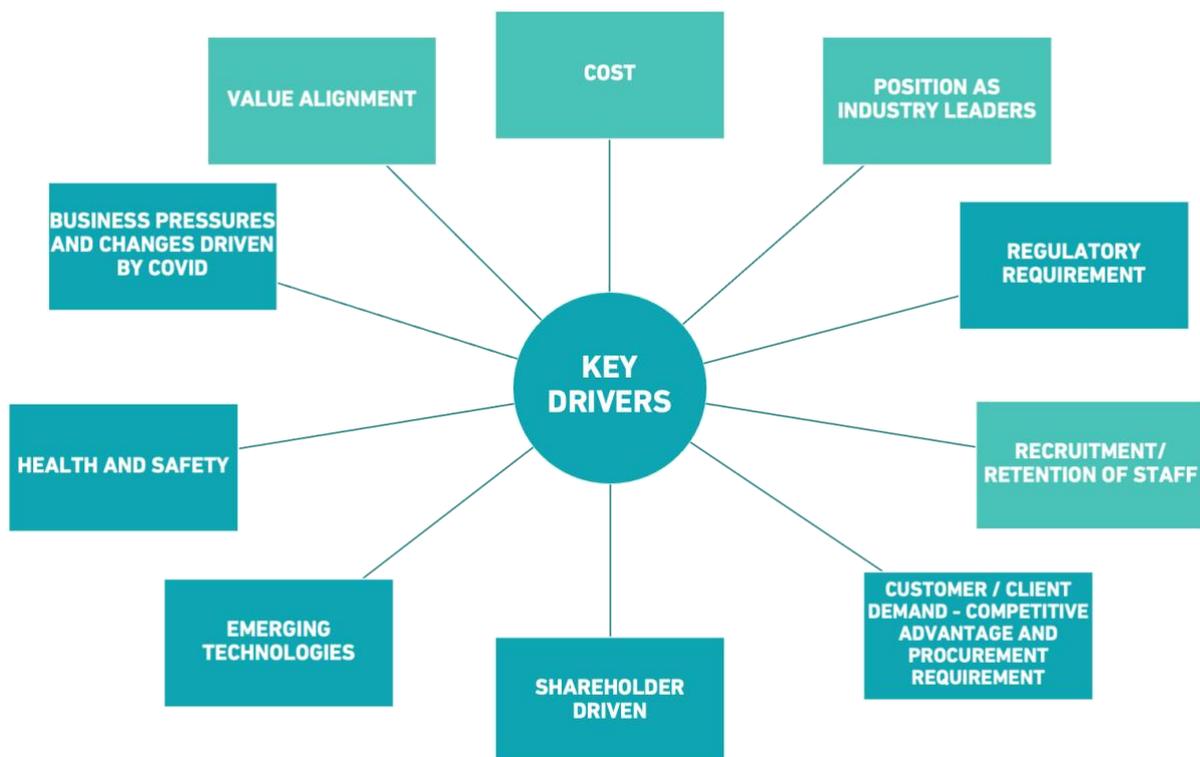


EXISTING MANCHESTER BUSINESS COMMITMENTS

Manchester-based businesses are committed to a broad range of climate ambition. This includes independently certified commitments such as Science-Based Targets (SBTs), B Corp status, Race to Zero, EV100, RE100 and EP100. Additionally, there are a range of local and company level commitments, including climate emergency declarations, net zero and carbon neutral targets, and initiatives such as fleet electrification and energy management systems.

KEY DRIVERS FOR BUSINESS ACTION

The most frequently raised drivers for climate ambition include: value alignment, cost savings, a desire to be positioned as industry leaders, and staff recruitment and retention.



EXISTING SUPPORT FOR MANCHESTER BUSINESSES

Manchester businesses are aware of and actively making use of existing support on both a local and national scale, to improve their environmental, economic and social sustainability. Key local support mechanisms identified include: [Manchester Climate Change Partnership](#), [Electricity North West](#), [pro-manchester Green Economy Group](#) and [Greater Manchester Green Growth programme](#).

Nationally, the UK Government's commitment to climate ambition was also cited as a key enabling condition for company-level action. UK business support initiatives identified include: [Office for Zero Emission Vehicles](#), [Airspace Modernisation Programme](#), [Active Travel Fund](#), and [Innovate UK](#).

Commonly recognised standards were also noted as central to enabling businesses to take action. These included energy efficiency ratings on buildings and equipment, [TCFD](#) (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure), and [ISO 20400](#) (the international standard for sustainable procurement).

IDENTIFYING SUPPORT GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ZERO CARBON BUSINESS PROGRAMME

HIGH-LEVEL STRUCTURE

A key aim of the workshop was to begin defining the scope and model of the proposed Zero Carbon Business Programme for Manchester. The workshop identified six key components that the attendees believed would be central to a new support programme.

1. Shared goals – setting science-based targets and establishing consistent definitions of key concepts (e.g. zero carbon, net zero, carbon neutral, etc)
2. Action plan development – covering key focus areas such as buildings, energy, transport and procurement
3. Project development, funding and delivery
4. Removal of structural and systemic barriers e.g. changes to local and national policy and legislation, e.g. local supply chain development, e.g. local workforce development, e.g. access to capital funding, etc
5. Coordinated progress reporting
6. Facilitated knowledge exchange and networking within and between sectors



SPECIFIC SUPPORT NEEDS

DIRECT SUPPORT BUSINESSES WANT TO RECEIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building for SMEs and the wider community including knowledge building/training - Funding – both easier access to existing funding and new funding for underfunded areas such as retrofits - Help setting SBTs - Removing structural and systemic barriers/perceived barriers - Clarity on the role of offsetting and definition of net zero
WHERE BUSINESSES WANT TO COLLABORATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint target setting and emission reduction plans – particularly within sectors in Manchester (primarily buildings) - Standardised procurement policies - Collective procurement and fundraising - Intra-industry standards and guidance e.g. building management - Standardised guidance/approach to low emission deliveries - Reporting environmental data and performance/scorecard - Implementation of projects collaboratively to attract investment and share best practice - Showcasing of best practice through case studies of pioneering businesses - Development of sector-specific business cases to drive change
GAPS IN ENABLING CONDITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure e.g. EV charge points - Local market for renewable energy - Desire to make use of existing levers such as business rates to incentivise action - Need to showcase low carbon industries locally such as hydrogen - Consistency in the prioritisation of decarbonisation targets, expectations and outcomes within procurement
KEY CONSIDERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A strong and appealing brand - Just transition for all – avoid disadvantaging smaller businesses in harder to transition sectors - Manchester is not an island – need to collaborate with other cities, regions and businesses to ensure consistency and avoid displacement of both businesses and emissions

NEXT STEPS & FURTHER INFORMATION

NEXT STEPS

May 2021

Workshop report published

June 2021

Invitation for new members to apply to join the Manchester Climate Change Partnership - see www.manchesterclimate.com

July 2021

Guidance on actions for Manchester businesses published

July to August 2021

Public consultation 1: to understand businesses' barriers to taking climate action

October to November 2021

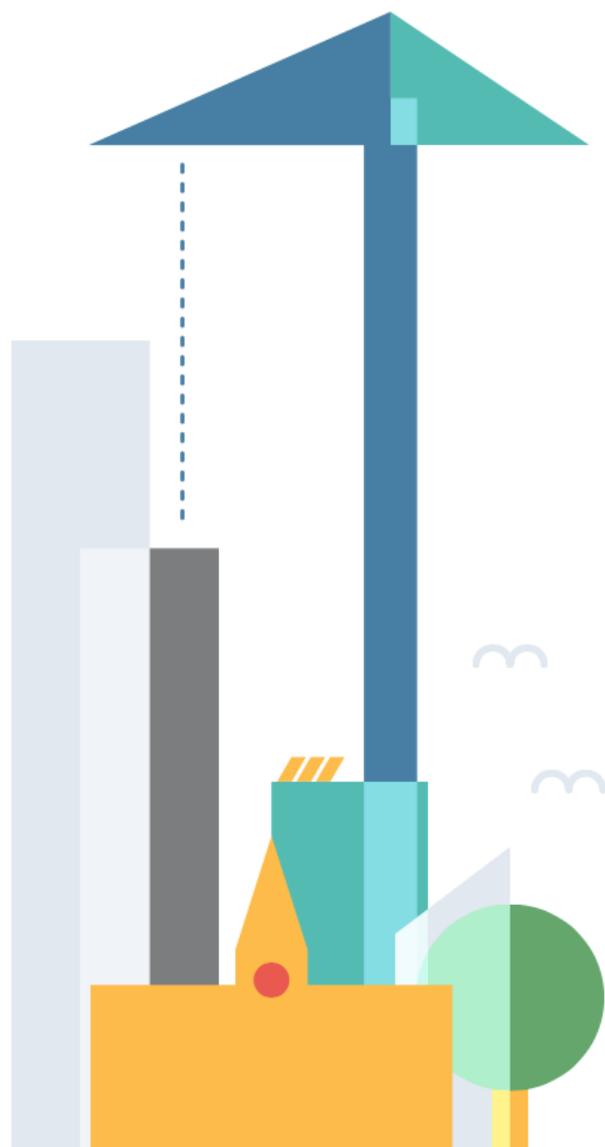
Public consultation 2: setting out the proposed actions to remove the barriers identified in consultation 1

January 2022

- Manchester Zero Carbon Business Programme launched
- Manchester Climate Change Framework and Implementation Plan 2022-25 published

FURTHER INFORMATION & COMMENTS

For further information and to provide comments on this report, please contact info@manchesterclimate.com.



APPENDICES

A. EXAMPLES OF EXISTING BUSINESS COMMITMENTS

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL CERTIFICATION	LOCAL LEVEL/INDUSTRY	COMPANY LEVEL
SBTs	Zero Carbon Corridor Manchester	Climate Change Emergency Policy
B Corp	Steel Zero	Carbon Neutral Targets
Race to Zero	Energy Centre	Company strategy refresh
EV100		Commitment to support clients reduce emission (3gt by 2030)
RE100		Net Zero Targets
EP100		Implementing building management systems
		EV fleet transition
		LED installation programmes
		Renewable energy switch
		Incentivising sustainable staff travel
		Water re-harvesting
		Internal carbon levies e.g. flights
		Tree planting initiatives



B. WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

The workshop was attended by senior representatives from the following companies:

- Anthesis Group
- ARUP
- Bruntwood
- Electricity North West
- European Metal Recycling
- Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Jacobs
- Manchester Airport Group
- Manchester Central
- Manchester City Council
- Manchester City Football Club
- North West Business Leadership Team
- Oxford Road Corridor
- pro-manchester
- Siemens
- Squire Patton Boggs
- Talk Talk plc
- The Growth Company
- The Pilot Group
- Trowers & Hamlins
- WSP