

Greater Manchester's Environment Commission started work in 2009 co-ordinating with partner organisations to tackle climate change, energy, water, green infrastructure, transport, waste and other issues.

Our vision is to move Greater Manchester from red brick to green brick; to build on our former industrial heritage to a future that is ever greener and cleaner.

What's new?

Our ten local authorities are now planning an innovative low carbon Centre of Excellence so all communities can benefit from the 21st century environmental revolution to help us protect jobs and refurbish major buildings.

Already Greater Manchester has won status as a low carbon economic area for the built environment.

That status will encourage many of the region's redbrick institutions and other older properties to update with more environmentally-friendly products, as well as helping growth in eco-friendly building industries and new technologies.

Now council chiefs across the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) have examined cash funding and have agreed in principle a £3.75 million Centre of Excellence over the next five years.

A further report is now being drawn up into the financial arrangements to seek funds from Europe, banks, private investors and through reorganisations and restructures within the local authorities themselves.

Chairman of Greater Manchester Environment Commission Cllr Dave Goddard said: "The challenge of cutting our carbon emissions is one of the biggest issues facing us all today.

"We need to act now to ensure that life is better for future generations.

"This Centre of Excellence will pull together best advice and guidance so that everyone in Greater Manchester benefits from low carbon activity and that we move forward together greener and cleaner."

Environment Commissioner Keith Davidson said: "Now the real work can start, working with the 10 local authorities and partners on green-retrofits and associated energy infrastructure projects. This is great news for the whole region".

The in-principle decision was agreed at a meeting of AGMA's Executive Board in June 2010.

What else do we do?

We prepare and co-ordinate the delivery of strategic plans and projects; work with organisations which impact on GM's environmental performance; help to co-ordinate and deliver an effective response to climate change; and help to develop a comprehensive city regional sustainable waste management approach.

We provide a forum for the discussion and consultation on environmental matters of common concern and interest.

We also channel views to the Local Government Association, central government and other bodies and organisations, and provide a means of contact and liaison with institutions of the European Communities, to advance the interests of Greater Manchester in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

Due to the cross-cutting nature of environmental issues, we need strong collaboration with all AGMA Commissions and other organisations

Who are we?

Lead Chief Executive Charlie Parker
Strategic Director Mike Reardon

An impressive range of individuals have been recruited to the Commission. The Commissioners are unpaid for their role, and meet every two months.

Chair: Councillor Dave Goddard (Stockport)

Vice Chair: Lynda Shillaw – Managing Director (Property) Co-operative Group.

Councillors:

Mark Alcock (Oldham)

Linda Blackburn (Trafford)

Barrie Holland (Tameside)

David Molyneux (Wigan)

Nigel Murphy (Manchester)

Private and Third Sector Appointments:

Andy Cliffe – Strategy Director, MAG

Keith Davidson – Environment Partner, Pannone

Roger Milburn – Director, Arup

Anne Selby – Chief Executive Officer, Wildlife Trust

Strategic Advisers:

Keith Ashcroft –Director, Environment Agency

David Higham – Regional Director, Government Office North West

Angie Robinson – Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

Ian McAulay – Managing Director of Capital Programmes, United Utilities plc

Councillor Neil Swannick – Chair, Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority

David Hytch – Information Systems Director, Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive.

Mary Heaney - Director of Services, MMU