

Agreement on innovative Low Carbon Centre of Excellence

Greater Manchester is planning an innovative low carbon Centre of Excellence so all communities can benefit from the 21st century environmental revolution.

Council chiefs and organisations in the region's 10 local authorities are set to get greener and leaner to 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.

See more details in attached report.

Cllr Dave Goddard is available for interview.

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