

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

### Waste and Resources Committee

Date: 2 July 2025

Subject: Sustainable Consumption and Production Programmes Update

Report of: Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable, Consumption and Production ,  
Environment Directorate and Michelle Lynch, Lead Programmes Manager,  
Sustainable Consumption and Production, Environment Directorate

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#### Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update Members on the progress of the Greater Manchester School Eco Grant programme. A short presentation highlighting a selection of successful projects will be given at the meeting.

#### Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the progress of the Greater Manchester School Eco Grant programme to support schools and colleges across the city-region in developing climate action interventions within their school environment and the wider community.

#### Contact Officers





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## Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	The Plan looks to raise awareness through community engagement and involvement
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy	G	Moving to a circular economy can have a positive social, economic and environmental effect on the conurbation By creating a circular economy it should identify gaps and skills and stimulate economic growth in those areas Innovation is key to developing solutions and end markets for difficult materials Inward investment could potentially through innovation
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	The SCP Plan looks to reduce carbon emission through its 4 key priority areas
Consumption and Production	G	The SCP Plan focuses on key priority areas, as set out in the report, to reduce the level of waste produced A number of projects are currently in place to look at minimising construction waste Managing waste sustainability as possible is a key priority within the plan Moving to a circular economy is a priority with the SCP Plan PlasticFreeGM continues to be a priority within the SCP work programme
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		The SCP Plan and work programme are a critical element to the delivery on GM achieving Carbon Neutral by 2038. As SCP covers a wide range of areas, ensuring that the work programme is sufficiently resourced would improve the contribution to delivery of the overall plan.
Further Assessment(s):	N/A	
 Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	 Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	 Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
		 Negative impacts overall.

## Risk Management

All risks regarding the delivery of the 5YEP and SCP theme are set out in the GM Environment Team's Risk Register. There is nothing identified within the SCP section of the register which is currently identified as 'red' status.

## Legal Considerations

There are no legal implications of the recommendations set out within the report.

## Financial Consequences – Revenue

The SCP Work Plan sets out expenditure that is within the budget forecasts (2023/24 and 2024/25) for certain areas of work. Actions for future years may require additional funds. If so, these would be subject to a separate detailed business case being approved.

## **Financial Consequences – Capital**

There are no capital consequences within the report. Actions for future years may require additional funds. If so, these would be subject to a separate detailed business case being approved.

**Number of attachments to the report: 1**

## **Background Papers**

[The Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2025 - 2030](#)

[SCP Plan](#)

## **Tracking/ Process**

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

## **Exemption from call in**

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

N/A

# 1. Introduction/Background

The Greater Manchester Eco-Grants for Schools programme aims to support schools and colleges in developing climate action interventions within their school environment and the wider community. The key objectives of the programme include:

1. Waste reduction and circular economy;
2. Climate education focused on sustainable lifestyles; and
3. Sustainable food and tackling food waste.

The programme seeks to kickstart small acts of positive climate action and sustainable behaviour change within the education sector, while also providing wider social benefits such as improving health and wellbeing, building confidence, increasing skills, and fostering community cohesion and engagement.

A grant agreement was used in this context to enable schools and colleges to develop and implement their own climate action interventions aligned with the programme's objectives. The flexibility of a grant agreement enables recipients to tailor their projects to their unique needs and circumstances, thereby maximising the impact of the funding.

# 2. Application Process

The Eco Grants for Schools in Greater Manchester opened for applications at noon on October 30, 2024, and closed at noon on December 20, 2024. During the 8-week application process 59 schools/colleges applied for funding.

Applications were evaluated by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Eco-Grants for Schools award panel based on four main criteria, each with a specific weighting to calculate a total score out of 100 for each application. After moderation, the highest-scoring projects that achieved a benchmark score of 60 or above were awarded funding. The criteria and their respective weightings are as follows:

1. **Project Aim (10%):** This criterion assessed how well the project aligned with the Eco-Grants for Schools' categories, purpose, and objectives. It looked at what the project aimed to achieve;
2. **Project Activities (40%):** This criterion evaluated the specific activities and interventions the project would deliver. It considered how the project addressed specific climate issues, the behaviour change it hoped to achieve, how the project would be managed, who would be involved, and the timeframe for implementation;

3. **Project Benefits (30%):** This criterion examined the difference the project would make and its benefits to pupils, staff, the community, and other organizations. It also looked at how the project would measure its environmental and wider social impact; and
4. **Project Sustainability (10%):** This criterion assessed how the project planned to continue its good work after the Eco-Grants for Schools funding had been used.

Additionally, applications from education establishments located in areas of high levels of deprivation and with high levels of free school meals were awarded additional points during scoring. Applications that failed to meet the specified criteria were identified, moderated and subsequently removed.

### 3. Progress to Date

Following the evaluation process, 29 schools/colleges were awarded funding totalling £53,382.83. Further details of the projects awarded funding are given in Appendix A.

A short presentation highlighting a selection of successful projects will be given at the meeting.

#### 3.1. Breakdown of Project Awards

The following is a breakdown of awarded projects by category, educational type, Local Authority and governance.

**Table 1: Grants Awarded by Project Category**

Project Category	Number of Grants
Sustainable food and tackling food waste	17
Climate education focused on sustainable lifestyles	6
Waste reduction and circular economy	6

**Table 2: Grants Awarded by Educational Type**

Educational Type	Number of Schools
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Primary School	21
Special Educational Need Establishment	3
Pupil Referral Unit	1
Secondary School	3
Further Education College	1

**Table 3: Grants Awarded by Local Authority**

Local Authority	Number of Schools
Manchester	13
Rochdale	3
Trafford	5
Oldham	2
Wigan	1
Tameside	3
Salford	1
Bury	1

**Table 4: School Governance Type**

Governance Type	Number of Schools
Local Authority Schools	21
Academy Trust Schools	8

### **3.2. Next Steps**

All grant agreements have now been processed, and delivery is underway across the 29 funded schools and colleges. A media release is scheduled for the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025, which will highlight the programme's aims and showcase early examples of school-led climate action.

Participating schools and colleges are expected to submit an interim report by September 2025, outlining progress, early outcomes, and any challenges encountered. A final report will be required in May 2026, capturing the full impact of their projects.

As delivery continues, case studies will be developed to illustrate good practice and share learning. These will be disseminated across Local Authorities and our wider networks and promoted through the GM Green City website and social media channels to support wider engagement.

## **4. Recommendation**

The Committee is requested to note the progress of the Greater Manchester School Eco Grant programme to support schools and colleges across the city-region in developing climate action interventions within their school environment and the wider community.