

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Waste and Resources Committee

Date: 21 January 2026

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

Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on the progress of key programmes under the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Plan, with a particular focus on School Programmes, the Sustainable Lifestyles Training Framework, the BeeGreenGM platform and the One Tonne Plastic Litter Campaign. A short presentation highlighting a selection of projects will be given at the meeting.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:





1. Note the progress of the School Programmes, the Sustainable Lifestyles Training Framework (including the Bee the Change Game and Climate Awareness e-module), and the BeeGreenGM platform, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance sustainability, reduce waste, and promote circular economy practices across Greater Manchester

Contact Officers

Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, Environment Directorate:
sarah.mellor@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Michelle Lynch, Lead Programmes Manager, Sustainable Consumption and Production,
Environment Directorate: michelle.lynch@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

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 (2024/25 and 2025/26) 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 x Appendix A - School Eco Refill Shops (2025/2026)

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

None

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

Bee Network Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction/Background

The Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Theme of the Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan focuses on valuing resources and reducing waste. It also supports our carbon neutral ambitions by identifying actions which will reduce our Scope 3 emissions.

The SCP plan covers 4 key priority areas:

1. Moving to a Circular Economy;
2. Managing Waste Sustainably;
3. Reducing Food Waste; and
4. Moving to Sustainable Lifestyles.

SCP programmes are integral to achieving Greater Manchester's sustainability goals. These initiatives address environmental challenges, promote community engagement, improve health and wellbeing, and support economic resilience. Continued collaboration with partner organisations and schools is essential for successful delivery.

2. School Programmes

2.1. Eco Grants for Schools

The Greater Manchester Eco-Grants for Schools programme continues to support schools and colleges in developing climate action interventions within their environments and communities.

- **Round 1 Update:** In the first funding round, 29 schools/colleges were awarded grants totalling £53,382.83, with projects spanning sustainable food, tackling food waste, climate education focused on sustainable lifestyles, and waste reduction/circular economy. Delivery is underway, with final impact reports due May 2026. Case studies are being developed and shared to promote best practice and wider engagement.
- **Round 2 Update:** The second round of funding was launched on 5 November 2024, with support from GMCA and partner funding from Auto Trader. Full details of the programme, eligibility, and application process can be found here: <https://gmgreencity.com/eco-grants-for-schools/>

2.2. Refill Schools Programme

The Refill Schools Programme in partnership with Pupil's Profit is designed to reduce single-use plastic waste and promote sustainable behaviours in educational settings. By

supporting schools to establish refill shops and adopt reusable practices, the programme empowers young people to lead climate action within their communities.

- **Round 2 Update:** Following a successful first year, additional funding was released in October 2024. Fifteen new schools launched their shops in January 2025, supported by GMCA and partner funding.
- **Round 3 Update:** Round 3 of the Refill Schools Programme was launched in October 2025. Seventeen schools have been awarded funding (see Appendix A), with support from GMCA, and partner funding from Stockport ICAN fund, Rochdale Council, Suez Recycling and Recovery UK, and Next Energy. These schools will launch their shops in January 2026. More than half of the schools are in the most deprived neighbourhoods in England.

3. Sustainable Lifestyles Training Framework

The Sustainable Lifestyles Training Framework is designed to empower individuals and organisations across Greater Manchester to adopt more sustainable behaviours and deepen their understanding of carbon literacy. The framework provides a tiered approach to engagement and learning, ensuring accessibility for all and supporting the region's wider sustainability and climate goals.

Accessible Learning: Climate Awareness training is available for employees, schools and residents at multiple levels, with resources accessible via the Green City website or through integration with organisational e-learning platforms.

Structured Accreditation: The framework offers three levels of engagement:

- **Level 1:** Sustainable Lifestyles game 'Bee The Change' - a short, interactive learning experience to promote sustainable behaviour change available on the Green City website. Due for launch in January 2026 supported by a social media communications campaign and local events.
- **Level 2:** Greater Manchester e-learning modules - a mandatory package for employees, also available via the Green City website. The revised Climate Awareness e-Module will launch in 2026, providing an online platform for education and training on sustainability and carbon awareness. This resource will be accessible to all staff, schools and the broader community, supporting the SCP Plan's priority to move towards sustainable lifestyles.

- **Level 3:** Carbon Literacy accreditation - organisations can achieve Bronze, Silver, or Gold status with the Carbon Literacy Project, recognising their commitment to climate education and action.

This approach ensures that carbon literacy and sustainable lifestyles are embedded across workplaces and communities, supporting Greater Manchester's ambition to become a leading green city region.

4. BeeGreenGM Platform

The BeeGreenGM platform, developed to enable organisations across Greater Manchester to share unwanted assets for reuse, is currently in the internal testing phase. The launch, originally scheduled for earlier in the year, has been delayed due to technical issues. The platform is now expected to go live in the new year.

Once launched, BeeGreenGM will help organisations reduce waste, conserve resources, and meet environmental targets by facilitating asset reuse and providing real-time sustainability metrics.

5. Reducing Litter from Single-Use Plastic Waste: One Tonne Plastic Challenge

Launched in July 2025 to coincide with Plastic Free July, the One Tonne Challenge mobilised schools, communities, and organisations across Greater Manchester to collectively reduce litter from single-use plastic waste. Residents went above and beyond, collecting more than 3.7 tonnes of litter from 96 neighbourhoods across the city-region, far exceeding the original target.

Further information can be found here: <https://gmgreencity.com/greater-manchester-smashes-one-tonne-plastic-challenge/>.

6. Recommendation

The Committee is requested to note the progress of the School Programmes, the Sustainable Lifestyles Training Framework (including the Bee the Change Game and Climate Awareness e-module), the BeeGreenGM platform and achievements of the One

Tonne Challenge, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance sustainability, reduce waste, and promote circular economy practices across Greater Manchester.