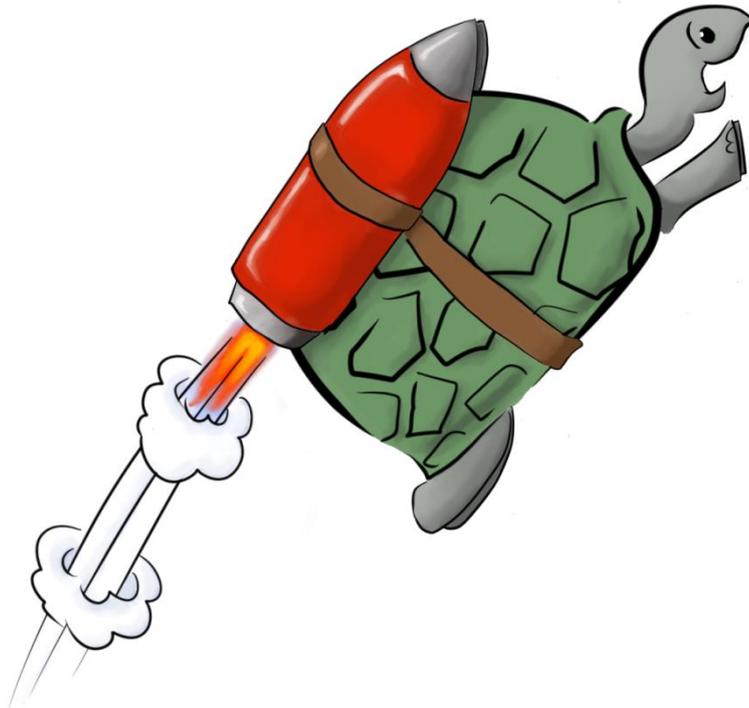


WITH LOVE & ROCKETS

What can we do, in Manchester, about the Climate Emergency before Christmas? By April 2020?



"...what we are interested in is practical, deliverable solutions that have support across all our communities to tackle a fundamental issue. We are open to working with anybody who wants to join us in that task"

Richard Leese, leader of Manchester City Council since 1996

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We have been here before, several times

Citizens have repeatedly put serious, detailed proposals about climate action before Councillors and Council officers over the last decade. The responses have always been somewhere on a spectrum from forced bonhomie through queasy incomprehension and then on to barely disguised disdain. The citizens hope/expect that the Council sees the issue as seriously as they do, but gradually (or quickly) are frozen out of the policy process, which seems to involve endless meetings and ever more vacuous reports. And then, after a couple of months or years, it's all over...

So, what is different this time? Why are we bothering again, apart from it being a moral obligation?

Because this. We can't afford to let this cycle happen again. We, as citizens, need to build not just our own stamina, but institutional stamina. We do that by building links between our groups, by understanding the blocks on action from within the Town Hall, by making it easier rather than harder for new people to get involved. We would be delighted if, having read this report, you want to get involved in Climate Emergency Manchester. If ever it turns out you don't like what we are doing, we will happily point you to other groups.

Please get in touch on climateemergencymanchester@gmail.com

Thanks and acknowledgements

Thanks to all the people who contributed ideas, pledges or encouragement for this report, or who shared/retweeted our advert. We hope you like the report, and that you will stay involved in what is going to be a loong effort to get the City Council to act in collaborative and constructive ways on social and environmental transformation. Without nodding through more car parks on the way.

Climate Emergency Manchester was launched in March 2019. Its initial goal was to get Manchester City Council to declare a climate emergency. The City Council did this in July (but little seems to be happening yet). CEM is determined to build the knowledge, skills and links of its own core group, its supporters, and the broader civil society movements who want the city of Manchester to be a real rather than rhetorical leader in climate action. This is a marathon, not a sprint. If you want to get involved – at an hour a month or a day a week – please contact us:

climateemergencymanchester@gmail.com

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Introduction

On July 10th 2019 Manchester City Council's 96 Councillors unanimously voted to declare a Climate Emergency. Two weeks later, Climate Emergency Manchester (CEM), working with allies, produced a 43 page set of suggestions about how such a declaration could be turned into rapid short term action, 'Climate Deeds not Words'. This report gained no traction.

On 7th October CEM revealed that the Council had not assigned any new resources to climate change, nor sought additional resources. On 10th October, in a report titled 'Dead Tortoise Society,' CEM revealed that on most of the 23 elements of the declaration little or no action had been taken.

It is, of course, easy to criticise, or 'carp' as some chose to characterise engaged citizenship. However, CEM and its allies are never about opposition scrutiny for the sake of it. They are always about being responsible active citizens. Therefore this report has been produced in the spirit of the quote on the front page. It is based jointly on similar citizen-sourced reports to the Council dating back to 2009, and also new contributions received by CEM in the last week.

It sets out a set of actions which the City Council can take before Christmas and in the four months from January to April 2020 which will accelerate action on climate change. It then looks at the 23 elements of the declaration again. The report concludes series of pledges made by individuals and also Climate Emergency Manchester as to the action that they will take in the same time periods.

What next?

If you are a Councillor who has read this report, please let the world know what actions you will be taking – or are already taking – on climate change in your ward. We need to break the spiral of silence on local action.

If you are a resident of Manchester reading this report, we urge you to:

- a) Send a copy to your three ward Councillors
- b) Ask them to respond to you, in writing
- c) Publicise their response(s), or their lack of responses, if it comes to that.

And finally, most importantly:

- d) Get together with other people – who live near you, or who care about the same issues you do – and start to plan how you can influence other people (not just the Councillors!) in your ward to take urgent action to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also prepare for the inevitable changes to come.

As one of the excellent suggestions goes – *"Consider with civic organisations (incl youth) opportunities in communities for educational / fun sessions on low carbon 'choices' - dietary choices etc., ways of making CO2 reduction fun and cool."* If you don't know anyone, get in touch with us at climateemergencymanchester@gmail.com and we may be able to put you in touch with folks!

Proposals for accelerating Council action beyond the Declaration

Tell the truth, loudly and frequently:

- Promise to never again repeat the 'the Council has cut its own emissions by more than 41%' claim without ALSO admitting that *the Council now has 6,000 staff, not 10,000, offers fewer services and has sold off buildings.*
- Have the Leader, Executive Member for the Environment and CEO of the Council tweeting and blogging about climate change *regularly*, not just when they are on the back foot because activists have exposed the lack of action.
- ALL Council communications channels to ALL target audiences to include the message that *MCC have declared a climate emergency, we're fighting for our futures* – along with a link to a dedicated page, urging individuals and organisations to get involved in cutting emissions and preparing for the inevitable changes to come.
- Each week publish a press release- on "What MCC has done and supported this week to respond to the Climate Emergency and support the Green New Deal"
- Publish a regular 'climate and ecological column' in the *Manchester Evening News*, written on a rotating basis by different members of the Executive or Strategic Management Team, on the challenges and opportunities they are facing in turning fine words into real deeds.
- *"Actually listening to residents. Spending time and effort speaking to people. Not demeaning people who care about their health and their environment by using terminology in blogs dismissing them as 'carping'"* (direct quote).
- Hold regular "Question and Answer sessions" over the course of the year with all Executive members on how they are driving forward climate and fuel poverty / food poverty issues in their portfolios, with Executive members encouraged to follow the Leader's example, and start blogging (but without the spittle-flecked attacks, perhaps).
- Reinstigate the quarterly carbon reports on the City Council's internal emissions – the ones that were unilaterally abolished by the Executive Member for the Environment last year.

Organisational change within the Council

- Climate emergency response as a standing item at Executive meetings.
- Prepare a "new Councillors induction pack on climate policy" for the new intake of Councillors next May (for example, there will definitely be a new Councillor in Hulme).
- Commit to creating a new scrutiny committee, a purely Environmental Scrutiny Committee of equal standing to the existing six scrutiny committees, to examine progress not just on climate change but other issues such as biodiversity and Green and Blue Infrastructure.
- Commit to all 96 elected members of the Council being "carbon literate" by the end of the 2014 2019.
- Ensure that the 2009 Plan's goal two – the creation of a "low carbon culture" – is mentioned in all communications and plans.
- Ensure that quarterly progress reports on the climate emergency are presented to elected members, in all relevant scrutiny committees, and published prominently on the City Council's website.
- Vigorously encourage the six existing Scrutiny Committees to include climate and environment issues on their forward plans, alongside fuel poverty and food poverty.
- Ensure the 6 monthly updates of all Executive members against their One

Manchester responsibilities also contain an explicit reporting obligation against the CED commitments.

- Begin to have an annual meeting of the Executive of Manchester City Council, well-advertised and devoted *entirely* to the climate strategies, the actions of all members of the Executive in achieving the targets, at which they can be questioned not only by members of the Council, but also members of the public.
- Instigate home working for more workers.
- *Start the 4 day working week. Working longer hours does not increase productivity.*

Action from individual Councillors, regardless of the level of action or inaction at the senior level

- All 32 wards to have agreed Local Climate Champions - one Councillor within each ward to champion climate action and engagement
- All Councillors to say what changes they have made in their own lives and carbon footprints and what further changes they will make by Christmas 2019.
- Brave Councillors could publish details of their current carbon footprint and how they will reduce it by Christmas 2019.

Ward level

- Engage with private landlords on retrofit and insulation questions.
- Increase the amount of METAL recycling (aluminium is insanely easy to recycle, and there's lots of it about).
- Plans for extreme weather events, especially heatwaves (older and transient population).
- Ensure all this information is written in Plain English, translated into the languages spoken and converted into videos for people with very low levels of reading English, so they can be part of the conversations!
- Designate and demark areas of public land (parks, verges etc.) where people can plant trees AND ENSURE THAT Council/MAINTENANCE STAFF DO NOT SUBSEQUENTLY MOW THEM DOWN.
- For each Councillor to plant a tree, doing this publicly and involving local groups such as scouts, faith communities, friends of ..., to come along and join them. (This does NOT require expenditure at a tree nursery, there are lots of conkers on the ground now and many areas (e.g. Birchfields park) have self-seeded trees growing too closely together - simply dig up a sapling and replant.
- Ensure that the ward plans of all 32 wards (and Strategic Regeneration Frameworks) include concrete actions and SMART goals around both the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and the risks that Manchester's citizens will face due to floods, heat-waves and other extreme weather events.

Whalley Range Climate Action Group (WRCAG- @RangeAction) have submitted the following

- Support community groups
- Continue to support the work of WRCAG, and its action groups on Air Quality, working with local schools, green environment, ethical / sustainable business / products, - encourage similar groups in other parts of the city
- Encourage local planting and sustainability e.g. Edible Whalley Range
- Re-issue development plan for the area to include preventive education measures to reduce tree felling, garden removals etc
- Carry out tree and hedge planting linking with Trust Conservation Volunteers, Woodland Trust and Big Climate Fight Back

- Introduce climate emergency statement and strategies to Community Forum and other groups across ward
- Encourage carbon reduction in the NHS through neighbourhood groups / GP practices etc.
- Encourage individual actions such as retrofitting / insulating / green energy, reduced car and plane use and health related (e.g. build awareness of problems of inhaler use and encourage switch to dry powder, and recycling of empty inhalers [via chemists]).
- Support those who have suffered as a result of the climate emergency e.g refugees/migrants

Council's own food footprint

- Commit to plant based meals in canteens of Council organisations for a proportion of every week. Offer no meat at all these days, not a 'plant based alternative'. This includes schools.
- Commit to supplying organic and locally grown food in Council organisations and schools
- Set targets such as 50% will be plant based by Christmas 2019, 50% will be locally-grown, and organic by April 2020.
- Commit to making the Christmas markets zero single use and take measures to reduce the emissions caused by the Christmas Markets.

Transport

Cycling:

- Lobby TfGM to allow bikes on trams. This could be off peak and incur a charge if necessary. Given the changeable weather in the city, this would give people an alternative option of getting home if the weather turns or an option to use cycle one way and return by tram rather than cycle home in the dark. If they knew they had an alternative option they would be far more likely to cycle one way to work.
- Efforts to change attitudes of drivers against cyclists. Campaigns to make drivers more considerate and less hostile to people on bicycles.
- Increased enforcement to stop people parking on pavements and across the very few cycle lanes we do have.
- Restrict (private) vehicle access to city centre. (Freight is necessary but a small part of traffic).
- Consider workplace parking levy to raise funds for low carbon public transport (as Nottingham Council has done) with possible exemption for car shared vehicles
- Introduce differential charge for parking permits – high carbon emission vehicles should be charged more.

EV car club

- Run a Council electric car sharing club - initial cost but should be self-funding.

Speed limits

- Extend 20mph limit throughout habited area of Manchester
- Enforce 20mph
- Extend bike lanes
- Enforce bike lanes (including banning car parking 24/7)
- Ban Free Car Parking (bar e-vehicles) ASAP

Airport:

- Publish the true emissions and environmental impact of Manchester airport. We can't take steps to improve it unless we know the full facts.
- Stop airport expansion – commit to never building another runway.

[If you want better public transport, get involved in the Better Buses campaign, and take part in the GMCA public consultation on what should be done about the bus network. It closes in January 2020]

(1st January to 30 April)

- Make plans (and then, gasp, implement those plans) for a lot more public water fountains in Manchester city centre.
- Audit Council building lighting energy use to gradually wind down heating and turn off floodlighting - a degree at a time, an hour and then another hour....
- Every class in every school (or perhaps year group) should plant a substantial tree on their site. There are big car parks as well as play grounds that could do with shade and this might be an incentive.
- Instigate regular, fixed car free days in large parts of the suburban area.
- Help energy companies target fuel poor – the Government has produced guidance to allow local authorities to identify the fuel poor or vulnerable houses to energy companies. The energy companies then insulate these as part of their legal ECO obligations.
- Identify areas suitable for renewable energy in the local plan.
- As a priority, identify short term ways of raising capital for carbon reduction projects through bond application, application to EU or post-Brexit Social Prosperity Fund or via working with partners e.g. housing providers to explore ways of raising money for street by street insulation / retrofit.
- Work with social housing partners to prepare plans and set targets for retrofit of existing properties.
- Work with social housing partners to identify roof sites, with targets for roll out of solar panel heating.
- Work with social housing partners to develop pilot projects for retrofit
- Levy developers of new sites to raise funds that can be used to carbon reduction measures elsewhere.
- Introduce energy efficiency assessment as part of licensing scheme for private landlords.
- Procurement and commissioning processes to privilege sources / providers utilising sustainable / low carbon processes (eg deliveries using EVs, electric bikes etc)
- Encourage the use of biodegradable sanitary products to reduce plastic wastes , it is estimated that about 200000 tonnes of synthetic waste is produced every year because of menstrual waste. "Go plastic free hygiene products". Spread awareness on social media and advising other friends.

Proposals for accelerating Council action on the Climate Emergency Declaration

Element 01: Declare a Climate Emergency

After the climate emergency declaration in July MCC put out a single press release. The leader of Manchester City Council only tweeted three times about climate change (let alone the declaration of a climate emergency) between July 11th and October 6th. After that, for mysterious reasons, it became a bit more frequent. Not to carp, but this is not enough.

Before Christmas:

- Our leaders need to be talking about climate change ALL. THE. TIME. (See also the previous section of this report, under 'tell the truth' for more ideas.)

Between January and April:

- Devise and implement a broad publicity programme, involving Councillors from all 32 wards, about what they are doing in their wards, (and that includes the yellow ward in the sea of red). The publicity campaign should include specific things the Council wants help with and ways people can be involved.

Element 02: Continue working with partners across Manchester and GMCA to deliver the 2038 target, and determine if an earlier target can be possible, through a transparent and open review. Explore the possibility of introducing a 2030 target in line with the IPCC report and request that a report on its viability be brought back to the Executive before the end of the year.

This cannot happen before Christmas, thanks to an appalling lack of action by the City Council. That does NOT mean that such an open and transparent review should not take place!

Before Christmas:

- Set up a dedicated website to explain what is being done, how, why, where, when, by who around changing the target date. Initiate public consultation on the process, with active engagement across the city by faith groups, trades unions, businesses, community groups and so on.

Between January and April:

- The process – open and transparent – by which the 2030 investigation is held must be communicated regularly and repeatedly by senior figures, including ALL members of the Executive, ALL Scrutiny Chairs and other public figures.

Element 03: Become carbon neutral by the earliest possible date.

Before Christmas – (see previous section for a series of ward-based activities Councillors can undertake.)

- The Council should have either commissioned a consultant or outlined its own resources to undertake a baselining exercise, to identify the major carbon hotspots across Manchester.

Between January and April:

- By April 2020 the Council must have completed the baseline exercise (it will have to be fairly high-level due to time constraints) and then develop an action plan that shows them how to reduce these hotspots. The report MUST include the airport (and the emissions from the aircraft!!)
- Hold the first annual 'climate emergency' meeting of the Executive of Manchester City Council, well-advertised and devoted *entirely* to the climate strategies, the actions of *all* members of the Executive in achieving the targets. At this meeting Executive members can be questioned not only by members of the Council, but also members of the public
- The six monthly updates of all Executive members against their One Manchester responsibilities must contain an explicit reporting obligation against the CED commitments.

Element 04: Encourage involvement in all wards by April 2020 through meetings as part of the Our Manchester strategy, to identify residents and partners who want to be actively involved in achieving the target, with provision for those who cannot attend. Ensure ward plans contain specific, measurable, achievable steps.

Before Christmas:

- Hold more meetings in the wards (so far there has been only one!)
- Name one of the three Councillors per ward responsible for these ward meetings.
- Make a copy of the current ward plan available online, and in a central and easily locatable location for anyone who wants a hard copy.
- Give at least one month's notice for the meetings, so that they can be properly publicised and added to the websites and social media of other groups and so that the ward Councillors can tweet about it etc.
- Have climate experts available to answer people's questions.
- Livestream and record the meetings so that people who cannot attend in person will be able to participate remotely/catch up later.
- Structure the meetings to allow connections between attendees, rather than just 'top-down'.
- Photograph any flipcharts used at the meeting.
- Write short blog posts before and AFTER outlining what happened at the meeting(s).
- Opening meetings could/should be held in the wards of members of the NESC.
- Provide opportunities for people to give anonymous feedback.
- Work with ward forums, e.g. Hulme Forum to set up Citizens Assemblies to deliver Transition Town projects, local energy schemes and community allotments etc

Between January and April:

- After the first ten ward meetings, publish a short lessons learned report which feeds into improvements in the format for the remaining meetings.
- See these meetings part of an ongoing process of engagement about climate change with the ward.

Element 05: Review all policies, processes and procedures to ensure the Council can become carbon neutral

Before Christmas:

- Officers, Executive members and other members responsible for devising or delivering policy give the first of a series of public accounts of what needs to change.

- Commit that meetings of the Zero Carbon Coordination Group are open to observation by the public, with members of NESC/Climate Subgroup able to ask questions.

Between January and April:

- Officers, executive members and other members responsible for devising or delivering policy give further of public accounts of what needs to change

Element 06: Present an action plan by March 2020 detailing how the city can stay within its carbon budget.

Before Christmas:

- Publicise this action widely, encouraging people to engage in both February NESC meeting and the Executive meeting in March.

Between January and April:

- Create briefing papers and videos about the plan BEFORE it goes to NESC, so more people know what is at stake, and can be actively engaged. CEM will be doing this, so MCC should also get its game-face on.

Element 07: Report back regularly to the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee (NESC).

Before Christmas:

- Upload video and audio footage of the Climate Group sub-group meeting taken by activists onto the Council's website. The quality may not always be top-notch, but it is better than nothing. Future meetings to be livestreamed wherever possible.

Between January and April:

- Reinstigate quarterly carbon reports, which were abolished by the Executive Member of the Environment last year, and produce clear quarterly reports which are about ALL elements of the Climate Emergency Declaration.

Element 08: Review the corporate plan.

Before Christmas:

- Set a firm deadline for the review to be completed, with the names of those doing the review released as soon as possible.
- Commit to multiple open public meetings about the Corporate Plan.
- Relevant Executive Member(s) and lead members commit to regular blogs, speeches, videos etc about what is happening, and why.
- Send all strategies/plans which have climate impact (any which impact travel modes, roads, developments, large scale planning permission, purchase of new equipment etc) to the Climate Change subgroup to pre-screen for referral to NESC and other scrutiny committees as necessary for scrutiny

Between January and April:

- Complete with the names of those doing the review.
- Schedule dates for open public meetings about the Corporate Plan.
- Relevant Executive Member(s) and lead members produce the first in a series of regular blogs, speeches, videos etc about what is happening, and why.

Element 09: Work with the Tyndall Centre to review the actual emissions from aviation. Investigate the best way to include aviation in our overall carbon reduction programme in the long term.

Before Christmas:

- Announce dates and formats for the Tyndall Centre-led to review a public process, with the methodology, terminology and processes of review clearly explained, and sign-posted.

Between January and April:

- Carry out the review! Host regular and frequent public meetings enabling academics to engage not just with the City Council, its community interest company also known as the Climate Change "Agency" and consultancies, but other actors who might provide less welcome, more challenging perspectives.

Element 10: Make climate breakdown and the environment, an integral part of activity throughout the Council, including all decision making, ensuring key decisions take into account the impact on achieving the zero-carbon target and including an environmental impact assessment in all relevant committee reports.

Before Christmas:

- ☒ Start showing the carbon impacts of all key decisions on the Council's website in a public and easily digestible form.

Between January and April:

- Commit to producing accurate, detailed, comprehensive updates on all the elements of the declaration, on a quarterly basis, with the reports released not just to climate subgroup but to all scrutiny committees AND to all Councillors individually.

Element 11: Ensure that everyone in the Council receives carbon literacy training by the end of 2020. Make attendance easier by varying times and length of sessions.

Before Christmas:

- Commit to all Councillors completing their carbon literacy by the end of 2014, sorry, 2019.
- Create a dashboard, updated in real time, and prominently displayed on the Council's website to show which members of the Council have received carbon literacy training.

Between January and April:

- Deliver carbon literacy training beyond the City Centre, in wards.
- Blogs about the training from those who are taking it, both supportively and critically reflecting on its usefulness.

Element 12: Encourage all staff on Council business to use the lowest carbon, appropriate, travel.

Before Christmas:

- NESG call for a real-time updated dashboard which shows all flights taken on Council business, with the name of the Exec Member/elected member and name of officer (if member of SMT – role if not), and whether other lower carbon forms of transport were considered.

- Commission a report from the lead member for Active Transport on the local possibilities around bike-share, grey fleet improvements (e-scooters will have to wait for the DfT to make a decision about changing their legality...)

Between January and April:

- Launch real-time dashboard which shows all flights.
- Make dashboard part of monthly review process.
- Adopt the Climate Perks scheme for staff travel.
- Reduce staff travel by adopting a formal preference for internal meetings to be held remotely.

Element 13: Investigate measures to ensure future procurement is carbon neutral. Increase the percentage of social value with an additional environmental element.

Before Christmas:

- Commit to investigating the measures publicly, with regular updates of the investigation, written in Plain English, and shared broadly on social media.

Between January and April: Continue as above, implement results of investigation, continue to report on progress

Element 14: Work with suppliers to green their supply chains, and support local production

Before Christmas:

- Set up a task and finish group made up of members of Economy Scrutiny Committee and other scrutiny committees in the short term.

Element 15: Work with training providers to ensure Manchester residents can take on green jobs.

Between January and April:

- Approach local FE colleges.
- Produce further items in a regular series of reports about what is being done.
- Economy Scrutiny prepared to handover to the separate (Environment Scrutiny) Committee in May 2020.

Element 16: Investigate and introduce measures to help reach domestic zero carbon levels including addressing fuel poverty and retrofitting existing homes.

Before Christmas:

- Neighbourhoods team to review the recommendations from People Powered Retrofit in order to take a holistic approach to creating a retrofit infrastructure (in terms of local supply chain skills, local institutions and householders).

Between January and April:

- Publish a report on the conclusions and what elements will be taken forward

Element 17: Investigate ways to ensure that future local plans place a mandatory requirement for all new development to be net zero carbon by the earliest possible date.

Before Christmas:

- NESC to set date for investigations to begin and conclude. Sorry, but 2023 is a fricking joke

Between January and April:

- Investigations begin.

Element 18: Push GMCA to decarbonise public transport, heat and energy as early as possible.

Before Christmas:

- ☒ See suggestions under transport in next section.

Between January and April:

- Ask TfGM to present a report to NESC on its 2040 plan and achieving zero carbon by 2038 at the latest.
- Investigate potential impact of PLEVs (personal light electric vehicles). Impact should assess lifecycle analysis, including battery production, disposal and opportunity costs.

Element 19: Through our role on GMPF, encourage divestment in fossil fuels as early as possible

Before Christmas:

- NESC commit to investigating i) how much is currently invested? ii) What actions MCC taken within the GMPF? Can it lead by example?

Between January and April:

- NESC to receive report on i) how much is currently invested? ii) What actions MCC taken within the GMPF? Can it lead by example?

Element 20: Call on the government to provide powers and resources to make the zero-carbon target possible including funding for big capital projects.

Element 21: Accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions from aviation.

Element 22: Accelerate the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, funding low carbon energy generation.

Element 23: Ensure that the UK prosperity fund focuses on enabling the transition to a low carbon economy.

- We *do* sympathise on these four elements of the declaration. It is surely impossible to get any sense out of HMG at present, and there is an enormous amount of uncertainty. HOWEVER, Manchester City Council could use the time wisely, to engage with other stakeholders (business, NGOs, think tanks, campaigning groups, on the drafting of letters/lobbying efforts for each of these, so that once the current paralysis is passed, they are 'ready to go' on these important elements of the declaration.

Pledges of action by individuals and groups

- Sarah Mann *"I will pledge to continue to use public transport and cycle where I can. I just hope that the infrastructure for these will improve."*
- Dr Liz Hudson, Wythenshawe hospital *"For personal contribution I am taking buses to work, including for my community visits, and buying local/national/organic. And I plan to try for entirely local and recycled/reused Christmas with minimal waste."*
- Alice: *"My pledge of action is actually to try and volunteer my time with your organisation! I have completed the online sign-up form so will hopefully hear back and can start committing some time to help :)"*
- Alan Challenger – *"Reduce draughts in home. In the medium term, attend introduction to retrofit course and research replacement to specific doors / windows at home. In the long-term, investigate low carbon alternative to existing gas central heating, eliminate private car use."*

We haven't got many pledges yet, but if you are reading this report, and want to pledge actions (ideally ones about increasing your political footprint, as well as reducing your personal environmental one), then email us! We will set up a page on our website for these pledges.

Climate Emergency Manchester commitments

Between now and Christmas:

Core group:

- As members of the core group, continue to support each other in building our skills, knowledge, relationships, confidence as long-term effective contributors to positive change in this city.

Supporters:

- Identify the skills and knowledge our supporters feel they need to more effective forces for constructive radical action, and work with them to build and share those skills and that knowledge via workshops, skill-shares (see below).

Broader climate movement and civil society:

- Run a survey to find out what other activists/citizens would find it useful for us to do, and try to integrate that into our forward plans
- Overhaul our website.
- Initiate weekly 'skills-share blog posts'. To include – "how to lobby your Councillor", "how to write a press release", "how to design a meeting," "how to write a Freedom of Information Act request" etc.
- Start posting interviews with fellow campaigners who are trying to stop the Council doing really stupid and dangerous things, publicising their campaigns and encouraging people to get involved.
- Create and maintain a comprehensive calendar of events of interest to climate/environment/social justice campaigners in Manchester
- Produce five **short (2 min)**, funny and visually attractive videos on the following:
 - 'What is climate change and why should I care?'

- 'What is Manchester City Council? Who runs the show? For who?
- 'What is Manchester City Council promising to do on climate change and why should I be the teensiest bit sceptical'
- 'What are the different groups active on climate change in Manchester at present?' (polite version)
- 'How to run good meetings'
- Seek/get invitations to address tenants and residents associations, civic societies, churches, mosques, sports clubs etc and do either talks and q&as or (our preference) workshops about local climate action. To do write-ups of these events, perform post-mortems and invite critiques to increase quality and decrease ego-foddering.

Council:

- Continue to engage constructively but critically with Councillors and the Council via all available means, including but not limited to, physical meetings of the Council, ward meetings, social media, meetings of political parties (if we're invited), and generally make it easier rather than harder for our allies and supporters to engage with their ward Councillors.

January to April 2020

- Continue with all above activities, having conducted a rigorous post-mortem and acted on the findings to improve our processes and products
- In *January* and *April* produce further "Hung Drawn and Quarterly" reports, which will assess not only the Council's (in)action on climate policy and the climate emergency declaration, but also take a closer look at key decisions. These HDQ reports will also bluntly assess CEM's successes and failures (there will be plenty of the latter) against its own goals
- In *February* produce a comprehensive, rapid and scientifically informed critique of the Manchester Climate Change Agency Plan, once it is finally released in February 2020, and make it easier rather than harder for people to engage with the process.
- In the lead up to the Council elections in *May*, we will try to get the climate breakdown as high up the political agenda locally as we can. This will include surveys of candidates (but not duplicating Friends of the Earth's always excellent effort), holding hustings (at the very least one) and mapping the positions of candidates and parties.
- We will continue to campaign for structural/organisational change which makes it easier for Councillors and the public to know what the Council is doing (as opposed to promising) on climate change.
- Produce **5 minute and 20-30 minute** videos (fun and share-worthy)
 - 'What is climate change, what will its global and local impacts be and why should I care?'
 - 'What is Manchester City Council? Who runs the show? For who?'
 - 'What has Manchester City Council promised to do on climate change, on what has it succeeded, failed, why and what do we do about it.'
 - 'What are the different groups active on climate change in Manchester at present?' (polite version)
 - 'How do social movement organisations tend to organise around environmental issues, and why are some of them so astonishingly white and middle-class'

NB We are very keen to work with artists, graphic designers, video-makers and anyone else on this. And this is an incomplete list. We'd love to hear ideas for other topics (white supremacy patriarchy and de-colonialising climate activism, what about the other species on this planet? etc) Also, this is a minimal rather than a maximal list.