

In Our Nature

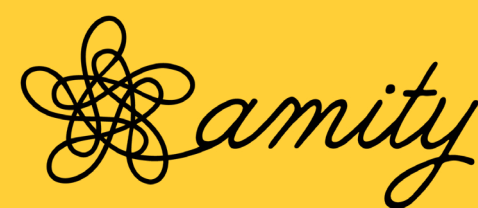
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

In Our Nature is a collaboration between

MANCHESTER
CLIMATE CHANGE
AGENCY



Registered charity no. 1158700



Tyndall° Centre *22*
for Climate Change Research *years*

GROUNDWORK
GREATER MANCHESTER



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

It is funded by the National Lottery and a coalition of funding partners.



Wates Family
ENTERPRISE TRUST



THANK YOU TO OUR
FUNDERS, THE NATIONAL
LOTTERY CLIMATE ACTION
FUND AND THE WATES
FAMILY ENTERPRISE TRUST,
FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Manchester has committed to become zero carbon by 2038. To achieve this, we need everyone to play their full part – this is where the In Our Nature programme comes in.

In Our Nature is a community climate programme. Between 2022 and 2025, we'll be working with communities across Manchester to identify and address barriers to action and deliver impactful projects that reduce carbon emissions, whilst addressing broader socio-economic issues such as reducing bills and improving health and wellbeing.

Our programme is closely aligned to the [Manchester Climate Change Framework](#), the city's high-level strategy for tackling climate change, by supporting and enabling residents and organisations to act. Projects delivered are strategically aligned and co-designed with communities to address local concerns.

This report showcases just some of the inspiring ways in which we are catalysing climate action across our city, and how we are delivering our programme aims. Together, we are:

- ▶ Empowering communities to come together and make meaningful changes that help the city to tackle the climate crisis and address wider socio-economic issues.
- ▶ Building a community-led movement for climate action that is inclusive, citywide and celebrates the diversity and creativity of the people of Manchester.
- ▶ Sharing our learning, catalysing and accelerating community action beyond Manchester.

ITS #INOURNATURE

To achieve our aims, we will:

- ▶ Help Manchester residents to design and implement over 50 community-led projects to tackle climate change in a way that is meaningful to them and their local priorities.
- ▶ Provide on-the-ground support to community groups in ten wards across north, central and south Manchester and make indirect-financial support available to at least ten more.
- ▶ Develop local carbon footprints for all 32 wards in Manchester to help communities design impactful projects that ensure the city remains within its carbon budget.
- ▶ Produce simple and practical resources to inspire and support residents across the city to take climate action, including case studies, toolkits and how-to guides on a range of topics.
- ▶ Deliver opportunities for residents to grow their capacity for collaboration and climate action, uncovering local climate champions and unleashing their power for change.
- ▶ Establish a Community Coalition of local residents to facilitate collaboration, amplify success, share ideas and lessons learned, and become ambassadors for climate action in Manchester – building a citywide movement.



OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE



15
community-led
projects
established

50

resources added
to our Resource Hub to help people
take climate action at home and in
their communities



2,000+
visitors engaged
at Manchester
Flower show



5
local carbon
footprints
produced



25,000+
website visits and
social media engagements

21

community groups and networks
across **19** wards engaged



104

People joined the
Big Moston Food
Club campaign

500+

people have subscribed
to our newsletter



Over **1,000**
project beneficiaries



600+

residents had their
voices heard
at community
consultation events

4

Community
Coalition meetings
held



1. EMPOWERING MANCHESTER'S COMMUNITIES

We are helping people to come together to make meaningful changes to tackle the climate crisis.

Read about some of the projects we've delivered so far, how we are measuring the impact on carbon emissions, and the ways in which we're empowering people to make sustainable changes within their own lives and within their local communities.

STORIES WE LOVE

Cheetham Hill Sustainable Sewing Project



Prior to the project, **80%** of participants bought new clothes every three months



Before they started, **40%** thought buying new clothes was easier than repairing the ones they had

By 2025 we will support 50 community-led projects which will help reduce local carbon emissions. We've been working closely with a number of community groups in Cheetham Hill, where fashion regularly comes up in conversation. Ladies attending the women's group at the [Wai Yin Welcome Centre](#) were keen to get sewing. Learning how to repair and mend their own clothing was their way of making a difference, especially when considering the impact fashion has environmentally.

We delivered four sewing machine workshops with the aim of teaching a range of repair techniques so that participants would leave armed with the knowledge and confidence to keep their clothes lasting for longer and to share these skills with the wider community.

Not only did the workshops increase participants knowledge and interest in mending clothing, but it also brought the community together. Over the next year, we aim to learn more about how this type of skill sharing can further benefit the wider community.

One participant said ***"It's given me the confidence to just give it a go. It was the starting that I always found daunting, but I don't have that now. I wouldn't say I'm a professional, but I feel confident to get going."***

[Read the full story on our website](#)



The UK Carbon Trust found that one cotton t-shirt is responsible for around **15kg of CO₂** and a pair of jeans is responsible for around **33kg CO₂**



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In June, we invited community groups to come to us with ideas on how to reduce carbon emissions. 7 projects addressing a broad range of topics are now underway and we are supporting them with delivery and promotion, as well as help with measuring impact and by providing them with resources to get their ideas off the ground.

Moss Side Social Stitching Group

are tackling indirect emissions by learning to repair old textiles

Manchester Secondary School Pupil Referral Unit

are tackling single-use plastic through their reusable water bottle project

Factory International are hosting repair sessions to tackle e-waste

The Carlton Social and Bowling Club

are trialling a low carbon air cooling system to improve the experience of event attendees

St Margarets Centre are installing new cycling facilities to encourage active travel

Sow the City are powering community activities through the installation of second-hand solar panels at The Boiler House

Flavours from Manchester

are addressing barriers to using public transport



We are working across **13 wards** on **4 different strategic priorities** ▲

Over **1,000** people will benefit from these **7** projects over their lifetime ▲

[Read about our current Community Support projects](#)

COMMUNITY NATURE GRANTS

With thanks to additional funding from Wates Family Enterprise Trust these **5 projects** received funding and support to deliver projects focussed on urban greening and biodiversity.

Grounded MCR CIC are renovating a shipping container to home their community café and training centre

North Manchester Community Growing Project are getting their Cheetham allotment and orchard back into shape and turning it into a green haven for their community

The Resonance Centre CIC are building a community vertical herb and vegetable garden in their health and wellbeing centre

Friends of Chapel Street Park – Bluebell Green are helping local biodiversity, creating food growing opportunities, and enhancing the existing education and community features of the site

Reflecteen are creating a community garden for young people and their families

[Find out more about our Community Nature Grant winners](#)



HOW ARE WE REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS?

Using the latest available data, we are creating bespoke carbon footprints for each of Manchester's 32 wards. These are being shared with communities to help them understand where their actions will have the biggest impact.

All projects have carbon reduction and behaviour change metrics built in from the start and further carbon reductions are expected beyond the lifetime of each project as communities and individuals continue to make sustainable choices.

Working closely with the [Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research](#), our measurements are bespoke and tailored to the individual needs of the communities we support.



Number of car journeys avoided



Feedback from participants on how likely they are to apply their new skills and knowledge in their daily lives



The weight of textiles repurposed and diverted from landfill; kg repaired = kg saved!



KWH of energy saved from a direct switch to renewable energy

What kinds of things are we measuring?



Barriers to climate action and opportunities to address gaps in knowledge

STORIES WE LOVE

Flavours from Manchester – Let's Go Green!



60% of participants are now using public transport once a week



100% of those involved now feel confident using public transport

As part of our first round of Community Support projects, Flavours from Manchester organised weekly public transport journeys. The project aimed to address barriers towards using public transport amongst a diverse network of communities in south Manchester, helping reduce carbon emissions by giving participants the confidence to choose low-carbon forms of travel more frequently and leave the car at home.

Organised trips helped members of the group overcome the fear of getting on the bus or taking the tram for the first time and showed them how easy it was to use public transport. The project showed participants how to book train tickets and how to navigate to their destination using their smart phones. The project also helped familiarise the group with using maps and building skills to know their surroundings and get home safely.

One participant said ***“I had never been on any public transport before but now I can go to town, Oldham, Bury, Trafford Centre, all around Manchester on my own. I am quite confident now.”***

[Read the full story on our website](#)



732.41kg CO₂

saved so far





2. BUILDING A MOVEMENT

We are building a community-led movement for climate action that is inclusive, citywide and celebrates the diversity and creativity of the people of Manchester.

Read about how we are using consultation work, community mapping and creative, tailored campaigns to engage communities right across Manchester, including those who have not previously been involved in climate action.

STORIES WE LOVE

The Community Climate Wheel



As part of our consultation work, we have developed a self-assessment toolkit - the Community Climate Wheel - to help people explore potential sustainability projects and opportunities in their local area.

Participants are invited to assess their community through the lens of climate change and sustainability based on eight different categories and score each category on a scale of 1-10 (10 being as sustainable as possible). The categories can then be adapted with participants and further tailored to the needs of the community.

The wheel has already been in action at events right across the city. It allows communities to self-define starting points and provides a mechanism for further assessment and reflection along the way. Paired with engagement numbers and participatory observation, progress in terms of community engagement and awareness around climate change can be tracked.

The Categories

Transport

Skills for the future

Community cohesion

Community wellbeing

Waste

Food

Buildings and Energy

Nature and greenspaces

“The Community Climate Wheel provides an interactive and fun way to track community engagement and progress over a period of time.”

COMMS AND CAMPAIGNS

In May, we created an interactive installation for the **Manchester Flower Festival**.

We invited people from across Manchester to share their plants and growing stories to inspire people to get growing at home and highlight the collective impact that we can all have at boosting biodiversity and tackling climate change.

We spoke to **2,202** visitors over the bank holiday weekend and the event helped amplify In Our Nature across the city.

We partnered with [Sow the City](#) to create the In Our Nature garden at the **National Trust Castlefield Viaduct**, a 330-metre long viaduct that has been transformed into an urban oasis of plants and mini gardens.

The garden has had thousands of visitors and has encouraged a flourish of wildlife high up above the city centre.

[Read the full story on our website](#)

In our first year we had over **17,000 visits to our website** and over **8,000 people engaged via social media**. Some of our most popular posts included seasonal sustainability tips and stories from across the city.

THE BIG MOSTON FOOD CLUB

In partnership with [Climate Outreach](#) and the [Centre for Accelerated Social Transformation \(CAST\)](#), we delivered an online food challenge to get the people of Moston cooking tasty, healthy meals whilst saving money and helping the environment.

The challenge was called The Big Moston Food Club which took place in a community Facebook group over 8 weeks. Using insights from focus groups with residents, we created tailored advice, resources and support to help members get cooking from scratch, eating more veggies and getting to know their community.

Over the next few months, we'll learn more about how the group has supported residents to save money on their food bills, eat better for the environment, and how these learnings can help the rest of Manchester do the same.

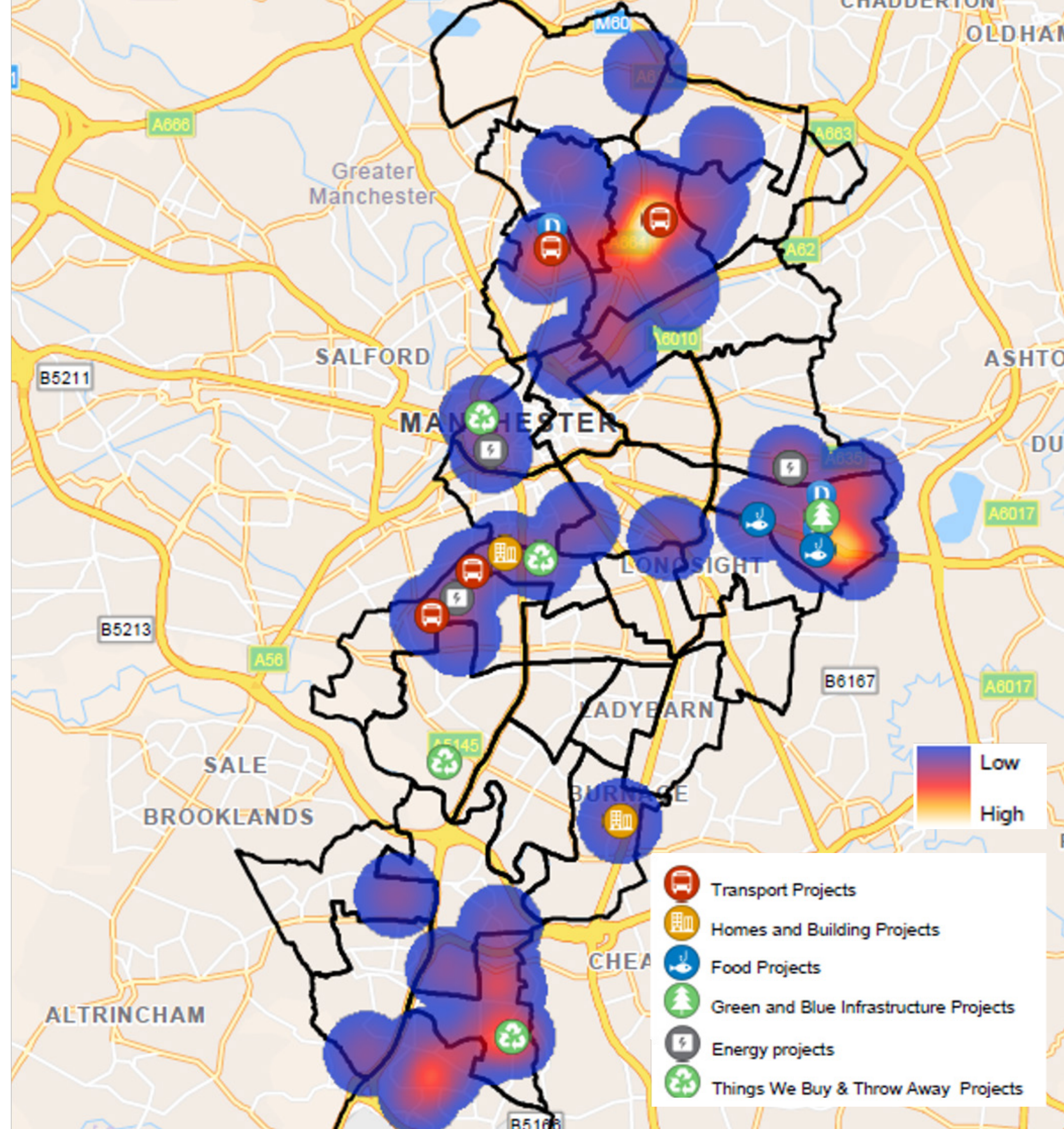


OUR ENGAGEMENT SO FAR

We are reaching communities right across Manchester. This GIS heat map shows our engagement in year one. The blue areas show where we have had lighter touch engagement such as through events, and the red shows where our work with communities has been more intensive – such as working with communities to develop project ideas. The icons demonstrate where there are projects based on our 6 key themes.

By mapping our work, we can identify areas where there is currently low levels of engagement and use this to target future support to ensure the broadest possible reach.

The map will become a useful resource for communities, who will be able to connect with different groups involved in climate action across Manchester and build an organic, self-sustaining network.



3. SHARING OUR LEARNING



It's important that we share our learning, to inspire community action within and beyond Manchester.

Read about how we are doing this through our Resource Hub, and by sharing best practice with organisations who work with communities on tackling the issue of climate change.



We delivered a session for community groups on carbon emissions and how to measure the impact of their projects.



We talked about engaging communities with climate action to The National Lottery's Community Fund, [Manchester City Council's Zero Carbon Network](#) and [The Manchester Housing Providers Partnership](#).



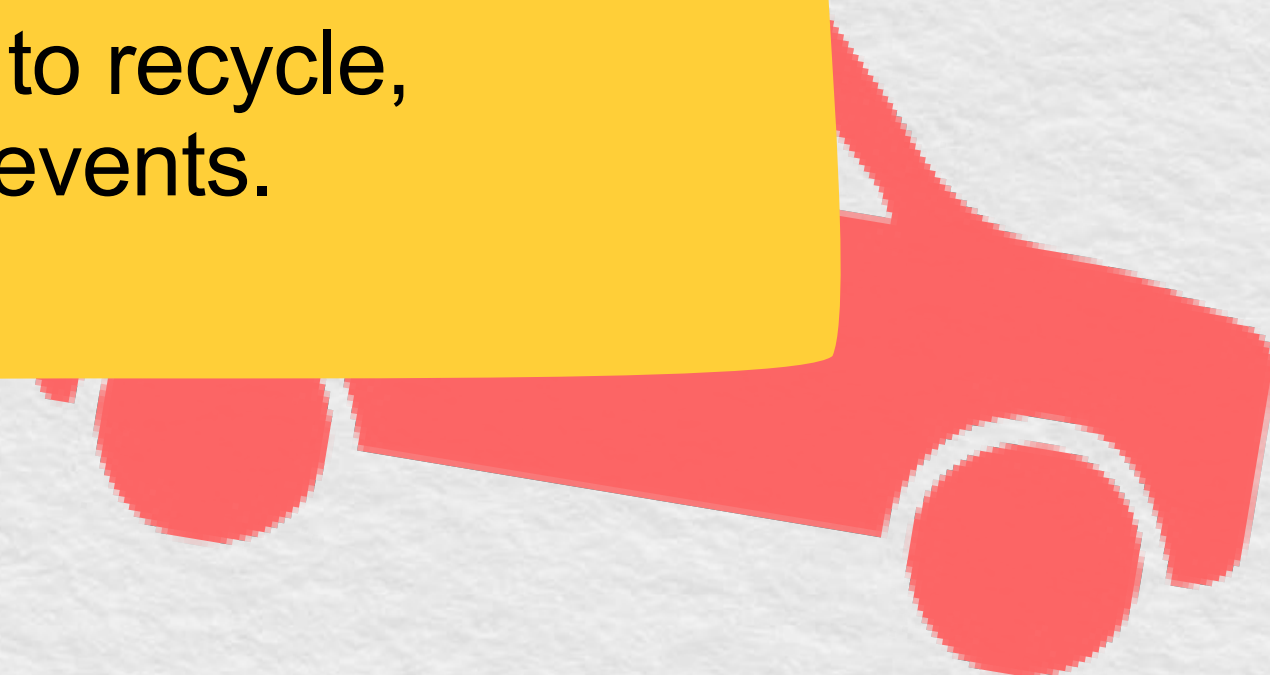
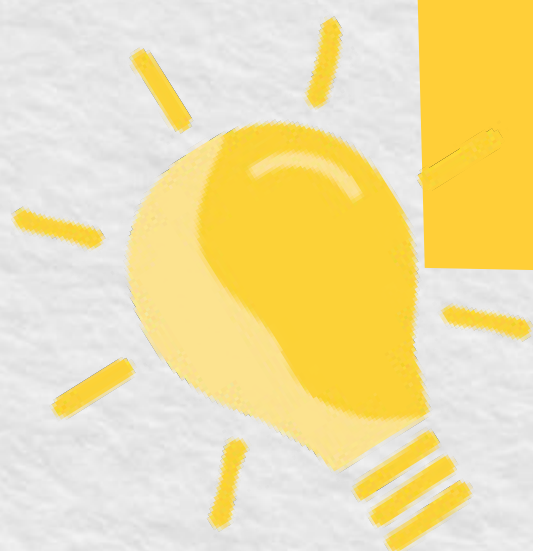
Through our work in Moston we are developing a case study outlining the most effective messaging and framing to engage specific audiences on sustainable diets and wider community climate action.



We have shared best practice on communications and partnership working with members of the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund Cohort.



We launched our [Resource Hub](#), sharing resources to inspire and help others in taking climate action. It includes a 'sustainable fashion toolkit' to help people to recycle, repair or set up their own clothes swapping events.



STORIES WE LOVE

The Swap Shop Toolkit with Future Fashion Fair



Co-designed
with insights
from a local
community group

We partnered with [Future Fashion](#) Fair to help people understand why longevity in clothing is important, provide tools to make actionable changes in their wardrobe and inspire people to look at their clothes in a new light.

In this toolkit, Future Fashion Fair guides people through the benefits of making their clothes last longer through swapping, sharing, or repairing and offer some tips on how to get started, and setting up their own shop or community.



Practical tips,
advice and best
practice in action

“It’s great to see less impactful ways of rotating your wardrobe.”

[Download our Fashion Toolkit](#)



CARBON FOOTPRINTS

[Our ward level carbon footprints are being shared on our website](#) to help Manchester's residents understand where they can have the biggest impact.

This example shows that Sharston has a carbon footprint that is higher than the average for Manchester. This is due to the high number of car journeys being taken for shorter journeys and lower levels of home energy efficiency. Addressing these issues will reduce carbon emissions and will also have other benefits – residents could save money from making their homes more energy efficient and get healthier by opting to walk or cycle for shorter journeys.

Feedback from communities told us that engagement with these resources can vary depending on the level of interest and prior knowledge of the topic. Therefore, we are presenting the information in both a visual and narrative based format and more detailed information of our calculations are also available online.

We also delivered a workshop on the carbon footprints to colleagues from Manchester City Council. We discussed the data used, how best to share them with communities and how they will add value to the City Council's updated ward-level Climate Change Action Plans.

Sharston's Carbon Footprint is

higher than the average for Manchester



At home

Around half (52%) of the homes in Sharston with an Energy Performance Certificate scored below a 'C'. This means they need more energy to keep warm, which could mean releasing more CO₂.

Did you know... organisations like [Energy Saving Trust](#) can help advise you on improving your home's energy performance as well as saving you money.

On the move

Sharston has a public transport accessibility score of between **5/8 and 6/8**. This means coverage, frequency and reliability is good compared to other areas in the city.

Did you know... Making more use of your public transport links as well as cycling or walking to get around will lower carbon emissions and benefit your health and wellbeing.

Join the movement

Everyone in Sharston has a role to play. Discover more tips to help you reduce your carbon emissions on our website.

In Our Nature

@inournaturemcr inournature.uk

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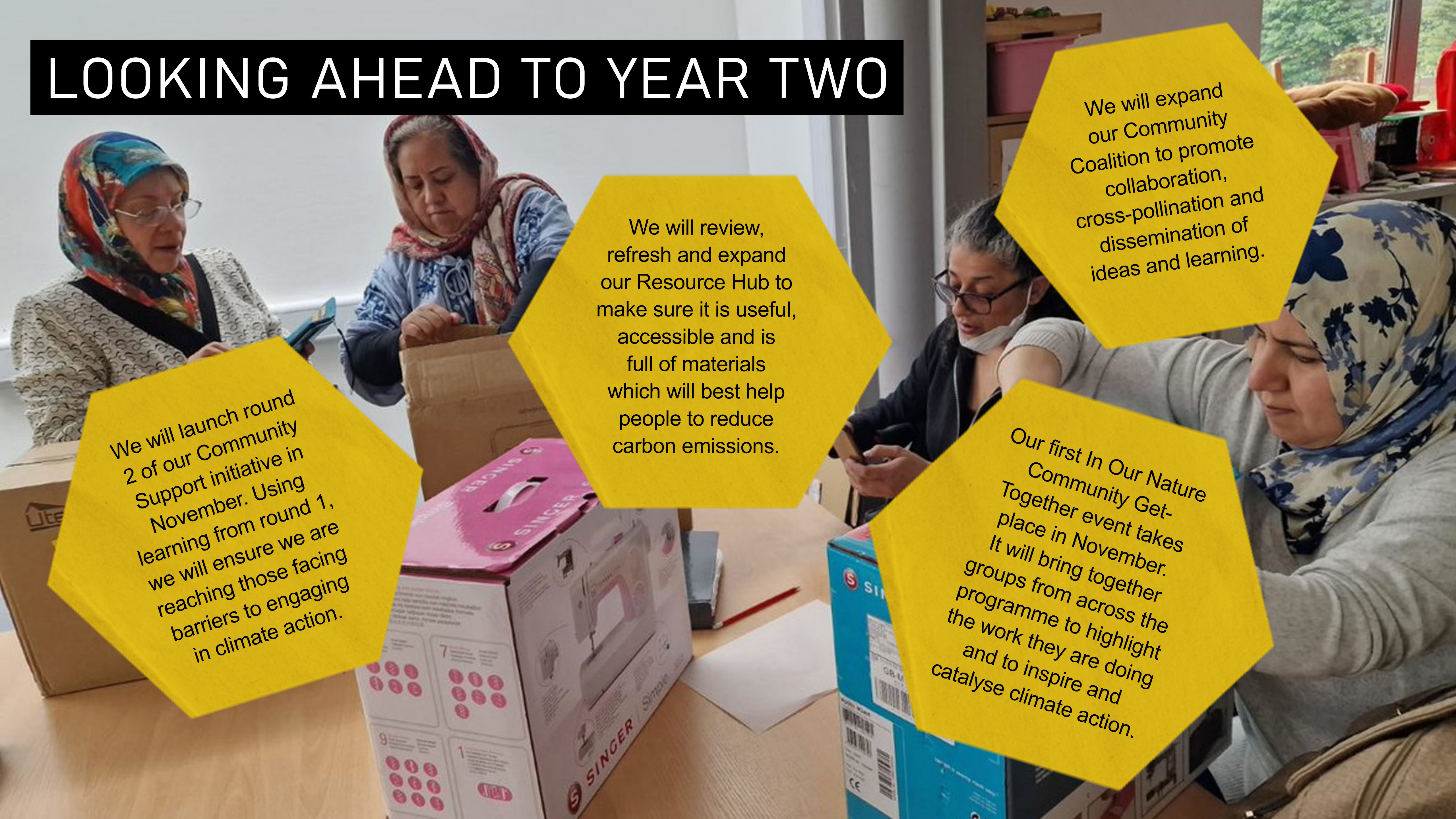
LOOKING AHEAD TO YEAR TWO

We will launch round 2 of our Community Support initiative in November. Using learning from round 1, we will ensure we are reaching those facing barriers to engaging in climate action.

We will review, refresh and expand our Resource Hub to make sure it is useful, accessible and is full of materials which will best help people to reduce carbon emissions.

We will expand our Community Coalition to promote collaboration, cross-pollination and dissemination of ideas and learning.

Our first In Our Nature Community Get-Together event takes place in November. It will bring together groups from across the programme to highlight the work they are doing and to inspire and catalyse climate action.



FIND OUT MORE
AND GET
INVOLVED!



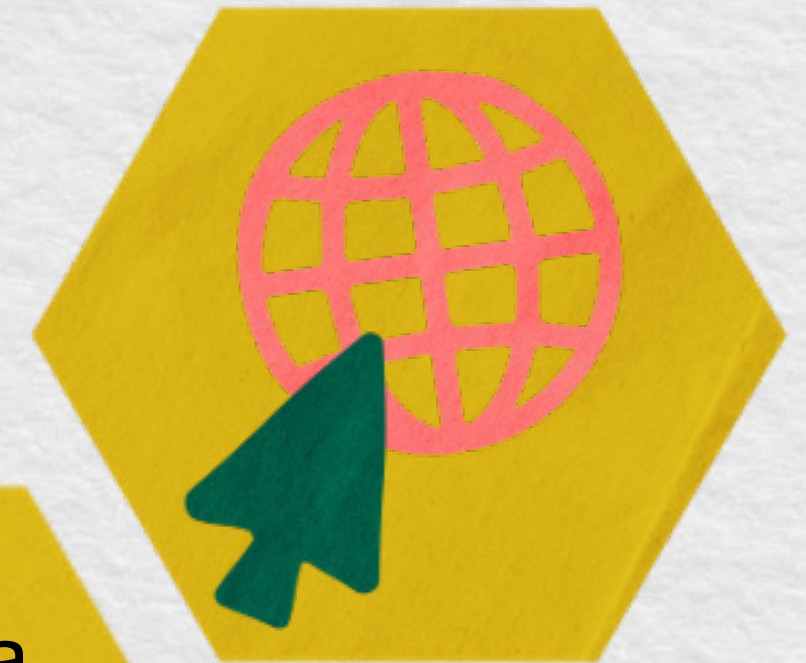
Want to be part of a community which inspires, engages and informs climate action? Join our Community Coalition!

[Register your interest](#)

Want to make a positive change in your area? In Our Nature Community Support could bring your idea to life!

[Apply on our website](#)

Head to our website
www.inournature.uk



Get in touch with us:
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