

GMCA GREEN CITY SCHOOLS – APRIL 2026 UPDATE

Hello and welcome!

On behalf of the GMCA Environment Team, we would like to thank you for taking the time to apply and be part of our school eco programmes.

We would like to create a community of education establishments across the region which is able to share their stories and reach out when there's a stumbling block.

We have 29 eco projects currently launching in schools and colleges this year across Greater Manchester, this is on top of the 25 schools who are now running their own Eco Refill Shop. We have found over the last 12 months that kick-starting small eco projects which benefit the wider school community has many additional benefits, including an enriched curriculum and pupils with new-found skills and real-life experience of running a small enterprise. Read our overview of the Pupils Profit commissioned [report](#) to find out more.

This update is intended to be a quick-read which features relevant stories, hints and tips and links to partners who are helping schools develop their climate action plans. We anticipate that one update will be sent via email each half-term.

We're more than aware that the day-to-day school environment is busy and can be quite challenging, we hope that being part of a wider education community across the region and sharing our experiences helps you to keep going when the rain comes (metaphorically and literally) and it all feels like hard work, we're all with you every step of the way.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

School Eco Grants Programme – As part of our grant funding agreement, we are providing the attached Finance Return to help you record your project expenditure. We will request the completed form and your evidence at the start of the new school year. This helps you and GMCA to stop, breathe and note everything which you have implemented and achieved so far on your project.

For those schools yet to return their signed Grant Form Agreement and invoice (only a few) we are unable to release your funding until we've completed this process, and like you, we're keen to see your project commence as soon as possible.

YOUR STORIES AND FURTHER READING

This is the section where we'd like your future help on, we would like to feature stories which will provide inspiration for others and also your unique ways of getting things done.

Please try to record your progress by taking photos, making a quick film or asking your pupils to draft a news article, and please don't forget to share with us (with full permissions). Do also let us know if you have a date for a launch / activity, we'd love to come and visit!

In the meantime, please take a look at the stories we've highlighted as part of the School Eco Refill Shop programme on the GMCA Green City Website: [Greater Manchester School Eco Refill Pilot](#)

USEFUL RESOURCES & EVENTS

NextGen Net Zero Conference | Saturday 12th July: Aimed at young people aged 13-19 to connect, share ideas, and explore key climate issues alongside inspiring individuals and organisations making a real impact. The day will include workshops, marketplace stalls, panel discussions, lightening talks and other opportunities to learn and engage with Net Zero work in the North West. The event will run from 10am - 4:00pm at the University of Salford Chapman Building, Salford, M5 4WT | To secure your group's place, please register via [Eventbrite](#) by **Thursday 8th May 2025** – [Read more](#).

Big day of Climate Action and Carbon Literacy in Education | Tuesday 17th June: Supporting educational settings (Early Years, Schools and Colleges) to develop and implement climate action plans. It will provide practical support from a number of key national initiatives – including [Climate Ambassadors](#), [National Education Nature Park](#), [Sustainability Support for Education](#) and [Let's Go Zero](#). The event will run from 9am - 4:30pm at Manchester Metropolitan University's Dalton Building, Chester Street Manchester M1 5GD. Register your attendance via [Eventbrite](#).

Renew Community Fund: Formally known as the R4GM Community Fund, will be launching a new round of funding on 22nd April, watch this space for further info: [Renew Community Fund | Recycle for Greater Manchester](#)

Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund: Round 6 of the Green Spaces Fund will be launched during May, with an application window open for 3 months. Watch this space for further info: [Apply for funding | Greater Manchester Environment Fund](#)