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**GREATER
MANCHESTER**

GMCA Green Summit 2026

Event Agenda



GMCA GREATER MANCHESTER
COMBINED AUTHORITY
#GMGreenSummit

Green Summit 2026 Agenda

Doors Open – Entrance C

From 9:30 am

Exhibition Area Open

9:30 to 17:00 - Ground Floor and Level 1 - Open all day until 5pm!

Morning Plenary Session

10:15 to 11:45 **Main Plenary Session – Level 3**

Hideaway and Backstage Club open to watch the plenary

Join The **Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burham** and Guests

Hosted by **Ilona Alcock** - Director, Elevate



Ilona is the co-founder of Elevate, a business development consultancy that believes business can, and should, be a force for good. Elevate created and runs the Northern Sustainability Summit (returning to Manchester Central on 3 July 2026), delivers Carbon Literacy training and champions diversity in all forms. Ilona was named on the inaugural Insider NW Green Power List, sits on the NW Productivity Forum and is a trustee of animal welfare charity, Feathers Together.

Guest Speaker: **Kunle Barker** - Co Founder - Natural Places



Kunle Barker is a writer, broadcaster and built-environment strategist whose work connects housing, nature and social value. As co-founder of Natural Places, he champions nature as core infrastructure, helping developers, councils and national bodies embed biodiversity, climate resilience and wellbeing into viable development models. He works closely with Natural England, contributing to the Nature Towns & Cities framework and shaping partnerships that scale nature-based solutions across the UK. Kunle led the nature strategy for Brent Cross Town, where he embedded Nature in the City principles and collaborated with the Eden Project to create a new model for urban nature integration. Through writing, speaking and advisory roles, he advocates for development that places nature connection at the centre of a healthier, fairer and more resilient built environment.

Panel Sessions – Level 3

12:15 to 13:00 - **Managing Water in a Growing City-Region**

Water underpins a healthy environment in which Greater Manchester's communities and businesses can prosper. Managing water will become even more critical as our population expands, our city-region continues to grow and as we experience the ever-increasing impacts of climate change.

Water management requires working across sectors to address issues such as flood risk, poor water quality and the resilience of our water supplies. This involves the public, private and voluntary sectors working together to develop and deliver solutions – particularly harnessing nature to slow the flow of water. This panel will explore the opportunities and challenges of integrated water management, discussing how different sectors can work together to ensure our city-region's continued growth is resilient and how this can provide wider benefits to our residents and communities.

Host

- **Mark Atherton** – Director of Environment, GMCA

Speakers

- **Pete Bradshaw** – Director of Sustainability, Manchester City Football Club
 - **Deborah Murray** - Executive Director, Groundwork Greater Manchester
 - **Philip Duffy** - Chief Executive, Environment Agency
 - **Jo Harrison** - Asset Management Director, United Utilities
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13:15 to 14:00 - **Green Skills for a Low Carbon Greater Manchester**

Preparing People and Places for the Net Zero Transition. Join us for a 45-minute on-stage Q&A exploring Greater Manchester's green skills pipeline, with a focus on retrofit and low-carbon design. The session will highlight the role of local colleges and emerging technologies—including heat networks and heat pumps—in building the skilled workforce needed for the region's net-zero transition.

Host

- **Sarah Samuel** – Director, Sustainability, Net Zero, Public Policy & Regulation, Deloitte

Speakers

- **Anna Dawe** - CEO/Principal, Wigan & Leigh College
 - **Ashley Hulme** - Green Tech Sector Development Lead, Green Economy
 - **Liz Price** - Professor of Environmental Education, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sustainability, Manchester Met. University
 - **Venetia Knight** - Director of Employment & Enterprise, Groundwork
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14:15 to 15:00 - **Accelerating the Low Carbon Transition**

The session explores how we can accelerate our low carbon ambition with public and private sector partners to retrofit our buildings and provide secure, low carbon and affordable energy for all. Contributors will explore a wide range of issues, including how Greater Manchester can help to deliver the Local Power Plan through empowering local communities to deliver local energy projects; how we can accelerate the move towards low carbon heating including through supporting households and the supply chain; how we ensure our electricity grid is fit for the future; and how we can build capacity and understanding in building retrofit.

Host

- **Prof Will Swan** – Director of Energy House Laboratories, University of Salford

Speakers

- **Charlotte Wood** – Project Development Officer, Great British Energy
 - **Paul Auckland** - Head of Regulation and DSO, SP ENW
 - **Iain Bevan** – Robert Heath Heating Ltd (part of the Daikin group)
 - **Jon Kirby** – Head of Development, Solar, SSE
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15:15 to 16:00 - **The Bee Network: A Transport System for a Global City Region**

This panel discussion brings together leaders from business, industry, public health, and local government to explore how transport underpins a thriving global city region. Panellists will discuss how their work supports Greater Manchester's ambitions for cleaner air, better connectivity, and a fully integrated transport system — and how innovation will shape the future of the Bee Network.

You'll hear a range of perspectives on the opportunities ahead, the actions already underway, and the changes needed to build a transport network that works for everyone. Attendees will also have the chance to put questions directly to the panel.

Host

- **Vernon Everitt** - Greater Manchester Transport Commissioner

Speakers

- **Cllr Alan Quinn** - Cabinet Member Environment, Climate Change and Operations at Bury Council. Member of Bee Network Committee and Air Quality Administration Committee.
 - **Subrahmaniam Krishnan Harihara** - Director of Business Policy and Research, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
 - **Adam Leslie** - Director, Infrastructure & Real Estate Team, Deloitte LLP
 - **Dr Laura Parker** - Public Health Registrar
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Green City Cafes – Backstage Club – Level 1

12:15 to 13:00 - **Community 2038 - How residents and communities are critical to delivering carbon neutral 2038.**

The session will explore how our residents and communities are benefiting from the transition to low carbon, and the critical role they are playing in realising our shared ambitions. Breakout groups will discuss a number of projects happening, including how communities can come together to build sustainable neighbourhoods and benefit from their own energy projects; how households can improve their homes through retrofit; and how residents can capture the health benefits of low carbon living.

Host

- **Dan Griffiths** - Head of Low Carbon, GMCA

Speakers

- **Jonathan Atkinson** - Carbon Co-op supported by Sarah Holland/Steve Hassall, GMCA
 - **Mike Teal** - Snugg - GM Retrofit Advice Service, supported by Steph Dylak GMCA
 - **Lauren Gavaghan** supported by Amanda Druce - GMCA
 - **Sara Griffiths/Dan Dickinson** - GMCA
 - **Anees Mank/Rory Matthews** - GMCA
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13:15 to 14:00 - **The Future of Transport and Air Quality in Greater Manchester**

Greater Manchester is consulting on plans to make travel easier, cleaner, and more sustainable. This session is your opportunity to help shape what comes next. Join us to explore the emerging **Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2050** and the **Transport Delivery Plan (2027–37)** and contribute your insights that will influence how the city region moves in the future.

In this interactive session, you'll learn about the long-term plans being developed, discuss the principles behind them, and help shape the choices that will affect residents, businesses, and visitors for years to come.

The second part of the session focuses on the future of air quality across Greater Manchester. You'll work with local people, businesses, and experts to share ideas on how we can improve both indoor and outdoor air, considering new approaches that support cleaner, healthier places across the city region.

Host

- **Jonathan Marsh** - Head of Strategic Planning and Innovation, TfGM
 - **Megan Black** - Head of Logistics and Environment, TfGM
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14:15 to 15:00 – **Connecting Business, Nature and Communities**

You're invited to take part in our Green City Café session at the Green Summit 2026. This interactive workshop will explore how Greater Manchester can tackle its biodiversity and climate emergencies through business and community level action to provide spaces for nature to thrive and for people to access and enjoy. This supports the city region's ambitions for nature-rich, climate-ready places where everyone can live a good life.

Host

- **Sam Evans** – Head of Natural Environment, GMCA

Speakers

- **Ed Powell** – Partner and Impact Manager, Social Value, Co-op
- **Gianetta Grainger** - Manager of Hulme Community Garden Centre
- **Claire Louise Chapman** - Director of Development and Income Generation, Lancashire Wildlife Trust

What to Expect:

You'll join other delegates for friendly, practical conversations about nature, business and community action. You'll talk about who's already taking action, what the challenges and barriers are to doing more and what more we can do together. You'll work together to come up with ideas for helping connect business, nature and community-level action to make Greater Manchester's spaces better places for nature and people to thrive in.

Why Attend?

- Shape practical interventions and partnerships for action in Greater Manchester.
- Contribute insights and actionable ideas.
- Connect with a diverse network of residents, businesses, and organisations committed to making a difference.

How to Participate:

- Come prepared to share your experiences and insights.
- Be ready to collaborate and contribute your top actions or ideas for helping connect business, nature and communities.

15:15 to 16:00 - **The Climate Shift: Connecting People, Knowledge, and Action**

You're invited to take part in our Green City Café session at the Green Summit 2026. This interactive workshop will explore how Greater Manchester can accelerate climate awareness and action, supporting the city region's ambitions for nature-rich, climate-ready places where everyone can live a good life.

You'll work together to come up with ideas for helping more people get involved and move up the climate knowledge ladder and share your ideas for making climate action easier and more accessible in Greater Manchester.

Host

- **Ilona Alcock** - Director, Elevate

Speakers

- **Christine Lowe** - Sustainability Lead GB&I, Siemens
- **Hannah Hartley** - Environmental Action Manager, Manchester Museum

Why Attend?

- Shape practical interventions and partnerships for climate action in Greater Manchester.
- Contribute insights and actionable ideas.
- Connect with a diverse network of residents, businesses, and organisations committed to making a difference.

How to Participate:

- Come prepared to share your experiences and insights.
- Be ready to collaborate and contribute your top action or idea for helping people progress up the climate knowledge ladder.

Hideaway Sessions – Ground Floor

12:15 to 13:00 – Transitioning Greater Manchester to a Sustainable Food Place, where food is healthy, sustainable and accessible to all.

The first part of this session Cllr Tom Ross, Leader of Trafford Council & Portfolio Lead Green City Region will launch GM's intentions to become a sustainable food place.

Following the launch, this interactive workshop will explore how Greater Manchester can connect the dots between food poverty, ill-health, climate change and local communities to develop cross-sector solutions to make food healthy, sustainable and accessible to all.

13:15 to 14:00 – International Collaborations – Unlocking Commercial Opportunities for the new Green Revolution

Join us to explore how international innovators are advancing Greater Manchester's net zero goals, creating jobs and driving sustainable growth through public, university and industry collaborations.

Investment into Greater Manchester through companies such as Daikin, Panasonic and Horiba-linked activities is helping to create a powerful ecosystem that connects global firms, local SMEs and the region's universities.

Speakers

- **Andy Burnham** - Mayor of Greater Manchester
- **Jo Ahmed MBE** - Honorary Consul of Japan in Manchester (Chair)
- **Amer Gaffar** - Director of Industrial Strategy Partnerships, Manchester Met. University
- **Iain Bevan** - Commercial Director, Daikin Group
- **Kathrin Schlangefeldt** - Manager Sustainability & Environment Communication, Panasonic
- **Robin Ramphal** - Alternative Energy Business Development Manager, HORIBA UK

Special Guest: **Minister Masaki Ikegami** - Deputy Head of Mission, Japanese Embassy in the UK

14:15 to 15:00 – **Young People Driving Innovation and Action**

This session highlights how programmes across Greater Manchester - spanning the GM Youth Combined Authority, Hopwood Hall College, and students who have participated in the Young Green Briton Challenge from Fairfield High School for Girls and Co-op Academy Belle Vue - are empowering young people to take meaningful climate action. Speakers will share how hands-on sustainability experiences have shaped their skills, ambitions and career paths, followed by a Q&A on how similar opportunities can be supported and expanded.

15:15 to 16:00 - **Delivering Healthy Homes**, hosted by Sureserve

An interactive session aimed at social housing providers and local authority leaders covering best practice approaches to retrofit for delivering healthy homes.

Host

- **Jade Lewis** - Sureserve
- **Andrew Todd** - Sureserve

Speakers

- **Anees Mank** - Programme and Policy Lead (Retrofit)
 - **Steph Dylak** - Programme Manager, Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund
 - **Rory Mathews** - Programme Manager, Warm Homes: Local Grant
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CyanLines Walking Workshop

14:00 to 15:00 – Meet outside Entrance C at 14:00

Don't miss the CyanLines walking workshop, delivered with GM Moving, where we'll explore a new, emerging CyanLine that takes in a canal, a river and a 'Stadium in the Park'. Participants will get the chance to help inform the CyanLines design approach as we co-create a code for delivering over 100 miles of nature across the city region. You'll also find out more about the programme and how we plan to bring an accessible green and blue grid of nature to every part of lovely Greater Manchester.