

# Policies and Interventions for a Viable Economy

## Table of Contents

The National level.....	1
The Regional Level.....	2
Municipal Level Climate Actions for Social and Ecological Justice.....	3
Transport emissions.....	3
Low carbon procurement.....	4
Buildings.....	5
Appendix: Developing a “warmth offer”.....	7

## The National level.

- 1. Stop subsidizing and investing in activities that are highly polluting UK** government subsidy for fossil fuels  $\approx$  £6.9bn p.a. & for aviation  $\approx$  £9Bn. Move this money to clean production.
- 2. Work-and resource sharing** reduce working week to  $>32$  hours; support employers to facilitate job-sharing, with income loss for the top 10% only. Share wasted and badly distributed resources and wealth of our abundant economy.
- 3. Minimum and maximum income.** High incomes mean disproportionate resource use: cap them but also set a floor. Basic citizen's income? Or negative income tax and/or a participation income.
- 4. Tax reform** for a progressive system that taxes use of energy and resources, wealth, property and land value. Frequent flyer and workplace parking levies. Tax on financial transactions. Preferential tax rates for labour-intensive, low impact, services & goods.
- 5. Controls on money creation.** Money creation via credit is necessary for business but uncontrolled it leads to a spiral of unnecessary consumption. Impose regulation of bank lending for tight but cheap credit.
- 6. Citizen debt audit and cancellation** to eliminate unpayable household debts.
- 7. Support the alternative, solidarity society** through subsidies and tax exemptions for co-operatives, social enterprises, community land trusts etc. De-privatisation of public space, opening up resources to community groups.
- 8. Optimise the use of buildings.** Retrofit, refurbish, downsize and share, saving fuel costs and emissions. Expropriate vacant housing. Respond to any remaining need by building low energy social housing, within already urbanised areas. Add a jobs-generating deep retrofit programme so property brought back into use is cheap to heat and has low emissions.
- 9. Reduce advertising.** To tackle demand side drivers of excessive material consumption.

**10. Establish environmental limits**, via absolute and diminishing caps on the total of CO2 that can be produced and the total quantity of material resources (material, water, land) used, including, via a foot-printing approach, emissions and materials embedded in imported goods.

**11. Make international trade agreements conform with frameworks on climate change and consumption of nature.** (especially given brexit).

**12. Implement ecological footprint product, repairability and service labelling** to make it easier for consumers to understand the ecological impact of their consumption choices – extends model of energy ratings on appliances.

**13. Abolish the misleading GDP indicator.** Focus on real things- jobs, incomes, activity, investment, care, health, well-being and environmental restoration.

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## The Regional Level

Make climate change and ecological overshoot central to all policies, planning and initiatives.

It's so serious that we need to radically overhaul the regional economies and political processes.

- 1. Set carbon limits/targets** for each sector of the economy (and larger organisations)  
“greening” housing, transport and energy production.
- 2. Switch investments from fossil fuels to planet-friendly activity, where possible locally.**  
Using our shared, stored, wealth for eco-recovery. Pension Funds, Universities, Charities, especially.
- 3. Local authorities and big, local institutions (“anchor institutions”) should prioritise sustainable and affordable food supply.**  
Supporting local food production, processing and distribution.  
Vulnerability of food supply chains.
- 4. Anchor institutions can support local well-being, equality and real prosperity through their policies**  
on procurement, recruitment, pay and waste  
by exploring how they can make their resources available to communities.
- 5. Promote co-operative enterprise and governance in all sectors.**
- 6. Metropolitan and local authorities, and other partners, could use their collective strength make our regional economy more resilient through “localisation”.**  
Preston and other authorities working on community wealth building.  
Shorter supply chains, and employing local people.  
Also support necessary international trade with clear ethical standards for social and environmental benefit.

7. **Regional investment funds or banks should be established in order to finance ecologically-sound and socially-just investments for a resilient eco-regions.**  
That pension fund money again!  
Safe home for local savings and investment.
  8. **A parallel Regional Unit of Currency**  
to help provide funding for public services, keep money within the local economy and promote financial services for all.
  9. **A local strategy for redistributing wealth**  
Should consider innovations such as a jobs guarantee or a local participation income, more labour-intensive working, and support to local enterprise.
  10. **Local elected leaders should lead a campaign for national sharing of resources**  
Includes fighting against public sector cuts and in favour of government expenditure where needed  
Appropriate infrastructure (equalising expenditure with London and the South East) – buses and local trains, not HS2 and airport expansion  
Redistribution from the richer areas to the poorer regions.
  11. **Any “economic” strategy must consider all activities, whether monetised or not, which support people’s everyday lives and well-being.**  
Wealth generation by households, women, caring, gardens and allotments, community volunteering. Recognise and support it.
  12. **Policies should aim to promote convivial, caring and proactive communities.**  
With government investment and support, they are capable of designing and implementing solutions to local issues.
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## **Municipal Level Climate Actions for Social and Ecological Justice**

### **Transport emissions**

#### ***Over-riding principle: Clamp down on private motoring.***

- Universal lower speeds.
- Pedestrian and cycle only zones at school start and finish times (Hackney)
- Take parking spaces out of use. (Oslo)
- Ban car journeys through the city centre. (Ghent, Birmingham proposing)
- Workplace parking levy. (Nottingham)
- “Grey fleet”: council to use reverse mileage tariff (pay more for lower capacity/emission options). Encourage use of cycles/e-bikes by staff.
- Convert council fleet to zero emission vehicles.

- Road charging.
- Take roads out of use, converting to green ways. (Barcelona)
- Superblocks: traffic restricted to major roads. Private cars within superblocks limited to 10km/h (Barcelona). Home zones and play-streets.
- Moratorium on road widening and new roads.
- Job-swap scheme to reduce distance travelled.
- Fines for pavement parking and idling.
- Coordination with neighbouring authorities to increase park and ride usage.
- Seek lower tech solutions for faster transformation. Lightly engineered segregated cycle lanes (Trafford vs Manchester). Trolleybuses. E-cargo bikes and barrows. Boardman's proposal for Belisha-free crossings at road junctions.

*Key financial changes:* Money generated from workplace parking levy, road pricing and fines. Money saved from mileage allowance.

Money spent on public transport and active travel improvements.

Efficient use of available money by choice of lower-tech solutions.

*Co-benefits:* liveability of the city, health benefits from active travel and improved air quality, reduced accidents, release of money sunk in and maintaining the private car fleet, time released by reduction of congestion.

## **Low carbon procurement**

*Over-riding principle:* use the council's purchasing power to drive down emissions.

*Supplementary principle:* direct spending to local suppliers, in the city and Greater Manchester.

Council already has an ethical procurement policy where the Social Value component includes environmental sustainability. This allows the encouragement of suppliers that can demonstrate action on emissions and other environmental desirables (if monitored).

However, the criteria do not seem to be clear. Rather the onus is on suppliers to make a pitch about how green they are, along with all the other desirables. Social Value is 20% of the weighting in the tendering process. It is not clear how much of that 20% is environmental and how much of that relates to climate impacts. It could end up being a weak tool for climate mitigation unless strengthened with clear criteria and guidance.

*Key financial changes:* Local budget directed towards sectors and enterprises that are local, socially and economically equitable (co-ops, social enterprises, community businesses – which may need nurture), and with smaller ecological footprints. Reduced leeching of local wealth to external profit centres.

*Co-benefit:* local greener economy strengthened.

## Buildings

*Over-riding principle:* reduce carbon emissions from buildings.

*Supplementary principle:* reduce embodied emissions - only demolish when unavoidable. Re-use materials.

### 1) Housing:

*Over-riding principle:* dramatically and rapidly reduce emissions from buildings.

*Secondary principles:* 1) ensure comfortable warm homes at a fair cost to residents; 2) use the opportunity of housing improvements to provide good jobs.

2011	Total households	Owned: Owned outright	Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	Rented: Social	Rented: Private
Manchester	204,969	15%	23%	32%	28%

29% of Manchester's emissions come from the domestic sector. The majority are from home heating.

*Key challenges:*

- Biggest emitters are the households in larger, more affluent homes. Those in greatest need of improvement (insulation and efficient heating systems) are poorer households in smaller homes.
- How to finance a street by street rolling programme?
- How “deeply” to retrofit (diminishing returns)?
- How to engage private landlords and home owners?
- Technology choices for heating (more efficient gas, on assumption of greening of gas supply or heat pumps / electric) and insulation (petrochemical-based versus mineral-based and organic materials).

*Possible approaches*

1. Using available data to identify over-heating (in collaboration with providers of Nest / Hive – type systems). Issue an “**18% challenge**”: bring over-heated homes down and make a guarantee of minimum temperature, starting with at-risk groups.
2. Where council owns the housing establish a **street by street insulation and boiler replacement scheme**. Use this as pathfinder and market stimulator.
3. Work with energy suppliers to develop a “**warmth offer**” rather than merely an energy supply. The company would contract to guarantee a minimum temperature (say 18.5° for 10 hours) for identified rooms. This would be supplied by a combination of insulation retrofit, installation of more efficient heating systems and energy supply (see Appendix).
4. Establish a **rotating retrofit fund, pump primed** (Pension Fund, central government?) and recharged by a share of energy savings and possibly a share of enhanced house values on sale.
5. **Low tech solutions**. e.g. Curtains and window quilts: a low-tech but effective intervention. Establish workshops in districts teaching sewing skills

and making insulating curtains: could be the basis for small social businesses. Establish an Air Warden-like patrol to encourage residents to use their curtains after dark in winter.

Draft-proofing.

Use plantings and water bodies to reduce heat loss (and summer heat gain) and to store heat / reflect sunlight.

*Key financial changes:* Local investment used to build local wealth and minimise emissions. Money used efficiently by choosing low tech and natural solutions. Incentives created for lower energy use and emissions reduction (as in heat service model).

*Co-benefits:* healthy temperatures, reduced expenditure and debt (though beware rebound: spending released money on higher carbon activities and products).

## **2) Public buildings**

The GM 5 Yr Environment Plan says that commercial and public buildings account for 70% of the total emissions from buildings.

Work is being conducted to reduce emissions from buildings in the central core, via a district heat network and refurbishment.

Improving heat retention and energy efficiency would help reduce overall energy use and also GHG emissions. It would also yield savings that could be used for public sector salaries and provision.

The model used by Greater Manchester Community Renewables which has put solar panels on a number of school roofs in Greater Manchester could be adopted in modified form by the council and partner organisations. It is a win-win option, the investor benefits from the sale of electricity and school benefits from reduced energy bills. In addition, educational opportunities for children, families and staff, are inherent in the exercise.

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## **Appendix: Developing a “warmth offer”**

This could be done very pragmatically but adequate to the scale of the challenge, by building on "what Manchester does so well": establish a partnership. This would mean going in with one or more of the energy companies to establish a domestic "heat and light offer". Contracts would be to maintain space heating in a finite number of rooms at the level of say 18.5 deg C, for X hours in the winter months. This would be done a) in the conventional way, by supply of energy, and b) by supply of firstly insulation refits, going for the low hanging fruit first. That would mean the energy company supplied less energy, so saving on its wholesale costs and ultimately releasing money back into the carbon reduction scheme. c) with this, there needs to be a rolling programme of boiler replacement - starting with the most inefficient and going straight to non-gas alternatives (air source heat pumps and electric heating). The scheme would need investment, and a clear financial model/vehicle probably in the form of a rotating loan fund, recharged by a share of energy savings and possibly a levy on asset price increases. It could be multiply primed by say energy company investments, grant funding and local investment, particularly from the Pension Fund. There's a lot to this, but it is the kind of initiative that Manchester could get behind.

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