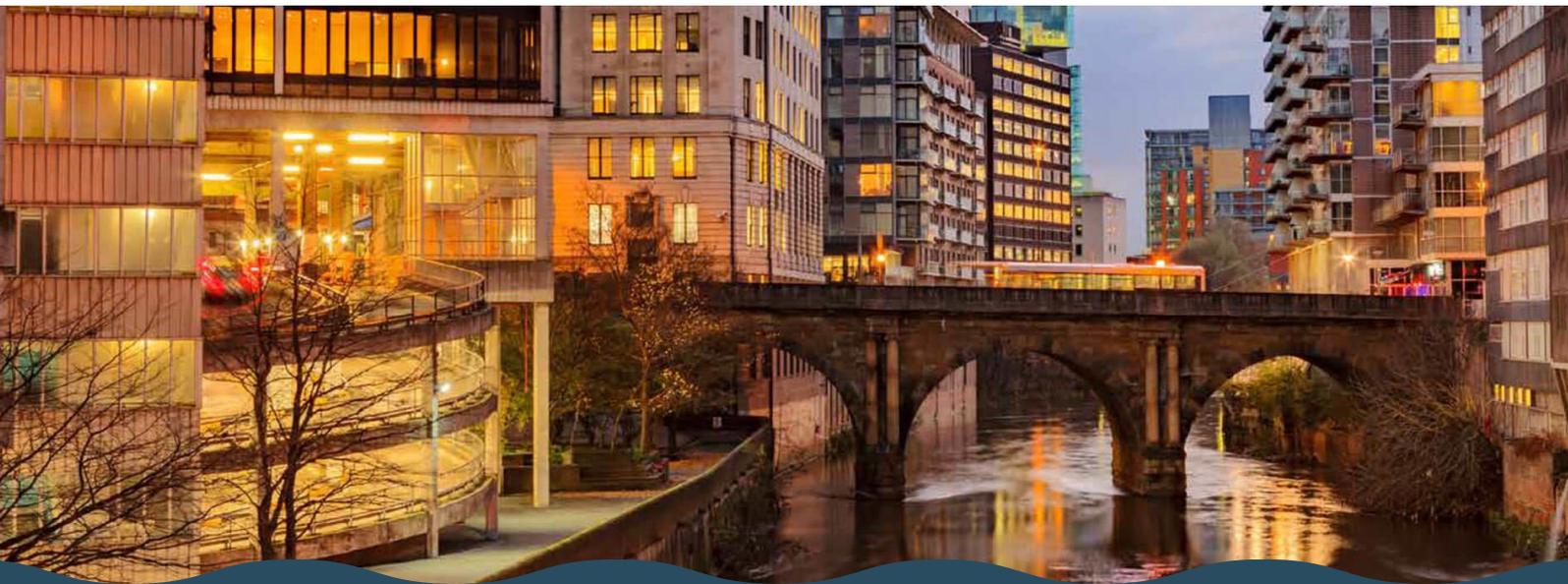


NATURAL OUR WATER. OUR FUTURE COURSE

IGNITION and Natural Course Contributing to the Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan



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Date created: 18/05/2020



This project has been made possible with the support of EU LIFE Integrated Project funding.
Project number LIFE14 IPE/UK/027

About the projects

The IGNITION and Natural Course projects are two major environmental programmes which cover Greater Manchester. The two projects are complementary and contribute to the delivery of the Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan (5YEP).

IGNITION

IGNITION is a ground-breaking project that aims to develop innovative ways to fund and deliver green investment in Greater Manchester. This investment will help build the city region's ability to adapt to the increasingly extreme impacts of climate change. This £5 million European-financed project will deliver innovative funding and the creation of nature-based solutions (NBS) such as rain gardens, street trees, green roofs and walls and development of green spaces. These solutions will combat the effects of climate change in Greater Manchester by 10% by 2038.



By investing in NBS, [IGNITION](#) can help tackle socio-environmental challenges including increases in flooding events, water security, air quality, biodiversity and human health and well-being. The project runs until the end of October 2021 (subject to extension as a result of Covid-19).

Natural Course

Natural Course began in 2015 and is an EU LIFE Integrated Project, that will run for 9 years to improve and protect the water quality of the North West.

78% of the rivers in North West England do not meet the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive and many solutions are found to be too expensive to implement

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or are technically infeasible. Natural Course builds capacity to protect and improve the North West water environment, now and for the future. Five beneficiary organisations work together to seek cost-effective solutions to improving water quality across urban and rural landscapes, sharing best practice across the UK and Europe.

The Greater Manchester 5YEP

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) launched the Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan (5YEP) in March 2019, covering five challenges: mitigating climate change, air quality, production and consumption of resources, natural environment and resilience and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

There are five priorities under the natural environment challenge within the plan. Natural Course and IGNITION contribute to a number of these priorities, with both projects actively seeking to secure enhanced investment into the natural environment of Greater Manchester:

SUMMARY OF OUR PRIORITIES

Priority 1: Managing our land sustainably, including planting 1m trees by 2024

Priority 2: Managing our water and its environment sustainably

Priority 3: Achieving a net gain in biodiversity for new development

Priority 4: Increasing investment into our natural environment

Priority 5: Increasing engagement with our natural environment

IGNITION works towards managing our land sustainably, by improving and introducing green infrastructure to urban environments in Greater Manchester. As

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part of this goal, the project aims to increase investment in our natural environment by showcasing the benefits of nature-based solutions to people, wildlife, the economy and our climate.

Similarly, Natural Course looks to manage our land sustainably so as to improve water quality through addressing diffuse sources of pollution and contributing to flood risk mitigation through slowing and reducing overland flows.

Both IGNITION and Natural Course have a large part to play in contributing to priority five, increasing engagement with our natural environment by encouraging the 2.5M residents of Greater Manchester to contribute to the protection and improvement of the city region’s natural environment.

Project Partners

IGNITION	Natural Course
GMCA Manchester City Council Salford City Council Environment Agency Business in the Community United Utilities UK Green Building Council City of Trees Groundwork Royal Horticultural Society University of Manchester University of Salford	Environment Agency United Utilities The Rivers Trust GMCA Natural England

There are several partners working on both projects (in bold above), within which several of the Project Officers are also the same. This allows for cross-project knowledge sharing. However, while IGNITION is led by GMCA, reflecting its Greater Manchester focus, Natural Course is led by the Environment Agency at a regional level.

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Funding

Funding for both projects comes from sub-divisions of the European Commission: Urban Initiative Actions (UIA) IGNITION and Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) Natural Course.

The UIA is a European Union initiative that provides urban areas with the resources to test new and unproven solutions which address urban challenges. It is known as Europe's Innovation Lab.

EASME aims to help create a more competitive and resource-efficient European economy based on knowledge and innovation, and has been established by the European Commission to manage several EU programmes in the fields of SME support and innovation, environment, climate action, energy and maritime affairs.

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