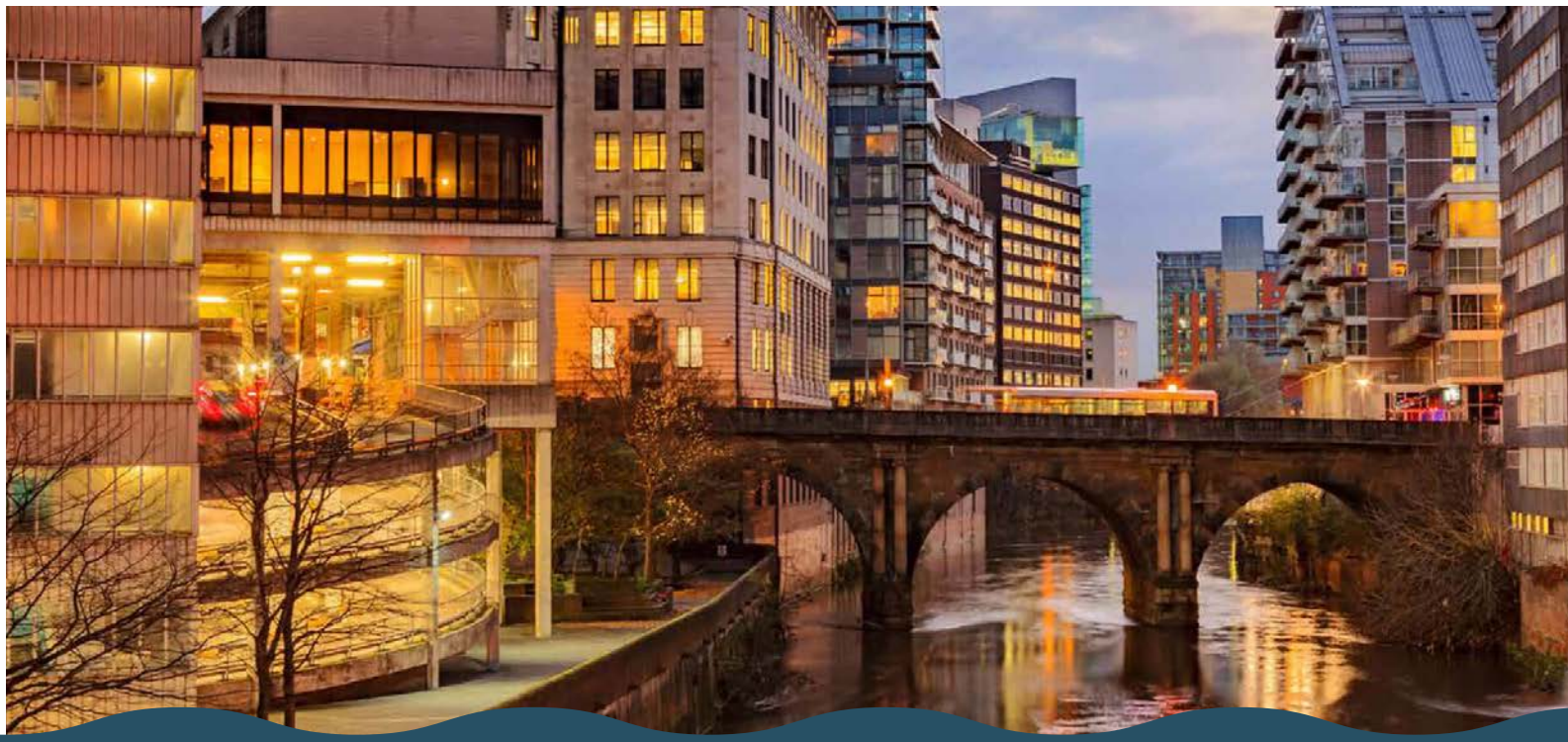
NATURAL COURSE

OUR WATER. OUR FUTURE

Greater Manchester Environment Fund

Annual Review



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About Natural Course

78% of water bodies in North West England are failing to meet a good ecological status* and solutions are often found to be too expensive to implement.

Natural Course is a collaboration of organisations in North West England from public, private and third sector who, together, will seek cost-effective solutions to improving water quality across urban and rural landscapes, sharing best practice across the UK and Europe.

*Environment Agency, North West River Basin District 2015

Natural Course will:

- Test and inform best practice in achieving UK and EU legislation in water quality
- Use the North West River Basin District as a flagship project and share best practice with the UK and Europe
- Make better use of resources, share ownership of complex issues and maximise outcomes through a collaborative approach of organisations from public, private and third sector.

Join the conversation @Natural_Course #NaturalCourse

GMEF

GREATER MANCHESTER ENVIRONMENT FUND

Greater Manchester Environment Fund

Celebration of Achievements to date and Annual Review

July 22 – June 23

The Greater Manchester Environment Fund is a pioneering regional impact investment vehicle. Uniting public, private and philanthropic funding partners in a mission to tackle the urgent environmental and social challenges facing the city region.

- Greater Manchester faces major environmental challenges that threaten the future health and prosperity of the city region, with dangerous levels of air pollution, degradation of priority habitats and increasing risks from climate change.
- In response, the Greater Manchester's Mayor launched a 5-Year Environment Plan for the city region with the ambitious vision for a "clean, carbon-neutral, climate resilient city region with a thriving natural environment" and demanded urgent action to achieve this.
- Recognising that traditional grant and public funding will be insufficient alone to deliver these ambitions, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) pioneered a new approach to take on these challenges and safeguard GM's natural environment for future generations.
- A partnership between GMCA and Lancashire Wildlife Trust has developed the Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) as an independent vehicle to support GM's ambitions for the restoration and improvement of the natural environment.

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Chair's Statement

Having been the Greater Manchester Environment Fund's Chair since its inception in 2020, I am very proud to see the Fund underpinned by an independent charity as well as a limited company by guarantee, both legally called the Greater Manchester Environment Trust.

Anne Selby, Chair,
Greater Manchester Environment Trust

The amount of funds secured and the impact that has been had in the space of 3 years is phenomenal. Securing £1.8million from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund helped to take us to the next level of the development of the fund. Securing £199k from both rounds of the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund has helped us to develop the innovative finance structures that will be necessary to deliver natural environment improvements at the scale it needs.

I have had great pleasure in leading our Board and team who have the passion and determination to see GMEF become successful, efficient, trusted, and able to secure funds and investment and then to ensure the funds are spent in the biggest priority areas to help deliver our Local Nature Recovery Network Strategy.

Our ability to demonstrate grants distribution with the Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund, and subsequently the Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund has seen £2.2million awarded to those areas and groups most in need. Our huge impact goes far beyond improvements to our environment such as providing activities for unemployed people to develop new skills, supporting those suffering from poor health, and improving access to nature for communities that have hardly any natural greenspace.

This report reflects on both our journey to date, and our activity over the last year, and is a celebration and thanks to all who have enabled, supported, funded and encouraged the establishment of the UK's first city region wide environmental impact fund.

And this is only the start of our journey! We have big ambitions to grow and enable bigger impacts for both people and nature. We look forward to you being part of it!

Introducing the Greater Manchester Environment Fund

The Greater Manchester Environment Fund is investing in nature, creating jobs, and boosting health and wellbeing across our region.

Habitat loss, air pollution and climate change are all threatening the future health and prosperity of Greater Manchester.

In 2019, Greater Manchester's Mayor Andy Burnham launched the GM Green City Five-Year Environment Plan which sets out an ambitious vision for a 'clean, carbon-neutral, climate-resilient city region, with a thriving natural environment'. To help to make this a reality, the Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) was established and is working to ensure a greener and fairer future. GMEF is underpinned by a Limited Company and Registered Charity called the Greater Manchester Environment Trust.

Acting as a central funding source for environmental projects, we can ensure that investment has a transformational impact and benefits communities across Greater Manchester.

We aim to create a harmonious cycle where great community ideas and generous donors work together in their shared desire to improve our local natural environment.

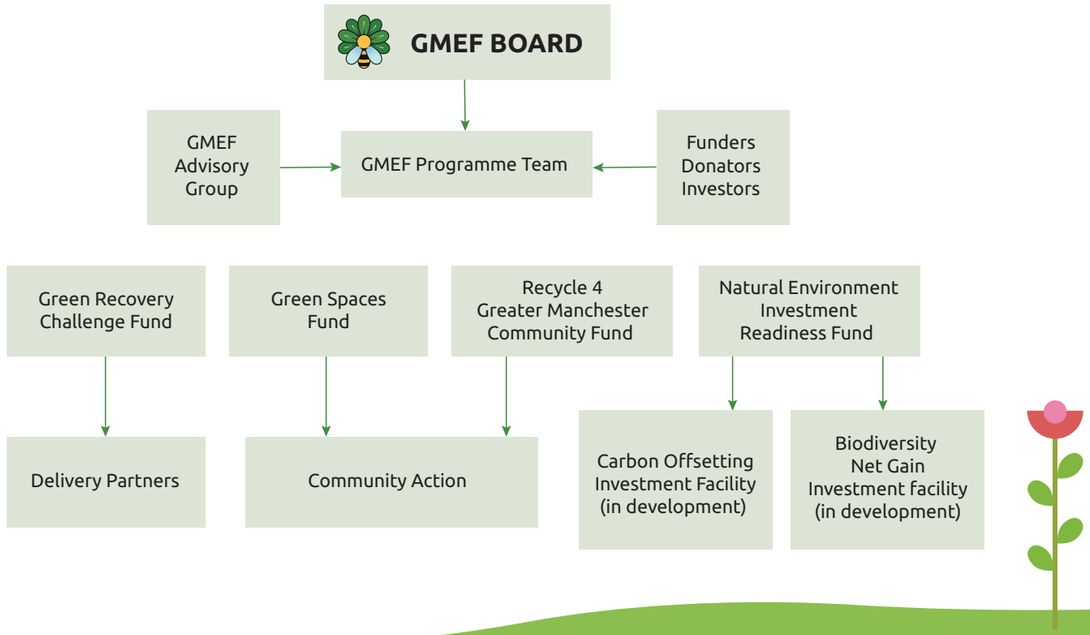
We bring great causes and supporters together, matching generous funding from philanthropists, private donors, charges and compensation funds with exciting projects of all sizes across Greater Manchester.

GMEF can ensure there is funding available for projects working to tackle environmental, social and health issues across our diverse communities around Greater Manchester.

We have already supported over 100 projects across Greater Manchester, ranging from recycling and reuse, to improving green space and creating and restoring habitats.

GMEF is also developing a service that can be offered to work with companies to enable them to deliver their Biodiversity Net Gain commitments and to accelerate their journey to Net Zero through carbon offsetting opportunities.

An added bonus for companies choosing to support and collaborate with GMEF is that all of the projects we fund are local, improving the areas that employees live and can be visited for corporate volunteer days.



Our impact over the first 3 years

Recycle For Greater Manchester Community Fund

The Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) Community Fund is a joint R4GM and SUEZ initiative launched in 2021 to support Greater Manchester community and voluntary sector groups.

Funding is awarded to projects working to reduce waste, increase recycling and encourage reuse in communities across Greater Manchester.

69 projects

£659,141 awarded

Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund

The Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund supports community-led projects that increase the quality and quantity of accessible, nature-rich green space in the city region.

The Fund aims to benefit communities with a lack of quality green space, tackle our climate and biodiversity emergency, and encourage and empower communities to get involved with nature.

£1,596,625 awarded to 68 projects in Rounds 1-3

291 groups supported by the Green Space Advisors

In the first 6 months awarded projects have:

£260625 match funding secured

1,2206 people engaged in activities

821 people trained

931 volunteers

Green Recovery Challenge Fund

GMEF led a partnership of environmental NGOs to submit an application to GRCF at a time when funding for natural environment was at a low, with other funds directed to addressing the problems caused by the pandemic.

Working collaboratively gave GMEF the opportunity to prove the importance of working together to attract funding and achieve impact at scale.

Funds also gave GMEF the opportunity to develop as an independent company and charity.

10 projects, 1 in each Local Authority area

9 partners

£1,860,000 funds secured

948 ha improved

Over **5,459** people engaged

30 jobs and **10** traineeships created

5,530 days of volunteer time

£18,700,000 funds secured to continue activity

Our Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund Projects

A critical role for Greater Manchester Environment Fund is to explore the development of finance models that will secure funds and investments through Green Finance mechanisms. The two most imminent sources are through Habitat Banking and Carbon Offsetting.

Our success to date:

£199,876 funds secured from the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund

Finance models developed for Habitat Banking, Biodiversity Net Gain off site investment, and Carbon Offsetting

5 sites have been surveyed and ready for finance modelling with the ability to sell BNG units and Carbon Offsetting credits

Pipeline of 28 sites by 4 districts with approximately 300-350 BNG units with an estimated market value of ca. £7.5m

Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund

Funding creative solutions to reduce household waste in Greater Manchester

The Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund is a joint R4GM and SUEZ initiative, administered by the Greater Manchester Environment Fund, to support Greater Manchester community and voluntary sector groups.

Since 2021, a total of £659,141 has been awarded to 69 local groups thanks to funding from the Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund. These funded projects contribute towards preventing, reusing, or recycling household waste, promoting the sustainable use of waste and resources, and generating wider social benefits for the community of Greater Manchester.

Green Superheroes Project

Working across Greater Manchester, delivered by Future Directions CIC. Awarded £18,500 (2021 - 2022).

"The Green Superheroes project has enabled us to engage with people with learning disabilities, to enable them to think about recycling, to help save resources and protect the environment.

We have recruited a team of Green Superheroes, which has provided both paid and voluntary opportunities to people with learning disabilities and complex needs. The group have held art and craft workshops using waste materials to create festive decorations, planters and spring wreaths.

We have also joined the Every Can Counts Campaign which is a not-for-profit communications programme aimed at raising awareness of the many benefits of recycling drink cans and making it easier for people to recycle their cans. We have placed can recycling boxes in venues across Greater Manchester and have acquired a Waste Carrier Licence so we can collect the cans and recycle them. People with learning disabilities have often been excluded from conversations around protecting our environment and sustainability so we're really excited to be able to develop these projects to help make a real difference."

Little Green Sock Project

Working in Trafford. Awarded £4,200 (2022 - 2023).

"The R4GM Community Fund award completely transformed Little Green Sock Project. The aim of our project is to collect children's clothing and other items no longer needed and distribute them to the families that really need the support through referrals from health and social care professionals and other charities supporting families in poverty. One thing we have learnt is that people have a lot, and our community is incredibly generous.

Being able to manage regular volunteer sessions throughout the week and build our volunteer base has enabled us to divert 5 tonnes of preloved children's clothing to help support local families in hardship.

We feel there has been a positive change in people's behaviour towards donating to the project with local schools, nurseries and businesses getting involved in collections for us.

There is a lot of love out there for Little Green Sock Project.

Our fantastic (and growing) team of volunteers have donated well over 2000 hours, carefully sorted through all donations, recycled 1500kgs of damaged or unsuitable clothing and creating capsule wardrobe bundles with the good stock, ready to be distributed.

Funding has enabled us to co-ordinate and digitalise the referral process so that we have been able to respond quicker to requests for support.

In less than a year we have supported 350 children with clothing, shoes and essential items and saved local families approximately £35,000 in clothing support and a further £7000 in additional support such as prams/ buggies/newborn starter kits.

With 1 in 10 children living in extreme poverty in Trafford, we have a lot of work to do!"

Green Spaces Fund

Andy Burnham and our Green Spaces Fund Advisors, who are on hand to support and advise groups looking to apply.

Increasing accessible, nature-rich green space where people need it most

The Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund, delivered by GMEF and funded by the Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, is addressing the climate and biodiversity emergency through improvements to green and blue spaces. The Fund, which opened to applications in 2022, is for community projects increasing the quality and quantity of accessible, nature-rich green space across Greater Manchester, particularly in areas where people need it the most. So far, £1,596,625 has been awarded to 68 projects in Rounds 1-3.

To be eligible for funding, groups must demonstrate that their projects will benefit communities in greatest need of quality green spaces, contribute to tackling our biodiversity emergency, and encourage and empower communities to get involved with nature. The Fund is also supporting Green Space Fund Advisors who so far have provided much needed support to groups new to nature, or have little experience of applying for funding.

"Everyone should have access to some kind of green space, whether it's a place to grow fresh food, plant trees, meet new people, learn new skills or simply enjoy being close to nature. I'm really proud to see local people taking ownership of such fantastic projects that add value to their community and the environment and that's what the Green Spaces Fund is all about."

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

A Bog's Life

Little Woolden Moss, Salford Delivered by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Awarded £28,250

The Bog's Life team will transform a patch of dried out, degraded peat at Little Woolden Moss into a living, breathing, educational bog. Over 10,000 m2 of green space will be created, brimming with specialist species such as Common Cotton Grass and Sphagnum mosses. An area of lowland wet heath at the central entrance to the moss will be enhanced with pollinator friendly plants, creating a bright, colourful first impression to visitors and a haven for wildlife. Volunteer sessions will give local people the opportunity to get hands on involvement with the project, and a series of walks will encourage new visitors to the site to connect with nature and learn more about this vital habitat.

GROWE Project

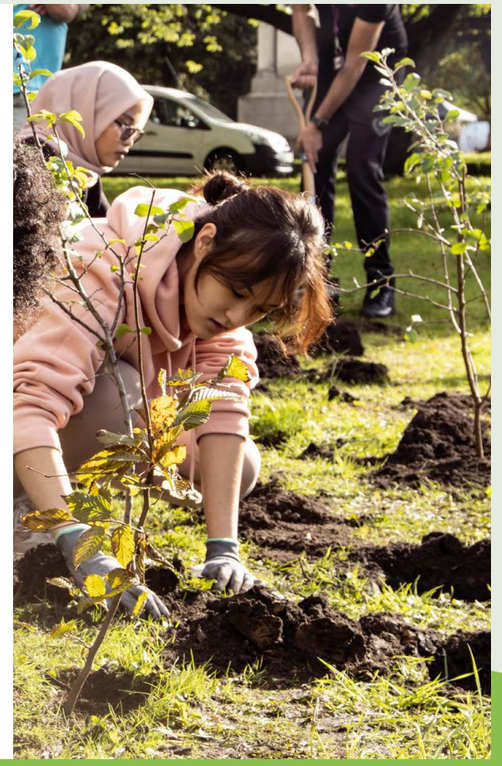
Oldham- Delivered by Northern Lily CIC, Awarded £15,000

The GROWE Community Orchard is a natural area that offers a range of activities and facilities for everyone. The team have created ponds, seating areas, a vegetable garden, fruit orchard, wildlife area, and more. It is open to the public and free to use, and the project offers regular weekly workshops throughout the year for people to help create and maintain the acre site. The Orchard is an example of how nature can be integrated into urban areas to provide environmental services and solutions. It also provides space for wildlife to thrive and where people can come together to enjoy nature, learn new skills, share their knowledge and experience, make new friends, and have fun.

Ardwick Stepping Stones

Manchester - Delivered by Ardwick Climate Action, Awarded £13,084

Ardwick is one of the most deprived areas in the country, seeing little action to retain its diminishing green spaces resulting in the loss of around 65% of local biodiversity. Ardwick Stepping Stones will establish connected green spaces between the city centre and the University of Manchester, creating new and improved habitats for nature and people. Activities will include communal composting stations, a tool hire shop, wildflower meadows, bird and bat boxes, educational signage and tree planting. The project will also see residents and local groups engaged in a series of events which also highlight wider environmental concerns and raise awareness of the climate emergency.



Projects funded by Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund

Round 1 project (completed March 2023):

Private investment into lowland peatland restoration is needed to accelerate the recovery of the UK's peatland habitat, yet policy and market barriers still exist to scale investment. Our project tested two financing models based on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and carbon income to lever investment into priority habitats.

The project involved a cross-sectoral partnership between Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT), Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Finance Earth (FE) and GMEF's Advisory Group. The partnership agreed on a pilot site at Chat Moss in Salford, to restore degraded agricultural land to vital lowland peatland habitat.

The pilot conducted financial and ecological analysis to test and demonstrate income stacking approaches; inform the extension of the UK Peatland Code to lowland peat on agricultural land; and share learnings to scale up investment approaches.

The pilot found that both carbon and BNG have the potential to be viable income options to restore lowland peatland habitat if public funding is available alongside for restoration costs.

Round 2 project (led by Lancashire Wildlife Trust)

Thanks to £99k secured in July 2022, the Greater Manchester Environment Fund is working in partnership with a number of districts in Greater Manchester to focus on resolving and sharing learning around barriers and challenges associated with becoming ready for when Biodiversity Net Gain becomes mandatory.

Some of the challenges include the need for robust verification, ensuring unit costs cover the work required, type of legal agreements required, monitoring contracts, and work to minimise risk and liabilities both short and long term.

GMEF is developing a service to support to Local Authorities, developers and landowners through the Biodiversity Net Gain process which includes:

- bringing forward sites suitable for BNG,
- negotiating sale of units and agreements,
- ensuring approporiate delivery mechanisms in place
- putting in place appropriate mechanisms for verification and monitoring to ensure compliancy.

GMEF is actively supporting the establishment of 5 sites ready to sell BNG units that have been identified as sites in the most strategic locations.

Biodiversity Net Gain - our progress so far

What is Biodiversity Net Gain?

Biodiversity Net Gain aims to ensure that the overall biodiversity value of a development site is increased, leaving biodiversity in a better state than it was before. It will become law in early 2024, meaning that most developments will have to demonstrate that they are able to enhance habitats on-site to obtain planning permission.

This will involve not only compensating for wildlife lost, but also increasing the biodiversity value of the land by 10%.

If this cannot be achieved on site, developers will be required to provide off-site biodiversity improvements by paying for Biodiversity Net Gain units.

In order to offer sites where Biodiversity Net Gain units can be sold there are a number of steps that need to be undertaken to make sure the agreements, costs and compliance are realistic, achievable and robust:

BRINGING SUPPLY SITES FORWARD AND INTO DELIVERY AGREEMENTS

IDENTIFICATION	PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT	SECUREMENT	REGISTRATION AND SALE OF UNITS	DELIVERY
Sites identified according to agreed criteria	• Baseline survey • Uplift assessment • Draft [costed] Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) • Unit cost calculation	• Legal agreement committing land to 30 year term • Payment plan • Agreed HMMP	• Site registered on national database • Site verified • Negotiation with developers • Sale of units • Legal agreements	• Delivery of ecological restoration works • Maintenance, management and monitoring

The Greater Manchester Environment Fund is establishing a new BNG trading structure to support land managers, particularly Local Authorities, to secure offsite biodiversity unit investment in their land.

The structure will also assist developers in navigating this new system and ensure that investment is maximised for biodiversity improvements in the most strategic places, identified through the Local Nature Recovery Network Strategy.

By January 2024 we will be able to promote sites on our website that have BNG units available for developers to buy if they need to comply with BNG off site.

For more information please contact the team. gmenvfund@lancswt.org.uk

Working with Corporates

It is important for us that the services we offer reflect the views of the corporates we would like to work with.

A survey carried out in 2022 told us that it is important to them to operate in a way that was environmentally and socially responsible. Top priorities for the GMEF offer include:

- traceability (identifying exactly where and what the money is being spent on),
- transformational impact (ability to measure the environmental and social goods achieved),
- acknowledgement (projects ability to acknowledge funding received and generate good publicity for their companies),
- value for money (ensuring the money given has the greatest transformational impact possible).

What GMEF can offer businesses:

GMEF offers transparency, value for money, and ensures funds are spent in the right places, as well as:

- Support to identify the projects / partners that have the best fit to meet CSR commitments whether that's social, climate or biodiversity.
- Helping businesses demonstrate commitment to initiatives such as the Race to Net Zero
- Providing opportunities to invest in our core funding programmes, which impact communities across Greater Manchester, such as our Green Spaces Fund. With reassurance that precious funds are distributed to the greatest strategic priorities, aligned to evidence of need.
- Acting as a broker for Corporate Sponsorship and volunteering day opportunities throughout our network, to help you support the communities on your doorstep.
- We are working up the development of a service to broker or offer verifiable Carbon Offsetting Credits that will enable businesses to offset carbon locally, and opportunity for visits, team events, and publicity. These credits will be robust, verified and transparent.

Please contact the team for more information.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car gives GMEF our first donation and a helping hand at Stockport's Green Space Funded GRIT Studio Community Garden

Enterprise Rent-A-Car recently joined us for the first of their corporate volunteer days at a recently funded project working to revitalise a forgotten corner of Stockport.

Despite its industrial heritage, Canal Street was long neglected and filled with litter and overgrown brambles. Fly tipping was a daily occurrence, and crime statistics way above the towns average. But not for much longer thanks to **GRIT Studios,** who received funding from the **Green Spaces Fund** to create a central, accessible community garden. Local people will be able to take ownership of the space and use it to grow and nurture plants, socialise, and learn and reconnect with nature and each other.

"The community garden means so much to the community here. It's only small but growing fast. The grant from the Green Spaces Fund has meant we can buy proper tools and the plants we want, instead of always 'making do'. It says to the community that this is an area worth investing in."

Sophie Macaulay, GRIT Studios

Enterprise Rent-A-Car were looking for a way to boost nature across Greater Manchester and support their team's wellbeing through spending time outdoors and connecting with others.

"At Enterprise each of our employees have paid volunteering days to use to support the local communities we operate within. Working with GMEF allowed us to work on a Green Spaces Fund project enabling us to get out in the fresh air and really give back to the local people in Stockport by supporting Sophie and GRIT Studios' efforts. Not only does a project like this benefit our employee's wellbeing, but it can also leave a long-lasting benefit to the residents."

Candice Turner, Enterprise Rent-A-Car

If your company would like to give a donation or a helping hand please visit our website to find out more or get in touch at **gmenvfund@lancswt.org.uk.**

Nature based solutions that have been supported through funds provided by GMEF

Investing in natural solutions and saving up to £3.2 million in flood damage for each and every storm

GMEF provided funding through GRCF to the Great Manchester Wetlands Partnership, Wigan Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, and the Bickershaw Slow The Flow project with match secured from the Environment Agency.

The proposed works at Bickershaw will help to slow the flow of up to 140,000 cubic square metres of flood water, potentially saving 100 properties from flood damage. At an average cost of £32,000 for flood damage per property this has saved costs of £3,200,000 for each and every storm event that occurs.

Habitat Creation for Biodiversity Net Gain in Wigan

GMEF supported the development of our work to demonstrate Biodiversity Net Gain by funding officer time through the Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF).

This site, and also another at Highfield Moss in Wigan, have benefitted from the development of Voluntary Biodiversity Net Gain Agreements which have used the principles of BNG to demonstrate uplift and the net gain achieved through these agreements.

The 34 hectare site in Sandyforth, Wigan, adjacent to the M6 motorway has recently received funding from National Highways' Environment and Wellbeing Designated Fund to create and enhance 22ha of species rich grassland.

This has involved creating 5ha of distinctive wet grassland, 6 ha of new woodland, 5 ponds, and 475 metres of meandering stream on what was a former opencast mining site. These habitat improvements would generate 131 BNG units.

Restoring an upland bog to a healthy ecological state and carbon sink

GMEF facilitated major nature recovery work by funding RSPB as a delivery partner to carry out peatland restoration work on a 140 hectare site at Dovestone, an area owned by United Utilities.

The work moves the site ever closer to being an active blanket bog sequestering more carbon than it emits.

This work has completed restoration activity lowland peatland in Wigan and Salford delivered by Lancashire Wildlife Trust with GRCF funding secured through GMEF.

GRCF also funded a Nature Based Solutions Officer seconded to Finance Earth who helped with much of the research, evidence collation and finance modelling to enable an application to the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund.

A 14-mile route to connect the rural West Pennine Moors to the urban centres of Bolton, Bury and Salford

Brimming with biodiversity, the Kingfisher Trail connects people to sites including Seven Acres Local Nature Reserve, Leverhulme Park Local Nature Reserve and Nob End SSSI.

Working with community groups and dedicated organisations, the project focussed on reviving sites along the trail to encourage the public to explore this stunning area. The project is all about sharing, whether knowledge, resources or expertise, to better manage the route and improve it for both people and nature. Funding enabled the network of Friends Of groups in the area to share learning and expertise, provided volunteering opportunities such as surveying and practical conservation, and brought people together to look at how the landscape can be improved further for both wildlife and public enjoyment.

Our Investment Strategy Review - looking forward

Short term (First 3 years)

Pump priming and philanthropic grants secured - GRCF, NEIRF1, NEIRF2

Corporate funding programme - SUEZ have funded the R4GM Community Fund

The Green Spaces Fund created by The Greater Manchester Mayor

Long Term (5+ years)

Further development of corporate sponsorship and collaboration opportunities

Position GMEF as potential distribution mechanism for taxies and levies.

Develop repayable investment facilities through funds such as:

- Sustainable Drainage Schemes
- Environmental Impact Bonds
- Built Environment Carbon Funds
- Low carbon / circular economy opportunities

Medium Term (3-5 years)

Promote opportunities to direct Enforcement Undertakings to fund project pipeline

Promote landfill tax opportunities and whether Landfill Operators would be interested in GMEF distribution of taxes

Secure further pump priming / Start Up funds to take forward development of:

- Biodiversity Net Gain Investment Facility
- Habitat Bank Facility
- Carbon Mitigation Facility

Corporate liaison with regard potential taxes and charges relating to Carrier bags and Coffee Cups.

Grow current Grant Funding Programmes through the Recycle 4 Greater Manchester Community Fund and GM Green Spaces Fund.

Support Local Authorities, Land Managers and developers / corporates to ensure BNG and Carbon Offsetting stays within Greater Manchester through a brokerage service, and support to have strategic sites available to deliver ecosystem services.

Within 5 years, GMEF aims to develop sufficient funding, levies and private investment to become a self-sustaining funding source to support the delivery of GM's environmental ambitions.

GMET Financial Summary*

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**Total 2023 £**	Total 2022 £
Income					
Donations	2	215	-	**215**	6,268
Charitable activities	3	244,469	1,460,465	**1,704,934**	250,783
Other income	4	-	-	**-**	-
Total income		244,684	1,460,465	**1,705,149**	257,051
Expenditure					
Charitable activities	5	(199,100)	(964,475)	**(1,163,575)**	(298,564)
Other expenditure		-	-	**-**	-
Total expenditure		(199,100)	(964,475)	**(1,163,575)**	(298,564)
Net (expenditure) / income		45,584	495,990	**541,574**	(41,513)
Transfers between funds		-	-	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		45,584	495,990	**541,574**	(41,513)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		(49,587)	8,074	**(41,513)**	-
Total funds carried forward		(4,003)	504,064	**500,061**	(41,513)

Please note - carry forward is due to accounting for restricted grants paid in advance that will be used in future periods

*Indicative Finance Summary as yet to be approved

Acknowledgements

GMCA has committed substantial funding and resources since 2016 to support the development of GMEF as an independent public, private and third sector initiative with the aim of securing more sustained investment and donations in GM's natural capital.

Lancashire Wildlife Trust, on winning the contract to become the managing partner, has invested time, expertise and ambition, that has seen the establishment of GMEF as an independent non-profit making business. GMEF has been designed in consultation with a Steering Group made up of key local stakeholders, who have kindly provided their time and guidance to support the development of the fund.

The development of GMEF has been funded through generous contributions from Peel L&P, United Utilities and the Environment Agency. Natural Course funding has enabled continued support in this development work.

Thanks to our grants funders Green Recovery Challenge Fund and Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund that has enabled the capacity to build GMEF.

Thanks to our partners, SUEZ and GMCA, who are funding the two Grant Programmes.

Thanks to GMET Board Directors and Board Advisors:

A Selby (Chair)
T Burditt
A Hatton
J Wrigley
M Atherton
J Harrison
C Memmott
G Hinton

GMEF Staff:

Daveen Wallis
(seconded from Lancashire Wildlife Trust)
James Hall
(seconded from Lancashire Wildlife Trust)
Thomas Davies *(seconded from GMCA)*
Grace O'Leary
Rachel Lindsay
Danielle Rowlands

And thanks to GMCA staff support:

Sam Evans
Krista Patrick
Rachel Morrison

Also special recognition that the role of the Green Space Advisors supported through a consortium led by Groundwork Greater Manchester with City Of Trees, Groundwork CLM. Lancashire Wildlife Trust, RHS Bridgewater, and Sow The City, has made a huge difference to ensure the Green Space Fund has been targeted to reach the people where improvements to nature will benefit those that live there the most.

registered charity no 1203198

GMEF
GREATER MANCHESTER ENVIRONMENT FUND

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In partnership with

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