

Manchester Climate Change Agency – working to be a Platinum Carbon Literate Organisation!

Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA) was established as a Community Interest Company in 2015 to 'support, encourage and enable individuals and organisations in Manchester and beyond to take action on climate change.' Working with a wide range of partners our work is focused on helping people and organisations across Manchester to get involved in making Manchester a zero carbon, climate resilient city by 2050. And that importantly on our journey to 2050 the city makes ongoing reductions in CO₂ emissions, becomes increasingly resilient to climate change, and that our communities and businesses become more and more prosperous as a result.

MCCA consists of three members of staff who are fully trained in Carbon Literacy. MCCA also runs a Volunteer Program that recruits passionate University students and newly qualified professionals for various placements where they assist with research, funding applications, communications, administration and engagement.

Why become Carbon Literate?

As the city's Climate Change Agency, MCCA wants to demonstrate its commitment to reducing CO₂ and creating a sustainable city by becoming a Carbon Literate Organisation. We are an organisation that is passionate about encouraging individuals and organisations to take action on climate change. Therefore, it is important to offer Carbon Literacy training to our volunteers.

Staff

All 3 members of staff are Carbon Literate along with 4 of our Directors. Being Carbon Literate has impacted the staff in different ways and helped them make positive changes in their work, home and other interests.

This is their story...

Jonny Sadler, Programme Director

Jonny has been working in the climate change and sustainability sector since completing his Environmental Science degree at the University of Manchester, in 2002. He was part of the Council's Environmental Strategy team that supported the development of MACF in 2009, working with over 200 individuals and 100 organisations to help them to produce the city's first ever climate change strategy.

Jonny completed his Carbon Literacy training while working as the Council's Environmental Strategy Manager in 2013.

"I was struck by the impact of bringing people together in a group to talk about climate change, what it meant to us as a group and as individuals, and what we could do to take action. Building on the work I was already doing at the Council, the training led me to commit to finding new ways to engage and inspire people to take action on climate change, something that is now at the heart of the work I do at the Climate Change Agency. I also committed to taking stairs instead of lifts

wherever possible, to help cut down energy use in buildings and improve my own fitness. I'm pleased to say I'm still doing it!"

Jonny joined the Climate Change Agency in 2015. He is responsible for developing and delivering the Agency's programme to ensure it delivers its core aim and helps Manchester get on track to become a zero carbon, climate resilient city by 2050.

Always trying to find new and interesting ways to get people and organisations engaged on climate change, Jonny's work in his first 12 months at the Agency has included: development of Manchester Climate Lab 2016, a programme of experiments with 30 partners to test different ways to engage people on climate change, and; Citizen Green and Green Growth with the University of Manchester to find new ways to engage residents, businesses and developers to deliver green infrastructure projects. Underpinned by these projects Jonny is now looking to 2017 and beyond, and the development of an exciting new engagement programme to inspire residents and organisations across the city to get involved in action on climate change.

Lisa Lingard, Funding and Project Development Manager

Lisa has worked in the environmental field since 2003 and was responsible for developing Manchester City Council's Carbon Literacy training for staff when she worked in the Environmental Strategy Team. She wrote Manchester City Council's e-learning package and helped to design the face-to-face learning sessions. Lisa completed her Carbon Literacy training as part of this work in 2013 when the Council launched its Carbon Literacy training to all staff.

Lisa was Principal Policy Officer in the Environmental Strategy Team at Manchester City Council before joining the Manchester Climate Change Agency in 2015. Lisa is responsible for the development of the Agency's new projects and funding applications, and manages the business's financial systems. She is fully qualified as a Practitioner in PRINCE 2 Project Management.

Since completing a degree in Environmental Studies, and training as a teacher of secondary Geography, Lisa has always had a keen interest in the natural world, and the effects that humans have on our ecosystem. The power of education is fundamental to our understanding of how our actions are changing the climate. Lisa is particularly interested in today's societal disregard for the amount of waste we produce, and is always looking for innovative ways to talk rubbish – how we can avoid it and how to reuse it. People, especially young people, are always horrified at how wasteful we are today – and the effects that thrown away plastics can have on our wildlife and marine life. Carbon Literacy can help with raising awareness of these issues, as well as helping people to understand the whole picture.

"By being Carbon Literate I now have an even stronger understanding of the global impact of climate change, and see how the ways in which we live our lives has a significant global impact, not just a local one. I am now aware of my own carbon footprint and as a family we enjoy getting outside with nature, we fly less, recycle everything and enjoy the simple pleasures of life that don't cost the earth!"

Steph Lynch, Communications & Events Coordinator / Volunteer Manager

Steph had her first Carbon Literacy training in 2014, through her previous role at Action for Sustainable Living. Steph's training resulted in her committing to increasing public transport use

and investing in a bike. The training was hosted in Dwelle and focused mainly around the carbon calculations of Mike Berners-Lee's book *How Bad are Bananas?* Through the training, Steph became more interested in the impact of food miles on climate change as well as supermarket waste. This inspired her to help out at a local community allotment where the produce was shared. By learning skills from experienced growers, Steph was able to get her own allotment and now encourages friends and family to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

"Carbon Literacy training really opened my eyes to the carbon footprint of our food industry and so it encouraged me to make lasting changes to how I buy and consume food".

Steph then went on to train as a Carbon Literacy trainer and from 2017 will be using her skills to train volunteers working with the Agency. The training will focus on transport, buildings, energy, consumption as well as green and blue infrastructure (which Steph has a true passion for through her bee campaigning at Manchester Friends of the Earth (www.manchesterfoe.org.uk) and work with Tale of Two Cities (www.taleof2cities.org.uk)).

Volunteers

As Steph Lynch is a qualified Carbon Literacy trainer, she is excited to offer the training to MCCA's volunteers from 2017. This will assist volunteers with their future studies and employability as Carbon Literacy is becoming more and more recognised by employers and educational bodies.

Promoting Carbon Literacy

MCCA's work includes supporting, encouraging and enabling individuals, businesses, schools and other organisations to take action on climate change. This work includes the promotion of Carbon Literacy to partners and stakeholders. You can find many news articles about Carbon Literacy and Carbon Literate partners via our website www.manchesterclimate.com/news and also relevant events through our calendar www.manchesterclimate.com/events

MCCA works on an ongoing basis with a range of partners to develop new projects and funding bids that will help people and organisations to take action on climate change. Wherever possible, Carbon Literacy is included as part of these projects and funding bids.

Plans for the Future

MCCA is proud to be a Carbon Literacy partner and look forward to providing training to our many volunteers from 2017. The values that Carbon Literacy promotes is already at the heart of our work and we hope to inspire others so that Manchester can adopt a low carbon culture throughout.

MCCA is working to become a Platinum Carbon Literate Organisation by 2018.

Jonny Sadler

Programme Director
Manchester Climate Change Agency
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