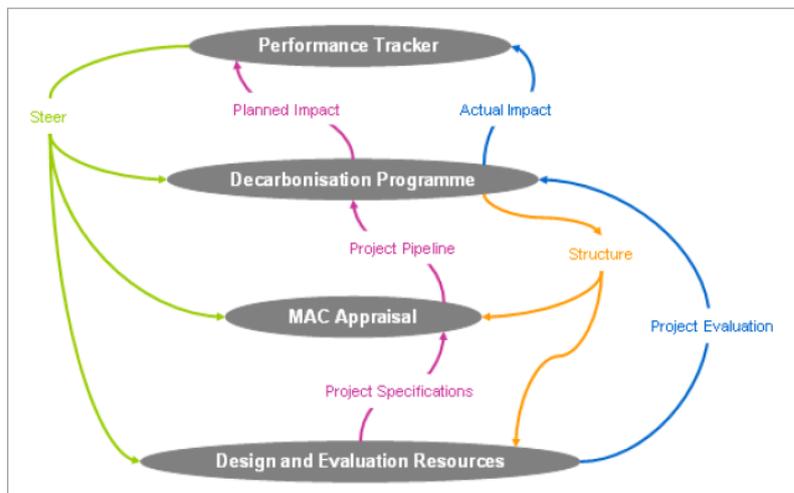


Local Project Support Fund 2011/12

Project Report:

Greater Manchester Carbon Metrics Framework

- Specification for improvements to GM Emissions Inventory to support accurate carbon emissions reporting



Project Leads

Project proposed by Manchester City Council on behalf of the authorities of Greater Manchester.

The work was conducted through a consultancy commission by Wood Holmes, and also by Transport for Greater Manchester.

The Rationale for the Project

There is a need to further develop the basis for a consistent and comprehensive approach to carbon accounting across Greater Manchester, in support of the GM Climate Change Strategy published in July 2011. The overall aim was to establish an inventory of carbon metrics and a performance management framework that will underpin delivery and continual development of the Implementation Plan for GM's Climate Change Strategy and enable GM to track and communicate progress towards the target of a reduction by 48% by 2020, as agreed by AGMA in July 2011.



Approach

The project comprised two related phases: the first is complete and has focussed on converging existing data sets for carbon emissions, construction of a GM-specific emissions inventory, and development of a range of tools to facilitate tracking of performance against GM's carbon reduction target.

The second, which was part-funded by CLASP, focusses on embedding the system, agreeing a consistent approach to carbon accounting of projects, and the firm establishment of performance management of carbon emissions reduction. The system is replicable and it is planned to roll it out across all GM Districts in the coming year.

Key objectives are to:

- Implement a common methodology for measuring and reporting direct organisational CO2 emissions, that is compatible with existing CRC requirements
- Establish a mechanism for sharing expertise and coordinating mutual support for reducing CRC liabilities for participating GM organisations
- Establish a mechanism for prioritising the effort required to reduce emissions, identify those areas of activity where local intervention can have the greatest impact, and steer investment in low carbon across GM, at no additional cost or reporting burden to Districts
- Link the above to a headline emissions total for GM and Districts, which comprises as much locally generated data as possible, is as accurate as possible, and responsive to local action on emissions reduction

Outputs

The initial DECC funded phase of work on carbon metrics delivered a number of tools for managing and analysing emissions data, which are already available in GM. These include:

- A calculator tool to help Districts calculate and report operational emissions, in line with the most current DECC guidance for organisational reporting – this is available to each Local Authority for use now
- A tool for displaying and comparing carbon reduction progress to aid strategic decision making and public engagement
- Initial analysis of GM's current emissions trajectory to 2020, and position in relation to the landscape of national and international targets
- A suite of tools to facilitate the tracking of the GM area emissions total (including Local Authority estates data) analysis of GM's current area emissions, alongside the 48% target, and provide analysis of emissions reduction potential across sectors

The specific component funded by CLASP was the Production of a detailed specification for enhancement of the existing GM emissions inventory (EMIGMA) and implement enhancements to develop and build upon existing emissions inventory to produce credible, locally-owned emissions data that respond to local carbon reduction activity.

Broader Application and Further Work

Although the EMIGMA database is specific to Greater Manchester, other authorities may find the other tools developed as part of the overall project useful for tracking and managing their emissions from their own estates and from their areas.

If the UK is to achieve its 2050 carbon reduction target then all Local Authority areas need understand how much effort is within their control or influence, and take ownership of the challenge. The first stage of the project has answered the following questions in the positive:

- Can a locally specific emissions inventory be compiled from existing data, which is responsive to local activity?
- Can a suite of tools be developed that allow LAs and public agencies track actual performance of carbon reductions against an agreed target?

Implementation of a performance management framework that builds on the points above and utilises the tools developed is therefore replicable across all UK LA areas, and would have clear benefit.

To View The Reports

Visit: <http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/carbon-metrics-performance-management>

Contact

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