

Appendix 13 – Green Libraries

Manchester Libraries have signed up to the Green Libraries Manifesto, which places low-carbon at the heart of service delivery

www.cilip.org.uk/general/custom.asp?page=greenlibrariesmanifesto.

Manchester libraries estate contains generally good quality buildings with excellent carbon emission standards, and the capital investment into several of the libraries improves this further. This includes Chorlton Library which benefitted from a major transformation and restoration this year.

By widening use of libraries as community hubs, we are preventing the need for other services and organisations to have their own buildings and reducing travel time amongst staff and partner organisations. Neighbourhood libraries are accessible for partners as workplaces and for service delivery, supporting the Our Manchester and Bringing Services Together approaches.

Libraries are used for environmental and climate change campaigns, including Keep Manchester Tidy, which itself contributes towards carbon emission reductions.

Each library is a collection point for old devices. These get refurbished by Community Computers and given at low cost or no cost to Manchester residents - benefiting the resident and reducing waste.

Every library offers paper and card recycling to residents, and gives out green food waste bags.

Central Library café is now part of the [Bee Cup reusable cup scheme](#), allowing customers to bring their cup into the café.

Libraries are an extremely green service by the nature. Libraries are possibly the longest standing re-use and recycling programme through the borrow and use of a book by multiple people. The increase in lending of Ebooks and Eaudio books reduces the carbon footprint of reading in the city still further.

We held several sessions promoting the Roundview resource – for example as a summer activity and during the libraries staff conference. Roundview is an interactive resource that is a framework designed to help answer the question: how do we know if a decision or action is likely to move us towards a sustainable future.

We were awarded £10k funding as part of the Culture Nature England project in early 2025. Through this funding we have introduced seed libraries to 8 libraries. We have also delivered a range of creative activities, for example the promotion of nature walks to three local nature reserves - Boggart Hole Clough, Highfield Country Park and Wythenshawe Park. Libraries have run associated activities, for example at Didsbury Library there was a green storytime in August with seed planting, to highlight and encourage environmental literacy.

"Flying the Flag for Green Libraries" is a Greater Manchester wide project creating 10 bespoke, naturally dyed silk flags representing local environmental themes.

Produced with [Cabasa Carnival Arts](#), these flags are touring all 10 local authorities,. Gorton Library hosted a workshop in October where Manchester's Green Flag was created. All 10 flags will appear at Gorton Library in July, before appearing at the Manchester Day parade.



The flags workshop at Gorton was part of our Green Libraries Week celebrations. <https://manclibraries.blog/sowing-the-seeds-of-change/>. Additional events included a mindful walk from Arcadia Library around Highfield Park, Seed library craft sessions, daffodil planting, and Halloween cress heads sessions for families.



**Green
Libraries
Week**