

Appendix 1: Manchester Carbon Standard – Summary

The Manchester Low Carbon Build Standard provides a stepping-stone which will enable the Council to move towards the target of mitigating the impact of capital projects on the environment.

The Council have confirmed that the Standard has been aligned to the RIBA Sustainable Outcomes Guide 2019 as well giving “a set of common and clear standards that are backed and delivered by a leading professional institution covering all aspects of the built environment”¹¹. It was further endorsed by the Manchester Climate Change Partnership in December 2020 and “is supported by the Strategic Capital Board, several Portfolio Boards and external partners including the North West Construction Hub Board”.

Whilst the primary focus of this iterative Standard is the reduction of carbon in-use, the importance of understanding the impact of embedded carbon in construction materials should not be understated.

The model specification targets low carbon and energy use in projects using the following hierarchy:

1. Reduce – use as little energy or carbon as possible both during build and in use, by in most cases taking a fabric first approach using low embodied carbon materials from local sources
2. Re-use – look at opportunities for waste energy to be captured and re-used e.g. wastewater heat capture
3. Renewables – use efficient and economically viable methods to generate energy from technologies such as solar, ground source heat, grey water recycling

The model specification is based upon the “Top 10 Carbon Priorities”, Namely:

1. Fabric First
2. Efficient Boilers
3. Improve Lighting
4. Energy Controls and Metering
5. Improve Ventilation
6. Renewable Energy Sources
7. Reduce Water Consumption
8. Use Low Energy Equipment
9. Performance Measurement
10. Re-use and Recycle