

**March 2019**

## **Greater Manchester Higher and Further Educational Institutions and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust – Statement of Intent**

As educators of the world's leaders, Higher and Further Educational Institutions across Greater Manchester can offer a real opportunity for a long-term shift of attitudes and leader supported action on single-use plastics and carbon emissions. Through research, expertise and the delivery of its services educational institutions across Greater Manchester can make a significant and positive impact on the environment, reducing plastic pollution and improving our carbon footprint - transforming Greater Manchester into a world-leading greener, cleaner, climate-resilient city region.

**Pledge:** To work together towards a shared vision of eradicating avoidable\* single-use plastics from catering, labs and stationery across Greater Manchester Universities, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust and Further Education Colleges by 2022. This is part of a wider commitment to lead the way on sustainability and achieve carbon neutral campuses across Greater Manchester by 2038.

### **Key Commitments:**

1. Work collaboratively to reduce avoidable single-use plastics from Universities and Colleges across Greater Manchester
2. Share data, insights and best-practice on single-use plastics to develop a shared blueprint that sets out the journey towards a plastic free campus with step by step actions
3. Develop a procurement framework to drive forward the elimination of single-use plastics supported by a plastic audit across Manchester Institutions
4. Demonstrate personal leadership on single-use plastics by supporting and implementing reductions in avoidable single-use plastics
5. Share knowledge and information to move towards a carbon neutral campus supporting the ambitions of Greater Manchester to be carbon neutral by 2038.
6. Deliver research opportunities to support and stimulate new thinking and rapid solutions to single-use plastics
7. Seek to improve on-site waste management, recycling and re-use capabilities
8. Raise awareness of this intent amongst staff, students, suppliers and the wider community influence and change behaviour

*\*We talk about waste being 'avoidable', when the plastic could have been re-used or recycled, when a reusable or recyclable alternative could have been used instead, or when it could have been composted or bio-degraded in the open environment.*