

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Policy@Manchester

GM POLICY HUB

GM Policy Hubdate | February 2026

GM Policy Hub Seminar | Can AI help us tackle air pollution?

Imagine asking AI for data on the health impacts of issues such as mould exposure and receiving a reliable answer. Artificial intelligence, alongside strong metadata frameworks, is emerging as a powerful tool for breaking down barriers to data discovery. Large language models (LLMs) offer a transformative opportunity in how we search and interact with data. These technologies can be harnessed for good to answer questions that traditionally require expert triage and access to siloed data sources.

Join **Professor David Topping, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences**, to discuss ways to unlock the potential for environmental data to inform real-world solutions to wicked problems through toolkits like the Digital Solutions Hub.



Tuesday, 31 March, 1-2:30pm



The University of Manchester



[Register here](#)



Meet the GM Policy Fellows class of 2026

We are delighted to welcome our third cohort of fellows to the GM Policy Fellowship Scheme. In 2024, the GM Policy Hub was delighted to launch the scheme, designed to strengthen relationships between regional policymakers and academics at The University of Manchester.

A key element of the scheme is creating new networks and strengthening existing relationships between researchers and policymakers. The programme also aims to augment the personal and career development of all participants.

This year our fellows are interested in a wide range of topics such as spatial inequalities in transport, housing and health, education, critical technologies, local investment and climate adaptations in our built environment.

[Find out more about the scheme](#)





UoM academics join Manchester Play Sufficiency Partnership

Three Manchester academics have become members of Manchester City Council's Play Sufficiency Partnership.

As part of their work to make Manchester a UNICEF Child Friendly City, Manchester City Council are looking to introduce a play sufficiency model. The local authority is researching the extent to which children can play, whether children get enough time to play and what resources could improve local play opportunities.

Dr Cathy Atkinson, Dr Sarah MacQuarrie and Dr Amy Phillips will join the Play Sufficiency Partnership this spring, bringing their expertise and academic insight to conversations about how play can be embedded into different policy agendas.

[Read their article on the right to play](#)

An aerial view of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with a large, dark cloud bank. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, with several construction cranes visible. A prominent tall, dark skyscraper is on the right. In the foreground, there are residential or commercial buildings with red roofs. A white semi-transparent banner with a yellow diagonal line on the right side is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing purple text with underlines.

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