

Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Using EPC data to inform the decarbonisation of domestic buildings in Greater Manchester

PROJECT OVERVIEW

If you are someone who is passionate about the environment and appreciates the need to rapidly address our city's carbon emissions, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's research team has a fantastic opportunity coming this Summer 2026.

The GMCA has a large team dedicated to various environmental issues, relevant to Greater Manchester. One core area of focus is on the decarbonisation of domestic buildings which contribute 30% of Greater Manchester's CO₂ emissions.

Reducing these building emissions is a significant challenge. A combination of fabric retrofit measures – to improve the efficiency of a building and reduce its energy demand – and the switching away from fossil fuel heating systems to low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps, will be needed. Other activity, including energy generation and storage from solar panels and batteries will also be needed to support the transition from gas to electric heating.

Informing the best approach to this challenge should rely on evidence and data. One of the richest sources of data on domestic buildings comes from Energy Performance Certificates, or EPCs. The Environment research sub-team already process and use EPC data to inform activity, but there is lots of untapped potential for insight from this dataset. This project will involve processing EPC data to gain new, additional insights to help inform the decarbonisation of buildings. The exact questions and analysis to be explored with the data can be developed by the successful candidate, in discussion with the team, to ensure the work best supports current programme activity.

This role sits within the smaller Environment sub-team within the GMCA Research Team. This sub-team supports the larger Environment Directorate by providing high quality research and evidence.

During your internship with us, you will gain practical experience in data collection, analysis, and reporting, using Excel and Power Point, as well as the potential for more complex software such as Tableau or python (dependent on prior experience and appetite). There will also be the opportunity to present your work to the Research team.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS



Organisation and Team

Research Team (Environment sub-team)



Working Arrangement

Hybrid



Selection Method

Interviews will be held in person
(University of Manchester)

SUPPORT AND TRAINING

- You will be part of the environment programme area within the research team at GMCA. Although you will be directly supported by a couple of our analysts, you will be part of a dynamic team of over 40 researchers working across a variety of policy areas and with expertise in a wide range of research methods and tools.
- As part of our team, you will have the opportunity to engage with different colleagues and sub-teams of the research team, as well as other areas across GMCA. You will gain insights into working in research, data analysis, public policy, and local government throughout your internship.
- There is also the possibility of receiving internal training to further develop your technical skills, depending on availability.

MORE ABOUT ICL

Greater Manchester is home to 3 million people, with the UK's fastest growing local economy. The GMCA is made up of the ten Greater Manchester councils and the Mayor, who work with local services, businesses, communities, and other partners to improve the city-region. It is our ambition to make GM a thriving city region where everyone can live a good life.

More information about the GMCA can be found here: <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/>

More information about the research team can be found here:
<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/research/>

More information about GMCA's economy research can be found here:
<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/research/research-economy/>

APPLICATION CRITERIA

ESSENTIAL

- Interest in environmental issues.
- Knowledge and use of Microsoft Office applications (e.g., Excel, PowerPoint).
- Understanding of statistics and use of data, with an ability to undertake quantitative analysis.
- No current knowledge of EPC data is expected or required.

DESIRABLE

- Experience in the use of Tableau and/or mapping software (e.g. QGIS) for data analysis and presentation.
- Knowledge of retrofit technologies and the decarbonisation of heat.
- Knowledge of existing government policy relevant to the decarbonisation of buildings.