

Salford CVS Annual Conference 2024

Speaker Biographies

Climate Crisis

Keep Calm and Carry On?

The role of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector

Alison Page

Chief Executive, Salford CVS

Alison is proud to have been the Chief Executive of Salford CVS since April 2013 and is passionate about Salford and working in partnership with the city's voluntary organisations, community groups, charities, social enterprises and other strategic partners in order to benefit local people and place.



Alison is involved in work around tackling poverty, reducing inequalities, promoting equity and creating an inclusive economy in both the city of Salford and across Greater Manchester. She's heavily involved in the changes around health and social care in Greater Manchester, including helping develop an Alternative Provider Collaborative for the social sector. In Salford she is a member of the Locality Board for Health and Care, The Provider Collaborative Board, and the Health & Wellbeing Board, and in Greater Manchester she sits on the NHS GM Partnership Board.

Alison is a founder Director of 10GM, a joint venture between some of Greater Manchester's locality infrastructure organisations; and a founder member of the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group, where she co-chairs the VCSE Commissioning Group. Alison is also the Chair of the Salford Social Value Alliance and one of the organisers of Salford Social Enterprise City.

When she's not working (which is rare!) she enjoys getting as near to the sea as possible and hobbling around; watching football; talking politics; and practical volunteering such as gardening, growing, mentoring and campaigning!

Keynote Speakers



Dr Emma Geen

Dr Emma Geen is a freelance consultant on disability climate justice and just transition. She led on the co-production of the world's first community climate action plan by and for Disabled people, co-authored Bristol's Just Transition Declaration, is Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership's Climate and Disability associate, and is an advisor on the Sensing Climate research project.

Pam Warhurst CBE

Pam Warhurst CBE has been an activist and advisor for over 40 years. She currently chairs Incredible Edible CIC, an international initiative begun in Northern England using the Trojan horse of local food growing to demonstrate the power of small actions in bringing about major cultural shifts. Previously as Leader of a Local Authority, Chair of an Acute Health Trust, board member of several national environmental bodies, Chair of the Board of the Forestry Commission GB, Yorkshire representative on the Committee of the Regions in Europe and currently Chair of a Town Deal board she has had a front row seat on how government at all levels operates and invests.



Panel Members

Bec Bennett

**Assistant Director of Sustainability,
University of Salford**

As Assistant Director of Sustainability, Bec Bennett is passionate about reducing the University of Salford's operational environmental impact and enabling students and staff to respond positively to the global challenges to create a more sustainable world. With a background in natural sciences and Masters in Environmental Management, Bec has over 20 years experience working in environmental consultancy and estates management in higher education, including a number of Universities in the UK and Australia.



Panel Members

Andrew Swarbrick

RHS Community Outreach Manager – North and Scotland



Andrew has worked in the Environmental Community Sector for over 30 years. Graduating as a Landscape Architect from Manchester Polytechnic in 1992, he has worked predominantly in the North West focussing on community environmental regeneration projects in Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester. Andrew has worked in both the private and public sector leading community landscape regeneration, community recycling and small scale renewable energy projects and currently delivers community outreach programmes for the RHS in Salford, Glasgow, West Lothian and Gateshead.

Emma Gardner

Environment Lead, Diocese of Salford

Emma has worked in the environment field for more than 25 years. She has worked on international and national sustainability projects for a range of organisations, before joining the Diocese in November 2020. Emma provides strategic leadership and direction to support the delivery of environmental practices, programmes and activities across the Diocese, schools, parishes and beyond – including a programme to meet the Diocese’s 2038 carbon target. Emma also manages the Laudato Si Centre, the Flagship Centre for the Diocese and is responsible for developing and nurturing a range of partnerships to support environmental research, communication, education, and business operations.



Panel Members

Ian Bocock

Incredible Education

Ian has a wealth of experience of teaching in the further education sector. He started his teaching career in 1999 where he first taught students with additional needs. His passion for using horticulture as a medium for teaching was fostered during this time.



In 2013 his outstanding work and dedication to the delivery of horticulture was recognised when he was awarded a Livery Company Prize from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners at the City & Guilds Annual Awards presented by HRH The Princess Royal at Buckingham Palace. In 2013 he founded the Incredible Edible Salford group, and in 2014 launched Incredible Education CIC, a Salford based health and wellbeing social enterprise working with local schools and organisations to provide education and wellbeing sessions through horticulture and Forest School sessions.

He retired from Incredible Education in July 2024, working part-time as a freelance Green/Community Space and Social Enterprise Consultant but continues to support the new management team at Incredible Education as they further develop Cleavley Community Forest Garden into an outstanding community asset.

Michael Hemingway

Principal Officer – Climate Change – Salford City Council

Michael works with Salford Climate Action Board and develops climate focused policy and strategy for the city. He has worked with Greater Manchester Community Renewables to enable solar panels to be installed on Salford Schools. Recent projects include the development of a Solar Farm in Little Hulton and Solar Car-ports at two of the Council's depots. He also organises and promotes Carbon Literacy for council staff and partners. An advocate for housing retrofit Michael is also a longstanding member of Carbon Co-op's board of directors.

