

i-trees

The Project

A perfect example of Living Lab principles in action is i-trees, a unique project that aims to demonstrate the importance of trees and other types of greenery in the fight against climate change in our cities.

Led by Dr Roland Ennos, and backed by a coalition of supporters including community forest initiative Red Rose Forest, the i-trees project monitors how trees and grass can influence local climatic conditions in an urban setting. Using sensitive monitoring equipment, i-trees compares the water absorption and cooling rates of different trees and surfaces in a number of sites across the university campus.



i-trees plot at All Saints Park

Outcomes and Implications



PhD Candidate Mohammad Rahman at an iTrees plot on campus

Through a long term programme of tree planting, green roofs and green walls and the installation of a range of scientific monitoring equipment, i-trees is helping to transform the Oxford Road Corridor of Manchester City Centre into a living laboratory.

Building on the internationally respected work by the University of Manchester into the role of street trees and green spaces in adapting urban areas to climate change, the living lab monitors and helps us to understand how greenery can impact on climatic conditions such as temperature, flash flooding and air quality, providing us with a valuable insight into how we can make our cities less vulnerable to climate change.

As well as being a groundbreaking initiative, since its inception in 2007 i-trees has provided a steady stream of opportunities for student-led projects at the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Key Contacts

Mohammad Rahman, Teaching Assistant, School of Life Sciences: mohammad.rahman-3@manchester.ac.uk

For more information, visit <http://www.redroseforest.co.uk/web/content/view/228/366/>