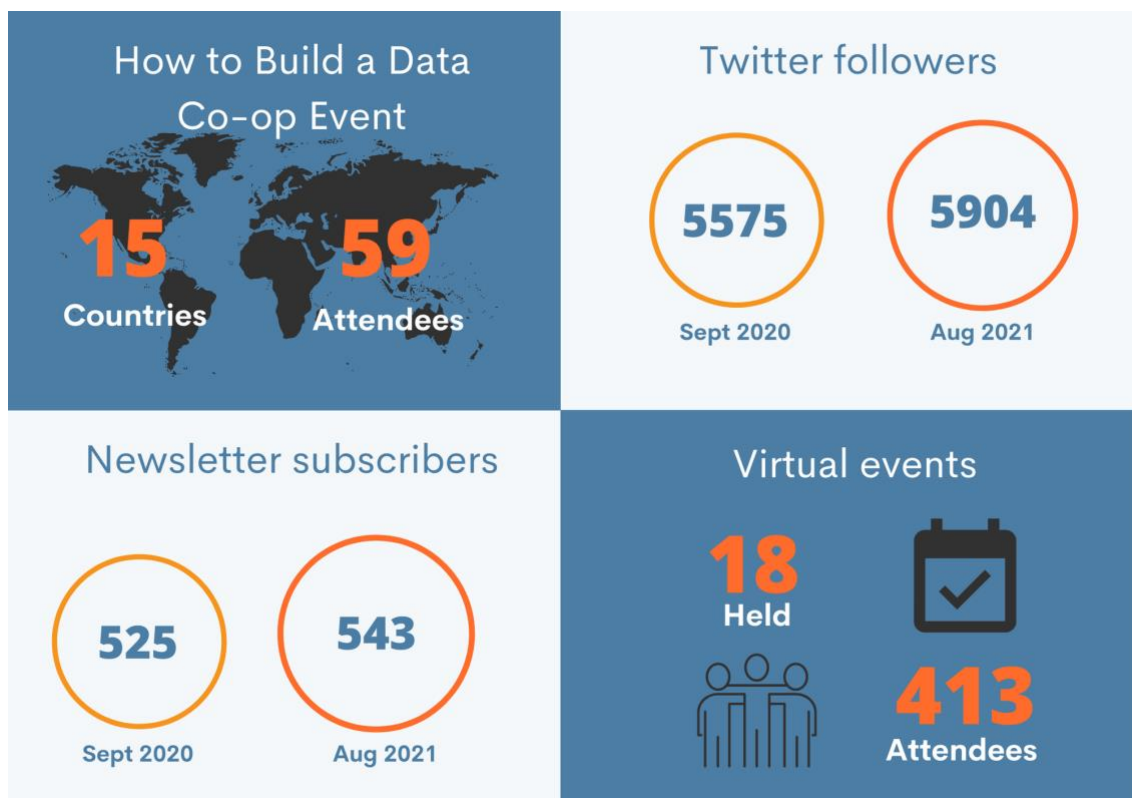# Impact Report 2020/2021

January 2022

Overview

Despite lockdown restrictions easing at times during the financial year (September 2020 to August 2021), we made the decision to keep our events online. In part this was for safety reasons, but it was also because we acknowledge the benefits online events have brought in broadening our audience and community.

In January 2021, we decided to bring back our monthly meetups – Open:Data:Nights – and these have proven as popular as ever. The online format of these has meant that we have been able attract both speakers and audiences not only Greater Manchester, but across the UK and internationally. Most events were recorded and published openly, along with accompanying subtitles for accessibility.

Last year, we did a lot of work helping individuals develop their data skills, and supporting our community members through connection and content. This year has seen Open Data Manchester (ODM) focus on broadening that community – including engaging with local people through the Our Streets Chorlton project, working further afield on our data cooperatives initiative, collaborating on new data standards, and supporting cities in the UK and internationally to develop ethical and responsible data strategies.

Events and online engagement

How to Build a Data Co-op Event
15 Countries   59 Attendees

Twitter followers
5575 Sept 2020   5904 Aug 2021

Newsletter subscribers
525 Sept 2020   543 Aug 2021

Virtual events
18 Held   413 Attendees

What they told us...

Below is a selection of feedback received about our events.

> Great session and facilitation

> Passionate high quality speakers

> Loved the breadth – lots of fascinating stuff.

> You always put on a great event

> Well organised and interesting speakers

> Fun, relaxed atmosphere and people being playful with data

Videos available online

Date	Title	Project/event
Sept 2020	Building a model for small energy data cooperatives	ODI Data Institutions event
Oct 2020	Introducing the Declaration for Responsible and Intelligent Data Practice	Declaration
Nov 2020	Tricks and Hacks for Google Sheets	Pick N Mix
Dec 2020	Text-mining in Python	Pick N Mix
Dec 2020	Data Sonification in R	Pick N Mix
Dec 2020	Machine Learning Fundamentals in R	Pick N Mix
Jan 2021	Understanding Where We Live Through Data	Open:Data:Night
Feb 2021	Policy, Politics & the Algorithm #1 - applications for policy and service delivery	Policy, Politics & the Algorithm
Mar 2021	Policy, Politics & the Algorithm #2 - bias, design and implementation	Policy, Politics & the Algorithm
Mar 2021	How to enter a Household Waste Recycling Centre into the Open Waste Map	Open3R
Mar 2021	Policy, Politics & the Algorithm #3 - scrutiny and accountability	Policy, Politics & the Algorithm
Apr 2021	How to Build a Data Cooperative	Open:Data:Night
Jun 2021	Getting From A to B	Open:Data:Night
Jun 2021	Why Data Ethics is a Local Issue	Digital Leaders Conference

Jul 2021	Another Country – alternative geographies of experience and being	Open:Data:Night
Aug 2021	Exploring the Place-Based Carbon Calculator	Our Streets Chorlton

Data Cooperatives Working Group

Following the successful completion of our Open Data Institute (ODI) funded project working with the Carbon Co-op, we held our most well-attended event of the year, How to Build a Data Cooperative, which also brought in our most international audience.

This has resulted in the development of the Data Cooperatives Working Group, founded alongside the Aapti Institute in Bangalore. Meetings began in June 2021 and have been held on a bi-monthly basis with participants from across the globe. We also wrote The Case for Data Cooperatives for the Aapti Institute's Data Economy Lab.

Data standards

Another ODI funded project, with Your Dsposal, resulted in the release of the Open3R data standard for household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) in April 2021. This work then led to our involvement in the Plastics Packaging Portal (PPP) project, alongside Dsposal, OPRL, Ecosurety and RECOUP, where we are extending the Open3R standard to cover all geographically located recycling services, as well as developing an open standard for plastics packaging data.

Our first report on the preliminary round of stakeholder workshops has been shared widely and elicited positive feedback, including from the Head of Digital Delivery for waste and resources at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who said:

> *"I enjoyed reading the blog and report this morning... it provoked thoughts, so thank you".*

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Open Data Strategy

In November and December 2020, we helped GMCA with an open data consultation and a report on the findings. We followed this us with an Open:Data:Night event in January 2021 with the community to discuss the report and findings.

The recommendations have been integrated into the local data review, which is part of the Greater Manchester local industrial strategy. This event also led to GMCA asking if they could adopt our Code of Conduct for their events and we believe this work also paved the way to GMCA being open to releasing new datasets, also supported by our work on the Our Streets Chorlton project.

Our Streets Chorlton Data Champions

In November 2020, we held our first community data workshop ahead of the kick off of the Our Streets Chorlton project in January 2021. Since this very first event, we have built a cohort of engaged residents who have been involved in numerous activities within the Chorlton community. We've now trained over 40 local people as Data Champions, who have then

supported our work on the ground with manual traffic counts and hosting Telraam traffic counting units in their houses.

Residents of Egerton Road North reached out in the Summer of 2021 to ask us to support them to carry out their own traffic count on their street, which took place in October 2021. One of our Data Champions told us:

> *"I've been interested in numbers and data and graphs all my life, discovering Open Data Manchester has felt like coming home".*

Through this, we've built stronger relationships with Transport for Greater Manchester and Manchester City Council, and this has resulted in them releasing data from the Vivacity traffic count cameras they had installed in Chorlton as open data through the Manchester-i data portal.

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

We've been involved in two workstreams for the UK's contribution to the OGP, a global initiative consisting of 78 countries and 76 local governments that promotes transparent, participatory, inclusive and accountable governance. One of these is on algorithmic transparency and the other on environment and climate change.

Our efforts, alongside Your Dsposal, have got waste reporting on the agenda for the environment and climate change group.

Supporting the City of Izmir's Open Data Strategy

We were commissioned by the International Finance Corporation to work with Izmir to develop an open-data strategy and roadmap.

Izmir has now implemented recommendations from the strategy and is one of only two cities in Turkey releasing open data. Following its public launch, we've been heartened to see their new open data portal helping citizens, business and academia do more with the city's data.

Building connections

We have continued to act as a convenor and connector both within our own community and across our wider networks, advocating for responsible and ethical data practice, and helping facilitate collaborative partnerships.

Some examples of this work include connecting:

- Foxglove Legal with GMCA to discuss improvements to the local authority consultation process
- Mapping GM and the Cooperative Wellbeing Index, who are now exploring ways of combining their data
- Liverpool Civic Data Coop and Cooperatives UK
- the Head of Data Ethics at the Cabinet Office with the GM Information Board

We continue to be involved in a variety of working groups, round tables and advisory boards, and are regularly asked to contribute or share our experience with a growing range of organisations.