

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rochdale Science Extravaganza 2025: Inspiring Climate Action Through Science and Art

Date: Sunday, 29th June 2025

Time: 10:30am – 4:30pm

Venue: Rochdale Exchange Shopping Centre

Entry: Free, open to all

Rochdale, UK – The Rochdale Science Initiative C.I.C (RSI) is delighted to announce the return of the Rochdale Science Extravaganza, in partnership with the Rochdale Exchange Shopping Centre. This beloved, family-friendly festival celebrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Maths (STEAM), inspiring curiosity and innovation across the community.

This year's event is extra special as it takes place during Rochdale's tenure as Greater Manchester Town of Culture 2025/26—a prestigious title that recognises the town's rich history, creativity, and vibrant arts scene.

Rochdale Town of Culture 2025/26: A Year of Celebration

Rochdale is set for a spectacular year of festivals, performances, exhibitions and art, offering fantastic opportunities for amazing days out. Its year as Greater Manchester Town of Culture began last month with a magical nature-themed parade that drew over 2,500 people to Rochdale Town Hall Square, and the recent opening of an outdoor gallery featuring 24 new pieces of public art. The title, awarded by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, celebrates Rochdale's cultural capital and international reputation as the birthplace of the co-operative movement. An ambitious programme will run until March 2026, with 'people power' centre stage as residents help to plan, develop and deliver much of the creative line-up alongside events like the Science Extravaganza.

A Grassroots Story of Community and Curiosity

The Rochdale Science Extravaganza began in 2017, founded by local resident Mohammed Rahman after being inspired by his son's curiosity and their family's visits to the Manchester Science Festival. Motivated by a desire to make science accessible for everyone in Rochdale—especially ethnic minority and disadvantaged communities—Rahman and a dedicated team of volunteers have

grown the event into a beacon of diversity, inclusion, and innovation.

“Bringing science into the heart of our communities can engage minorities, and the extravaganza is a prime example of what we can achieve; the audience is always a celebration of diversity and multiculturalism,” said Rahman.

Highlights of Rochdale Science Extravaganza 2025

The 2025 event features the theme of Climate Change, Sustainability & Recycling. Attendees can look forward to:

- Hands-on STEAM Activities: Interactive exhibits and workshops designed for children, families, and adults.
- Live Science Demonstrations & Planetarium: Experience thrilling science in action and explore the universe in an immersive planetarium.
- Meet the Experts: Engage with scientists, engineers, artists, and STEAM ambassadors from a range of backgrounds.
- Student Showcases: Local students present innovative STEM projects.
- Inclusive Experiences: SEND-friendly sensory room and a glowing jellyfish art installation from recycled materials, led by artist Rachel Rea.
- Art & Science Fusion: Collaborate on a giant eco-system collage with award-winning artist and physicist Geraldine Cox.
- Green Careers Hub: Discover future-focused careers in sustainability and innovation.

Featured Exhibitors and Activities Include

- Discover the Wonders of Big Science with Daresbury Laboratory: Marvel at meteorites, explore infrared technology, try 3D printing, and participate in fun physics demos.
- Nature for Climate (RHS): Investigate climate-friendly plants and solutions.
- Plastic-Eating Insects (The Worm House Ltd): Watch superworms turn plastic into compost.
- Solar Power Challenge (Thermatic Technical FM): Learn about solar energy and efficiency.
- Urban Food Futures (University of Salford): Vertical farming in action.
- Health Data Science (Health Data Research UK): Interactive games exploring health data and planetary wellbeing.
- Genes & Health Study (Northern Care Alliance NHS): Contribute to vital local health research.

- Paper Light Play with Rabia Begum: Light-and-shadow art from recycled paper.
- Cancer Research Explained (University of Manchester): The latest on detection and therapies.
- Bat Encounters: Meet local wildlife with the South Lancashire Bat Group.
- Photon Fun (Photon Science Institute): Cyanotype prints, light experiments, and microscopy.
- Wacky Jacky Fun Science: Hands-on science for the young and young-at-heart.
- Guardians of the Earth: Museum displays linking faith teachings to climate action.

A True Community Collaboration

This event is a testament to community spirit and partnership, delivered in collaboration with local schools, universities, and community groups, as well as national and regional organisations including the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Salford, Institute of Physics, Science and Technology Facilities Council, National Education Nature Park RHS, Health Data Research UK, The Ogden Trust, Touchstones, Falinge Park High School, Rochdale Islamic Academy for Boys, SciTech, Lightyear Foundation, Luxfer Technologies, Noisy Toys, The Worm House Ltd, and many more.

This year's event is also a proud moment for Rochdale Exchange Shopping Centre, reflecting its ongoing commitment to innovation and sustainability. Martin Ballard, Manager of Rochdale Exchange Shopping Centre, said:

"Rochdale Exchange are proud to be involved with this year's Rochdale Science Extravaganza. Sustainability is a topic within it, and finding alternative uses for spaces within the shopping centre is key to making our own business sustainable going forward as retail faces challenging times on the high street for years to come. The relaunch this year of our market after a ten year absence is a strong statement that our owners, the Adhan Group, are investing in the future of retail, and at site level working with Mohammed and the team on this event brings in thousands of local people who may not have seen what Rochdale has to offer as a town centre for a while, and reminds them we are here to shop with on a return visit."

This year's event is kindly sponsored by The Ogden Trust, Recycle for Greater Manchester, Rochdale Borough Council, UK Research and Innovation, Science and Technology Facilities Council, Amor Bamford, and Arif Grocers.

Media Opportunities

The Rochdale Science Extravaganza 2025 promises compelling stories, vibrant images, and inspiring interviews with organisers, scientists, artists, students, and families. Media are warmly invited to attend and cover the event.

For press enquiries, interviews, or further information, please contact:

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Join us and be part of an unforgettable celebration where science, creativity, and community come together for a greener, brighter future—right in the heart of Rochdale, the Greater Manchester Town of Culture 2025/26!



**ROCHDALE SCIENCE
INITIATIVE C.I.C**
inspiring communities to create a better world