Salix Programme Newsletter

Leicester City Council

Early October 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of the Salix Programme newsletter. This time, find out all about roof and wall insulation, important information for those sites with planned PV installations, and read about recent progress at Salix project sites in Leicester.

In the spotlight: Roof and wall insulation

Insulating a building doesn't just have the benefit of keeping the interior warm in colder weather and cooler in hot weather, it also significantly reduces energy expenses and, in the long run, can pay for itself. In large buildings such as schools, sports centres, and offices, anything that can reduce energy bills should be considered. There are several types of insulation to prevent heat loss, each with their own cost and efficiency advantages and disadvantages.

Blanket (matting) insulation

Blanket insulation materials can be used in a wide range of buildings and is available in rolls of varying thickness and width. This insulation is made up of felt, rock, glass or mineral fibre. If access into your loft is easy and your loft joists are regular, rolls of blanket insulation is ideal for insulating accessible spaces.

The first layer is laid between the joists – the horizontal beams that make up the floor of the loft, and then a second layer is laid at right angles to cover the joists to make up the insulation to the required depth.

Spray foam insulation

For large buildings, spray foam insulation is effective and non-disruptive thanks to its relative ease of installation. It can be applied to most areas, even those that are difficult to reach, and even helps to soundproof walls. This makes it ideal for both roof and wall insulation.

When sprayed, this foam has the consistency of paint, but upon hitting a surface it expands to nearly 100 times its volume, trapping air in small bubbles during the foaming process. Although this method of insulation is convenient, it tends to be expensive. Also, as the foam insulated so tightly, it is highly likely that ventilation systems will need to be installed alongside the insulation.

Loose fill insulation

If your loft space is hard to access, blown insulation can be installed into the gaps between joists. Specialist equipment is used to blow loose, fire-retardant insulation material such as cellulose fibre, mineral rock wool or cork granules into the loft. Loose-fill insulation works well in inaccessible spaces, where joists are irregularly spaced, or around obstructions. This type of insulation is light and convenient to handle, however is not recommended for lofts that are draughty as the material can come loose.

Rigid insulation boards - Flat roofs

A flat roof should preferably be insulated from above. A layer of rigid insulation board can be added either on top of the roof's weatherproof layer, or directly on top of the timber roof surface, with a new weatherproof layer on top of the insulation. This is best done when the roof covering needs replacing anyway. If your flat roof needs to be replaced, it must now be insulated to comply with building regulations.

It is possible to insulate a flat roof from underneath, but this can lead to condensation problems if not completed correctly. Installing flat roof insulation could save a similar amount on your heating bill to loft insulation, though the savings will vary depending on how much of your building has a flat roof. In the Salix programme we are using all methods.

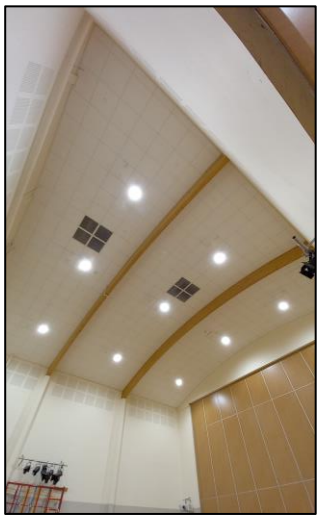
PV sites and allocated contractors

The Salix Project Team is currently in the process of awarding works to a number of independent PV installers. Salix Project Managers will shortly be getting in touch with individual project sites with a summary of what to expect over the coming weeks, along with details of the allocated PV contractor at your site.

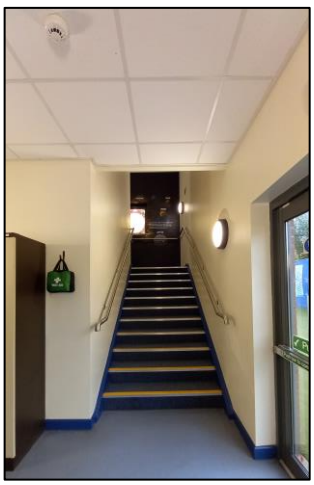
Some additional site visits will be arranged with individual sites, in order to assess roof structures and collect building component samples to examine for Asbestos Containing Materials. It is important that this sampling is carried out prior to works commencing.

Completed works

ESL (Energy Saving Lighting) have recently completed the installation of LED lighting installation at Taylor Road Primary School. This new lighting is much more energy efficient than their existing lighting, and will both save the school money on their energy bill, and reduce their carbon footprint. Below are photos of new lighting around the school building including the school hall, classrooms, stairs and corridors.





Feedback survey

We would love to get your feedback! Our fortnightly Salix Programme newsletters bring you a variety of information, and so we would love to hear about your experiences with the newsletter so far, and what you would like to see more of. All responses are anonymised and your feedback will help to shape the future of Salix newsletters and communications. Fill out our short survey here.

Contact us

Each site has a dedicated project manager (Alan Evans or John Squires), however if you have a general question or need to get in touch with the Salix Project Team email us at Salix.Project.Team@leicester.gov.uk