

Leicester City Council's Salix Programme Newsletter



December 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of the Salix Programme newsletter. This time find out how you can encourage staff and students to use energy efficiently, and see recent progress at project sites across Leicester.

Energy efficiency: behaviour change

Energy use is a major non-staff cost in schools and workplaces, and is a major part of a building's environmental impact. It is important to remember that some buildings will have greater scope for saving than others.

The [Carbon Trust](#) estimates that most businesses can cut energy spend by at least 10% by taking on some simple efficiency measures, and often by 20% through simple actions that produce quick returns on investment. This is applicable to schools, libraries, community centres and other council-owned buildings, and we have some tips on how to engage your staff and students to help you make a change and become more sustainable.

Behaviour Change and Culture

Green Policy for energy

Developing a green policy will help to show commitment to energy efficiency and can help to empower staff and pupils to make changes with support from senior leaders. A green policy should include a mission statement, objectives and targets, roles and responsibilities, a framework for action planning, and milestones to help you review progress.

Get staff and students involved

Reducing energy use has many advantages for schools – it saves money, reduces carbon emissions, improves the learning environment and can enhance a school's reputation. In order to maximise energy efficiency, the whole organisation must be involved in energy saving practices and encouraged to play their part.

Plan a 'walk around'

Conduct walk rounds at designated times, for example before school starts, during normal hours, and after school. You could even read the gas and electricity meters during a walk around get an idea of demand at different times of the day.

When walking around the building, pay attention to typical areas of energy use, for example kitchens, lighting, ventilation and computer equipment. Involve students by appointing 'energy monitors' or 'eco-champions' each term to switch off lights and equipment and close windows at home time. This is a useful housekeeping activity as well as an excellent way of conducting a mini walk round several times a day.



Run an awareness campaign

Awareness campaigns can help to get everyone interested and motivated to save energy. It should be designed around the school or buildings circumstances, taking the ages of pupils, staff's level of energy experience, and the time and resource available, into consideration.

- Make the pupils, staff and community more aware of the energy they are using in both environmental and monetary terms. They should be made aware of how their habits can have an impact on energy use and how changing them has a positive effect on carbon emissions.
- Include specific actions that people can take, as well as informing the wider audience of the larger actions the school or building is taking such as installing more efficient LED lighting, and the savings that their efforts have made.
- Keep students involved with competitions to design posters to target bad habits such as leaving the lights on when the room is not in use, or leaving a computer on standby instead of switching it off at the socket.
- Dedicate an area for an energy saving noticeboard – Posters designed by the pupils or projects related to energy saving topics can be displayed for the whole school to see.
- To keep energy in the minds of your community and to keep people contributing to energy savings, it is better to use a drip feed strategy rather than a one-time launch. Campaigns should be ongoing, monitored, and refreshed periodically with themes such as heating, windows, lighting, and electrical appliances.



Active management

Using existing heating or lighting controls effectively can reduce energy wastages, save money and reduce emissions by up to 40%.

- If a boiler is poorly operated or maintained, heating costs can increase by 30% or more. Ensure it is serviced at least annually and adjusted for optimum efficiency.
- Make sure temperature controls are adjusted to reflect different uses and activities in different areas or rooms. Check timers so they reflect actual hours of use, and are set to the right date and time.
- You may want to limit the ability for individuals to change the heating controls, or only enable very small adjustments.
- Make sure all sources of draughts are identified and appropriate draught proofing is fitted.

Completed works

Wyvern Primary School has recently had new LED lighting installed by Energy Saving Lighting, as well as solar PV panels on the roof of the building which have been installed by Feed It Green. Earlier this week, we visited the school with representatives from Feed It Green, and Councillor Adam Clarke, Deputy City Mayor with responsibility for Environment and Transportation in Leicester. Check out the photos below.

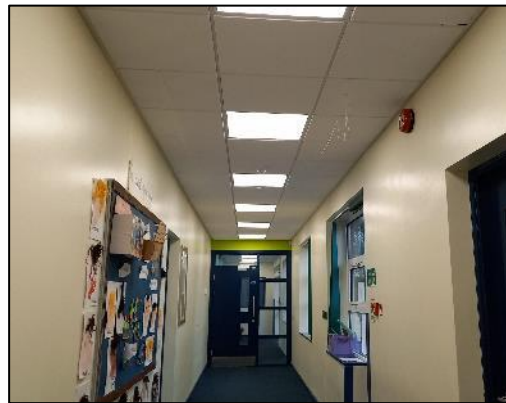


This week we also visited Beaumont Lodge Primary School for a traditional 'sod-cutting' ceremony, with Cllr Adam Clarke and representatives from Ashe Construction. Next week, Ashe will commence works to lay a concrete foundation on the school site, ahead of the installation of an Air source heat pump which will take place in the new year.



Completed works

Eyres Monsell Primary School recently received new LED lighting across the school building. This has brightened up their building and will help the school to save on energy costs and reduce carbon emissions by using more efficient lighting. See photos of their new lighting below.



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