

# Leicester City Council's Salix Programme Newsletter



Leicester  
City Council

March 2022

Welcome to the March edition of the Salix Programme newsletter. Read about how you will be able to monitor your site's solar PV panel energy output, and see progress at Salix project sites across Leicester.

## SolarEdge – monitoring your solar PV output

### What is SolarEdge?

As mentioned in previous newsletters, it is a good idea to monitor the output of your newly installed solar PV panels. In order to do this, you will be able to use an application called mySolarEdge.

This is a free, easy to use app that can run on a smartphone, tablet and web browser which will give you a real-time dashboard of your solar panels' power performance. MySolarEdge will also give you the option of smart-scheduling your energy usage to help lower your consumption. The app will show easy-to-follow charts to analyse and compare system production and consumption behaviour over time.



### How does it work?

For our Salix project sites, we have opted to use a cellular plug-in which provides wireless communication between the solar PV inverter and the SolarEdge monitoring platform removing the need to connect direct to your network. The plug-in is installed inside the SolarEdge inverter and is connected to an external antenna, simplifying the communication setup and saving installation time. There are various benefits to using this system:

- Connects SolarEdge inverters wirelessly to the internet
- Uses the widely available 4G cellular network
- SIM card installed within the inverter enclosure for outdoor resilience
- Enables remote analysis and troubleshooting
- Suitable for monitoring both residential and commercial sites

**Whilst we are continuing to deliver solar PV panels on-site, there is a current global shortage of GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) modules, which is the hardware device that uses GSM mobile telephone technology to provide a data link to a remote network, in this case the solar panels. We are currently anticipating delivery of the GSM modules in May 2022, and will be retrofitted to each site in a brief process.**

## Completed works

### Solar PVs

Blue Sun Energy has recently completed the installation of solar PVs at Imperial Avenue Infant School. The solar panels will help the school to generate their own electricity, reducing their electricity consumption from the grid, which will save money on their energy bills.



Beaumont Leys School has also had their new solar PV panels fitted by installer, Ineco Energy.



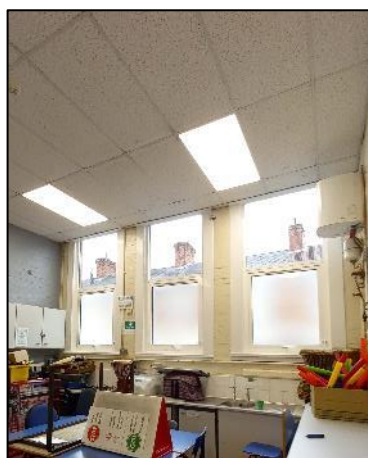
Solar PV panels have been installed at Knighton Library (**right**), by installer Energy Saving Lighting (ESL). This will help the site to generate their own electricity, reducing their energy use from the grid, thus lowering their carbon footprint.



## Completed works

### New windows

Shaftesbury Junior School has recently had new windows installed through Ashe Construction. The school has already noticed an immediate improvement in heating in their building, and are very pleased with the improved aesthetic of the school's windows. See some photos of the old existing windows, compared with the brand new windows, and some feedback from the school overleaf.



## Completed works - Feedback

*Although the works are not quite finished, they very nearly are and I just wanted to pass on my thanks to everyone involved. I feel as though the work has gone very smoothly, with good communication and pupils, parents and staff have all commented on how good the windows look. Staff have also noticed an immediate improvement in heating within their rooms too, as well as better ventilation.*

*Ben (Amber Windows), please pass on my thanks to all of your team for their work and professionalism. Surinder has mentioned how hard they have worked but also how accommodating they have been. I'd also like to commend them for how they've interacted with the kids; they even got some balls down from the roof for them whilst they were up the ladders and that put them firmly in the 'hero' category for our children!*

*Having the Ashe staff on site to co-ordinate has helped immensely and taken some of the pressure of Surinder, so thanks goes to them too.*

**Karl Stewart, Headteacher, Shaftesbury Junior School**

**If you would like to share any feedback on project progress at your site, please get in touch using the email address below. Additionally, if your site will be receiving new windows as part of the Salix funded works, we would be grateful if you could send us some photos of your existing windows.**

## Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

Earlier this week, a Service Level Agreement document was sent to all Headteachers and Business Managers of schools that are receiving Salix funded works from Leicester City Council. A final version of the Service Level Agreement will be issued to Headteachers next week via DocuSign, to enable a digital signature. If you have any questions about this, please get in touch with us via email: [Salix.Project.Team@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Salix.Project.Team@leicester.gov.uk).

## 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](mailto:Salix.Project.Team@leicester.gov.uk)