

Case Study

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Secondary School Energy Audits & Staff Training

The Challenge

The client, a county council local authority requested in depth energy and water efficiency and renewable energy audits to be undertaken in its portfolio of secondary schools.

The Solution

In total, twenty-three in depth energy efficiency, renewable energy and water audits were undertaken. A detailed report was written for each school listing the findings and recommendations. The executive summary included a table of the top five recommendations to allow a quick view of the key information for the best measures.

Four one-day training sessions were then organised, which all of the audited schools were invited to. The training was aimed at bursars and site managers to give an overview of main energy management techniques, energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies from a practical, financial and environmental view point. At the training events, the local authority energy management team ran a demonstration of their online energy management and bill validation software to promote its use within the school stock. The venues for the energy management training days were chosen to reduce the travel time required by the schools and to allow a part of the afternoon to be a demonstration of systems or technologies which the host school had already implemented. This demonstration of best practice within local schools served to further inspire the visiting schools to take action at their own premises.

The energy management training provided covered topics such as: Salix funding; monitoring and targeting energy use; working out carbon dioxide emissions using conversion factors; meter readings; advice on setting boiler controls; no or low cost measures that schools can take up; how to work out savings from energy efficiency measures; dispelling energy myths such as leaving on fluorescent lighting; renewable energy systems and the feed in tariffs and renewable heat initiative; case studies of successful schools projects; looking at half hourly data, comparing day/night scenarios, calculating base loads; air conditioning; IT and office equipment; Display Energy Certificates; Advisory Reports; and water saving and water management in schools.

The Outcome

Schools were assisted to apply for a Salix loan from a fund which had been ring fenced by the local authority. This was available to cover the up-front capital costs of measures that would pay back within 5 years.

The training days were also used to hold one-to-one meetings with each school to discuss the key aspects of their report and to formulate an action plan. This approach was found to be very effective at increasing the level of “engagement” with the project and schools became far more aware of the opportunities through taking specific time out from the everyday school environment.



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