

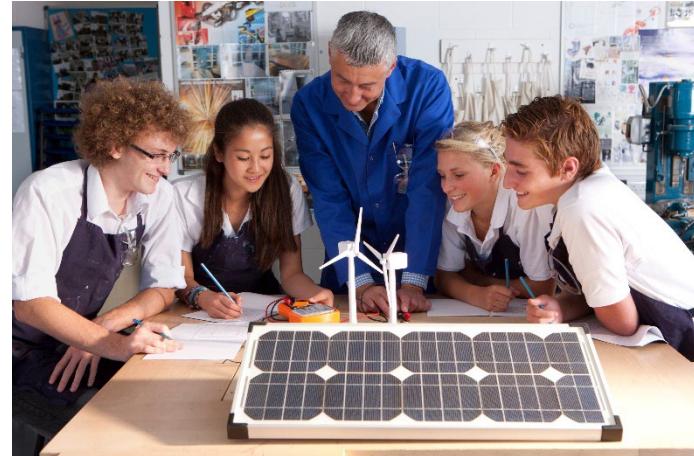


Reducing your energy and water consumption

Save money and cut carbon emissions

By David Edwards, Senior Adviser – Partnerships (Energy Services)

Understanding your energy and water usage is an important first step in creating a plan to reduce consumption and cut costs and carbon emissions. This is highlighted by the [Department for Education's guidance](#) and is relevant for all schools, regardless of their age and construction, the type of heating systems and insulation they have, or how the buildings are occupied and used. If you know how much energy and water you use and what's driving it, you can plan the best ways to reduce consumption, and measure how effective you've been.



We recommend schools follow these initial steps when getting started:

- **Energy:** make use of the half hourly data provided by your Smart meters to identify when and how you are consuming the most electricity. Installing and monitoring sub-meters can also help to pinpoint consumption at a more local level within your site. If you have Smart meters, you can access your usage data from your energy supplier for analysis. Schools that sign up to the Council's [Energy Management SLA](#) can access and analyse their consumption data through the Team Sigma system and raise any queries you may have with expert staff at Team Bureau.
- **Water:** in a similar way to electricity smart meters, data from Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology can provide detailed information about how and where water is used and whether leaks are causing wastage. Sub metering can be used to provide more granular data for water too. The Council is rolling out AMR to schools signed up to the Energy Management SLA and, in a similar way to energy, Team Bureau can help schools to identify consumption patterns and potential leaks. Schools without AMR are advised to submit monthly manual meter readings through the dedicated Southern Water Business Stream portal. This will help to provide a more complete picture for future water saving audits and interventions.

Schools signed up to the Council's Energy Management SLA can access other services in addition to 24/7 online access to billing and consumption data. These include the procurement of all utilities (electricity, natural gas, water and wastewater) through competitive pre-negotiated contracts and advice from the council's Energy Management team on utility costs, budgeting and forecasting.

Know your consumption? Time to create a plan

If your school already has a good grasp on its energy and water consumption data and has begun to audit its energy and water use, the following resources will be helpful in creating an action plan and exploring specific measures:



- Check whether the Council has completed a recent Building Review and Development Plan or a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for your school, as these documents may contain recommendations for energy and water saving measures. These plans can be found on the Council's [Concerto](#) system. Please contact the [Facilities Management Services for Education Helpdesk](#) if you would like to discuss the recommendations for your school.
- Look at the practical, free resources provided by [Sustainability Support for Education](#), which include practical steps to support [reducing energy consumption](#) and [cutting water use](#), as well as broader advice on creating your plan and changing behaviour.
- Find out whether the Council's [Solar PV & Battery Storage programme](#) could help you to reduce your energy costs and carbon emissions. This is a long-term programme to install solar panels and battery systems in suitable schools and Council buildings. The systems are installed, owned and maintained by the Council, and schools pay for the clean electricity generated at an agreed rate through a power purchase agreement (PPA). Email solar.battery@westsussex.gov.uk to find out more.
- If your school is in the Southern Water region, find out about the [free water saving audits](#) the company is offering as part of its commitment to reducing business water consumption.

Please contact the West Sussex County Council Energy Management Team by emailing FPDEnergyManagement@westsussex.gov.uk if you would like to find out more about monitoring your consumption and joining the Energy Management Service Level Agreement.