

Energy Efficiency

Many schools will already be considering environmental issues and implementing sustainability strategies as part of their curriculum or through their premises management. For schools who are looking for advice on how to improve their energy portfolios there are several tips to making sustainability a success.

- Ensure you have accurate data to support any funding requests you make.
- Measure and monitor your current energy usage.
- Set clear actions and targets.
- Make sure you have the time or resources to do this.
- Involve staff and give comparative figures they can relate to – eg, the cost of staff hours in relation to the cost of leaving lights or IT on overnight.
- Ensure premises staff are liaising with teaching staff to share responsibility.
- Involve pupils using energy efficiency as a learning experience.

The Schools Team can help gather and analyse energy data and then use the information to develop bids for Energy Efficiency funding.

As well as being used for replacing light bulbs, schools may not be aware that Energy Efficiency funding is also available for boiler replacements or roof repairs, any capital cost that will significantly decrease energy consumption.

There are 3 main Energy Efficiency Funds:

- SALIX
- UK ENERGY PARTNERS
- SCHOOLHAUS

SALIX can be applied for through the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) and allows schools to apply for an interest free loan to finance up to 100% of the costs of energy saving projects. This will enable eligible schools to use Salix funding to install the best possible energy efficiency technologies in their estates.

The repayment of the loan is a minimum of 5 years and can be flexible up to a maximum of 8 years, dependent on the project payback.

Projects must comply with the following criteria:

- the project must pay for itself from energy savings within a maximum 8 year period
- the cost of CO₂ must be less than £200 per tonne over the lifetime of the project

Salix assumes that the applicant and/or the partner(s) they are working with are competent and fully responsible for the projects to be funded. This may include but is by no means limited to:

- project identification & development
- establishment of firm costs and calculated estimated savings

- reasonable project sequencing and due care to ensure no double counting of savings when considering multiple projects on the same site
- selection of suitable supplier(s) following your individual procurement procedure
- project delivery including project management
- post project completion activities including any verification of savings

Energy Efficiency Funding is available through **UK ENERGY PARTNERS** who are part of **NET ZERO BUILDINGS**

UK Energy Partners offer a variety of operating lease solutions which are tailored to the project type. This is in effect a rental agreement which allows schools to benefit from the installation of energy efficient solutions without the need to find the capital at the outset.

UK Energy Partners have designed the lease to be fully compliant with Section 3.9 of the Academies Financial Handbook, meaning that you can enter into one without first seeking the approval of the Secretary of State.

Eligible energy efficiency solutions include lighting, heating and controls. Benefits are:

- Avoid all upfront capital costs
- Off balance sheet, non-debt finance
- Energy cost savings exceed cost of monthly payments
- Available to both the public and private sectors

Schoolhaus® Funding is provided through NZB Investments via a range of financing options of up to 20 years; as operating and/or finance leases.

The 20 years term means annual payments can be reduced and funded through revenue funding. Operating leases for 7 years or more and finance leases (of any length) require ESFA approval. The ESFA has confirmed the process and criteria for these applications and NZB Investments will support academies and other schools to obtain the approvals required.

<https://www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans>

<http://www.lessco2.org.uk/schools>

<http://www.netzerobuildings.co.uk/energy-efficiency-funding/>

<http://www.netzerobuildings.co.uk/schoolhaus-funding/>