

Abbey MAT schools receive £5m to fund green energy improvements

Project overview

As part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Abbey Multi-Academy Trust has been awarded £5m in government funding to reduce carbon emissions produced by its eight schools across England. It is estimated the technologies installed will reduce 9,156 tonnes of carbon emissions and save £84,855 annually.

The government grant will fund:

- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Hot water distribution pipework
- Heating improvements
- Solar PV

The grant supports Abbey MAT's Sustainability Plan, which outlines efforts to decarbonise energy sources in schools and bring costs down to enable greater investment in resources for pupils, such as laptops and other technologies.



"Abbey Multi Academy Trust is committed to reducing the Carbon Footprint within all its academies. Our aim is to reduce the overall greenhouse gas emissions, for those emissions which we are directly responsible for and have greatest influence. The PSDS grant will allow us to lay the foundations for decarbonisation by replacing existing gas heating with high efficiency cooling and heating systems."

David Ryder, Head of IT and Infrastructure, Abbey Multi-Academy Trust

Estimated savings for Abbey Multi-Academy Trust (across all sites)

Annual savings:
£84,855

Total grant value:
£5m

Annual carbon savings:
776.2 tCO₂e

For more information...

Please contact us on **020 4542 6439**
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Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) funds the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme which was delivered by Salix Finance.

The Grant Scheme provided £1bn of grant funding which aligns with BEIS' priorities: fighting coronavirus, backing business, unleashing innovation and tackling climate change. The scheme also encourages green investment, supporting the Government's net-zero and clean growth goals.

The scheme was made available for capital energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects within public sector non-domestic buildings, including central government departments and non-departmental public bodies in England only, to deliver the following objectives:

1. Deliver stimulus to the energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation sectors, supporting jobs.
2. Deliver significant carbon savings within the public sector.

The scheme allowed public sector bodies, including eligible central government departments and their non-departmental public bodies in England only, to apply for a grant to finance up to 100% of the costs of capital energy-saving projects that met the scheme criteria.

Leading by example

The project raises awareness of climate issues and demonstrate that schools can lead by example, encouraging the discussion of energy efficiency. When pupils return in September 2021, all eight schools will hold assemblies to explain the purpose of these changes, teaching children about carbon reduction and cost savings.

All Abbey MAT schools have a robust recycling programme, which helps reduce waste produced in classrooms. In 2019, 63% of 11-18 year olds in the UK said the environment was their biggest concern in a YouGov study. Students feel passionately about the issue of sustainability and there is even an 'Eco Club' at one of the schools, which has been expanded throughout the trust.

The grant will save on school's energy costs and free up capital which will be reinvested in resources for pupils. Each school will be able to invest in additional learning materials for pupils and allocate more budget to physical improvements to classrooms.



Abbey MAT's Sustainability Programme

- Investing in over £500k worth of LED lighting upgrades
- Reduce emissions and save money to reinvest in academies
- Recycling programme throughout all academies
- Supporting a culture of energy awareness
- Utilities logging and analysis
- Enhance building fabric to increase thermal efficiencies

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