

University of Reading receives £3.3m to install carbon-saving technologies on campus



Decarbonising the University of Reading's Campus

As part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), launched in 2020 by the Department for Business, Energy, and Industry (BEIS) and delivered by Salix, the University of Reading has been awarded £3.3 million to implement several initiatives across their estate which will significantly reduce carbon emissions.

In addition to the PSDS, the university also benefitted from the Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF). The LCSF was used to provide additional internal and external resource to support delivery of the main grant. The funding allowed the university to undertake a number of feasibility studies for future heat decarbonisation schemes.

The university announced their Sustainability Vision at the beginning of 2021 which centred around a goal of becoming net-zero by 2030 (significantly earlier than industry-wide targets) and surpassing their target of a 45% reduction to carbon emissions.

The funding will allow for the implementation of technologies which work to decarbonise heat and increase renewable energy supplies. A focus on decarbonisation of heat is a crucial part of the current UK green agenda in addition to the University of Reading's goal of becoming the 'greenest' university in the country.

Estimated savings achieved by University of Reading

Annual financial savings:
£423,724

Total grant value:
£3.3m

Annual carbon savings:
377 tCO₂e

For more information...

Please contact us on **020 4542 6439**
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"We have the ambition to become one of the greenest universities in the world and the carbon savings these projects will achieve will help move us closer to that end goal. The key projects in our funding application aim to redesign the way the heating is zoned in some key buildings, so we don't end up with unnecessary wastage as a result of it being all on or all off. We have secured funding for major lighting and energy efficiency upgrades on our three campuses, as well as nine further solar panel systems on our main campus, which will treble our current renewable energy generation and support our drive in tackling the climate agenda."

Dan Fernbank, Energy & Sustainability Director at the University of Reading

Technical Overview

- Focus on low carbon heating across campus.
- Redesign of heating in key buildings to avoid waste.
- Reduce the heating demand and decarbonise the heat input using a smaller pump to save cost and optimise energy efficiency.
- Using the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) allowed for additional internal procurement, energy analysis and sustainability resource.



Future Plans

The University of Reading plans to continue decarbonisation efforts in line with their new environmental strategy by looking at:

- The decarbonisation of heating sources
- Increasing renewable energy supplies
- Continuing to reduce energy wastage where opportunities arise
- Reducing and capturing business travel emissions

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme is funded by The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and delivered by Salix Finance.

The scheme offered £1bn of grant funding for capital energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects within the public sector in England.

Information about the PSDS and further schemes can be found on the Salix website www.salixfinance.co.uk

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