

# Leeds invests in new green technology with £25.3m government grant



## Decarbonising the city of Leeds

Leeds City Council received £25.3m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) to install a range of decarbonisation measures across the city.

The PSDS, launched in 2020 by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and delivered by Salix, was introduced to encourage green investment, supporting the Government's net-zero and clean growth goals.

The installation of multiple technologies will substantially reduce the city's carbon emissions and help to simulate the local green economy by safeguarding and creating approximately 330 jobs as part of the COVID-19 recovery.

The Council is on track to halve its carbon footprint by 2025 as part of its emissions target of net-zero by 2030, 20 years earlier than the UK. Leeds City Council is a long-term proponent of sustainability and has been working with Salix since 2006 to upgrade its energy technologies in public buildings across the city.

## Estimated savings achieved by Leeds City Council

Annual financial savings:  
**£772,894**

Lifetime financial savings:  
**£15.1m**

Annual carbon savings:  
**4,000 tCO<sub>2e</sub>**

### For more information...

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“This announcement is great news for the environment and good news for Leeds. We are on track to halve our own emissions by 2025 and by the end of the year, some of our most historic buildings will soon become our greenest. Many primary schools will also benefit from this funding – paying less for energy so that they can spend more instead on educating the next generation.”

**Councillor Helen Hayden**, Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development.



### Technical breakdown

- **Solar panels** installed across 35 leisure centres, primary schools, and other council owned buildings.
- Leeds Town Hall, Civic Hall, City Museum and Central Library will be among six properties benefitting from **household waste powered district heating network**.
- **Heat pumps** will be installed at 32 primary schools and council buildings.
- Thousands of **LED light bulbs** will be installed across 15 buildings in the city.

### Leeds City Council’s Best Council Plan

The Council is looking to set an example for other businesses and organisations across the city by becoming carbon-neutral within their own organisation. Some examples of how the council is looking to achieve this are:

- Purchasing electricity from renewable sources.
- Investing £100m to improve energy efficiency in existing council housing by 2025.
- Reducing the amount of meat in school meals.
- Planting large areas of woodland on their own land.

### Household Waste Powered District Heating Network

The Leeds PIPES network is a flagship £40m programme which provides affordable, waste-powered heat and hot water to homes and businesses. District Heating Networks replace old, inefficient gas boilers with low carbon heat from the Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility (RERF) in Cross Green.

Funding was secured from a variety of European, national and regional sources in addition to significant investment from the council. The second phase of the project was enabled by a grant from the Heat Network Investment Project. Leeds has become the UK’s flagship for new heat networks. The network connects 2,000 properties and four key council buildings (Civic Hall, Town Hall, Leeds Museum and the Art Gallery).

Work with partners such as Vital Energi has resulted in the network supporting more than 400 jobs. The PIPES network has a capacity of 33MW and is expected to provide up to 175GWh of low carbon heat per year.



The network also improves air quality, supports the local economy through job creation and reduces fuel poverty for Leeds City Council tenants. Further expansion is planned into the South Bank, with a final vision of a fully connected network with multiple energy centres.

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