

# The **Bedford College Group** harness the power of the Ouse River to decarbonise heating with £2.8 million grant



As part of efforts to significantly reduce carbon emissions, The Bedford College Group has implemented major infrastructure changes across a number of campuses, in support of its goal to reach net zero emissions.

## Project overview

The College, which is comprised of several sites across Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, is expecting to save over 350 tonnes of carbon and £88,000 annually through their ambitious heat decarbonisation plan.

Through undertaking feasibility studies, the

College were able to conclude that it was their Cauldwell Campus that would most benefit from infrastructure improvements. It is here that they dedicated a large fraction of the £2.8 million grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), which was delivered by Salix via the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

## Estimated savings for Luton Borough Council

### Annual savings:



**£88,000**

### Total grant value:



**£2.8M**

### Annual carbon savings:



**350 tCO<sub>2</sub>e\***

\*Calculated using Green Book emissions factors for electricity published by the government.

## For more information...

Please contact us on **020 4542 6439**  
or **grants@salixfinance.co.uk**

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## Utilising natural resources

The grant allowed for the installation of a Water Source Heat Pump (WSHP) at the College's Brundtland Building, which is licenced to take water from the Ouse River. This upgrade will work as a heating system; as well as enabling the college to replace gas boilers and decarbonise the heating of the building.

The College's plan to reduce its carbon emissions across its infrastructures also involves controlling heating through Genius Controls which operate similarly to movement sensors. This technology detects when there is movement in the room and sends a signal to generate heating and manages the levels when the room is vacant.

## Moving forward

The Brundtland building is set to be carbon negative following the upgrades, which brings the college nearer to its goal of attaining net zero status by 2050. The College have plans to further innovate its campuses to improve the energy efficiency of their estate. Introducing a new net zero building; the Connolly Centre for Modern Construction, is an example of such an initiative and the College's dedication to reducing their carbon emissions.



"Winning the PSDS enabled us to take the next step in our decarbonisation journey, not only is this project beneficial environmentally, it has also allowed us to enhance the comfort of our students and staff. This year the College will launch its Social Responsibility Strategy. Staff and learners will be invited to participate in the many aspects of this strategy including the plan to decarbonise our built environment. This falls in line with our mission of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050."

**Pat Jones**, Executive Director of Finance at the College

## Technical Breakdown

- Water Source Heat Pump (WSHP)
- Genius Control - heating management system
- Carbon management strategy with learners.
- Future implementation of air source heat pumps (ASHP).

## 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 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.

Further information about the PSDS and further schemes can be found on the Salix website.

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