

£4.9 million grant helps propel **Cranfield University** to reach its net zero target



Project overview

Cranfield University, which specialises in science, engineering, technology and management has been awarded £4.9 million for a wide range of environmental improvements centred on its district heating system.

With the university's 24-year-old inefficient boiler heading towards its end-of-life usage, part of the funding has gone towards replacing it with an air source heat pump, which will also help reduce the running of the gas-fired combined heat and power unit.

This project is the latest venture in a long-standing partnership between Cranfield University and Salix Finance which began in 2009 and will see upgrades to the building management system and LED lighting installed. Its solar farm will also be extended to help balance the electrical system as reliance on the

existing gas fired combined heat and power is reduced.

The university has been a leader in energy and power for over 20 years and is known for its innovation in solar technology. These latest projects will see the university save £54,488 per year and more than £5 million over the project's 100-year lifetime. It will also reduce carbon emissions by 1,214 per year – and more than 120,000 tonnes over its lifetime, continuing its commitments to the government's UK net zero target by 2050 and its own green initiatives.

Salix Finance helped deliver the project, through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), which is funded by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Estimated savings for Cranfield University

Annual savings:



£54,488

Total grant value:



£4,999,701

Annual carbon savings:



1,214 tCO₂e*

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

For more information...

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Cranfield University has set an ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. To achieve this, the use of gas on site must be reduced both for heating and for electricity generation. The funding through PSDS Phase 2 has allowed us to significantly reduce gas usage on the district heating. The extension to the solar farm, installation of LED lighting projects and the large battery help to reduce electricity use and better balance demand.

Gareth Ellis, Energy & Environment Manager, Cranfield University

“After over a decade of utilising Salix's energy efficiency loan schemes, it is great to see Cranfield University now capitalise on Phase 2 PSDS funding to install low carbon heating technologies. The project's holistic approach has enabled immense benefits to decarbonise their district heating network and campus. Gareth's persistence and innovative tactics to reach the University's 2030 net zero agenda has been a pleasure to witness. Looking forward to what comes next.”

Justin Morris, Programme Coordinator, Colleges and Universities at Salix Finance

Technical breakdown

- Installation of an air source heat pump to replace inefficient, end-of-life boiler
- Heating pipework – improving distribution of heat across network
- Building Management System – to improve control of energy
- LED Lighting – to reduce reliance on electricity
- Solar – extension to existing solar farm



Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)

PSDS is funded by 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.

Its intention is to stimulate the energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation sectors, support jobs and deliver significant carbon savings within the public sector.

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

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