



Reference: FOI-142

Request:

1. Since the start of this academic year, has your authority issued any guidance to LA-maintained schools about how they can cut energy usage? If so, what advice have they been given, what medium was it sent via, and when was it sent?
2. Since the start of this academic year, have you told your local Authority maintained schools that they should cut energy usage? Have they been given targets for energy reduction, and if so, what targets have they been given?

Response:

1. Yes.

The authority has been an advocate in promoting the participation of schools in the Green Flag Award Scheme, including this academic year. Within this progressive award process, energy is one of the 'doorways' which has encouraged many schools to start to monitor their usage with the help of the caretaker and business manager. Examples of actions which have resulted from this includes classroom energy monitors, traffic light systems for classes that leave their lights on, posters to remind people to turn things off and switch off days.

The authority is currently in the development phase of undertaking Heat Decarbonisation Plans for schools which have volunteered to participate in this particular pilot project.

Since 2009 North Tyneside Council has undertaken several school specific projects which have been aimed at providing guidance on energy efficiency and carbon reduction. These have ranged from general school assemblies, to very technical 1-1 training for Bursars and school managers in the use of real-time software tools to monitor and target electricity and gas consumption.

Carbon budgets were set in 2010/11 (targets) for the highest consuming schools as well as Authority operational buildings and revised annually in line with the pre-2019 authority carbon reduction targets. Performance against these targets were provided to all named schools on a monthly basis until the Covid pandemic. Following the pandemic, the Authority undertook renewable energy feasibility studies using a specialised software to schools who volunteered to participate in a pilot scheme. This provided detailed business cases and project options to the participants; progression of which, was left to the individual schools to determine.



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2. No.

The Authority has not directly instructed educational establishments to cut energy; it has adopted a signposting support process.

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