

 Brent	<p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOLS FORUM 19 September 2014</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Policy and Performance (Environment and Neighbourhoods) & Property and Asset Management (Regeneration & Major Projects)</p>
<p>For Information WARDS affected: ALL</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Year Two: Low Carbon Schools Programme Monitoring Report</p>	

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out a two year review of the success of the Low Carbon Schools programme against the three specific energy reduction targets for the project group's tiers, which was agreed by the Schools Forum in February 2012.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The project's primary goal was to encourage schools to manage their energy usage effectively in order to reduce energy bills and the liability arising from the CRC energy efficiency scheme (carbon tax). In 2011/12 Schools accounted for 76% of the council's CRC liability. On this premise both the Council and Schools Forum agreed in February 2012 that a project should be put in place to reduce ever increasing energy costs and mitigate against future rises in CRC costs. Based on research carried out through a Brent Council and Carbon Trust pilot project (the Collaborative Low Carbon Schools Programme), the Forum agreed to fund the project by top slicing from the Schools' Budget for one year. The money allowed for the creation of two full time posts during 2012/13, one as a "Schools' Energy Advisor - Technical Specialist" and a second as an "Energy Advisor – Behaviour Change and Curriculum".

A project closing report was brought to the Schools Forum in September 2013, outlining the successes of the project (**appendix A**). The Forum agreed that due to the time it takes to implement this kind of multi-faceted project in a school, monitoring and evaluation should be measured over a two year period as a minimum to allow time for technology to bed in and behaviour change programmes to become established. This report was requested at that time.

From April 1st 2014 schools no longer participate in the statutory CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme and therefore do not pay the associated tax, although the motivation to reduce energy bills should still be driven forward as the cost of energy continues to rise year on year.

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 The Brent Low Carbon Schools Project commenced in April 2012. All schools were eligible to receive support and advice from the project team however at varying different levels due to resource constraints. The support packages were delineated into three distinct tiers, 'New Intake', 'Existing partners' and 'Entry level'.

3.2 The support packages had the following targets;

Low Carbon Schools groups	2012/13 Target - kWh % reduction per annum
New Intake (full programme - technical and behaviour change)	14%
Existing partners (Light touch approach)	3%
Entry level (Pre service support)	2%

3.3 '**New intake**' – These were thirteen schools identified to receive the full level of support available. The Schools were selected on highest CO₂ emitters per square meter of floor space as requested by the Schools Forum. Schools were able to draw extensively upon the expertise and experience of the two officers responsible for project delivery (regular one to one support). As well as support, schools had access to Salix finance as a priority and specific areas of the Low Carbon Schools website.

3.4 '**Existing partner**' - Ten schools, which had previously taken part in the Collaborative Low Carbon Schools (CLCSS) pilot were provided with a comprehensive support service to help consolidate their previous efforts. These schools also had access to a bespoke, password protected '**Existing partner**' schools areas on the Low Carbon Schools webpage and could contact the Schools' Behaviour Change Officer and Schools' Technical Officer with queries. The 'Existing partner' schools also had access to Salix finance and a visit from the Technical Officer if requested, however the thirteen 'New Intake' schools were prioritised.

3.5 All other borough schools were classed as '**Entry level**' and were able to access open areas of the Low Carbon Schools website. However, use of the project team's more extensive range of services, such as detailed notes which accompany one to one support, was restricted.

4.0 Results

4.1 Using data gathered for the 2013/14 CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, it has been possible to monitor the success of the project over a two year period. Table 1, outlines the progress of New Intake and Existing Partner Schools over the last two years against the 2011/12 baseline.

Table 1 - **New Intake and Existing Partner Schools**

	2013/14 kWh (DD adjusted)	2013/14 CO ₂ (DD adjusted)	2012/13 % cost saving % (DD adjusted)	2012/13 £ Cost saving** (DD adjusted)
New Intake and Existing Partner Schools (23 schools in total*)	-13%	-7%	-7 %	-£86,799

*2011/12 baseline

**based on averaged kWh prices across schools of 3p/kWh gas and 10p/kWh electric

4.2 The table highlights that the New Intake and Existing Partner schools have collectively, reduced their energy use by 13% and their energy bills and CO2 emissions by 7%, saving almost £87k over the two year period.

4.3 Table 2 outlines the progress each level of support achieved against the targets set in 2012.

Table 2 - Results against targets

Low Carbon Schools groups	2012/13 Target - kWh % reduction per annum	2013/14 Actual kWh % reduction per annum	2012/13 Actual kWh % reduction per annum (New suggested combined results for New Intake and Existing partner schools)
New Intake (full programme - technical and behaviour change)	-14%	-13%	- 13%
Existing partners (Light touch approach)	- 3%	-12%	
Entry level (Pre service support)	-2%	-7%	

4.4 New intake schools narrowly missed its 14% energy reduction target over the two year period, achieving a reduction of 13% instead. Existing partner schools exceed their 3% target over the two year period, achieving a 12% reduction. Overall New Intake and Existing partner schools who received one to one support achieved an overall reduction of 13% in energy. Entry level schools also performed well exceeding their 2% target by achieving 7% over the two year period.

- 4.5 If we consider all participating schools (including 'entry level' schools) in 2013/14, they collectively **reduced their energy consumption by 9%, their CO₂ emissions by 5.3%, and** achieved a larger overall saving of **£172K** over two years for a £90K upfront (1 year programme) investment.
- 4.6 CRC data illustrates that collectively Brent Schools reduced their tax bill by 5% between 2012/13 and 2013/14, which equates to £12,303 on top of the savings on bills.

5.0 The future of the Low Carbon Schools programme

- 5.1 Due to a change of rule by Central Government, Local Authorities are unable to top slice and hold funds from the schools' budget, making it difficult to collectively fund the Low Carbon School project. .
- 5.2 If schools require support in delivering future energy efficiency savings from a technical and/or behaviour change perspective, it has been agreed with the Children and Families department that it would be more practical for schools to do this on a school by school basis, through a paid for traded service. This would allow schools to tailor the service to their specific needs and build in aspects which are not funded under Salix finance, for example, training for onsite staff on how to best use Building Management Systems and setting boilers correctly. Schools would still have access to the Council's Salix finance to implement technical projects, however, may decide to use their own funding methods.
- 5.3 Similar to the Low Carbon Schools Programme, there will be two aspects to the traded service offered to schools – one technical and the other behaviour change. Both services will be offered to schools through an external party with the council acting as a point of contact for any support required. The traded service contract will be between the schools and the external organisation offering the service. Appendix B outlines the draft detail of the technical traded service offered by EIE Sustainability Consulting. Schools should contact Anis Robinson, Council Energy Manager for further details. For schools seeking behaviour change support a minimum number of schools is required in order for the programme to be viable for the external partner to deliver. Please contact Emily Ashton between September 2014 and December 2014 if you would like to register your interest and the viability of the programme will be considered.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Close the project in its current form and ask schools to approach the Council directly if they would like any further tailor made support, either technical, behavioural change or both, on a traded service basis.
- 7.2 If a programme similar to the Low Carbon Schools Programme is to be rolled out to Brent schools again, the areas within the **Low Carbon Schools Programme Closing Report – September 2013** (appendix A) will need to be addressed and full school support given to the project.

7.3 Continue to host the Brent Council Low Carbon Schools webpage for all schools to have access to the entry level service.

8.0 SUMMARY

8.1 The project's overall achievement can be demonstrated despite the **New Intake** schools narrowly missing their 14% reduction target, **achieving a 13% reduction** in energy use instead. **Existing Partner** schools have continued to make savings, achieving a **12% overall reduction**, well above its 3% target. **Collectively New Intake and Existing Partner schools have reduced their energy use by 13%. Entry level schools** have also exceeded their target, by **achieving a 7% reduction** on its 2% target.

8.2 Collectively all schools have reduced their energy by **9% which equates to £172k of energy savings** for an upfront collective cost of £90k, which is a significant achievement.

8.3 During previous years, it has been difficult to draw a direct comparison between schools CRC data due to changes in reporting. However, reporting has remained the same during 2012/13 and 2013/14, which has allowed one year's worth of saving to be reported on. Within the scope of the CRC, **schools have collectively reduced their tax bill by over £12k, a reduction of 5%.**

8.4 Through communications over Salix finance and the new RE:FIT retrofit programme, schools have demonstrated that they still have an interest in saving energy and reducing CO₂ emissions in order to save money.

8.3 Schools who have not been selected to be part of the RE:FIT programme and require additional support beyond Salix finance will be able to seek advice from an independent Traded Service. Technical support will be delivered by EIE Sustainability Consultants. If a school requires behaviour change support, please contact the Environmental Projects and Policy team. In order to deliver an independent behaviour change service a minimum number of schools will need to sign up in order to make the traded service viable.

9.0 CONTACT OFFICERS

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Appendix A



Appendix A Low
Carbon Schools Progr

Appendix B – To follow or tabled