

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLS FROM RESIDUAL CRC  
FUNDING  
DATE: 10 September 2012  
RECIPIENT: Schools Forum

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. Following the payment of the Carbon Reduction Commitment carbon allowances for the year 2011/2012, there was a remainder of £42,805 in the budget that had been set aside for the payment of allowances.
2. The Energy Team was asked to propose a programme to facilitate and promote energy efficiency throughout schools to which this funding could be applied. The resulting savings on energy bills should more than offset the expenditure and ideally lead to reduced energy bills well into the future
3. As the funding would not be sufficient to cover significant technical improvements, the funding would need to represent a benefit for all schools in other ways, such as a school wide energy engagement programme, the provision of resources, such as posters, stickers, prizes, etc, a common resource that could be shared by all, a demonstration project in one school of an innovative technology, training in energy efficiency (site managers) for all schools, employing a schools energy officer on a fixed one year contract some combination of the above.
4. In addition to actual savings on energy expenditure, there would be added educational benefit for the students, and potential enhancement of the reputation of Southampton schools as there would be a greater potential to achieve eco schools or DECC energy awards.
5. Options with estimated costs are on the attached Schools Energy Programme Budget. Most of the costs are estimated, and some will vary according to level of budget accorded to it. For example, there is an option of creating and maintaining a Southampton Sustainable Schools webpage. Actual costs will be proportional to the level of detail and creative design input requested. This type of detail could be determined within a given sub-budget.
6. The shape of the programme will depend on each school's choice and desired level of participation or preference. If it is decided to offer a mix and match framework of options, schools would need to choose from a list, in some cases on a first come first served basis where the provision would be limited to a specific number of schools. The Energy Team would coordinate arrangements once choices are submitted by schools.
7. Although the aim is to benefit all schools, it is worth considering implementing a more comprehensive pilot with a smaller sub-set of schools where the programme and results can be used as a guide to other schools (see point 9 below).

8. An alternative to the options framework from which schools could choose would be to devote a majority of the budget to employing someone experienced in schools energy efficiency/engagement for one year to advise and support all schools in energy efficiency. The post holder would work to implement low and no cost methods to reduce energy use. An example of this type of project is at Hampshire County Council, which has hired a schools energy efficiency worker to work on a one to one basis with 10 schools for a year. This option is thought to carry a high level of probability that savings much greater than investment would accrue.
9. It is considered that the site managers' training also has a greater potential for saving than other options as they tend to have the greatest control over the energy use of the site.

#### RESOURCE/POLICY/Financial/LEGAL Implications:

10. Ideally, an investment that is intended to make savings (invest to save) would include a figure for expected savings were the investment to be made. In this situation it would be difficult to provide this as many factors are not known with certainty, such as how much of current energy consumption is wasted and as such could be saved by a change in behaviour. However, it is often been quoted that approximately 2% to 10% savings are potentially achievable following an energy efficiency awareness programme. There was about £2.3m spent on gas and electricity in schools during the previous financial year. Two percent of £2.3m is £46,000.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

12. Considering the level of current energy expenditure, particularly where the CRC allowance purchase is included, it would seem that the investment has a good chance of being more than recouped by undertaking a programme of energy efficiency awareness and training.
13. The employment of someone whose primary purpose was to save energy, money and carbon in schools could provide not only these savings, but could demonstrate the business case for the continuation of this post in the future, leading to greater savings in future.
13. It is also considered that the practical energy efficiency training for site managers by the Buildings Research Establishment is included as the site managers have greatest potential to control energy use. If done in tandem with awareness raising, it would mean that two main aspects of energy use were being addressed: technical practical measures and behaviour change amongst staff and students.

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