

## Best practice: ECO Schools in Leicester, UK

Leicester City Council has supported schools on environmental education since 2014 using the Eco-Schools programme as the model of delivery. Over 100 schools are registered on the programme with over 60 at bronze and 10 green flag Eco-Schools <https://schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools>.

Schools can work on energy as one of their three topics for their green flag application. The environmental education officer is based in the estates and building division and therefore keen to ensure schools use energy and water as sustainably as possible. In the past schools have access an online tool to monitor their energy use in the form of graphs. Through this system school children, from around 8 years upwards are able to look at graphed data and compare data use with previously years which is important for the monitoring and evaluation step of Eco-Schools. While this system has been extremely useful it has a number of flaws. The first is schools need a username and password to login, the second can't be used by all ages and some basic training is needed. Finally the data is only available for individual school and can't be compared 'side by side' for the school or against other schools.

The simplistic Edi-net approach allows all used to understand using the smiley faces even the very young in infant schools (ages 4+). The lack of password means it is more accessible and the ability to compare your efforts against other schools is fascinating to compare and there are some real competitive schools coming forward checking their ranking weekly and even daily!

### Actions taken

The Edi-net tools have been rolled out to schools in a number of ways including:

- Face to face training session in December 2017
- Regular teacher and business manager meetings
- Governor information and training sessions
- Regular newsletters to emails to school leaders
- Face to face meeting with premises officers

The face to face meeting allowed users to explore the dashboard and forum tools and ask questions from the developers and advisors from the local authority. It also allowed school leaders to talk to each other face to face and provide opportunities to take these discussions online using the forum.

The Edi-net approach of smiley faces is intuitive and easy to understand, therefore all users have found it easy at first glance to use. They are then able to look at data in more details using the graphing tool to see where the excess use is present. If users then want to go into more detail they have been able to access

other tools outside of Edi-Net, however on the whole most users aren't needing this next step.

It has been identified that using the system allows users to quickly identify if they are using more energy than they typically are and then make changes (i.e. heating left on, tap or toilets running).

The reverse of this has also been true, where users implement a behaviour change they can quickly see the impact of smiley faces becoming more green. There is also impetus to continuously make improvements to remain at the top of the league.

## Energy Management in Schools Workshop

*Energy and water is one of the biggest spends for schools after staffing. Leicester City Council has worked closely with De Montfort University to develop tools to empower staff and students to take control of their energy. This free interactive & practical workshop will give you the tools to do this.*

**Thursday 14 December 2017**

1.00pm-4.30pm - Vijay Patel Building, De Montfort University

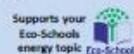
Lunch will be provided from 1pm, with the workshop starting at 1.30pm

**Who would benefit from this workshop:** All school staff with an interest in energy management including school business managers, premises officers, facilities managers, site supervisors, teachers, senior leaders and Eco-Schools leads



### Why attend?

- Learn how to access and use **DynamatLite**, the energy monitoring website used by Leicester City Council
- Use **strategies & activities** to engage your staff and students to reduce your energy consumption
- Learn how to use the **new and dynamic tools** from the Edi-Net project developed by De Montfort University
- **Network** with other colleagues
- **Resources and freebies**



This free event is free and open to all schools in Leicester City. You are encouraged to send 2 members of staff.

To book your place please go to [SchoolEnergy.eventbrite.co.uk](http://SchoolEnergy.eventbrite.co.uk) or [Lee.Jowett@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.Jowett@leicester.gov.uk) as soon as possible to confirm

## Energy monitoring and EDI-Net

In December we successfully ran a training day with over 35 schools staff. Leicester City Council has been working with De Montfort University on the Edi-Net project. A smart use of data to enable users to visualise their energy and water consumption through smiley faces.

The afternoon involved teachers and staff looking at their own school data and reviewing where savings could be made. There were some very interesting conversations taking place! To review your own energy data look at the website below.



[dashboard.edi-net.eu](https://dashboard.edi-net.eu)



 *Supports the Eco-Schools energy topic*

## Results

Schools have always been interested in energy savings, particularly with current constrained budgets, however tools are difficult to manage for people with busy day-jobs. The first step has been empowering users to understand their consumption which Edi-Net has done very quickly. Schools are now looking at how they can improve their performance on a daily and weekly basis and therefore save. Across the schools with access to the system at least half are looking at the dashboard on a regular basis with increased numbers as more become aware of the system.

Schools are becoming competitive with each other. For example a premises officer recently said that he wasn't to remain in the top 10 of primary schools. Children are also becoming more aware of energy consumption and the impact of saving through the smiley face. Teachers are able to easily show their class the webpage on a regular basis and keep energy savings at the forefront of everyone's minds. Schools have been able to use the dashboard as a tool of monitoring for the Eco-Schools Green Flag applications. Below are a couple of schools who display the smiley faces on their Eco-board to raise awareness of energy and water savings.



## Financial information

It is difficult to quantify cost savings at this time, as schools have only been using for a short time, however schools have commented that they are seeing more green smiley faces and therefore must be saving energy. They will be able to comment more when their DEC energy certificates are updated (annually).

It is hoped that schools will continue to use the tools to 1) constantly monitor their usage and attempt to continually reduce and 2) speak to other people in similar roles via the forum to share best practice and ideas.

## Replication and plans

The intention is to run further training sessions with school teachers, business managers and premises officer who are all interested in energy and water saving.

Further promotions of newsletters and emails will be sent to school leaders to remind them and also promote via school meetings.

We have already create primary and secondary tables as well as mini-tables when schools are working on energy projects such as the Ashden Less CO2 programme (<https://www.ashden.org/about/less-co2>) and in the future we intend, as more schools use the tools, to create mini-league tables between schools and groups in the city.



1.	 Christ the King Catholic Primary School	 Electricity	 Water	 Gas
2.	 Evington Valley Primary School	 Gas	 Water	 Electricity
3.	 Rushey Mead Primary School	 Water	 Electricity	 Gas
4.	 Green Lane Infant School	 Water	 Electricity	 Gas