

How to fund **energy efficiency upgrades** in your school

Schools in Wales are able to receive 100% interest-free financing for over 100 energy efficient technologies through the Wales Funding Programme, administered by Salix Finance.

This guide explains how schools can gain revenue savings by investing in energy efficiency projects as well as reducing carbon emissions and improving the learning environment. Salix has been working in partnership with the Welsh Government since 2009. Since then, over £7.2m has been allocated for over 430 projects.

How does it work?

Salix provides 100% interest-free loans to schools to undertake energy efficiency upgrades. This loan is paid back using the savings produced through reduced energy bills.

Energy efficiency improvements result in lower energy bills, therefore saving revenue spending in your school. As well as consuming less energy, these upgrades can also result in a more comfortable learning and working environment for pupils and staff.

Using energy more efficiently reduces carbon dioxide emissions lowering your school's carbon footprint, helping to meet government targets and encouraging students to learn about environmental responsibility.

Salix support over 100 types of energy efficient technologies. At the point of application, you will need to have confirmed

which measures you are planning to install, including accurate costings. You should also have not started any works on site.

Applications should meet Welsh Government criteria of an 8 year payback and should cost no more than £278 per tonne over the lifetime of the project.

Salix may be able to part fund projects that do not meet the criteria.

How do I learn about energy efficiency in my school?

The Welsh Government Energy Service provides support to the public sector in Wales to develop energy saving projects. Schools can access this support to assist with identification and development of projects that help to reduce energy spend, improve the learning environment and make carbon savings.

Schools can also work with their local authority or use a consultant to conduct an energy audit, help identify projects and prepare an application. Loan applications can include project management fees as long as the application remains compliant with the 8 year payback.

Alternatively, schools can identify their own energy efficiency projects and apply

directly to Salix with quotes they have obtained.

The Salix free 'Knowledge Share' area on the website, contains case study examples of previous projects financed by Salix, including detailed technical information on technologies schools have implemented and savings to expect from these upgrades. Salix also has a technical team on hand to help with any queries.

Since 2009 schools in Wales have saved:

- More than £1.3 million on school energy bills annually.
- 6,081 tonnes of carbon each year.
- £25.8 million on energy bills over the project lifetimes.

Support for over 100 technologies

Saving money on energy bills



Improved learning and working environment

Reduced CO₂ emissions



For more information contact...

The Wales team wales@salixfinance.co.uk or visit www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/welsh-loans

www.salixfinance.co.uk



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

salix

Your partner for
a low carbon future

Simple Steps to apply:

1. Get in touch with us.

See case studies of previous projects on the Salix 'Knowledge Share' area of the website and talk to our expert staff for advice on projects by emailing wales@salixfinance.co.uk.

2. Select the 'Wales' loan page: www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/welsh-loans

Read the application notes for useful information and instructions.

3. Download and complete the application form with project details

Complete the application form providing all necessary information for a full technical assessment. The compliance tool embedded in the form calculates your expected energy savings and payback to ensure the project will deliver the required savings within an 8 year payback period.

4. Obtain sign off from the sponsoring director

The application will need to be signed by the delegated authority within the school (usually the headteacher).

5. Submit the application to wales@salixfinance.co.uk

Include the signed and scanned application form as well as the original application (as an excel file) and calculations to support your savings figures.

6. Salix will carry out a technical assessment & award funding

If the project passes assessment, funding will be committed and the project can start. A decision is made typically within one month.

Coryton Primary School in Cardiff used £26,761 of interest-free finance from the Welsh Funding Programme to reduce their energy costs per pupil by over £15 per annum by installing rooftop Solar PV. This is how they did it.



Project overview

Coryton Primary School used £26,761 interest-free finance from Salix to install the rooftop Solar PV solution, saving around £3,375 in annual energy savings.

The energy produced from the project, which completed in January 2019, will be used to help meet the school's electricity demands. The production of electricity using renewable solar energy on site reduces the school's reliance on the grid, providing a greener more sustainable energy source for the school.

It is expected the school will see a 40% reduction in their requirement for electricity from the grid, estimated to save 6.74 tonnes of carbon annually and reduce both energy bills and the carbon footprint of the school. Coryton Primary will also look to use the project as an educational tool to help teach students about the benefits of renewable energy, Solar PV and electricity production.



"We are absolutely delighted with the installation. It was very professionally installed and the return on the installation financially is already very clear and above what we had perhaps expected. Equally important

is the message and values it promotes to our pupils and wider school community about sustainable energy and the need for all organisations to step up to the plate and make big changes.

The technology means our pupils can actually see the electricity being generated. We are absolutely delighted with both the product and the customer service we received to get to the point of the completed installation. I am not particularly technological but even I understood the process."

Sally Phillips Headteacher, Coryton Primary School.

Estimated savings achieved* by Coryton Primary School

Annual savings:

£  **£3,375**

Lifetime savings:

£  **£75,937**

Annual carbon savings:

 **6.74 tCO₂e***

Total loan value:

 **£26,761**

Project Payback:

 **7.5 years**

*Calculated using emissions factors published by government for carbon footprinting purposes

For more information contact...

The Wales team wales@salixfinance.co.uk or visit www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/welsh-loans

www.salixfinance.co.uk



Frequently asked questions

How can I contact Salix to find out more information?

You can read more about Salix on our website: salixfinance.co.uk or contact our expert staff for advice at wales@salixfinance.co.uk.

Where can I receive advice on my school's potential to save energy by implementing energy efficiency technologies?

Many local authorities have energy experts that schools can ask for advice. The Welsh Government Energy Service also has resources available for schools to help identify and develop energy efficiency projects. Alternatively, you can appoint a consultant to undertake an energy audit. There are also independent organisations listed below that can help.

What is the minimum and maximum value a school can apply for?

There is a minimum value of £5,000 for a single application, which can be made up of multiple smaller projects with a minimum value of £500 each. There is no maximum application value.

Is there a technology list available?

Yes, Salix currently supports over 100 technologies and the full list can be found on the Salix website. There are also more than 80 case study examples showcasing how different energy efficient technologies have been funded by Salix. This can be found in the free Knowledge Share Area of the Salix website.

Can we apply for more than one technology?

Yes, you may apply for as many technologies as you wish. In some cases this may help projects meet the required compliancy criteria.

Does a school have to submit their loan application themselves?

A third party such as a consultant or your local authority can prepare and submit an application on behalf of a school. The application must be signed by the authorising official from the school.

Does the project need to be 100% funded by Salix?

No, a school can fund part of the project themselves if they wish. In cases where projects do not fit within the Salix compliancy criteria, Salix can part fund the project in order to bring it within compliancy. There is no minimum % that can be funded as long as it reaches the minimum application value of £5,000.

Can management costs of the project be included in the loan?

Yes, project management costs can be included in the loan, as long as the application remains compliant on the compliance tool.

We are undertaking a large project and need to pay equipment costs upfront, can Salix help?

Salix can provide interim/stage payments in order to assist with advance payment requirements.

Does Salix have an approved list of suppliers?

Salix has an approved technology list and invites clients to use whichever supplier they wish provided their product is part of this list. Salix does not, however, have an approved list of suppliers. Clients are asked to follow the local authority's correct procedures for procurement and internal sign-off.

Can Faith Schools apply?

Yes, as long as any savings from the project will directly benefit the school or local authority for the lifetime of the technology.

Do we need permission from our local authority?

Some schools may take out a Salix Loan through their local authority. Salix recommends schools contact their local authority for advice prior to making an application.

For more information please visit: salixfinance.co.uk/loans/welsh-loans and these websites:

Carbon Trust Schools Guide

https://www.carbontrust.com/media/39232/ctv019_schools.pdf

Energy Saving Trusts: Energy Saving Advice Service

<http://goo.gl/Ux8SBN>

Welsh Government Energy Service

<https://gov.wales/energy-service-public-sector-and-community-groups>

For more information contact...

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