**Decarbonisation and sustainability survey advice for maintained schools**

November, 22

Waltham Forest Council is rolling out decarbonisation surveys across the maintained school estate. The aim is that these will form the basis of a school specific decarbonisation plan that defines potential improvements to the building envelope, energy efficiency and adaptation measures. The Schools Capital and Climate Emergency team will support schools to implement the plans on a step-by-step basis.

The council has carried out an initial pilot study and is appointing consultants to carry out pilot studies to ensure that the information, analysis and outcomes are accessible and useful as a tool supporting us all to implement a plan or road map to net zero in operation.

As well as looking at building fabric and energy efficiency, the schools’ specific plans can include actions under the headings of:

* Water (efficiency and flood risk reduction)
* Biodiversity and green space management
* Air quality
* Waste
* Food
* Heat adaptation
* Procurement

For more information on the decarbonisation plan approach contact Fiona Macmillan – fiona.macmillan.walthamforest.gov.uk

# Obtaining and using a survey

1. The pilot schools will be contacted in due course by the Schools Capital Team to arrange the survey (access for inspections, feedback etc). The Council aims to complete the programme of surveys by end of April 2024.
2. The survey findings and recommendations will be presented in a way that enables energy efficiency and carbon saving to be at the heart of the school asset management plan. This makes up one part of a multi-year whole school climate action plan, sitting in parallel to learning and activities with the same goal of reducing the schools carbon footprint and improving biodiversity
3. Recommended works will be prioritised based on budget, impact (carbon / energy savings / climate change mitigation) and funding opportunities.
4. Recommended actions will be considered as part of planning and prioritising repairs, maintenance and school developments to ensure cost effectiveness and embedding improvements long term.
5. It is expected that progress on the decarbonisation plan will be reported on via the School Asset Management plan and a report produced by a Sustainability link lead Governor at a regularity set by Senior Leaders and Governors.

# Decarbonisation survey advice for non-maintained schools

Decarbonising the school estate and improving resilience through increased biodiversity and nature-based solutions has clear benefits for all schools and colleges. Waltham Forest Council recommends all schools and colleges have a specialist decarbonisation survey and embed it into the site Asset Management Plan and longer-term Climate Action Plan

School Business Managers of non-maintained schools can attend free training put on at The Hive during 2022/23