

Collaborative Low Carbon Schools Service (CLCSS)

Staffordshire County Council is committed to reducing energy usage from schools; they currently represent the largest proportion of the council's total carbon emissions. The CLCSS pilot scheme ran in 2011-12 across ten sites, achieving an average 10% energy reduction and chosen as best practice by the Carbon Trust. Due to its success, a further nineteen schools benefitted from the scheme in 2012-13 and fifteen more will do so in 2013-14.



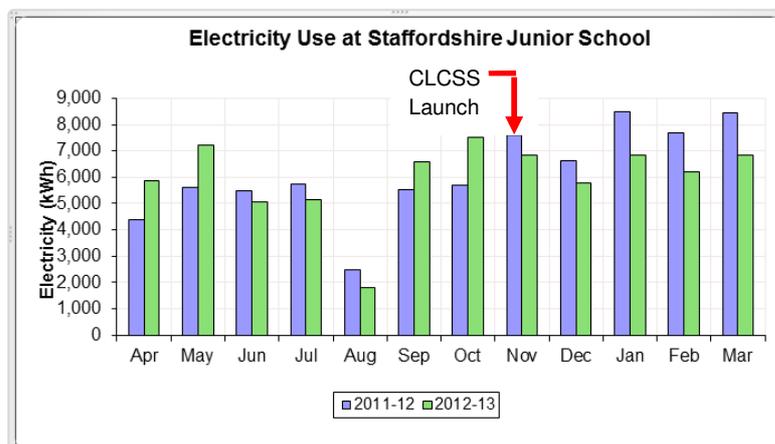
CLCSS runs over the course of the academic year and focuses on the school's energy usage from lighting, heating and electrical equipment. Site staff and teachers receive training, an in-depth energy audit, on-going advice and support and workshops for pupils delivered by Keele University's Science for Sustainability Team.

The overall aim of the scheme is to achieve energy savings through no-cost and low-cost measures, for example switch off campaigns to reduce their electricity usage and altering heating controls. The schools receive further training on how to use online energy data to identify any out-of-hours usage that is higher than expected.

The scheme has achieved significant savings on schools' energy bills. On average, schools reduce their overall usage by 10%. The total savings from the pilot amounted to **£42,000** across ten schools and the savings for the second phase amount to around **£83,000**.



Graph 1 shows the electricity usage from a primary school that took part in the scheme in 2012-13. The monthly electricity totals show a reduction in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12 after the launch in November.



Graph 1: A year on year comparison of electricity usage before and after the CLCSS launch

The school have achieved a 20% reduction at no cost to the school. They have involved all pupils and members of staff in the scheme and have achieved savings by:

- appointing an eco-monitor in each classroom to ensure lighting and equipment is switched off when not in use;
- only switching on a third of the lights in classrooms when it is bright;
- ensuring the hall lights are switched off; and
- fully shutting down lighting and equipment overnight and at weekends.