

# Salix Programme Newsletter



September 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of the Salix Programme newsletter. This time, school stakeholders can find out how to engage with Leicester City Council by declaring a Climate Emergency, read about recent progress at Salix project sites in Leicester, and also a reminder that we are asking for your feedback! Read on to find out more.

## Schools engaging in the Climate Emergency

On 1 February 2019 Leicester City Council declared a [Climate Emergency](#). The declaration is an acknowledgement that:

- *Climate change is happening, and threatens the wellbeing of everyone in Leicester and worldwide*
- *The speed and scale of global and local action to tackle the problem needs to be dramatically increased*

In its declaration, the council committed to developing a new action plan to address the emergency through our own services and projects. We have three flagship carbon reduction programmes for Leicester City schools – [Carbon Literacy](#), [BESS Energy](#) and Salix funded Public Sector Decarbonisation works.

Over the next few weeks, the council will be issuing contracts to schools regarding their commitment on the Salix funded works, including:

- Declaring a climate emergency, signing up to the Let's Go Zero 2030 and engaging with the environmental education team
- Providing billing data
- Work with us to provide access to online energy monitoring
- Maintaining and servicing equipment

These will be issued to the headteacher and/or business manager and will need to be signed by the governing body. If you have any questions please contact Lee Jowett, Sustainable Schools Coordinator [lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk).

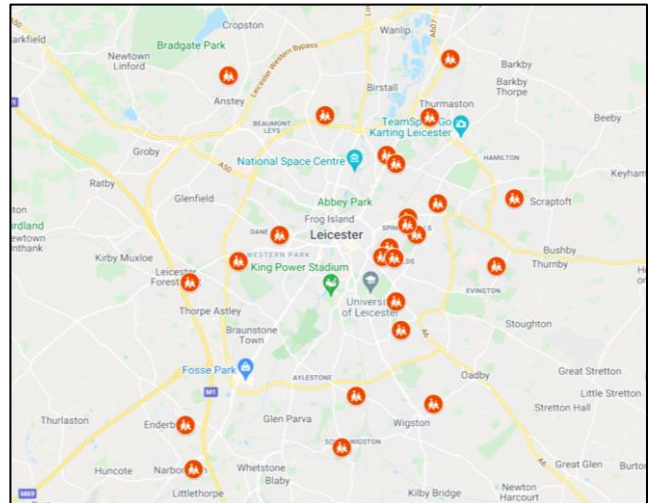
### Let's Go Zero

One of the commitments for Salix funded schools is to declare a climate emergency and associated action plan through Let's Go Zero 2030 as a school - this aligns perfectly with the Eco-Schools programme and a number of schools have already done this including [Caldecote Primary School](#), Evington Valley Primary School & Barley Croft Primary School.



To find out how to declare a Climate Emergency as a school please check out our [online page](#). You can also contact [Eco-Schools@Leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Eco-Schools@Leicester.gov.uk) and the team will be able to support to declare your own emergency.

[Let's Go Zero 2030](#) is a campaign delivered by Ashden which many schools in Leicester have previously participated in. Signing up (which needs to be done by either a school senior leader or governor) is a commitment to tackling climate change and will ultimately create a school-wide carbon reduction plan. This map (right) shows Leicester schools that have already joined Let's Go Zero.



[Find out more about Let's Go Zero 2030.](#)

In schools where we are not replacing the heating system with a low carbon technology through this round of funding, we are committed to developing a report called a Heat Decarbonisation Plan funded by Salix Finance. This identifies how, when and the anticipated costs of delivering a low carbon technology in the future when your current boiler comes to end of life.

## PV sites and Appointed Contractors

As you may be aware, the Salix programme of works has recently faced a set-back for all sites with proposed PV panels. For this reason, the Salix team has now approached a number of independent companies for quotation requests. These quotations are expected to be returned over the next few weeks, following which, our Salix project managers will be getting in touch with individual sites with more information.

The Salix Project Team has now started full engagement with our appointed contractors to plan the details of the main works packages starting later this year. We look forward to updating our stakeholders and colleagues with more details shortly.

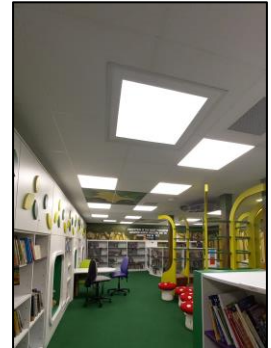
## Feedback Survey

Just a reminder that we would love to hear your feedback! Our fortnightly Salix Programme newsletters bring you a variety of information including about progress at project sites in Leicester, the Salix project team and contractors, and now include a new feature where we put a decarbonisation technology into the spotlight. We would love to hear about your experiences with the newsletter so far, and what you would like to see more of. All responses are anonymised and your feedback will help to shape the future of Salix newsletters and communications. [Fill out our short survey here.](#)

# Works Carried Out

## LED Lighting

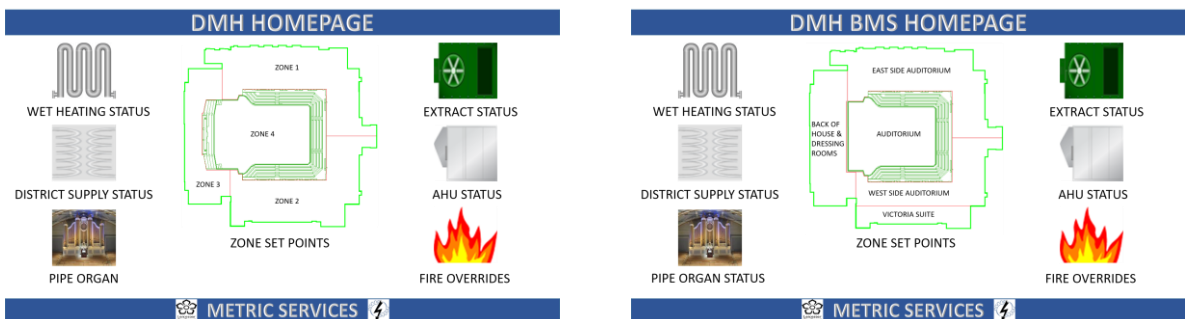
This week, ESL (Energy Saving Lighting) has been working to install new LED lighting at Catherine Junior School. Just under 600 fittings in the school building are being replaced with more energy efficient LED lightbulbs, which will help to reduce the school's energy costs as well as their carbon footprint. The photos below show before and after installation.



## Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS)

Metric Services are currently upgrading Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS) at a number of project sites. Work to configure Pindar Nursery's existing BEMS will be completed next week, allowing staff to monitor the heating system, helping to reduce energy usage and flag up any faults almost instantly. An additional touchscreen will be installed in the building's Plant Room for ease of access to the BEMS which will feature an interface for engineers. The existing BEMS at New Parks Children, Young People and Family Centre (CYPFC) is currently being serviced, for which new user guides are being produced.

Work to replace De Montfort Hall's longstanding and now obsolete BEMS with a new generation BEMS is now underway. This process has been a challenge due to the size and complexity of the building, and the age and uncertainty of the existing system, however our contractors have had success and the installation of the new BEMS is now 90 per cent complete. Once up and running, this system will allow staff to control the Hall's environment from a dedicated computer and mobile devices. It will include the facility to send alerts to mobile phones in the event of alarms, and will help the building to reduce energy consumption further by being able to control comfort cooling and providing variable speed fan drives.



Proposed interface screens for De Montfort Hall's BEMS

## Contact us

Each site has a dedicated project manager (Alan Evans or John Squires), however if you have a general question or need to get in touch with the Salix Project Team email us at

[Salix.Project.Team@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Salix.Project.Team@leicester.gov.uk)