Energy Sparks Case Study
Sheringham Woodfields

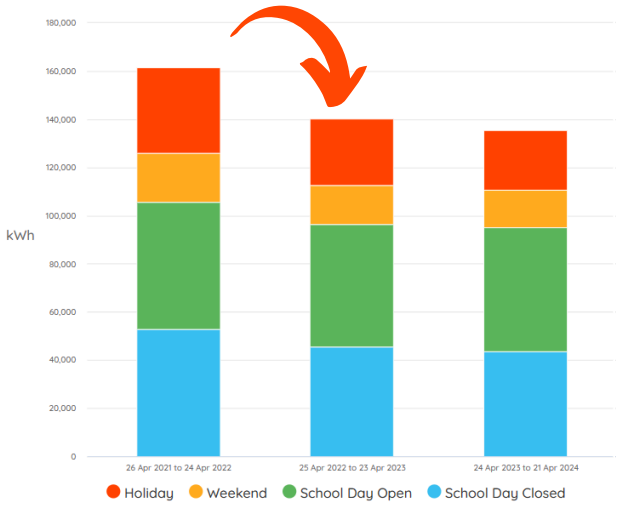
Sheringham Woodfields is a purpose built complex-needs school on the outskirts of Sheringham, Norfolk. The school has 150 pupils from EYFS-KS5 with a diverse range of needs.

> "The Energy Sparks service provides a comprehensive and user-friendly platform for schools. Its features enable us to easily access, analyse, and delve into data, enhancing our understanding of energy usage and efficiency strategies. We now actively monitor electricity and gas consumption, as well as solar panel performance. Thanks to Energy Sparks, we've become more mindful of our energy usage and have identified effective ways to reduce it."
>
> - Matthew Smith MBE – Business Manager, Sheringham Woodfields

Like many schools, Sheringham Woodfields found that their energy consumption crept up during the covid pandemic due to additional ventilation needs. The increasing energy costs was another driver for acting on energy consumption. Since joining Energy Sparks in September 2022, the school has been working hard to manage and reduce energy consumption. An Energy Sparks audit in early 2023, helped the school to see what they were doing well and what they needed to work on.

The school has a hydro therapy pool. School pools are often high energy users and aren't always well controlled - but at Sheringham Woodfields it is managed well. The water is averaging 33°C and the air handling unit keeps the air temperature within a few degrees of that. The pool is covered when not in use, both of these measures help reduce evaporation and therefore extra energy use.

Since joining Energy Sparks, the school has reduced their electricity consumption by 13%, which has saved the school £5,700 per year.



It takes approximately one day to warm a pool up by one degree, so over longer holidays the pool temperature can be reduced if a pool is not going to be used. Savings can be observed in the Energy Sparks data.

Energy Sparks

Find out more about how you can reduce your school energy costs by visiting **https://energysparks.uk** or emailing **hello@energysparks.uk.**

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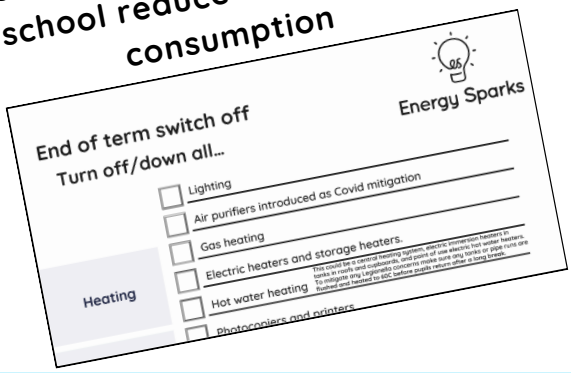
In the two years since joining Energy Sparks, annual electricity consumption at the school reduced by 19,000 kWh. When combined with decarbonisation of the electricity grid, annual CO_2 emissions are 9 tonnes lower!

That's more CO_2 than is emitted by driving a petrol car all the way around the world!

Special schools often have lots of specialist equipment. Don't forget to check the energy consumption of new equipment before purchase. The cost of using the equipment might be higher than the cost of purchase.

Using an appliance monitor to check existing equipment will help identify the high consumers. Energy Sparks recommends timers are added to high consuming equipment to minimise out of hours electricity use.

A weekend or end of term switch off list can help any school reduce their energy consumption



Following the Energy Audit, staff at Sheringham Woodfields made a number of changes to improve the energy efficiency of the school. Some of these required investment, but most of the energy savings have come from switching equipment off outside of school hours and discussing energy efficiency with staff and school governors.

This school has implemented and continued to develop their weekend and holiday switch off list. Lights and IT equipment are switched off after school each night and those appliances that were often left on - such as printers and photocopiers - now have timers installed.

The school reviewed the number of fridges and freezers it has, as well as checking door seals. Staff make sure that any that are empty are switched off over weekends and all of them are switched off during holidays.

The school also made changes to the boiler controls following energy audit advice.

Energy Sparks audits

Energy Sparks offers two types of energy audits, online virtual energy audits and on-site energy audits. Virtual energy audits take place without a physical visit to the school and are based on the energy auditor's assessment of your school's energy consumption data as presented on Energy Sparks. The audit consists of a one hour online meeting with school staff and student representatives. The main focus is on quick low-cost wins, such as looking at changing boiler timings.

To find out more about our online audits and the other services that we offer to schools, visit our audits page. For more information on Energy Sparks, email **hello@energysparks.uk**

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