



Energy Sparks Case Study Alerts

Energy Spark's alert system, which sends weekly emails and texts to schools about their energy consumption, notified users at Freshford Church School that their electricity consumption had jumped in the last week by over 50%. The problem was soon rectified saving the school up to £2,600 per year



Photo © Neil Owen (cc)

Analysis

Energy Sparks users at Freshford Church School received the following Energy Spark's email:

Last week, your electricity baseload was 220% more than the average over the last year.

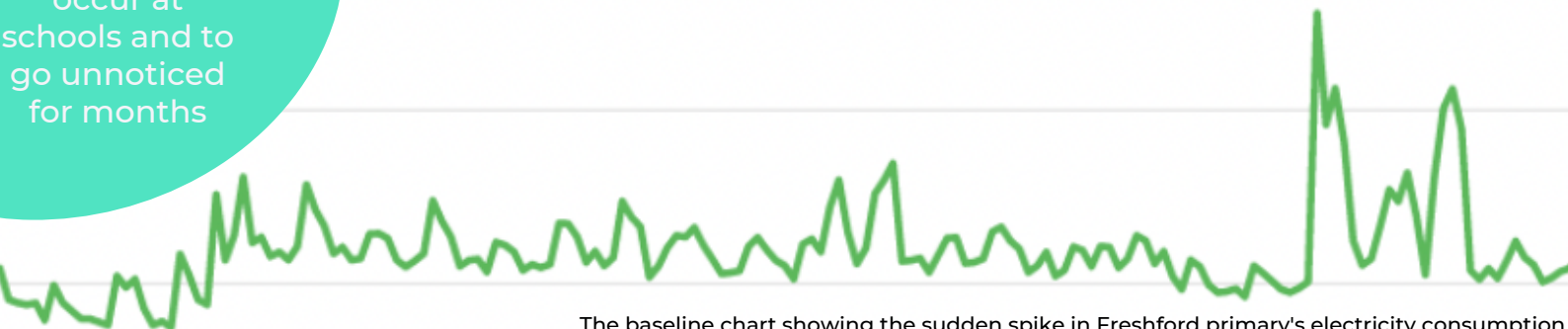
Your average electricity baseload last week was 3.6 kW. This is the amount of electricity you use overnight when the school is empty. This is 2.4 kW greater than your average baseload over the last year. If this continues it will cost you an additional £2,600 over the next year.

Watch out - last week your school's electricity use increased by 54%

Your electricity consumption was £250 or 2,100 kWh last week compared with £160 or 1,400 kWh in the previous week.

It's not uncommon for these types of accidents to occur at schools and to go unnoticed for months

A parent volunteer at the school receiving these alerts noticed and immediately contacted the Business Manager to ask if they had any idea what had changed. A quick glance at the Energy Sparks baseload chart showed that the overnight electricity consumption, which had been at around 1 kW for the last year, had increased by a factor of 4.



The baseline chart showing the sudden spike in Freshford primary's electricity consumption.

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The business manager recalled that electricians had recently been in the school to carry out a 5 year electrical test, and identified that the timer for the electric heater in the school hall had been reset and the heating was running 24 hours per day. The school caretaker swiftly reset the controls limiting energy waste.

“I would encourage all school users to keep an eye on the alerts Energy Sparks is sending out each week, not just to pick up on events such as the above, but also to sustain the momentum of monitoring energy usage at all times.”

- Helen Lorraine, Business Manager

Well done! Last week your school's gas use decreased by 24%.

Your weekly gas consumption in the last school week (Sun 18-07-2021 to Sat 24-07-2021) was 1,000 kWh compared with 1,320 kWh in the previous week (Sun 07-07-2021 to Sat 17-07-2021). Keep switching off the heating when its not needed to save more energy and reduce your carbon footprint.

Find out more...

The amount of electricity Green Lane CE Primary uses at night is high. Over the last year the school's overnight power consumption was on average 5.3 kW. Other schools with a similar number of pupils consumed 2.5 kW at night. This is 52% of the school's total electricity use.

Excellent! Your school's weekly gas use in Summer 2021 decreased. The percentage change was about -40% compared to Summer 2020.

Find out more...

Over the last year 59% of Caldecott Primary School's gas was used when the school was closed. This has cost £8,500.

Last week your electricity used at night decreased by 29% compared to the average over the last year. Keep this up and you will save £1,400 over the next year.

Last week, your electricity baseload was 12% more than the average over the last year

Your average electricity baseload last week was 4.4 kW. This is the amount of electricity you use overnight when the school is empty. This is 0.46 kW greater than the average baseload over the last year. If this continues it will cost you an additional £610 over the next year.

Energy Sparks alerts

- Energy Spark's alerts, a free service, have the potential to save schools significant costs and carbon emissions
- Alerts monitor over 40 aspects of your electricity and gas consumption
- If a problem arises with your consumption, you will be alerted by email or text message
- Alert notifications are very simple to setup: we just need an email address or mobile phone number
- You can unsubscribe at any time

“Not only has Energy Sparks helped us reduce our day to day running costs, but this particular alert undoubtedly quickly saved us a significant amount from this one-off event.”

- Helen Lorraine, Business Manager



Energy Sparks
Helping schools fight climate change