School’s Energy Challenge – Guidance for Teachers

A poster for a school energy challenge

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Thank you for signing up for the first School’s Energy Challenge for high schools across Falkirk district.

We hope this challenge is a valuable learning experience for local students to build awareness and understanding in energy and emissions reduction, as well as an opportunity to build on leadership, communication, and teamwork skills.

**Where to start**

To help kick start your school’s gameplan for the challenge, we’ve compiled a couple of useful notes and resources. You’re also welcome to email us at [climatechange@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@falkirk.gov.uk) with any questions.

1. **Energy Audit**

A good place to start is to audit the potential causes of your school’s energy usage. There are some good existing online resources that are written for businesses but could easily be used in a school environment.

A good example is: [Business Energy Audit Checklist (yuenergy.co.uk)](https://www.yuenergy.co.uk/app/uploads/2023/07/Business-Energy-Audit-Checklist-Yu-Energy.pdf)

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To complete this audit, you and your young people may need to speak with the people in your school who have inside knowledge of its energy use. We will provide the contact details you need.

Please note that some areas on the audit list will not be easily influenced by students, however by gathering this information, the students can capture the full picture and understanding of energy consumption and make a plan for the areas they can influence.

1. **Systemslink**

Systemslink is the platform used by council staff to monitor energy and water use and costs across all council buildings, including all high schools. The platform can show half hourly and hourly usage and trends for electricity and gas, as well as per unit costs, therefore being a fantastic resource for students and teachers participating in the Challenge.

Each school will be set up with one login for this system using the lead teacher’s email address and we will demonstrate how to use the site at the workshops.

Monthly energy reports from Systemslink for each school will be uploaded to the School’s Energy Challenge webpage on council’s website. The reports will show a graph of each month’s electricity and gas use (in relative CO2 emissions) compared to the same month the previous year.

1. **Awareness Campaign**

A big part of the challenge will be influencing others to get on board and take on energy saving behaviours. The student designed and lead campaign will need to persuade everyone at your school to help reduce energy consumption.

We have some guidance with prompts and ideas [here](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fblogs.glowscotland.org.uk%2Ffa%2Fpublic%2Flfsfalkirk%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F2215%2F2024%2F08%2F15084908%2FDigital-Campaign-Advice.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

Encourage students to think about the areas of impact students, teachers and other staff can have day to day on energy use, such as:

* ****Screen monitors
* Light switches
* Doors and windows being left open
* Are electricity switches at night, on weekends, and during holidays

Encourage them to plan their awareness raising campaign using their critical literacy and digital skills and tools. How will they monitor the effectiveness and reach of this?

There are prizes for the school with the most creative and effective campaign!

1. **Additional Support**

Teacher information session

On 17th September between 4- 5 pm, colleagues from Falkirk Council’s Climate Change team and Children’s Services Learning for Sustainability team will host an information session for all teachers leading the School’s Energy Challenge. Senior and middle leaders supporting these teachers may also wish to come along to this Microsoft Teams meeting. It will include more detail about school’s energy use and the Systemslink platform. There will be opportunities to exchange ideas about how best to support your students’ campaign, and for questions from teachers.

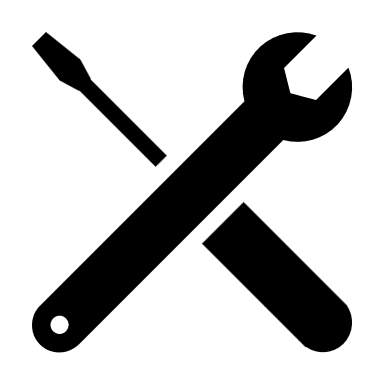
**Please sign up to attend this online information session using code LfS 6-25 in CPD Manager.**

Student workshop

Council’s Climate Change team can offer one in person workshop per school, where a member of the team will come in during a time that suits your school to:

1. Inform students about why energy reduction is important
2. Offer guidance in planning their investigations, awareness raising and campaign
3. Introduce Systemslink to your group of students
4. Help your students access the system and the data held within it

To book your Climate Change team workshop, please email [climatechange@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@falkirk.gov.uk) providing three potential dates and times (within the month of September) that would suit your class. We will then liaise with you to finalise one of these options.

School’s maintenance person

We are liaising with school maintenance and janitors to find you the best contact to support this challenge. We will send these to you individually.

Email support

If you have any further questions, please email us at [climatechange@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@falkirk.gov.uk).