**School’s Energy Challenge – Guidance for Teachers**

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

We have taken in the feedback provided and have done our best to improve what we can, the aspects within our control and we hope that this challenge is a valuable learning experience. Encouraging 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 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. We will then go over this audit within the first workshop held with your pupil groups.

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)



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 we understand that there are 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 plan for the areas they can influence.



**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 should hopefully be set up with one login for this system using the lead teacher’s email address, we will arrange this if this is a new aspect for you, we can set this up. 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. This year we will only be measuring the electricity use only, and the reports will show a graph of each month’s usage (in relative CO2 emissions) compared to a three-year average that we have calculated.

1. **Digital Engagement Campaign**

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

This year we were keen to have some involvement from our primary school’s therefore an aspect of the awareness campaign will be to create advice for your primary school cluster group on how to reduce energy use, this can be in the form of any of the following but also open to your own ideas! (more information on this is in our digital engagement advice document)

* Lesson plan
* Advice on day in the dark (how did you do this, how could they implement this?)
* Developing educational videos
* Guidance on posters
* Basic graph making to show previous years reduction (With support from CC Team)



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 will be prizes for again for the digital engagement aspect!

1. **Additional Support**

Student workshops

Council’s Climate Change team will be offering various workshops throughout the challenge, where a member of the team will come in during a time that suits your school to:

* Workshop 1 – What is energy & why does it matter
* Workshop 2 – Digital Engagement (Primary Aspects)
* Workshop 3 – Global Energy
* Workshop 4 - Celebrating Impact & Reflection

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

School’s maintenance person

Hopefully you will all now have the details of your school maintenance staff, if that is not the case please get in touch, and we can liase with them.

Email support

If you have any further questions, please email us at climatechange@falkirk.gov.uk.