

Five steps to become an energy-saving university or college

The energy demands of the further and higher education sector are increasing in line with growing student numbers. Our five-step plan will help you reduce your energy use, become more sustainable *and* save money to invest in learning facilities.

1: Understand your energy costs

You'll know from reviewing your energy bill that it's made up of two main charges: **energy costs** and **non-energy costs** – and you'll need to tackle both if you're to see a significant reduction in your overall bill.

Your **energy costs** are determined by the price of wholesale electricity. But you can reduce this cost by being clever in how and when you use energy, and by educating staff about the importance of energy efficiency.

Your **non-energy costs** – which typically make up the majority of your bill – cover things like your use of the grid and decarbonising of the UK's electricity supply. The good news is we can help you reduce these with some simple changes to how you manage your energy – and support you in explaining the complexities of managing non-energy costs to the budget holder (see this [cheatsheet](#) explaining non-energy costs).

2: Identify any energy-saving changes you can make

To reduce your energy costs, you need to look at how you're using electricity across your campus. Start by using any existing systems to their full capacity. If your building management system allows you to create zones and set different times for heating to come on in different buildings, make sure you do this, especially in buildings with sporadic occupancy. Also, are thermostats located in the correct places? Too much sunlight or cold air could upset how these work. For those in tutorial settings, 19-21°C is the ideal temperature. Whereas in workshops – with a lot of equipment – you could set controls lower to 16-19°C**.

With our auditing and live monitoring tools, you can better understand how you're using energy, identify savings opportunities and track performance. **PowerReport**, our remote and rapid solution gives you the quickest overview of all your sites with minimal disruption. For North East Surrey College of Technology (NESCOT), these savings came to £29,000 a year. Or we also have **PowerNow**, a detailed solution with a digital dashboard, which gives you live consumption insights into individual energy assets, to help you make ongoing efficiency improvements.

Energy-efficiency measures could cut carbon emissions in the sector by 25%*

Sources: * <https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/guides/sector-based-advice/further-and-higher-education/> ** https://www.carbontrust.com/media/39208/ct020_further_and_higher_education.pdf

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3: Maximise available support

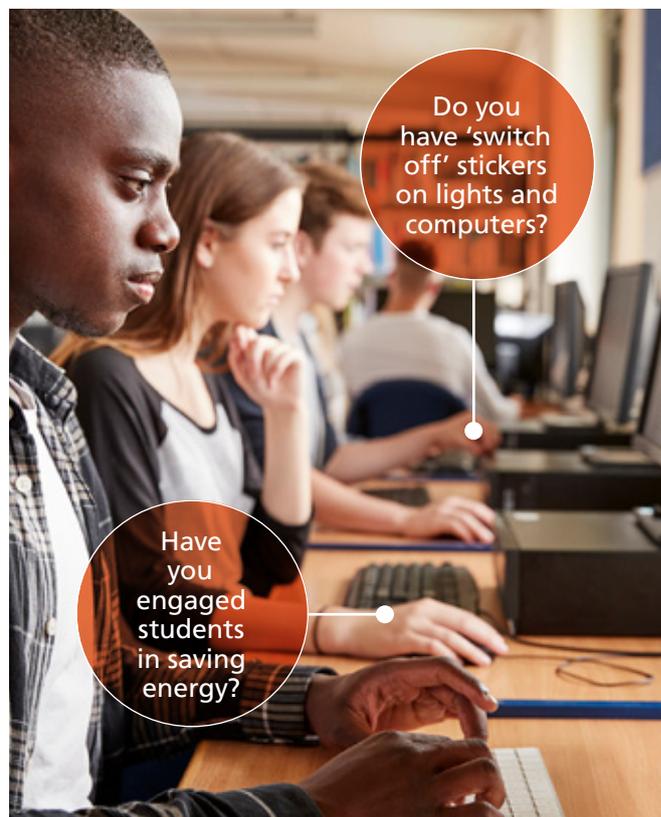
As an EDF Energy customer, you have free access to a full range of support services at www.edfenergy.com/TEC. Here you'll also find our webinars offering insight on all sorts of topics: from preparing for winter to managing reconciliation payments.

Our specialist support services could help you save energy and money too, by identifying when you're using electricity – so that non-essential tasks (like cleaning) can be shifted to outside peak times, when energy is cheaper. For instance, our free **Triad Alert service** saved the Met Office £158,000 in one year alone. We also offer a free Maximum Import Capacity Review which can help you become more energy savvy and reduce bills with very little effort. NESCOL, for example, found savings of £7,000 a year through its Maximum Import Capacity Review.

4: Promote saving energy

One of the most effective ways to reduce energy consumption is to educate staff about the importance of saving energy. Involve them and ask for their input – where do they think energy is being wasted? If cleaning staff are the last ones to leave the buildings at night, make sure you get buy-in from them too – and have visual 'switch off' reminders (you can find stickers and posters on the **Carbon Trust** website) in every building.

You could also appoint Energy Champions to check lights and appliances are switched off at the end of the day, over weekends or holidays. Monitoring your lighting alone could reduce your costs by 15%.[†] Consider running a 'switch off' campaign to kickstart your initiative, and promote the benefits of saving energy for staff and students. Focus on the impact saving energy could have on staff resources (freeing up money to invest in learning facilities), and the university or college's sustainability credentials. And actively involve students too – particularly bodies like the NUS or environmental groups – as if you have accommodation on site, students will be using facilities around the clock. Encourage students to switch lights or equipment off at the end of tutorials; report problems with heating controls rather than attempting to override them; and use facilities like laundrettes outside peak demand times.



5: Invest in energy efficiency

Install timer switches to turn off ICT equipment at the end of the day and light sensors in toilets, and occasional use rooms in teaching buildings and accommodation halls. Sensors can save 30% on lighting costs.[†] Don't forget to switch off hot drinks machines at night and weekends too.

Small refurbishment changes to consider include installing draught lobbies (a double set of doors), or wiring lights on separate controls so that those near windows can be switched off independently to those elsewhere in the room.[†]

If you have high or constant heating demands throughout the year – for instance, swimming pools on site – consider installing a CHP plant. And don't forget to talk to us: we're always looking for ways to help you become more energy efficient.

Get students to join in – and save energy in their accommodation halls too