Using Energy Sparks to get a clear picture of energy use across the Sir John Brunner Foundation

Case study



Problem: The number of utility suppliers used across the Trust's academies made it difficult for them to gain a clear, accurate picture of their overall energy usage.

Solution: Adopting Energy Sparks has made it significantly easier to monitor energy usage, respond quickly to emerging patterns, engage with schools and report to Trustees.

Results:
All schools in the Trust have recorded energy saving activities and have saved thousands of pounds off their energy bills.

The power of clear data to support decision making and reporting

Sir John Brunner Foundation is a Multi-Academy Trust with four schools in North-West England. Energy savings and sustainability form one of the Trust's main strategic priorities, contributing to its mission of enhancing and advancing every child's life through the highest standards of education.

The Trust was aware that it needed to tackle energy waste as part of this, but the number of utility suppliers used across its academies made it difficult to collate data from multiple sources and gain a clear, accurate picture of their overall energy usage.

The introduction of Energy Sparks at all four schools in 2024 has significantly improved this process. Estates Lead Elizabeth Davies points to the "user-friendly dashboard with real-time data. "This enables us to monitor usage more effectively and respond quickly and decisively to emerging patterns.

"The most surprising element Energy Sparks has helped us to identify has been the amount of electricity being consumed outside the school day. This prompted immediate action, resulting in savings from day one of using the platform."

Energy Sparks has helped the Trust in other ways too.

"The ability to generate customised reports has been particularly useful, especially in reporting to Trustees. It provides a high-level synopsis of our actual energy usage and allows us to set targets for reducing consumption," says Elizbabeth.

Energy Sparks
Helping schools fight climate change

Using Energy Sparks to foster school engagement in energy saving across the Trust

As part of its sustainability leadership, The Sir John Brunner Foundation has established a working group with representatives from each of its academies, giving leaders ownership over their energy consumption (supported by the enhanced data visibility that Energy Sparks provides).

> "It is vital that our academies are prepared for a world impacted by climate change, and our staff and students have the knowledge and skills to be ready for this."

The Trust's academies have all been engaging with Energy Sparks activities, and as a result all schools have reduced their energy consumption since joining. Annual energy bills have reduced by more than £70,000 and CO2 emissions by more than 190 tonnes.

"One of the features that our schools have found particularly valuable is being able to monitor real-time energy consumption throughout the day, allowing them to identify peak times and take necessary action," says Elizabeth.

She adds, "Being able to see the energy reduction from the changes in behaviour from fellow students, for example through the student eco-societies, has been the most impactful for inspiring our students, showing them they have the power to make real change."

> "Introducing the Energy Sparks platform has allowed the academies to log on and view their data when it is convenient for them. As a MAT it has enabled us to establish a base load for each of our academies."

Spotlight on Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College

Since joining Energy Sparks, Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College has cut their electricity use by a phenomenal 51%.

Although they have made important changes to their systems (such as a revamp of air handling units and air conditioning across the college, and a switch to LEDs for external lighting), Site Manager Paul Edwards tells us that **the main drivers for energy reductions have been better switch-off protocols and changes to the way they manage energy during evening events**, through clever use of their BMS.

"I absolutely confirm that all these changes are down to the dashboard and reporting from Energy Sparks. It gives us a real time KPI and goals to achieve. We use these goals as part of the department self-review and personal reviews with the senior leadership teams." says Paul.

Find out how Energy Sparks can help your school or Trust:

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Helping schools save energy