

Salix Supports Energy Efficient Upgrades Across Buckinghamshire County Council

Buckinghamshire County Council has been working closely with Salix Finance since 2009 to deliver multiple energy efficiency projects, including a phased street lighting programme.

Using their Salix Recycling Fund* (made up of £884,175 of interest-free finance from Salix Finance and a client contribution of £884,175), the council has completed £4,684,131 worth of projects, recycling their original fund of £1,768,350 over 2.6 times.

The council has invested in a multiple phased street lighting project, working closely with Transport Buckinghamshire (TfB) who operate and maintain the transport network to support with the installation of the project.

LED upgrades to almost 28,000 streetlights across the county have helped reduce energy consumption, with a new dimming schedule also helping to provide significant savings. The council has benefitted from lower operational and maintenance costs of the streetlights due to improved asset quality and life of the replaced lanterns.

Thanks to the upgrades, Buckinghamshire County Council is estimated to save £602,353 per annum on annual energy bills and £11,082,709 in lifetime savings. The switch is also set to reduce the council's overall greenhouse gas emissions, with predicted annual carbon savings of over 2,382 tonnes a year.

The council aims to ensure the benefits of their energy efficiency work can be felt across their estate. In addition to their street lighting upgrades, Buckinghamshire have also delivered multiple energy efficiency projects including lighting upgrades, building fabric insulation, building energy management systems, traffic lights, heating, motor controls, pipework insulation and IT energy efficiency improvements. These projects have helped to achieve an estimated £936,860 in annual savings, over 4,375 tonnes of CO₂e a year and £18,480,496 in lifetime savings.

In 2017, Buckinghamshire County Council identified 11 county libraries with great potential to benefit from a variety of energy conservation measures. Over a two-year programme, these projects were delivered from an investment of £135,996. Cumulatively, these buildings now offer estimated annual savings of £12,946 and significant lifetime savings of £266,448. The improvements have reduced running costs and enhanced the quality of public space for communities to enjoy.

Joanna Mitchell, Acting Head of Energy and Resources at Buckinghamshire Council said, *'Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) has been working to minimise our impact on climate change by reducing the levels of greenhouse gases we are responsible for emitting. Most of the emissions associated with the BCC portfolio are connected with street lighting and energy use in buildings, and being able to access the recycling fund to either partially or completely fund our energy efficiency projects has enabled us to install energy efficiency technologies which have not only helped stabilise energy costs, but has also helped reduce carbon emissions. Buckinghamshire County Council will attempt to reach a 40% reduction of CO₂ by continuing to invest in energy efficiency projects and monitor and target energy consumption more efficiently.'*

For more information about how Salix can support energy efficiency projects, contact info@salixfinance.co.uk or 020 3102 6900.

**The Salix Recycling Fund aims to increase capital investment in energy efficient technologies across the public sector. It is a ring-fenced fund with capital provided by Salix, and matched by the partner organisation, to be spent on energy saving projects with paybacks of less than 10 years. The financial savings delivered by the projects are returned to the fund allowing further spending on front line services.*