



Bradford Council - Environment and Climate Change Unit

Information Factsheet: Tips To Reduce School Utility Bills

Energy & water bills can be a significant cost to a school budgets. As well reducing consumption by being energy efficient there are a few simply ways school may also reduce their utility bills.

Utilise the YPO contract

The ECCU negotiates energy contracts to help schools get the best value energy prices, through the YPO contract. The current providers through the YPO contract are:

- Npower for electricity
- British Gas for gas
- GB oils Ltd for liquid fuel
- Dalkia & JS Vickray for biomass
- Coal 4 Energy for soild fuel.

Take regular meter readings & check bills.

All schools should take monthly meter readings either through Automatic Meter Reading Devices (AMR, Smart meters or manually collecting these and then supplying them directly to the utility company.

By taking regular meter readings schools will get a feel for their consumptions, this will help identify any unusual peaks in consumption. For example if excess energy is being used during school holidays or on an evening.

Remember to check the meter reading taken is the same as on the bill to ensure you are not being under or overcharged.

Pay the correct charges.

Additional charges are often added to utility bills such as Value Add Tax (VAT), Climate Change Levy (CCL) and Water Surface Charges. It is worth checking that these charges are correct.

For more information visit:
www.bradford.gov.uk/climatechange
email: eccu@bradford.gov.uk

City of Bradford MDC

www.bradford.gov.uk



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VAT & CCL Charges

Depending on the type of school you maybe eligible for reduced rates of VAT and the removal of CCL charges. Commonly this applies to Foundation Schools, Voluntary Controlled and Academy Schools.

To check please, contact www.hmrc.gov.uk or contact your utility company.

Water Surface Charges

Any hard standing areas e.g. playgrounds which drain directly into the surface water drainage system is eligible for Surface Water Charges. However if your schools hard standing area drains into surrounding vegetation or water courses such as streams, these are not chargeable.

Depending on the area of the hard standing various bands apply:

Band	Surface Area in m ²	Charge pa
A	0 - 500	£42.27
B	501 - 750	£84.94
C	751 - 1000	£127.41
D	1001 - 2000	£169.88
E	2001 - 15,000	£339.76
F	15,001 - 35,000	£2,548.20
G	35001 - 150,000	£5,945.80
H	> 150,000	£25,482.00

If you believe the banding for your school is wrong then you can check this by contacting Yorkshire Water at www.yorkshirewater.com or tel 0845 1242424

Further Information

If you need further help or advice on checking your utility bills please contact [Lee.Anne.Sagar @bradford.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.Anne.Sagar@bradford.gov.uk)

For more information visit:
www.bradford.gov.uk/climatechange
 email: eccu@bradford.gov.uk