

Retrofit Accelerator - Workplaces Newsletter

Prepare your PSDS applications

Earlier this month, Salix Finance announced the third tranche of grant funding to be made available through the highly anticipated [Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme](#) (PSDS). The scheme aims to support the transition to low carbon heating in public sector buildings and improve energy efficiency.

New for this round of funding is the introduction of multi-year projects, although 85% of awards will go to single year projects (2022/23).

In preparation for the application window opening on **Wednesday 6 October 2021**, Salix has released [detailed guidance](#) and the [application form](#) to help organisations get their bids ready for submission.

We expect demand to be high, though the total funding pot has not been unveiled. We recommend submitting compliant bids as early as possible.

The Government scheme awarded nearly £1bn of grants to public bodies earlier this year to pay for their decarbonisation projects. £159m was awarded to London-based organisations, 75% of which was secured by organisations supported by the [Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces](#) programme.

The successful Retrofit Accelerator team is here to help you develop high-quality PSDS bids and turn your carbon reduction ambitions into deliverable projects. Experts in our team have studied the PSDS application form in detail and are here to help answer any questions you might have.

Contact the team at RetrofitAccelerator@london.gov.uk or call 07900 365 065.

[Read more about the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme](#)

Success story: University of West London

In 2020, the University of West London (UWL) declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming a net zero carbon institution by 2030. With a large estate, retrofitting their existing buildings was going to play an important role in reaching that goal.

The University secured £5.1m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) with support from the Retrofit Accelerator - Workplaces team. This was the largest amount awarded to a UK university during the first round of PSDS funding.

UWL used the [Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces](#) programme to deliver this ambitious project, using the RE:FIT framework to appoint Ameresco as their chosen service provider. UWL and Ameresco have now started work at four sites, on projects including low emission heating, both ground source and air-source heat pumps, BMS optimisation and lighting upgrades, as well as a photovoltaic thermal system.

This retrofit project will save the university 529 tonnes of carbon and a 29% overall energy saving annually.

[Read more about UWL's retrofit success](#)

Success stories: Transforming schools and community space across London

All over London, hundreds of public buildings are being retrofitted to reduce their carbon footprint with the help of the Retrofit Accelerator programme and PSDS funding.

In **Lambeth**, the council successfully applied for more than £8m of PSDS funding to install energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation measure in 23 schools, five libraries, community buildings, offices and the Grade II listed Brockwell House.

These measures, which include air source heat pumps, solar panels and roof insulation, will save over 1,000 tonnes of carbon per year and more than £290k in annual energy costs.

North of the river, **Westminster City Council** is also leading by example with ambitious decarbonisation plans for many council-owned buildings as part of their wider drive towards net zero emissions from all operations by 2030.

The council was successful in achieving £13m of PSDS funding to retrofit more than 40 operational buildings.

The buildings receiving improvements, including a Grade II listed leisure centre, community spaces and offices, will see new heat pumps, LED lighting, solar panels and upgraded ventilation systems installed.

In total, Westminster City Council's agreed works to date will save 778 tonnes of CO2 and 4.8m kWh, with further planned works to be delivered by March 2022.

[Read more of our success stories](#)

Tell us how we're doing

We always aim to provide an excellent service to our users and improve where there may be gaps in the support we offer.

Whether you are a current participant in the Retrofit Accelerator programme or have previously or want to be, we're keen to hear your views. We want to understand what we do well, what are some of the barriers you face and where can we improve our services.

Your feedback will help us deliver more effective support.

[Complete the short survey](#)

Do you need help delivering a clean energy project?

The Local Energy Accelerator (LEA) supports the development of clean and flexible energy in London, providing free of charge expertise and support to organisations to develop and deliver low carbon decentralised energy projects.

These projects will transform the way London generates, supplies and uses energy in buildings and transport.

The LEA team is on hand to help ready-to-go projects which can deliver high carbon savings (over 250 tonnes per year) in 2024 or before.

Want to know more?

- [Click here to attend an Introduction to LEA event on 20 October](#)
- [Sign up to the LEA newsletter](#)
- [Find out more about LEA and contact the team](#)

Get in touch

The Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces team is ready to support public bodies with fully funded start-to-finish consultancy to deliver guaranteed carbon savings. If you would like more information, please contact us:

Email: RetrofitAccelerator@london.gov.uk

Tel: 07900 365 065

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