

GOING GREEN

WITH DARLINGTON COLLEGE

DARLINGTON COLLEGE IMPROVES CARBON FOOTPRINT, BUILDING SYSTEMS AND ENERGY SAVINGS.

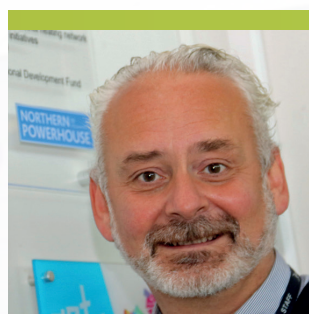


With over 450 staff members, 1,600 full time students and 3,500 part time students, Darlington College is a further education facility in Tees Valley. For two years in a row, the College placed number one in Tees Valley and sixth nationally for student achievement rates.

Upgrading building systems became inevitable when Darlington College's energy vision aligned with local efforts to turn Tees Valley into a high-value, low-carbon economy.

Darlington College is undergoing major upgrades with all conventional boilers being replaced with high efficiency models and a combined heat and power generator that is expected to result in **carbon savings of around 345 tonnes a year.**

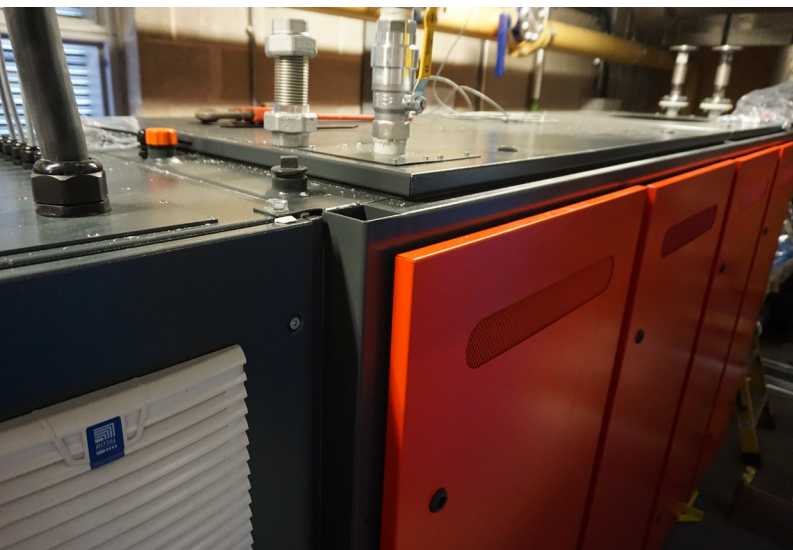
Solar panels on the Child Care Centre and Sports Hall roofs, replacement LED lights and a state-of-the-art building management system are also expected to save almost 2.5 million kWh of power per annum, which should create significant financial savings, that will free up funds for improving the student experience in other areas.



Head of Estates and Site Services James Butterfield added:

“This is great news for the college as the changes will improve the learning environment for staff and students, cut bills, make us less vulnerable to power cuts and lower the amount of greenhouse gases. The whole site will be controlled from one touchscreen command wall which will pin point live performance and quickly identify faults. It will make the system much more controllable and user friendly.”

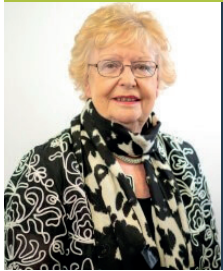
The new energy centre requiring a £1.8m investment, supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and college reserves, will give Darlington College the ability to be an energy hub extending the use to support other buildings across the whole of central park, if required.



The project demonstrates alignment with identified local development needs, in particular the development of a district heating network and the introduction of energy efficiency measures in Central Park.

THE ENERGY CENTRE SHOULD DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING THE LOCAL PLANNING OBJECTIVES TO:

- **Maximise opportunities to generate and use renewable energy.**
- **Encourage energy and water efficient design in new development.**
- **Minimise the impact of and increasing resilience to the effects of climate change.**



Cllr Heather Scott, Leader of Darlington Borough Council says.

“We are pleased to see the progress that the College is making towards its energy centre. Their ambition in making positive steps to reducing their carbon footprint will demonstrate to other businesses in Darlington what can be done. We look forward to finding joint projects with them in the future.”

‘Supporting the Shift Towards a Low Carbon Economy’ is a strategic priority within the Tees Valley ESIF strategy. This project contributes towards the move to a high value, low carbon economy, using innovative technologies, creating significant Green House Gases (GHG) reductions and providing further opportunities for growth. The strategy highlights the need to invest in this theme to ensure that Tees Valley continues to contribute to EU and national policy.

The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Tees Valley 2016 specifically mentioned District Heating which also states that “ensuring Tees Valley has the competitive infrastructure to support a growing economy is a major priority for the Combined Authority and the business community. This includes broadband, energy and other utilities for employment and town centres.” The Energy Centre will increase awareness of the benefits of local energy efficiency investments and act as a working model for future projects. The learning facility was designed, built and opened more than 14 years ago and this project bring the green credentials in line with the aims of the Strategic Economic Plan for the Tees Valley. It will be a major contribution to the overall carbon saving targets across the Tees Valley, thereby benefiting the whole region.



Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen said:

“I’m delighted that our strong collaboration with Darlington College helped them to secure funding, which is now delivering real change across the campus, with the potential to go even further.” “As we look to transform our region into a clean energy powerhouse, every organisation doing what they can to back renewables and increase energy efficiency is massively welcome. This innovative project is a great example of what our organisations can achieve when they think outside of the box to support our clean energy ambitions.”



Darlington College's Director of Finance and Corporate Resources Andrew Hayday said:

"Since we built the college 14 years ago technology has moved on and the old equipment was fast becoming obsolete and expensive to run and maintain, we were ready for something market leading. We put in a bid to ERDF and have managed to secure a 60 per cent funding contribution and the new equipment will allow us to generate our own power on site, reducing the amount we have to take from the grid, thereby lowering our energy bills and more importantly our carbon footprint."

THE COLLEGE APPOINTED HONEYWELL AS THE MAIN CONTRACTOR TO HELP IMPROVE THE CAMPUS AND DELIVER ENERGY-EFFICIENT RESULTS, WHICH IS DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY MARCH 2021.

Honeywell

"Honeywell were contacted by Darlington College to engage and produced a plan of action for the College, based on specific requirements & scope from the ERDF. It was clear from the offset that the College had a 'green' energy efficient mindset and they were keen to make the site as efficient as possible. Honeywell and the College have worked closely together to ensure it met all the required hallmarks of a flagship, energy efficient site, with all areas of the College staff involved throughout. It has been a pleasure to see our customers embrace the energy efficiency ethos so keenly! says Damian Thanon project manager of Honeywell"



