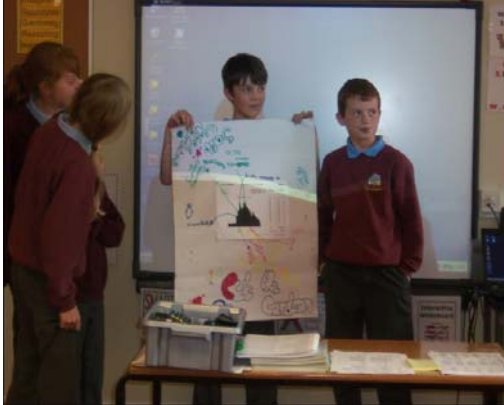


AMR - Automatic Meter Reading Teaching the Children Solihull Council



Overview

In 2010, Solihull Council took the initiative to install Automatic Meter Reading equipment (AMR) to all gas and electricity meters in the School and Corporate property portfolio.

The overall aim when installing AMR was to provide property managers, bursars and site managers with the tools to manage and monitor their energy consumption more accurately, eliminate waste, reduce costs and encourage change in behaviour. AMR is also being used by Solihull's utility suppliers to produce accurate energy bills.

Innovative Thinking

Solihull Council is one of the first Councils to install both electric and gas meters with AMR and we are now in the process of piloting AMR for water.

Involving the Users

On completion of the AMR installation the Council's energy team trained the property managers, bursars and site managers on how to use their energy data to monitor and manage their energy consumption. This was combined with energy awareness training, where user manuals and unique username and passwords were provided to enable staff to view their consumption data over the Internet.

The energy team worked with the Council's Eco Leader to develop and deliver AMR lesson plans. This helped us reach a wider audience including school children, and enabled them to access and use the energy monitoring equipment and understand the reports that were produced for their schools.

Influencing Children

The lesson plans enabled the children to examine real time consumption graphs, to analyse peaks and troughs in consumption. They were able to identify where energy and carbon was being wasted and suggest how this waste could be prevented. The children learnt what could be switched off and turned down, and the benefits of reducing energy consumption. The children produced posters using the AMR graphs to present their findings to the teachers. These lesson plans have been successfully rolled out to 15 schools throughout the Borough and have been deemed a success.

Continuing the Benefits

The AMR lesson plans will be rolled out to all schools, helping the Council spread energy awareness and basic energy management skills to children: Potential benefits of AMR and lesson plans include:

- Accurate actual energy data for all sites.
- Accurate bills.
- Increased energy awareness, data monitoring and analysis.
- Changing behaviour, enabling everyone to take action to save energy, eliminate waste and cut costs.

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