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Retrofit Accelerator - Workplaces

Winter 2020 - Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the [Retrofit Accelerator - Workplaces](#) Newsletter. 2020 has been a challenging year for so many, yet the team and our partners have continued to work tirelessly to deliver and plan successful retrofit projects across London. We very much look forward to continuing to support you throughout 2021 and beyond.

From the entire team, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Update: Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

As those who are already working with us will know, the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) has attracted a large number of applications, already reaching a combined value of £1 billion. These applications are currently being assessed.

The scheme remains open for new applications, as they are assessed on a rolling basis. However, as projects should aim to be completed by 31 March 2021 wherever possible, it is our understanding that those applications for projects that complete by this date will be prioritised for assessment.

Once all funding has been allocated, the scheme will close to new applications.

[Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme \(PSDS\) - GOV.UK update](#)

[Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund - GOV.UK update](#)

In its Energy White Paper, the government has confirmed that the PSDS will be extended for another year. Therefore, we would encourage you to prepare projects that could apply to a future round of PSDS. Our Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces team can help you with that.

socioeconomic value that drives decision making, rather than the availability of grant funding. Also, the value of the PSDS, along with Salix Finance and our programme delivery unit, might be to guide future programmes, projects, initiatives and the sequencing of net zero measures.

Currently, including with PSDS, there is a focus on the jobs created through projects. However, other benefits include energy cost savings, addressing backlog maintenance and health and well-being benefits all need to be considered.

If you're already working with the Retrofit Accelerator - Workplaces team, we will continue to be in regular contact about how updates from Salix may affect your project.

If you're interested in finding out how the programme can support your organisation in achieving its carbon reduction aims, please get in touch using the details below.

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

Hounslow leads the way on PSDS funding

The London Borough of Hounslow is one of the first councils in the UK to have successfully bid for funding from the Government's [Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme](#).

The long-time participant in the [Retrofit Accelerator - Workplaces](#) programme, worked closely with our team and their partners Asset+ to develop a robust bid that covers 33 schools across the borough, with a focus on heat decarbonisation and reducing energy bills.

You can find out more about Hounslow's PSDS bid on the [Asset+ website](#) or read about their previous successes with the programme [here](#).

Training: Measurement and verification of energy savings (M&V)

Verification of savings is an important part of energy performance projects procured via the RE:FIT framework.

As part of the support package we offer, the Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces team is hosting a two-day, virtual M&V training course on **27 and 28 January 2021**.

Attendees will learn how to apply the key principles of M&V to projects, understand the International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol (IPMVP) and how to choose the right M&V method for their schemes.

Free places are available to organisations working with the programme.

[Let us know if you'd be interested in M&V training](#)

Introducing the Local Energy Accelerator

The [Local Energy Accelerator](#) (LEA) aims to transform the way London generates, supplies, integrates and uses clean local energy in buildings and transport.

The £6 million LEA programme (50% funded by ERDF, 50% by the GLA) runs from November 2020 to July 2023, providing expertise and project management support for public and private organisations to bring their clean, locally generated energy projects into operation across London.

The GLA is running an online (MS Teams) presentation about LEA on **Monday 11 January 2021**, 10.30am – 12.30pm, open to all who want to find out more.

[Let us know if you would like to attend the LEA presentation](#)

Green Book Review 2020

The Green Book Review 2020 published its findings alongside the Spending Review announcements on 25 November 2020.

The Green Book Review 2020 has concluded that “current appraisal practice risks undermining the Government’s ambition to “level up” poorer regions and to achieve other strategic objectives”, potentially including for net zero.

The updated Green Book contains:

logic of change from inputs to outcomes.

- **Stronger and clearer advice on what constitutes value for money.**

This will ensure that projects are being assessed first and foremost on how well they deliver policy objectives rather than focusing on a purely economic assessment that doesn't consider who benefits.

HM Treasury is taking steps to strengthen the approval and decision-making process more widely, as well as the culture around the development of proposals. This includes a new emphasis on the role of business case reviewers as critical gatekeepers, as well as more training and support. HM Treasury will set clear expectations and equip reviewers to apply sufficient scrutiny.

The Retrofit Accelerator - Workplaces team can offer advice and training on how to construct an effective energy efficiency retrofit / net zero business case.

Finally, the published announcements state that “the 2020 Green Book and its supplementary guidance on valuing natural capital and climate effects continues to make significant and world-leading steps forward in appraising environmental policies”. It was also announced that “HM Treasury will lead an expert external review on the application of the Green Book discount rate to environmental impacts. This review will conclude next year and any changes to discount rates made in future updates of the Green Book.” Again, this is relevant to making the business case for energy efficiency retrofit / net zero projects.

[Read the full report](#)

Get in touch

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

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