

Cheney School
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Headteacher : Mr Rob Pavey



Cheney School
Think for yourself; act for others

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 5th July 2022

Cheney School are Winners!

Cheney School, Oxford has won a prestigious Energy Conscious Organisation Award. The school, which was the first in the world to achieve Energy Conscious Organisation (EnCO) Status, gained one of only two awards presented this year at the EnCO annual conference.

Cheney School received the award at a special ceremony in London last month, alongside a global engineering corporation demonstrating that all types of organisations can get involved and do their bit.

Cheney School, part of the River Learning Trust, became the first school to achieve EnCO Organisation status last year, after demonstrating to an expert panel that they have reduced energy consumption through behavioural change initiatives that ranged across the organisation.

The project has been led for five years by both the Finance and Operation teams and supported by the Headteacher and staff as well as local energy management consultancy REDUCE YOUR USE.

Local energy management consultant, Wendy Cheeseman, an accredited EnCO practitioner, has been supporting the school through the project which has also generated significant energy cost savings, as well as carbon reduction.

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Since the project began the school has reduced electricity consumption by almost a quarter to 23%, with overnight savings of 30%. Before we got started the carbon emissions associated with school electricity use was 266 tonnes CO₂e. The figure for the last 12 months is 107 tonnes CO₂e, a 60% reduction.

For many years out-of-hours consumption was the focus across the school by the Operations Team, but more and more staff and pupils are getting involved and switching off.

Phoebe Mortimer, Lead KS3 English teacher and Sustainability Lead for the Trust said "The commitment to sustainability and the drive to reduce carbon across the school has gathered momentum in recent years. This award and our electricity reduction is tangible proof that we follow through on intentions and commitments to living low carbon lifestyles at school for our pupils and in the workplace for staff."

"This award demonstrates that Cheney is achieving carbon and energy reduction targets year-on-year but importantly it cuts costs for us. Any school can achieve this, it is good for budgets as well as the planet," said Rob Pavey, Headteacher.

The school's energy consultant, Wendy Cheeseman, said "I recommend all schools to consider cutting energy consumption by more forensic analysis of their supply data showing when and why energy is consumed and if this is expected."

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ABOUT:

[Cheney School](#) is a vibrant secondary school in the heart of Oxford, which has been part of the life and education of Oxford since 1787.

As a school that aims to enable every student to reach their full potential, Cheney is committed to ensuring students can look forward to doing that in a healthy and protected environment. As a school with International Status, we recognise that looking after our shared planet is a priority.

The school motto is 'Think for yourself, act for others' and this is embodied through education that encourages students to understand and think critically about the sustainability of their culture, and to choose to act sustainably themselves, in the knowledge that climate change affects everyone.

[REDUCE YOUR USE](#) is a small Oxfordshire-based Energy Management Consultancy specialising in working with the education sector to cut energy consumption, costs and carbon. Through analysis of meter data we work with clients to find unexpected or needless consumption and investigate and eliminate.

[The Energy Conscious Organisation \(EnCO\)](#) is a not-for-profit joint initiative run by the Energy Services and Technology Association (ESTA) and supported by the Energy Institute.

EnCO run training courses and provide support materials to help organisations to understand the positive impact that they can have on the world by taking some simple steps and implementing a behaviour change programme that creates lasting effects.

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The EnCO Accreditation and Programme is our expert guide on becoming a more energy conscious organisation and reducing your environmental impact.

There are three accreditations:

EnCO Consultant, Practitioner and Organisation.

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