

The data unlocked by the smart meter rollout is an opportunity for schools to understand their energy usage and engage with new insights to maximise energy efficiency and cost savings. The Energy Comparison & Advice Tool (E-CAT) aims to help schools on this journey by enabling them to easily interpret their smart meter data and by providing tailored guidance on how to reduce energy usage and save money.

The school

The school, an all-age independent school with around 300 students, took part in a pilot of E-CAT. The school premises consist of a **number of converted houses as well as purpose-built educational spaces**. The user taking part in this trial needed a tool which could be used when they managed to find time for it alongside their other responsibilities.

How does seeing the usage of your school compared to typical schools on E-CAT help you?

"I wouldn't know whether we're doing well ... unless I had the background to look at"

How would you describe your overall experience in the E-CAT trial?

"A good experience, because it's told me where we are against other schools"

The school's experience of E-CAT

The school's user of E-CAT said **their experience was good**, and particularly liked looking at their energy usage on different days and **comparing it to other schools** to understand their performance relative to others. The user also **valued the ability to see long-term trends** in their data, allowing them to **make a year-on-year comparison of electricity usage** to understand how their usage was changing over time. As the energy bills were handled elsewhere in the business, the user was not previously aware of their usage, but **E-CAT had enabled them to understand how much electricity they were using on a daily basis**.

How would you describe E-CAT?

"It's pretty good"... "There's useful tips on there"

The benefits of smart metering

The school has **6 electricity meters**, which were all included in the E-CAT trial, and **all were** replaced by SMETS2 smart meters during the trial. This allowed the meter data to be made available on E-CAT, which **the user felt justified the minimal time they had spent** arranging the installations. The SMETS2 meters installed during the trial allowed data to be viewed on E-CAT quickly and easily. The user felt that the main benefit of having these meters installed was **not having to spend time organising meter readings anymore**.

What are the benefits of smart meters?

"The main benefit is that we haven't got to keep running round with meter readers ... because it's done automatically. That's a benefit time-wise from my point of view."

How was your experience of having smart meters installed?

"It was straightforward"

The impact of using E-CAT

The user felt that having the comparison to other schools would help **justify investment in energy efficiency** by showing that performance could be improved. The user felt that **the analysis from E-CAT could be used to make a case for energy efficiency investments** by looking at the comparison to typical and efficient schools.

What is the most important way you could use the information on E-CAT?

"It's using this as a lever to get funding"