

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 Hampstead site of Southbank International school, which is an independent primary school of around 200 students, took part in the E-CAT trial. A number of changes occurred at the premises over the trial, including new electrical equipment added to address concerns caused by the pandemic. The E-CAT user at the school does not normally see information about how much the school was spending on energy, so E-CAT was able to give them a view on their electricity costs.

What are the main benefits of using E-CAT?

"Comparing ... my school to another school is very very difficult [without E-CAT]. ... It's actually a really good comparison."

"It's the information on how much we are spending as a school that I find the most useful."

The school's experience of E-CAT

The user was very positive about E-CAT, and felt that it met their expectations "without a doubt". Overall, they found the site very straightforward to use and understand, and found all the information on the site to be interesting and useful. Specifically, they found the ability to investigate their usage within a day useful, and had used this analysis to identify times when electricity usage peaked during the school day, which could then be acted upon.

What has been your experience of using E-CAT?

"I think E-CAT, what they've done and what they've provided me with, is fantastic."

"It's a great system, I love it."

"I think it's been incredibly useful."

The benefits of smart metering

The user spent **less than an hour** organising their SMETS2 smart meter installation, and felt that **the benefit of having access to their data through E-CAT** definitely justified this time. They said they would recommend that similar schools have a smart meter put in and get access to their data.

How was your experience of having smart meters installed?

"It was straightforward."

"They were very, very efficient."

What are the benefits of smart meters?

"The smart meter is paramount to what I'm looking at [on E-CAT]."

The impact of using E-CAT

After looking at their data through E-CAT, the user understood the school's energy usage much better than before, and where they could make changes to save energy. This led the user to **send out a bulletin to staff advising them of energy efficiency behaviours they could implement**. The user felt that E-CAT could give them the evidence they would want to show other members of staff around the benefits of changing behaviours. **These learnings were also shared with other associated premises in the Southbank International School to help them take steps to reduce their usage as well.**

How does E-CAT help you make impactful changes?

"It's ... ammunition for me to ... get all the staff on board... to push in the same direction and make changes."