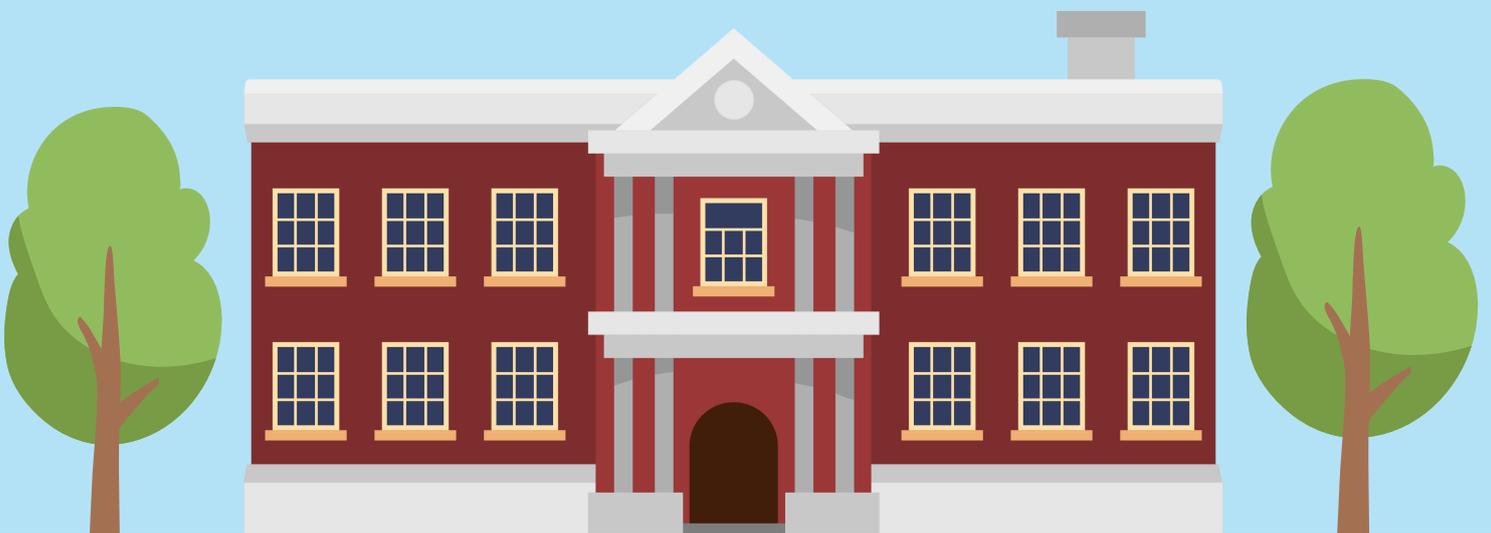


Case Study **Wigan College**



Summary

- **Location:** Greater Manchester, England
- **Capacity:** 244 kWp
- **Type:** Rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) system
- **Developer:** Shawton Energy
- **Owner:** Wigan & Leigh College
- **Panel type:** Longi 420w panels
- **Completion date:** August 2023



Shawton Energy is a renewable technology provider that has been prominent in the industry for over two decades.

Shawton Energy aims to deliver more than £50 million of invested capital in high-quality solar projects over the next five years. With a focus on new rooftop solar projects, we can provide renewable electricity through private wire Power Purchase Agreements to the occupiers of the premises.

Overview

Located in the city of Wigan, and in the heart of Greater Manchester, Wigan & Leigh College approached leading renewable technology provider, [Shawton Energy](#), to install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, as part of a major energy-saving project, across three of its sites.

Shawton Energy installed 244 kWp rooftop solar PV panels at Wigan & Leigh College, Leigh Adult Learning Centre, and Pagefield Campus – an Engineering & Construction Centre of Excellence – during the six-week summer term.



Project Summary

Energy costs have continued to rise across the UK, and for the education sector, this means it's been vital to harness the technologies and innovations available, to help improve the sector's future sustainability.

Firstly, given the education sector is often under such financial pressures, the College didn't have the funds to invest in the project, so it took advantage of Shawton Energy's Power. Purchase Agreement. This finance option meant Shawton Energy fully funded the project, with the College purchasing the energy from the solar panels for a set price over a long period of time. Secondly, it was crucial that the large-scale project caused as little disruption to the College's operations as possible. This saw Shawton Energy's installation plan conducted during the summer holidays, and the firm completed the works across all three buildings in six weeks. Choosing to install the panels during this time meant that works could be done without impacting the education of the students and overall teaching, while also giving the College the benefit of generating its own electricity upon opening for the new term.

Outcomes/Solution

These systems will improve the College's energy efficiency, giving the sites a significant 68-tonne reduction of carbon – the equivalent of keeping 68 cars off the road for nearly a year – while also reducing the College's electricity bills by thousands of pounds (£97,429.00 – based on current energy prices at the time of writing).

Furthermore, the solar PV system across the three sites provides Wigan & Leigh College with over 26% of its energy, meaning it no longer has to purchase that amount from the grid. The systems have also helped reduce the sites' annual carbon footprint by more than 68 tonnes. The College can now enjoy significantly lower electricity bills and generate 215,722kWh of clean energy every year, whilst showing its commitment to sustainability and Net Zero targets, all at no upfront cost. Shawton Energy also committed to assisting Wigan & Leigh College for its future Net Zero strategy and holding sessions with students to showcase potential careers in the industry.



Local Benefit

Education is all about investing in the future and by complementing this with investment in sustainable solar energy infrastructure, Wigan and Leigh College has not only future-proofed its building but its budgets too. By greatly reducing its energy bills, it allows the College to save valuable funds which can be invested elsewhere in the College's education ecosystem, benefitting local teachers, staff, and parents alike.

Schools and colleges aren't just places for learning, they are pillars of community and symbols of progress, and by embracing solar energy, the College has sent a clear message about its commitment to sustainability and its forward-thinking approach to its estate.

Shawton Energy's MD, Jamie Shaw, has also attended a school assembly to talk about the benefits of renewable energy, so there have been first-hand learning and educational benefits for the community, too.

In addition, by adopting renewable energy, Wigan and Leigh College is setting an example to other local education institutions, and indeed businesses, promoting broader environmental responsibility and stewardship of sustainable practices.

Community Benefit

There are many community benefits to Wigan and Leigh College's rooftop solar solution. Firstly, by working closely with the Shawton Energy team, Wigan and Leigh College has been able to improve its ESG and reduce its carbon footprint, helping to create a cleaner, greener environment for the present-day and future community. Secondly, the tailored support and guidance throughout the project – from design through to installation and maintenance – has not only helped to empower the College with greater energy independence, but it has also allowed the College's teaching staff to focus on the needs of students.

And finally, the College's Vice Principal, Louise Brown, also highlighted that the project can be used as a tool to educate and empower the College's student community – helping to inspire the future renewable energy experts and foster further innovation in this area.

"The energy works completed will save us a considerable amount on our electricity bills, while enabling us to reach our Net Zero targets. It's fantastic that we can not only give our students a sustainable future, but also provide invaluable teachings from Shawton Energy, potentially creating leading renewable energy experts right in the heart of our college."

Louise Brown Vice Principal at Wigan & Leigh College

You can view the Shawton Energy and Wigan & Leigh College project video at www.youtube.com/shawtonenergy



Learn more about what's happening at Shawton Energy at www.shawtonenergy.co.uk



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