

PRESS RELEASE

National retrofitting scheme to lower public sector energy bills

Local Partnerships working with the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson MP, are providing a tool for public sector organisations that has the capacity to deliver up to £1.5 billion of public sector energy upgrades and improvements, meaning lower bills for local authorities, the NHS, schools and universities.

RE:FIT, the national energy efficiency programme for the public sector, has set up a new framework of 16 suppliers that will provide retrofit solutions to the public sector – to make their buildings more energy efficient and cut bills. The new framework will help public sector organisations to save time and money by avoiding lengthy procurement processes.

Retrofitting can include low carbon technologies such as LED lighting, new and upgraded boilers, insulation, solar panels, and double glazing. Although organisations need to fund the works themselves, the framework means that the company carrying out the retrofitting work must guarantee a minimum level of energy savings.

Andrew Coleman, Acting Chief Executive of Local Partnerships, said: “The new RE:FIT framework offers public sector clients the opportunity to achieve savings, reduce energy consumption, and lower CO2 emissions. Local Partnerships’ work with clients in the delivery of RE:FIT projects demonstrates huge potential for the public sector to save money and develop new income streams. We hope to build on the programme’s success and help organisations across the public sector drive forward this vital element of their efficiency imperative. By establishing the framework, we are able to speed up the delivery of retrofitting and encourage public sector organisations to use the support available.”

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has used RE:FIT on its own Whitehall offices, including two Grade II listed buildings. Since switching to LED lighting and upgrading their ventilation systems in 2014, DECC have made savings of £30,000 a year and reduced their carbon dioxide emissions by 159 tonnes a year.

Other successful RE:FIT projects include:

- Cambridgeshire County Council saving over £1.3 million a year and 6,686 tonnes of carbon by investing £14 million in retrofit of their schools and offices and a 13MW solar array. The Council are now rolling out the programme to other schools across the county.
- London School of Economics saving £250,000 and 8,574 tonnes of carbon a year by replacing lighting and introducing lighting controls, replacing their old boilers and optimising their electrical system.

Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Matthew Pencharz, said: “With many of London’s public buildings facing pressures to make efficiencies on their operating costs, I am confident that this new framework will not only result in cheaper energy bills but also lower carbon emissions across the city.”

Specialist RE:FIT support units provide assistance and offer advice on areas such as funding to organisations across England and Wales as part of a wide range of services available to help them formulate project plans.

To date the RE:FIT programme, initially established in 2009, is helping to improve 870 buildings nationwide and save around 52,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, the equivalent to taking over 46,500 cars off the roads. This is enabling the public sector to save £9.8 million a year in energy bills from heating, lighting, cooking, cooling and equipment such as computers.

ENDS

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Local Partnerships is jointly owned by HM Treasury and the Local Government Association. We are the public sector delivery specialists. Our aim is to strengthen the public sector to deliver more effectively, achieve more swiftly, and give value for money to the taxpayer and public service customer. We work with local authorities and other public service providers across England and Wales.

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Notes to editors

1. RE:FIT is an initiative to enable public sector organisations to implement energy efficiency and local energy generation measures to their buildings or estate and support services. These measures improve the energy performance of buildings, thereby reducing carbon emissions and achieving substantial guaranteed annual cost savings. In addition, it can allow for significant income generation opportunities through the introduction of energy-generation measures.
2. RE:FIT comprises a national framework of suppliers and three expert teams (one in London, one across the rest of England and one in Wales) to provide the end to end support needed to get projects up, running and successfully implemented.
3. The RE:FIT programme was started by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in 2009. The new RE:FIT framework is now jointly owned and managed by the GLA and Local Partnerships.
4. In December 2012 the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), in partnership with the Greater London Authority, announced its intention to rollout the programme to public sector clients outside of London. Local Partnerships LLP was appointed by DECC to provide support to clients outside London in the development and delivery of their RE:FIT projects.
5. Crown Commercial Service (CCS) are a partner in the new RE:FIT framework. CCS bring together policy, advice and direct buying; providing commercial services to the public sector

and saving money for the taxpayer. Their primary role is to manage the procurement of common goods and services to achieve greater levels of value. CCS carried out the procurement of RE:FIT, and will engage their clients regarding RE:FIT and manage the receipt of Management Information over the lifetime of the framework. The RE:FIT framework is the only Energy Performance Contracting framework supported by CCS.”

6. In March 2016 Welsh Government launched the Re:fit Cymru programme, which is being supported by £1.5 million from the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the EU. Re:fit Cymru will subsidise 90% of the cost for these services. Once the project is at a stage to be implemented the Welsh Government can offer zero per cent interest finance which will be paid back by the savings made.
7. The 16 suppliers selected to be on the new framework are:
 - Ameresco Limited
 - Bouygues E&S FM UK Ltd
 - Breathe Energy Limited
 - British Gas Trading Limited
 - Engie Services Limited
 - Cynergin Projects Limited
 - EDF Energy Customers plc
 - Herbert T. Forrest Ltd
 - ISS Facility Services Ltd
 - Kier Services Limited
 - Larkfleet Limited
 - Matrix Control Solutions Limited
 - Zephyro S.p.A.
 - Robertson Group Limited
 - SSE Contracting Limited
 - Vital Energi Utilities Ltd