What will my electricity cost my primary school if we use a pop-up pool?

Schools often ask us, "How much does it cost to have the Swim:ED programme on our school site?"

It is difficult to give an exact price because energy usage has many variables, and the cost will vary depending on the energy tariff your school is on. However, we understand the importance of calculating energy usage so schools can plan for their Swim:ED programme accordingly.

Analysis of school energy consumption

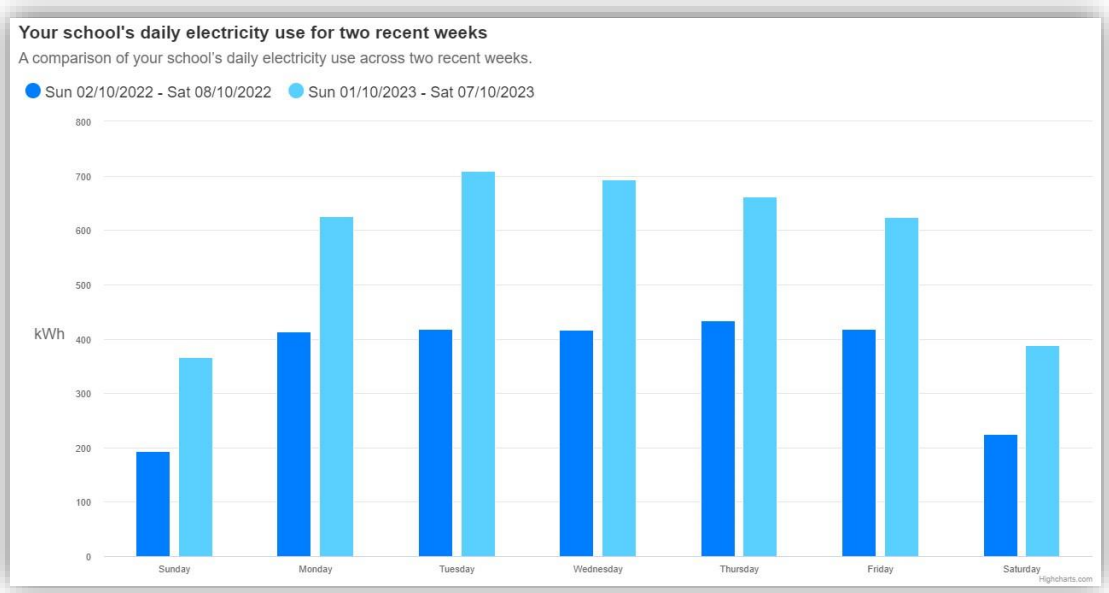
We have worked with a school recently that was able to share their utility data via their '*Energy Sparks'* platform. Energy Sparks presents a detailed analysis of how a school's electricity consumption has changed over a period of time. This analysis is instrumental in investigating a change in electricity consumption or monitoring the impact of action taken in the school.

Using the school's platform, we can analyse energy consumption in more detail whilst the Swim:ED programme is on their school site. It allows us to compare the energy consumption over two different weeks of the school year.

The data presented in this document showcases a 'normal' week in October 2022 and a week where a Swim:ED pop-up pool programme had been operating in October 2023.

When comparing the two weeks, the chart below shows an expected increase in energy usage whilst Swim:ED was on the school site from 01/10/23 to 07/10/23. The total energy consumption across the week in 2022 was 2,517.73 kWh, whilst 2023 saw it increase by 1,549.28 kWh to 4,067.01 kWh.

In 2022, the kWh daily average was 359.67 kWh. During the same week in 2023, the daily average was 581.08 kWh. Comparing these two weeks demonstrated an average increase of 221.41 kWh per day.



Whilst it is clear that the increase in energy consumption and costs results from the Swim:ED programme, we cannot be 100% confident that this is the only reason for the growth seen in the electricity use chart.

However, if a school is interested in using a pop-up pool programme and wants to forecast its weekly utility costs, it could use the weekly increase figure of 1,549.28kWh and add it to the kWh total during a 'normal' week. We suggest adding 221.41 kWh to their 'normal' daily recording to get the daily figure.

Analysis of school utility costs

Let's take the example of the school that has shared its energy consumption details to understand the impact of utility costs. The school has disclosed that its tariff rate is £0.2339 per kWh. During the time when the pop-up pool was on the school premises, the school's energy consumption went up by £51.79 per day.

It is difficult to confirm what your energy costs could be for your school because the price will depend on the energy tariff your school is on. However, once you have your school energy tariff, you can estimate the cost of a pop-up pool programme on your school site like we have done in the example above.