



Connecting



**CST Annual
Conference 26**

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#CSTConf26

Making the hidden connections



Saving money, reducing risk, and improving understanding of your estate

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What do we mean by hidden connections?



An American politician called Donald (not that one) summed it up well....

There are known knowns; there are things we know that we know.

There are known unknowns; that is to say, there are things that we now know we don't know.

But there are also unknown unknowns – there are things we do not know we don't know.

-Donald Rumsfeld



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We can't control.....

This.....



Because of this.....



&



But we can impact....



Strategic & operational decision-making processes to ensure we maintain choices and control over the outcomes in the following areas

- Trust mergers
- New builds (full and partial)
- Energy efficiency
- Decarbonisation
- Self generation
- School life



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Data

Decisions are built on the foundation of solid data.

What data do I have and how can I use it?

1. Do my meters record half hourly, daily, monthly or are they reliant on the M1HEB?
2. How can I see this data?
3. What do I do with this data?
4. What does the past tell me about the future?

What does my energy estate look like now?

1. How many meters do I have?
2. What do they supply?
3. What will it look like in 12, 36 and 60 months?
4. Do I understand my procurement contracts?



Without data you are guessing.
With data you are deciding.



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Mergers

There is no automatic obligation to inherit a contract. It is your choice.

A school is not a legal entity, it is an operational site of its parent organisation. If the registered company number changes for the bill payer then the previous contract can no longer be enforced without a novation being agreed.

The important factors to consider are:

1. The price
2. The length of the contract
3. The T&C's
4. The strategic alignment

Ensure this review is part of your standard due diligence process



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New Builds – kVa costs

This should be reviewed as early in the build process as possible

A new school or block is a fabulous asset.....but it can attract hidden costs that never stop! A common hidden cost is caused by the builder agreeing a higher than needed kVa for the site.

This impacts both the standing charge and the monthly capacity cost as it sets the transmission and distribution charges.

For example, agreeing 300 kVa rather than 250 kVa attracts additional costs of c£11k per annum due to changing charging bands.

This has to be reviewed before you take the site over!

Band	kVa Lower Limit	kVa Upper Limit	Transmission Cost £ per Year	
Domestic	n/a	n/a	£	81.24
LV1	0	90	£	2,116.05
LV2	91	150	£	4,201.82
LV3	151	250	£	5,249.20
LV4	251	251+	£	13,935.74
HV1	0	500	£	11,621.25
HV2	501	1100	£	42,760.77
HV3	1101	2000	£	67,677.75
HV4	2001	2001+	£	193,053.00



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Energy Efficiency

For clarity this means use less – the cheapest energy is the kWh you do not use!

Every building in the country should aim to use less energy – we are heavily involved with the DfE and Barkers in the delivery of the NZAP & GBESP programmes. There is one risk to consider when reducing consumption – does your contract allow you to do so penalty free?

What % can you drop?

Is it at meter, site or Trust level?

How is any penalty calculated?

Can you mitigate with notice?

This should never stop you being efficient – you just need to know the contractual boundaries



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Self Generation

This is not efficiency it is a procurement model



The same volume tolerance clauses that impact efficiency apply to Self Generation.
If you are doing both the drop in grid demand can be substantial.

In addition, there can be considerations around exporting the excess energy and/or utilising battery storage to consume the power later.

Remember this is a money saving tool first and foremost !



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Decarbonisation

Not to be confused with efficiency – it often competes!

Decarbonisation is not designed to reduce your consumption or your cost.
It reduces your carbon and could result in increased costs.

The important factors to consider are:

1. Volume tolerance (again)
2. kVa (again)
3. The cost delta – gas vs power

Ensure your budget is based on all the variables of the new set up.



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School Life

The 99% of time that is not spent on the previous slides

The majority of school life is not spent on those one moment in time exercises we have discussed so far. It is spent delivering education to the next generation with some of the biggest impacts happening as an unintended consequence (for good normally).

Circle have undertaken a programme of behavioural change that has had a meaningful impact on the energy spend but also on their pupils and staff.

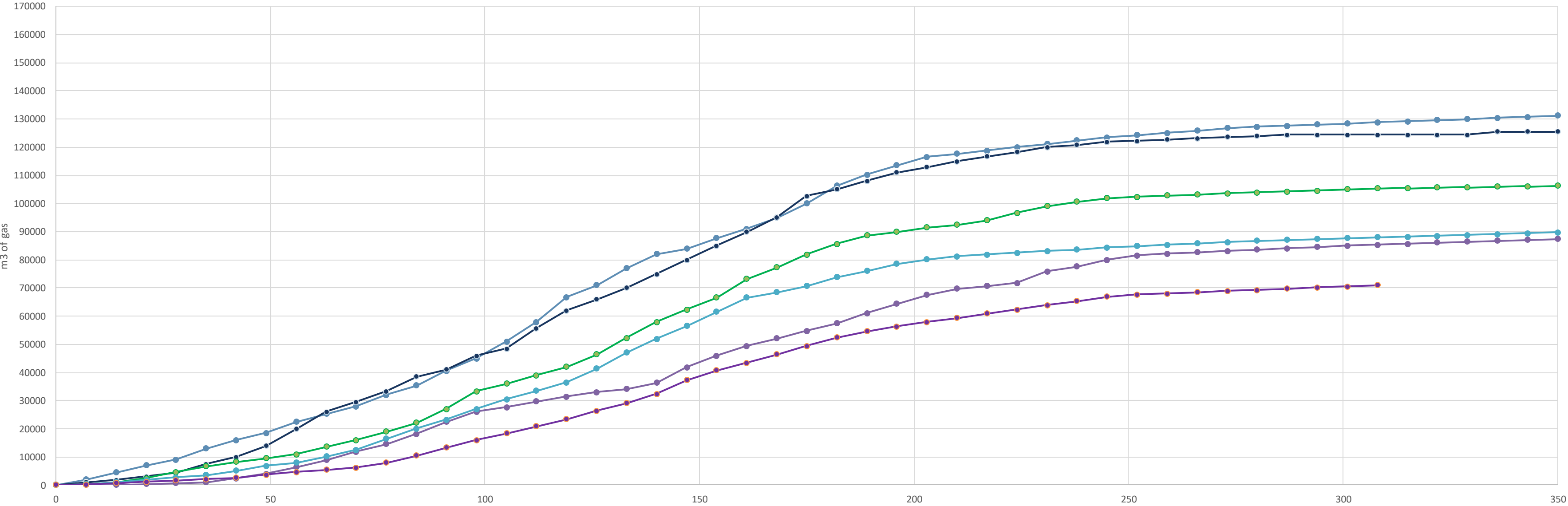


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The result

Cumulative gas usage 2018-19 and 2022-2025



Days of the school year (day '0' is the first day of the school year in September)

—●— 2018 gas —●— 2019 gas —●— 2022 gas —●— 2023 gas —●— 2024 gas —●— 2025 gas

Final Word



None of these hidden connections prevent any Trust undertaking an activity that would assist them in using less or generating more. When managed correctly they present an opportunity to have contractual freedom to ensure you can deliver the best outcome for your Trust.

You do not need to answer the “what if....”, you need to ask the people that can!

“The important thing is to never stop questioning” Albert Einstein



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Thank you



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