

Green Belt Statement to support Application 24/00384/FUL

Installation of an Air Source Heat Pump System at Hopwood Hall College, Middleton Campus, Rochdale Road, Middleton, M24 6XH

Introduction: Hopwood Hall College is committed to sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint. As part of this commitment, we propose the installation of an air source heat pump (ASHP) system to replace the existing gas-fired heating system at our Middleton Campus. This initiative aligns with our broader environmental goals and supports the UK's transition to renewable energy sources.

Description of the Proposed Development

The proposed project involves the installation of an ASHP system, which will provide a more efficient and environmentally friendly heating solution for the campus. The ASHP system will be installed in place of the current gas-fired system, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.

Environmental Benefits:

1. **Reduction in Carbon Emissions:** The ASHP system will reduce the campus's carbon emissions significantly, contributing to the UK's net-zero targets.
2. **Energy Efficiency:** ASHP systems are highly efficient, converting ambient air into heat with minimal energy loss. This will lead to a reduction in overall energy consumption.
3. **Sustainable Energy Source:** By utilizing renewable energy, the ASHP system will decrease reliance on fossil fuels, promoting a cleaner and more sustainable energy future.

Compliance with Green Belt Policies:

The installation of the ASHP system follows Green Belt policies, which aim to preserve the openness and character of the Green Belt. The project will not involve any significant construction or alteration of existing structures, ensuring minimal visual and environmental impact. The ASHP units will be installed in a manner that maintains the aesthetic integrity of the campus.

- [National Policy: Refer to the National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\) and its guidelines on Green Belt land¹.](#)

Community and Educational Impact:

1. **Educational Opportunities:** The project will serve as a live case study for students, providing direct learning opportunities in renewable energy technologies and sustainability practices.

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2. **Community Engagement:** We will engage with the local community throughout the project, ensuring transparency and fostering a sense of shared responsibility for environmental stewardship.

Conclusion: The installation of an air source heat pump system at Hopwood Hall College's Middleton Campus represents a significant step towards our sustainability goals. This project will not only reduce our carbon footprint but also serve as an educational tool and a model for other institutions. We are committed to implementing this project in a manner that respects and enhances the Green Belt, contributing to a sustainable future for our community.

