



### [Current and future energy pricing](#)

The latest information on pricing for financial year 2022/23



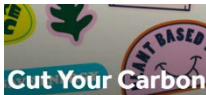
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Spring term 2023



## Current and future energy pricing

By Kristina Peat, Operations Manager Energy

The volatility of the energy markets at the moment and for the last year or so have been unprecedented. While I'm a relative newcomer to energy (15 years' or so working in the field), colleagues who have 30+ years' experience are saying they have never seen anything like it. Add to this the, very welcome, but highly complex government schemes to provide relief on energy bills means we are in a very uncomfortable position of many of our latest bills being late, a very challenging budget setting environment and financial squeeze for all.

Here, I hope to explain how this is impacting on the supplies your school uses via the NYCC contracts.

### Variable monthly pricing 22/23 and 23/24.

#### Gas

For many years the gas contract has operated a buying strategy of 80% of the gas we need purchased ahead of it being used, sometimes over 24 months (called Purchase Ahead of Period (PAP) and 20% purchased within the same year in which it's used (called Purchase Within Period (PWP)). So, a price was fixed at the start of the financial year and the reconciliation between that and what the final load of gas was purchased at ran in the background and was reconciled at the end of the financial year. Up until this year this has worked to our benefit, with the reconciliation reducing the next financial years price. However, this is no longer the case due to the volatility in the market, so the reconciliation was not to been to our benefit for the first time. In addition, from October 2022 there has been the government's current Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS) to factor in. This is relief on the commodity element of your bill only, so each month the supplier must calculate the difference between the commodity cost at which the gas was purchased, and the level of the relief offered. This is the reason we have different prices each month for gas for the final months of this financial year.

#### Electricity

For the final months of the 22/23 financial year a small percentage of the required load was purchased within period, and this is why, for the same reasoned explained above, the monthly price has been variable between October 2022 and March 2023.

We are aware this is far from ideal.

### Government energy relief and discount schemes

I am sure many of you will have noticed that the government are going to extend the current EBRS from April 2023 by introducing the Energy Bill Discount Scheme (EBDS). This is welcome news, but there are some differences between the current and future scheme seen in the table below:

Scheme	Gas	Electricity
Old scheme (EBRS)	Set price of £75 per MWh (7.5p/kWh)	Set price of £211 per MWh (21.2p/kWh)
New scheme (EBDS) – all customers	Discounted above £107 per MWh (10.7p/kWh) up to maximum discount of £6.97 per MWh (0.697p/kWh)	Discounted above £302 per MWh (30.20p/kWh) up to maximum discount of £19.61 (0.1961p/kWh) per MWh.

Prices are commodity only.

The estimated average delivered prices we are currently being given by suppliers are:

- Gas prices for 23/24 estimated average 14p/kWh delivered price based on 75% purchased.
- Electricity prices 23/24 estimated average at between 38p/kWh and 54p/kWh based on 32% purchased.

From this information we can assume we will receive little of no discount under the new EBDS, mainly due to the reduction in the maximum discount available. However, we are waiting for this to be confirmed by suppliers.

As with the EBRS there is no need to register for the new scheme starting in April 2023, this is all done for you by the supplier.

This will mean the coming 23/24 financial year will also have differing pricing for each month, due to the reasons described above.

We are aware this is far from ideal, but we are endeavouring to get monthly or more frequent updates to you, depending on the frequency of announcements.

#### **Useful links:**

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy new [Energy Bill Discount Scheme](#) (EBDS) for 2023/24.

EBRS [webpage](#)

#### **Corona webinar:**

YPO and Corona have taken on the action and created a Webinar, tailored for schools to give a clear understanding of the wholesale Gas market. This covers the supply infrastructure, storage, market drivers & updates, a breakdown of your Corona gas bill and YPO's basket and consumption.

Please click the link which will direct you to view the Webinar via YouTube <https://youtu.be/tksD3JwfYiw>



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## Supply contracts

### Water contract

Our current water supply contract comes to an end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. In order to be compliant to the Water Act 2014 a procurement is being undertaken by North Yorkshire County Council to identify, via getting prices from two different frameworks, the best value for money for water retailer services. The outcome of this process will provide a contract that will be used by NYCC and is available for schools to use as well, in the same way as the energy supply contracts. The value for money exercise will conclude in the second week of February 2023 and at that point we will be in a position to inform you of the provider.

The new water contract will be for either two (2) years and run from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025, or 19 months and run from 1st April 2023 to 31st October 2024, depending on which framework comes forward with the best price. The way the pricing is arranged within this two years is slightly different from energy. The wholesale elements of the prices charged is set but the wholesaler and are not influenced by the choice of supplies, but the retailer element of the price will be held for the term of the contract. To cover the procurement and contract management costs associated with each school use of this contract a small fee of 1.18p/cubic meter (£0.0118/m<sup>3</sup>) of water will be added to the water bills, collected by the retailer and passed to the Energy & Sustainability Service.

Information and the agreements have been sent through to schools to review, and if you wish to use the new water contract, complete and sign the agreement by 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### Npower electricity contract

Now that our contract with nPower is drawing to an end, they have started contacting schools directly about debt. These are automated emails from this email address: [EnergyServicesDebt@npower.com](mailto:EnergyServicesDebt@npower.com). The reason nPower are doing this is because if there is significant debt on an account, they can prevent the account (or even the entire NYCC portfolio) from leaving when the contract ends, until such time that the contract ends. Please don't be alarmed by any threats of further action, the emails are automated but further action will be taken.

However, if you have any queries or problems, such as needing a copy of a missing invoice, please do not respond to that email address. That address deals with all accounts that don't have their own account manager, and any response will be slow.

**You can contact our account manager Mark directly, by emailing [YPO@npower.com](mailto:YPO@npower.com), to get a much faster response from someone who knows the NYCC accounts.**

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## Primary package

*We take care of it all*

### **Do you know what the primary package service does for you?**

The energy and sustainability traded service is here to meet your needs as we are the experts in lowering your energy and water bills, ensuring you only pay for what you use and use as little as possible.

The primary service package is designed to support you in running the school in an efficient and sustainable manner allowing you more time to focus on the children.

### **The Bill Validation service**

This is vital to ensuring you only pay for what you use. We can't avoid the fact that sometimes the utility companies don't get our bills right, errors such as incorrect billing rates, incorrect meter reads, incorrect meters and unusual consumption all occur. If you use our utility supply service for one or all utilities, we will do checks on your bills. If we find something odd, we will alert you to it and will be able to fully investigate.

### **Display Energy Certificates**

These provide in-depth analysis of how efficiently you use the buildings including recommendations on improvements. Public buildings like schools must display their DEC in a prominent place clearly visible to the public, e.g. near the building's entrance. They can be fined £500 if they don't.

A DEC will tell you how efficiently energy is being used in a building. The recommendations report accompanies the DEC and contains specific advice on improving the energy performance of the building. The recommendations cover cost-effective measures that may be implemented to improve the energy performance of the property with paybacks in the short, medium and long term. How do you get a DEC? We take care of it at the right time to keep you compliant. We have a number of qualified DEC assessors in the team who provide DEC's to schools throughout North Yorkshire.

### **EMS. Energy management system in your school.**

Some schools can receive the benefits of the EMS service, allows schools to control their own heating over the web through a user-friendly interface or via e-mail. The purpose of the services is to allow schools to concentrate on teaching while ensuring the schools heating systems work efficiently and frugally.

Unlimited telephone training for staff on their heating controls. Optionally entering North Yorkshire County Council standard school term time holidays, this is free of charge. Monitoring of heating systems during school holidays and spells of cold weather. Optionally operate heating controls on your behalf of the site, this is free of charge. Remote trouble-shooting of heating controls, this including the ability to fix some problems remotely.

## **Schools Carbon Reduction service**

The schools carbon reduction service is a unique part of the service which delivers parts of the Department for education policy on climate change and supports schools in progressing through the eco-schools programme. Our own energy saving super hero “power down pete” can deliver a planet protecting assembly or run a whole school eco day. With topics covered from Rainforests and water use to energy efficiency and climate, Pete delivers it all. Schools and their staff are not even limited in terms of the support they can have and Pete delivers a variety of sessions for your children throughout EYFS KS1 and KS 2. Last term, following a visit from Power down Pete one head teacher described this part of the service as “a really good resource and Powerdown Pete always comes in like a breath of fresh air!”

## **Energy action support**

Following the announcements of new funding for school energy efficiency measures, we can help schools understand contractors’ quotes. We are currently assisting schools with the process of running their energy efficiency projects and are supporting decision makers, governors and headteachers.

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## Eco- Excellence with Carbon Cutting

The international environmental awards scheme Eco-Schools is launching its latest programme for cutting your carbon. The campaign runs from 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> February and develops school action around the topics of Textiles, Food and Energy consumption.

The energy and sustainability service can help schools in the primary and secondary packages deliver these areas and support staff and children to reduce their Carbon footprint.

The children can learn about their environmental impact with a range of free and practical activities downloadable from the eco schools website. They're hands-on, fun, and give pupils the power to make a difference.

You can raise the profile of your school contributing to the social media takeovers and the **#CutYourCarbon** hashtag. Additionally, action delivered as part of Cut Your Carbon will also count as evidence for your Eco-Schools Green Flag application as well as delivering elements of the DFE policy on sustainability and climate change.

Find out more at

<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/eco-projects/cut-your-carbon/>

or contact [peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk)



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## A secondary school challenge

Up until very recently this school was struggling with leaky windows and poorly insulated flats roofs, and to compound matters further the heating system controls decided to pack up leaving the site staff to manually control the heating plant during a cold winter period.

*FACT: Retrofit insulation whether it be Insulating a roof void, pipe lagging in boiler houses, cavity wall insulation as a wider approach installing an insulating deck when refitting a worn out leaking flat roof. This is the one thing that a school can do to reduce energy and carbon and deliver a sustainable building that provides a comfort environment for its occupants.*

With the help of the heat decarbonisation initiative, this particular school's leaking draughty windows have been replaced with modern alternatives, and a significant amount of flat roof has been upgraded, giving a real sense of full throttle retrofit to help bring the school heating bills back under control of the site team in a sustainable way!



The adding of a DELTA BMS system (heating controls) has also enabled the site manager to really focus on areas of the building to reduce energy usage whilst still maintaining a good level of comfort in the building with no need to break the bank to achieve this very basic goal!

### What has been achieved?

We can measure the improvement by looking at the Display Energy Certificate (DEC) rating. The DEC's technical data takes into account degree days - these are a simplified form of historical weather data. They are commonly used in energy monitoring and targeting, to model the relationship between energy consumption and outside air temperature.

Looking at this school's DEC technical data:

2021 - 133.39 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> per annum 43.49 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/M<sup>2</sup> PA

2022 - 120.39 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> per annum 42.70 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/M<sup>2</sup> PA

This doesn't sound a lot - until you look at the monetary values; what does this mean in terms of savings or avoiding increased energy cost over one winter?

A gas usage reduction of 99,026 kW/h was made for the main building (which is made up of numerous blocks) for the same period between 2021/2022. At the current rate of around 21p per kW/h this is an annual saving of £20,795. This was the main building alone, take the site overall and the gas usage reduced by 187,311 kW/h; this equates to an overall annual saving for gas of £39,335.

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## A little break from the Cape!

*This is part two of Power Down Pete's observations, on his new role as a Display Energy Certification Officer.*

There are many times when I go into a school and I see, in winter, doors open to allow early years access to the outside to fulfill the free flow policies. Whilst allowing structured play outside and movement between that area and the classroom is important, so is keeping the heat in the building. Schools should aim to keep the door closed as much as possible and fit plastic strip curtains to the doorframe to limit heat loss.

Staying with early year's classrooms I'm fully aware of the issues facing teachers with space to put in the reading corner, play kitchen, bookshelves and even cuddly toys. Add to this wall space where the radiators live, and you soon run out of room. However, blocking radiators with furniture achieves hot furniture and cool classrooms. This also means your heating can potentially be on for longer before the room sensor picks up that the required temperature has been met and switches off.

Boiler houses are out of sight out of mind for many in schools and to some extent rightly so as schools focus is on their students. However, this can be an area of poor energy efficiency and insulation. Many schools have neglected their insulation on pipe work and in many cases large surface areas are left un-wrapped, heating up the boiler house rather than the school. This is easily solved with what many would recognise as silver "puffa jacket" material. Attached via Velcro, this durable and malleable material acts as "remove and replace" insulation for valve and flanges which are difficult to cover with traditional lagging.

Finally, point of use water heaters with no switch off or timer facility that's accessible can be a big energy waster. Heating water using electricity can be an efficient way of delivering the required hot water at the sink as it is, only heating a small amount water as its needed. However, many schools have no easy way of knowing where the 'switch off' is for the individual hot water supply's or how to set any timer systems. This could potentially mean water is heated throughout weekends and holiday periods. As long as protocols are followed for legionella, whereby the system is flushed through before use, steps should be taken to limit their use and switch off at weekends and holidays.

We are all aware that a school's priority is to deliver outstanding education to their children. Running the school in an energy efficient manner could seem far removed from classroom content. However, the concept behind our Primary Package service is to provide a wrap-around service, curriculum and campus. This is exactly what the Department for Education has recently recommended in their 2022 Climate Change and Sustainability Policy;

- children should be involved in the running of the building
- children should be using data from meter reads
- children should understand where their energy comes from and the impact of carbon on our climate.

This is something that Pete has been striving to do for many years and he will continue to deliver a dual role into the future. This ensures that vital blend of practical action on energy efficiency with the environmental education for future generations.

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## Book Power down Pete

Have you had your visit from the Energy and Sustainability Service resident superhero?

Is your school meeting the requirements of the DFE on sustainability and climate change?

Are you progressing through the international Eco-school's programme towards your green flag award?

We can help with all this!

Not only do we offer advice, support and guidance for staff leading these programmes, we work with the children, school councils and eco teams. We also help school staff deliver energy efficiencies and develop the school operation.

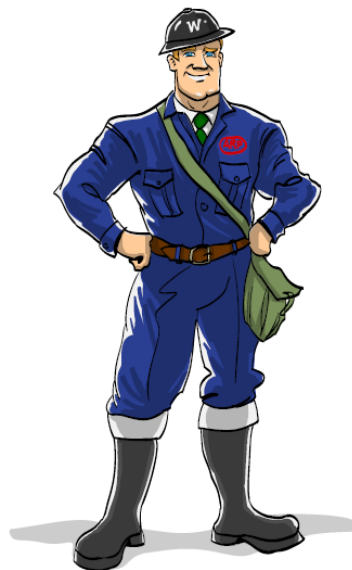
We offer workshops and assemblies covering a range of topics, from energy and climate to rainforests and water supply, from waste and recycling to an international Japanese experience. Pete's latest creation is "ARPete Switch that light out", a World War 2 input, connecting the actions we had to take on the home front with those we should take in the era of a climate emergency.

We do it all, and your school can have the benefit of everything to support your curriculum. As we come to you, this also allows you to have curriculum enrichment without the transport costs of trips out.

For schools who purchase the primary package there are no extra costs to have Power Down Pete visit your school and access all this support.

Our award-winning service has been delivering to North Yorkshire schools for over 14 years offering practical energy support with environmental education.

To book your visit, contact [Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk)



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## Healthy Schools & Early Years training & pupil event: Spring Term 2022

### Overview

Take part in an interactive online training session to begin working on your Healthy Schools or Healthy Early Years award or to develop your work further if you are already taking part. Staff from the Healthy Schools award team will be delivering the training and on hand to answer any questions you may have. Please register with the scheme before attending training at [www.healthyschools.org](http://www.healthyschools.org) and choose to join either as a school or Early Years provider.

The Healthy Schools & Early Years scheme and training is funded by Public Health to enable all North Yorkshire schools and Early Years providers to take part for free. Private and out of County schools and out of County Early Years providers can join for a charge. The online training is free for all North Yorkshire schools, including academies, special and secondary schools and Early Years settings including day nurseries, playgroups, pre-schools, childminders who work on their own, childminders with assistants or childcare on domestic premises.

### Booking

To apply for any of the training below please go to North Yorkshire Education Services (NYES) <http://www.nyestraining.co.uk> If you are a school or educational setting your school will have been issued with a username and password, which will enable your school to log in and apply for training. If you have any questions or need help using the site call the NYES team on 01609 533 222. Or email [nyes@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:nyes@northyorks.gov.uk)

**Please note: a Teams link to access online training will be emailed to you nearer the time.**

DATE	SESSION TIME	COURSE TITLE	NYES COURSE CODE
2/2/23	1:30-3pm  ONLINE VIA TEAMS	<b>Getting started on the Healthy Schools Award.</b> Find out more or refresh your knowledge about how to get started working towards a Healthy Schools award. We will go through the website and award application process. Ask any questions you have on the scheme.	SI-0223-T021
09/2/22	1:30-3pm  Or (Repeated) 6.30-8pm	<b>Getting started on the Healthy Early Years Award.</b> Have you signed with the scheme but don't know where to start? Join us for an informal online training session which will show you the website, resources and how to apply for an award. We will also share examples from other providers who have already gained an award.	SI-0223-T022  Evening SI-0223-T023
07/3/22  SAVE THE DATE	1:00-3pm	<b>Healthy Schools online pupil event: focus on Being Active &amp; Healthy Eating</b> Join us from the comfort of your school for one of our popular online pupil events with a range of interactive workshops for pupils to take part in including: Getting growing in school with the RHS Live cook along with Phunky Foods Active Learning with Let's Move 3,800 pupils joined the last event so don't miss out!	BOOKINGS WILL OPEN SOON

For queries please email: [healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk)

**Please register with the scheme before attending the training or pupil event:**  
[www.healthyschoolsnorthyorks.org](http://www.healthyschoolsnorthyorks.org)

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