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Energy prices for 2020/21

These are the latest price forecasts from our purchasing partners, Yorkshire Energy Organisation (YPO).

Gas

The expected overall costs for 2020/21 are 13% lower than for 2019/20.

Gas prices are low, and YPO have now purchased 80% of the gas we need for 2020/21.

Electricity

The expected overall costs for 2020/21 are 8% higher than for 2019/20.

95% of the power we need for 2020/21 has been purchased. The commodity cost (cost of the power purchased on international commodity markets) achieved by YPO for 2020/21 is around 4% lower than for the current year, but the other costs on bills have increased by around 10% leading to an overall increase.

What are the “other costs”?

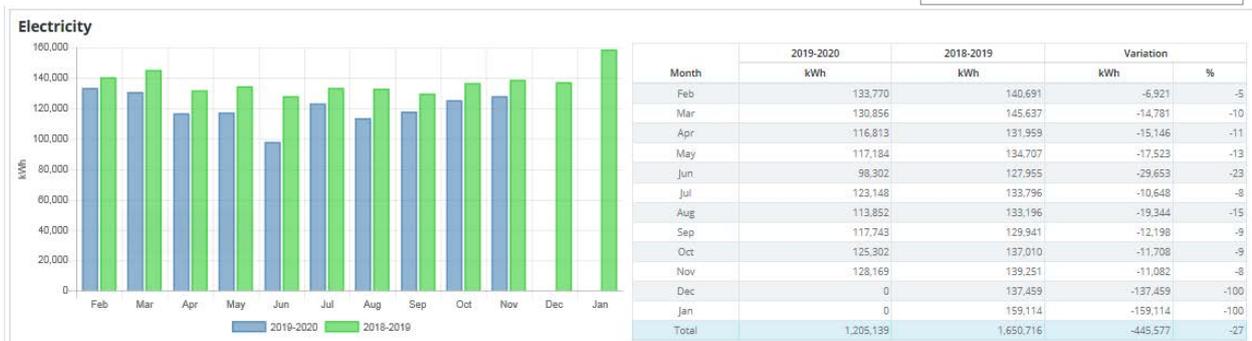
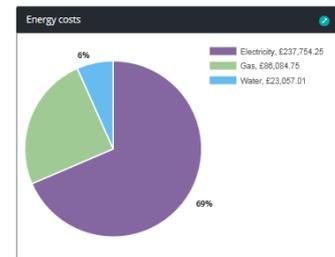
These are pass-through charges, collected by our supplier but set by other bodies such as the government (green taxes, e.g. Contracts for Difference, Renewable Obligation) and the National Grid (network charges to keep the supply working).

Help for school business managers

Most schools are using SystemsLink to record their energy meter readings, but SystemsLink can do so much more and we believe many business managers may not be taking advantage of its many functions and reports.

As well as your own meter readings, SystemsLink holds data for all the energy bills issued on the NYCC bulk fuel contracts. Its many built-in reports means it's easy to see how much you've spent on energy this year, or how this year's bills compare to last year's. Many business managers say these reports are particularly useful when reporting to governors. And on top of that, if you have a half-hourly electricity meter (or buy the half-hourly data for your electricity or gas meter) then you can use this detailed data to identify possible savings.

Please contact Karen by emailing energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk for help or more information.



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Contract Updates

Gas – new contract

Our buying partners, YPO, have started the process to tender for the next contract, which will start in April 2021. Because they start buying the gas a year ahead of the start of the contract, so they can obtain the best possible price, we need to have an idea of which schools want to join the new contract.

We will be in touch in the next few weeks with information on the new contract; keep an eye on your email in-box!

nPower – system changes

Our electricity supplier, nPower are bringing in some new changes very soon. These changes will affect all customers. To help you make the change, nPower will be running webinars that will explain the changes and give you the chance to ask questions. Please keep an eye open for the email invite to the webinar, that nPower will be sending out in the next few weeks.

New web portal

nPower have developed a new web portal that we believe will be similar to our gas supplier's portal, MyCorona. This will allow you to access your bills online, and go paperless if you wish.

Action: Attend the webinar, coming soon, to find out more.

New billing system

nPower's new billing system will support the new web portal. However, to avoid the issues we experienced when our former gas supplier changed their billing system, we strongly recommend that all accounts are paid up-to-date before the new system is brought on-line. If you have an invoice in query with nPower then that can be left until the query is resolved, nPower's systems will support this.

Action: clear all outstanding bills and credit notes by the end of March 2020

For schools with multiple meters only: changes due to De Minimis regulations

HM Customer and Excise have introduced rules that affect how energy companies apply VAT to sites with more than one gas or electricity supply. In the past, if consumption on a supply dropped below a level considered as equivalent to domestic consumption, that meter was charged at the domestic rate of VAT, 5%, instead of the commercial rate of 20%. Now, if there is more than one meter on site, the overall consumption for the site is considered before the VAT rate is applied. This affects our gas and electricity accounts slightly differently.

Gas: Only a small number of schools have been affected; these schools have seen (or will shortly see) a rebill. Information is being sent to these schools with further information.

Electricity: If a school has more than one electricity supply, when the new billing system goes live they will receive a single bill, but it will still show the breakdown for each meter in the same way the current bills do. This will be explained in nPower's webinar, coming soon.

Schools and academies that have signed a **VAT Declaration** to claim the reduced rate of VAT will need to sign a new form. nPower will complete these forms as far as possible for you and provide the figure they believe should be entered into the Percentage field (they are not allowed to complete this field for you): just fill in the percentage, sign the form, and return to nPower.

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Seven years is a long time in energy management (DECO Now and Then)

By Stephen Armstrong, Display Energy Certification Officer

Having just returned to work as a Display Energy Certification Officer at NYCC I now realise an awful lot has happened since I left in 2012. Reassuringly, something's don't change, one being the energy team's promotion of energy efficient lighting. Back in 2012 the lighting stock in schools was mainly inefficient (low frequency T12 and T8 fluorescents and CFLs) with a lot of sports and high ceiling halls and perimeter lighting using very energy hungry halogen (HID,high intensity discharge) lamps. So it's very encouraging to see the number of buildings that have moved away from such lighting and upgraded to much more efficient T5 or LEDs. The savings that can be made when converting to LED speak for themselves and you can now get a LED equivalent for pretty much every lighting solution.

Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) has also changed a lot. Back in 2012 the roll out was about to happen, most sites were still doing manual reads, which meant a lot of estimated bills and quarterly billing. Now it's very different with the availability of half hourly data through SystemsLink, which enables billing troubleshooting and analysis. Billing on real time consumption has given sites better control of their usage and allowed them to target high consumption areas, making real savings. During my site visits I've noticed a lot more electric sub meters being installed, sometimes on each Distribution Board (DB). This can give the building users the knowledge of where in the building they need to target resources to reduce energy.

Moving forward, there have been a lot of success but there remains a lot still to be done. One of the main barriers for improvement appears to be lack of funding, which is why the energy team have always promoted government incentives such as interest free loans and also FIT that exist for schools. See [Funding: The 'climate emergency' needs your school!](#) for more on this subject.

I have many more observations to make, but no more time, so I'll be back next time!



Old fashioned dial meter



Sub-meters showing where the energy is used



AMR enabled meter

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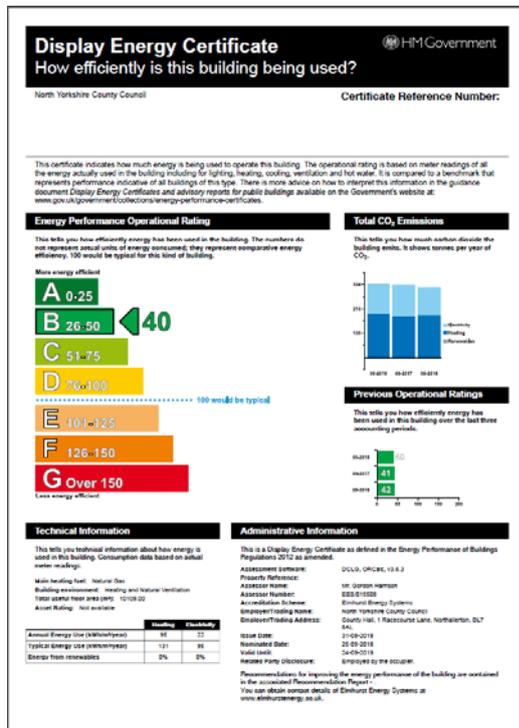
Ofsted Inspections

Question: Do Ofsted sometimes ask to view your valid DEC or Advisory report?

Answer: Yes they do; as it's an official mandatory government document why wouldn't they?

Here is a reminder (below) of what the legislation states.

If you want to check your school is compliant, please contact the energy team by emailing energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk.



Display Energy Certificates (DECs) are records of the actual energy usage of public buildings, introduced in response to the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, which all EU member states had to implement by January 2009. DECs are designed to increase transparency about the energy efficiency of public buildings. The certificate looks similar to the energy labels provided on new cars and electrical appliances such as fridges and freezers – it uses a similar scale for energy efficiency, i.e. from A to G, with A being the most efficient and G the least. The aim of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is for the public to receive energy information about a building they are visiting.

DECs are designed to promote the improvement of the energy performance of buildings. For buildings over 100 square metres, the A3 sized certificate is valid for one year and is accompanied by an Advisory Report (AR) which is valid for seven years. The advisory report is designed to help building owners and occupiers to

improve the energy efficiency of their buildings so that future DECs show a better rating. ARs do not need to be displayed, but must be available. The energy team recommend you study the AR, as there are often no-cost and low-cost improvements that can really make a difference and be useful for the schools premises committee to plan and prioritise works that may be required to the school building.

DECs and ARs must be undertaken by an accredited energy assessors using approved software. In order to produce the DEC the energy assessor needs to know the gross internal floor area of the building and the operating hours together with actual meter readings or consignment notes for all fuels used during the year of assessment. It is, therefore, important for owners and occupiers of public buildings over 1,000m² to maintain good records of fuel used. If the energy assessor does not have access to suitable and sufficient information then a DEC cannot be produced.

Smaller buildings between 250m and 1000m require a DEC every 10 years.

The energy team monitor schools using the Energy and Sustainability Service's Primary or Secondary packages, to make sure they are compliant, and contact schools proactively when a DEC or advisory report is coming up for renewal. The annual fee for the package includes the cost of renewing the DEC. But if you don't take either of our package service we may still be able to help. Please contact the energy team for further advice.

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Funding: The 'climate emergency' needs your school!

Based on the current energy usage of schools and other non-domestic buildings across Europe, the 'carbon budget' that is left to schools if we are to avoid more than 1.5 deg C of global warming will all be used up in just fifteen years. The sheer number of schools in North Yorkshire means that if every school carried out just one energy saving project, the carbon savings would soon start adding up.

Interest free loans from government-backed Salix Finance loans are ideal for such projects, and the Energy Team can assist your school with getting started on all types of projects from the simplest to the most complex. See <https://www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/maintained-schools-and-sixth-form-colleges> for more information.

One of the most popular schools' energy-saving projects suited to Salix loans are low-energy LED lighting upgrades. Illustrated in the picture below is a school classroom with the most modern LED fittings. Their quality is so good that often, fewer LED strips and panels are needed to light a room than conventional fluorescent tubes - which means even greater energy savings!

Our DEC officers have visited most schools taking the energy traded service, so we can help advise you on what lighting improvements will be most beneficial. We can signpost you to some schools that have already done LED upgrades and to some of our own LED projects. We can advise you of local organizations doing lighting surveys. And, if you are in the energy traded service, we can assist you with applying for Salix Finance loans. These loans are available to all schools, which means you can get as much of your lighting upgraded as you wish without using any of your capital budget.



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Keep Calm with ARPete

ARPete is the latest incarnation of schools' carbon reduction officer Peter Bell. From Power down Pete to ARPete seemed like a logical step to tie the current climate emergency to a time in history where we had to take steps to reduce our consumption and look at different ways to do things.

Pete has not only taught the WW2 home front at Key Stage 3 in his previous role but has developed a bespoke selection of activities that cover many aspect of the home front in WW2 specifically for key stage 2. There is even a costume of sorts!

Bringing together elements of the curriculum with environmental messages is vital for students to understand their responsibilities to the planet. World War 2 was a time where communities had to come together to work towards a common goal and we need to replicate this attitude now and take the required steps to look after Planet Earth.

ARPete is ready for booking now and is at no additional costs to the schools who take the Energy and Sustainability Service's Package service.

To book contact Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk



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Pupils investigate new sources of energy at our Energy Event

The Schools Carbon Reduction team and their partners have again delivered an amazing event covering all aspects of energy, from the natural processes in plants to the processes required to make renewable energy and energy from waste.

With partners from UK Stem, RHS Harlow Carr education team and Allerton Park Energy from Waste plant, students completed workshops demonstrating the different ways in which energy is all around us.

We need to take steps as a planet to find new sources of energy that do not produce greenhouse gasses. Students took part in the UK STEM activity to understand wind turbine design in an internationally themed energy race. Turbine blade design took some thought. Short and stubby, long and thin, degree of twist, base stability, all led to a challenging environment mirroring the real challenges of wind turbine design.

Allerton Park Energy from waste plant explained the importance of waste recycling and how we all need to understand better how to sort out our rubbish with reducing the waste we make the first priority.

The education building at Harlow Carr is a lesson in itself. With toilets flushing using rainwater to hot water provided by solar energy, a tour of the building made students realise we don't always need to use energy from power stations.

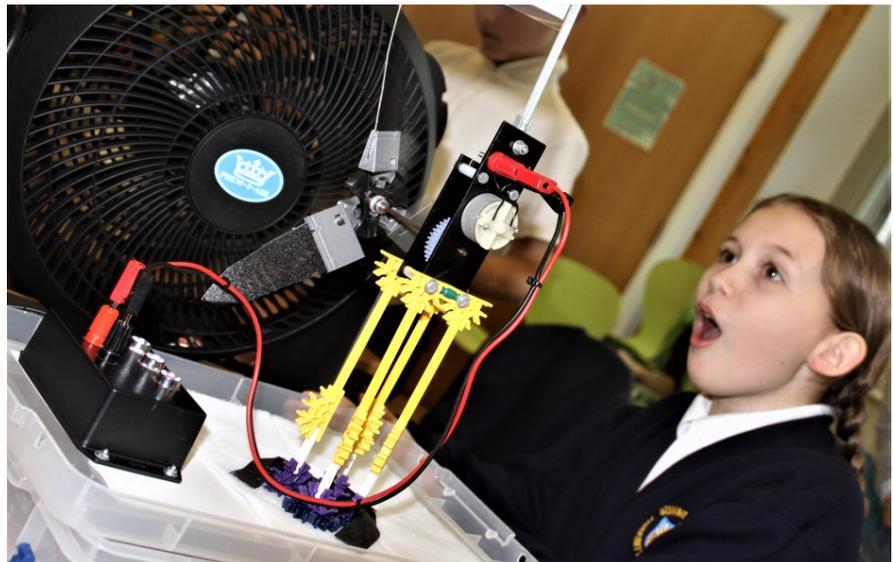
We need to increase biodiversity on the planet to support natural ecosystems and with that in mind Harlow Carr education team taught students how to plant and nurture seedlings. Perhaps that is something that resonates with all those people who work with children.

Environmental education can increasingly take a key role in schools. With future generations understanding the importance of the planet being left to them, it is vital for all those involved in education that we help students understand the challenges they will face. This is why our education events continue to be popular.

Now is the time to always remember....

“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

American Indian proverb



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NYCC school makes the papers – in more ways than one!

St Francis Xavier eco team have certainly been busy lately.

They made the local papers with their many accomplishments (Darlington and Stockton Times, below).

And they attracted the attention of a national paper when they wrote a letter about single-use plastics, including the wrapping that the weekend magazines are delivered in, resulting in a visit to London to spend a day working in a live news environment.

Our Schools carbon reduction officer is usually invited to visit primary schools, where his alter-ego Power-down Pete is very popular; but this shows how secondary schools can likewise get involved.

Keep up the good work, St FX!

Education Centre - how a letter from students led to a visit to the Guardian

Students from a North Yorkshire school wrote to the Guardian last year suggesting it use compostable wrapping on its magazines



▲ Guardian Weekend edition wrapped in compostable packaging Photograph: David Levene/The Guardian

It's hard to believe that a packet of Seabrook crisps covered in mud, discarded about 24 years ago near the boundary of St Francis Xavier's sports field in Richmond, North Yorkshire, was significant in the visit of the school's eco team to the Guardian.

During one of the team's regular litter picks last summer the students huddled together to discuss their find. The realisation that the crisp packet had been dropped even before they were born and had remained in a recognisable form for 24 years was clearly shocking.

<https://www.theguardian.com/gnmeducationcentre/2019/nov/04/education-centre-how-a-letter-from-students-led-to-a-visit-to-the-guardian>

Young eco warriors set out their vision for the future

By Ashley Barnard

ashley.barnard@nne.co.uk

A FORCE of student eco warriors are building momentum to create a lasting legacy for future generations.

Since the formation of the Eco Team at St Francis Xavier School in Richmond three years ago they have been building – strengthening in numbers, support and ideas – and developing their plans – receiving attention locally and nationally.

On Tuesday, September 24 they presented to the school and local community supporters including NYCC Councillor Stuart Parsons, Janet and Roger Nutting from 'Out of the Box', Chris Kirby, the president of Richmond Rotary Club, the past president, Robert Hughes, Dr Sawyer, Director of SEE Sustainability and Kevin Foster, the first Green Party councillor at Richmond-shire District Council. The team presented their achievements to date and laid out their visions for the future. They have already achieved the Green Flag award and are due to visit the headquarters of the Guardian in London af-



Students and staff with Cllr Stuart Parsons

ter challenging the news outlet on its use of single use plastics.

"I really appreciate the support from key members in our local community", said Margaret Land, the founder of the Eco Team at the school. "It is a validation of the student's efforts and allows them to see the positive impact their work has on the community as a whole. This can only lead to an increased awareness of environmental issues and an understanding that small changes can make a big difference." The team have already

embarked on an ambitious planting scheme, encouraged wildlife in the school grounds through feeders and the building of hedgehog boxes as well as reducing waste and litter to help nature flourish.

Now they hope to go a step further, introducing wild flower verges to further promote the local wildlife. With the support of the vicar they will trial a wildflower meadow at St Mary's Church and use this pilot scheme to demonstrate to the wider community with

the hope of finding more sites to develop the scheme around the town.

"The group is impressive so supporting them didn't take a second thought," said Councillor Stuart Parsons who has supported the group and given them access to £2,000 from the NYCC Law Locality Budget to support their endeavours.

He said: "The students are excellent. It is a joy to have people who are so committed and willing to take action and have a positive impact on their environment."

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Training and pupil events – Spring 2020

Fairtrade Pupil Event - FULLY BOOKED

Thursday 13th February; RHS Harlow Carr gardens, Harrogate

Healthy Schools pupil event - CANCELLED

Thursday 12th March; RHS Harlow Carr gardens, Harrogate



For general enquiries about any of these events, please email Ruth Stacey, Schools Carbon Reduction Officer & Healthy Schools Programme Manager: ruth.stacey@northyorks.gov.uk

Healthy Schools award training

See the next page for details and dates



Teacher training dates from the Yorkshire Agricultural Society

More information at: <https://yas.co.uk/training-courses/>

Healthy Schools



| Date | Title | Suitable for staff in: |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday 3rd February | Inspiring Literacy Outdoors | KS2 |
| Tuesday 4th February | Muddy Maths | EYFS, KS1 |
| Wednesday 5th February | The Language of Nature | EYFS, KS1 |
| Monday 10th February | Don't Panic: It's a Climate Emergency | KS2 |
| Tuesday 11th February | Whose Poo? An example of topic-based learning using cross curricular outdoor, hands-on activities. | KS1, KS2 |
| Wednesday 12th February | Creative Nature & Using Tools | EYFS, KS1, KS2 |
| Monday 9th March | Growing at School Year Round | EYFS, KS1, KS2 |
| Tuesday 10th March | Mindfulness for Teachers own Wellbeing | EYFS, KS1, KS2 |
| Wednesday 11 th March | Rocks, Stones & Soils | KS1, KS2 |

Healthy Schools award training dates: Spring Term 2020



Healthy Schools
North Yorkshire

Overview

Spend time working towards your Healthy Schools award, network with other local schools and receive support from the Healthy Schools team. This term's training will have a focus on the 'Food in Schools' theme – developing a whole school food policy, healthy packed lunches, increasing free school and school meal uptake and improving the lunchtime experience.

This is a new scheme for North Yorkshire, funded by Public Health to enable all North Yorkshire schools, except Private schools who can join for a charge, to take part free until July 2020. These half day training dates are free for all North Yorkshire schools to attend, including academies, special and secondary schools. Private or out of County schools can attend for a charge of £75/ session. Please note all sessions are the same, you only need to book one half day session/ school, on your preferred date, time and at your chosen venue.

Booking

To book your place, please book via your NYES account, using the relevant course code for the date and venue you require: <https://www.nyeducationservices.co.uk/>

If you have any problems making a booking, please contact NYES 01609 533 222.

| DATE | SESSION TIME | LOCATION | NYES COURSE CODE |
|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------|
| 28/01/20 | 9.30am-12.00 | RHS garden Harlow Carr, Harrogate | NRG-0120-T001 |
| 28/01/20 | 1pm-3.30pm | RHS garden Harlow Carr, Harrogate | NRG-0120-T002 |
| 26/02/20 | 9.30am-12.00 | Sandpiper House, Selby | NRG-0220-T001 |
| 03/03/20 | 9.30am-12.00 | Morgan House, Northallerton | NRG-0320-T001 |
| 24/03/20 | 9.30am-12.00 | Whitby Library | NRG-0320-T003 |
| 24/03/20 | 1pm-3.30pm | Falsgrave Community Centre, Scarborough | NRG-1119-T004 |
| 26/03/20 | 1pm-3.30pm | Greatwood Primary, Skipton | NRG-0320-T006 |

For general queries about the training, please email: healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk

To register online to join the scheme go to: www.healthyschoolsnorthyorks.org

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