

Energy Matters

The energy and sustainability service's newsletter
Issue 51 September 2021



Energy & Sustainability Traded Service

... helping you save



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YPO Energy Market Update



In recent weeks the news have been full of what is described as an 'Energy Crisis'. Below is some information from our energy brokers YPO which hopes to unravel the complexities of the current energy markets and the potential impacts on our energy pricing. As we get more information we will update you via email and/or Energy Matters.

Overview

We are currently experiencing unprecedented times with Wholesale Electricity and Gas prices. The energy markets are getting a lot of news coverage recently with fears of supply shortages and suppliers going out of business. Firstly, I would like to reassure you, that YPO regularly checks the financial situation of its suppliers and that both Corona Energy and Npower/Eon have the financial ability to hedge in the wholesale markets and therefore mitigate the risk to their business of the current high wholesale prices. The six suppliers that have ceased trading recently operated in the domestic space, which is subject to Ofgem's price cap. This Cap is currently lower than the live wholesale markets, so some small suppliers that were unable to hedge have gone out of business.

Gas and Electricity prices are trading at record highs, this is not just a problem that consumers are facing in the UK, it is a global issue and has prompted discussions and action from governments around the world. There have been numerous factors that have contributed to these high prices, which has led to a perfect storm for energy prices this winter:

- The previous winter was cold compared to historical averages, we also saw a cold April and May. This meant gas storage facilities across Europe were still being called upon to meet demand, instead of being stocked up for this coming winter. Europe Gas Storage levels at present are around 16% below the 5 year average. More supply was expected this summer to bring storage in line with the 5 year average, however that did not materialise.
- Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) cargo arrivals to Europe have been low this summer despite analysts' forecasts that we would see record arrivals. These cargoes have instead gone to the Asian market due to better prices. European prices therefore increase to compete and try to attract some of that LNG supplies back into the European market.
- Heatwaves across Southern Europe, Asia and American have kept gas demand for power generation high due an increase in air conditioning use.
- Historically when prices are high, this has attracted more gas flows into Europe from Russia, this hasn't happened this year. It could be down to the fact that Russia has also experienced high gas demand and is simply using the gas that would have gone to Europe to top up their own storage facilities. Others would argue that they have withhold gas to Europe the make the case for the a multi- billion pound gas pipeline from Russia to Germany (Nord Stream 2), which has come under huge political pressure from the US and some European countries.
- Renewable generation particularly from Wind has been low this summer, which has meant gas has been relied on more heavily for power generation.

- Carbon prices have hit all-time highs, non-renewable generators must pay more to produce electricity as a result which is ultimately reflected in the wholesale price.
- Potential for a gas crunch this coming winter if it's a cold one and supplies to the UK and European market do not improve.
- Gas prices ultimately feed into electricity prices, as gas used for power generation makes up a large proportion of the UK mix.

As always, YPO keeps a close eye on the wholesale market and with the current uncertainty and volatility, this is likely to lead to big swings in prices both ways. Although prices after this winter have increased the extent of the increase is far less and YPO are looking at opportunities to hedge way into future where prices are lower.

YPO Flexible Contract

Electricity

YPO are fully locked out for this upcoming winter for electricity and have been since early 2021. For the year (April 21-March 22) a wholesale price of £50/MWh was achieved, this compares to the Winter 21 contract is currently trading at £178/MWh. We also have made purchases at lower prices for the next period (April 22- March 23), with further purchases being made at the opportune moments. YPO regularly have meetings with Npower regarding the consumption in the basket and at present is tracking where we expect it to be.

Gas

YPO have cover for this winter and are buying into future years where the prices are more favourable to minimise the impact of these current higher prices. Changing the trading strategy last year has allowed for purchases to be made further than 12 months in advance. The gas flexible product is set up to purchase to an estimated consumption profile, once consumption happens and is billed, the difference between the bought gas and the consumed gas is then either bought or sold in the spot wholesale markets, this means that any increase in consumption over the winter period will be exposed to these current high prices. If there are any significant cold periods during this winter, we could potentially see consumption increase by over 40% compared to the seasonal norm. Due to the flexible nature of the contract which customers require, customers are also allowed to add/remove sites, so this will also have an impact on the consumption profile.

Unidentified gas (UIG) which is a pass-through charge which is linked to the wholesale markets, so large increases are expected from April 22. Corona Energy and YPO are lobbying with the industry to try and prevent these costs from occurring. YPO as usual will keep customers updated in the usual manner through communication and the Energy Initiative Steering Group (EISG) many customers attend.

The high wholesale prices which the market is currently experiencing will ultimately lead to higher prices and customers should be prepared from April 2022 for significant increases. YPO is currently preparing the latest budget forecasts from April 22, which will be sent out next month, by this time, I will have a clearer picture on how the wholesale market is looking, what the distribution charges will be under the Targeted Charging review and expected UIG costs.

As the saying goes "The cheapest Kwh, is the one that you do not consume" so anything you can do to lower consumption will lead to reduce costs and support decarbonisation.

Energy excellence receives recognition

The Energy Team have been successful in winning the 'Best Climate Action Initiative' award at the National Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Awards in recognition of the valuable work that they undertake with schools to reduce carbon emissions.



Photo shows team members Stephen Armstrong, Display Energy Certificate officer (center left) and Schools Carbon Reduction officer Peter Bell known to schools as Power Down Pete! (centre right)

APSE's annual Awards Ceremony was held on 9 September bringing together all the best practice from councils across the country to recognise and celebrate work that has a real impact on the public.

For nearly ten years our service's approach has been unique and innovative in reducing carbon emissions from the schools. Our whole school approach, wrapping together practical energy advice, energy compliance certification, bill checking, energy controls and a fuel supply contract bought in bulk, has reaped rewards. However, what makes us truly innovative is the way we blend all this practical help with helping the school achieve its core aim. Education!

Since 2012 Peter Bell and Ruth Stacey have worked as the school carbon reduction officers. Their roles involve Visiting schools and running events specifically designed to engage and educate primary aged children in understanding the importance of reducing their carbon footprint and raising awareness of the problems the planet faces. With Peter flying into school as the planet protecting superhero "Power Down Pete" it's truly something that engages staff and students alike.

As part of the award application Pete stated, "Providing good value for money is vital for our school customers who face considerable financial pressures. However, it is clear they see the value in the service; the schools who take our full Package service use 8% less energy than those who do not. This is a major benefit to the customers. It is achieving what it set out to do with not only producing real tangible energy savings but also producing generations of environmentally aware future citizens."

The 'Best Climate Change Initiative' award received the highest number of entrants of all of the awards that were given on the night and so the Energy Team can be congratulated for this significant achievement.

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Do you need a superhero?

Our planet is in trouble and we all need to take steps to reduce our energy use and save on the bills.

Power Down Pete is here to help.

If your school is building environmentally aware future citizens and is signed up to our Primary package, this service is for you. And is at no extra cost!

Pete offers Primary Schools a range of activities and learning days. From Climate Change to Waste and Recycling, from Rainforest to Energy Efficiency, Pete is the one stop shop to enhancing your curriculum with an environmental flavour.

His latest creation is ARPete is a look at the challenges we face in a time of climate emergency through the curriculum area of the world war two home front . Switch that light out!

He also supports Eco-team student councils and school leaders with practical advice about how schools can reduce their Carbon Footprint and their bills.

School staff have always found this support vital to have an expert in the classroom supporting their efforts to progress through the national Eco-Schools programme. So much so that one head teacher described the schools "Eco-Day" as "relevant, fun and full of learning!"

To find out more and book your date get in touch with

Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk



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Yorkshire is leading the country in reducing school energy costs and fighting carbon emissions.

It has been known for many years that the majority of NYCC Carbon emissions comes from its schools estate, and while we may not have direct responsibility for this carbon we have a role in helping schools reduce emissions.

A recent analysis of Government data from eEnergy [Schools need a lesson in energy saving! - Energy Live News](#) has highlighted the Yorkshire and Humber region as one of only two areas in the UK to have reduced their school energy bills by a massive 4.4% against a national picture of a 6.5% increase. Yorkshire, Humber and the North East are the only regions to have bucked the national trend and delivered decreases in school energy use. It's no coincidence that the energy and sustainability team have been actively working with schools for many years to reduce their carbon emissions and energy bills. In North Yorkshire, the integrated approach of monitoring school bills, heating controls, providing advice and guidance as well as educating the future generations on their responsibilities to the planet, has clearly delivered dividends.

The property service Energy and Sustainability Service who trade with Schools have calculated that schools who take the service packages use 8% less energy than those who do not.

As energy supplies transition to low carbon alternatives and we all have to take steps to meet the net zero targets Harvey Sinclair, Chief Executive Officer of eEnergy, said: "Nearly half of the world's energy is lost through wastage. Energy efficiency could make a huge difference to our net zero ambitions".

With the help of the energy and sustainability traded service schools across North Yorkshire continue to forge ahead with actions, this is alongside an innovative school programme with their very own super hero "Power Down Pete" who has worked with over 60,000 children in a 10 year period.

Clearly, schools across the region have worked hard to realise financial saving on bills but are also taking the steps required to educate the building users on what they need to do to reduce carbon emissions now and into the future.

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Close that door! - Seven years is a long time in energy management

The final part of our series of observations from Stephen Armstrong, Display Energy Certification Manager, who returned to the energy team recently after of seven-year sabbatical pursuing other interests.

One thing that hasn't changed much is the way building users interact with their buildings. Break times come round and pupils vacate the building with little regard for closing doors behind them. In cooler weather this can have a detrimental effect on the internal school environment. All of the heat built up in the school is usually lost to the elements, the temperature in the entire building drops and the boiler kicks in again to reheat the building. This whole thing is then repeated at lunchtime and afternoon break. This substantially adds to the schools heating bills and subsequently higher CO2 emissions.

Consideration should be given to how pupils and staff move around their buildings. Access and egress should ideally be through draught lobbies where ever possible and outer doors kept shut.

Teaching pupils to 'Shut the Door!' is a zero cost approach to making massive savings.

We appreciate that in the current Covid-19 situation some schools are keeping doors open to increase ventilation, but we feel this message is still worth bearing in mind.



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Free online pupil climate change event

Thursday 18th November 2021: 1-3pm

Does your school participate in the Eco-schools programme? Are you building environmentally aware world citizens? Are you running the Rights Respecting School programme? Well this event could be for you!

Inspired by the international COP 26 climate change event taking place in Glasgow in November; we are inviting all North Yorkshire schools to an online event for pupils to explore climate change and what you can do in school to cut carbon and make a difference.

This event, aimed at Upper Key Stage 2 and secondary students, is free for any North Yorkshire school to access, including academies. Do not miss out on the opportunity to take part in this amazing free event from the comfort of your own school, saving carbon by not travelling to a venue! Your school needs to be able to link up via a computer as the event will be delivered via Zoom.

This interactive fully online event will enable pupils to take part in two workshops to explore actions surrounding tackling climate change. Whole classes/ year groups or small groups of pupils can take part, as long as accompanied by an adult.

Schools will have a choice of workshops for pupil's to take part in, delivered by partner organisations including Youth Voice, Craven Development Centre, North Yorkshire Rotters, Allerton Waste Recovery Park and the Council's Energy team.

Please book one place for your school and make sure you include an email address which can be contacted with further information. The event link (which will be circulated nearer the time) can be shared with teachers and staff throughout your school to enable lots of classes / pupils to take part, **so you only need to BOOK ONE PLACE PER SCHOOL VIA NYES SLA Online (sla-online.co.uk) using course code: NRG-OM-1121-T001.**

For support with bookings, contact NYES 01609 533 222 nyes@northyorks.gov.uk

If you are unable to make the date but would still like to take part, please book a place for your school as you will be sent an event recording and can watch workshops and speaker videos with pupils after the live event.

For any event enquiries please contact energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk

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Healthy Schools North Yorkshire

The North Yorkshire Healthy Schools award is free to access for North Yorkshire schools (this includes Academies). It enables schools to work towards achieving a Bronze, Silver and Gold award based on implementing the evidence based criteria for the following themes:

- Active Lives
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing
- Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)
- Food in Schools
- Staff wellbeing (for a submission at Silver and Gold)

Over 200 schools in North Yorkshire have signed up for the award to enable them to gain the recognition for their whole school approach to health and wellbeing.

Please log on to <http://healthyschoolsnorthyorks.org/> for more information or email healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk and please access the training we are providing set out below.

“Being a Healthy School is really important to us and as a school we have worked really hard on this award and we can see real changes in school which is great” (Primary School)

“It has helped us improve our provision with regards to supporting students with their emotional health and wellbeing and the student voice feedback demonstrates the improvements in this area and the positive impact of the provision” (Secondary School)

Getting started on the North Yorkshire Healthy schools award

The course will provide schools with information to enable them to get started on the North Yorkshire Healthy schools award and support schools to evidence their practice in the four areas of Active Lives, Food in Schools, Emotional Health and Wellbeing and PSHE and work towards the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

This course would also be suitable for schools who initially registered with a scheme but need a refresher on how to get started as action plan documents have recently been updated.

Thursday 7th October 2021 3:45 – 4:45pm

NYES Course code: SI-1021-T005

Getting ready to submit for a Healthy Schools award

The course will provide schools with information to enable them to effectively submit for a North Yorkshire Healthy schools award covering action plans, pupil voice evidence and supporting evidence. This course is aimed at staff who have already attended the getting started training (progressed with the award) and are now ready to submit for an award.

Wednesday 13th October 2021 1:30-3:00pm

NYES Course code: SI-1021-T013



Growing & using the school grounds for outdoor learning

Come and join Healthy Schools and Grow 2 School to explore practical ways to develop your school grounds for growing and outdoor learning.

- Bring along photos of your school grounds to plan development for the future with expert support and advice.
- Share ideas with other schools. Learn about funding opportunities.
- Access curriculum resources and ideas.

Maximum 15 delegates so book soon to avoid disappointment. **NO CHARGE**

Please attend the October session if you are interested as we plan not to accept new schools on subsequent sessions, with the aim to build on previous learning and development each time.

All sessions will run from 3:45-4:45pm We aim to hold 5 twilight sessions between October-June to attend with the aim to support developing and using your school grounds throughout the school year.

The first two dates are **Thursday 14th October 2021 & Thursday 25th November 2021**, further dates and times will be agreed with delegates.

NYES Course code: SI-1021-T028

To book your place for any of the training above, 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

For any general queries about the training or Healthy Schools please email healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk

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