











# Energy Matters

The energy and sustainability service's newsletter  
Issue 52 February 2022

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## Energy pricing

### Electricity

Our buying partners YPO say: The latest electricity forecast I have from April 2022 is showing a 50% increase compared to current rates. This is on the back of increased tensions between Ukraine/Russia, which could lead to gas supply disruptions to Europe.

Our supplier, nPower, have provided this update on 7<sup>th</sup> February: ([nPower link](#))

### Gas

Our procurement partners YPO are indicating that we should budget for a 55% increase.

They are currently working on the forecast, and are assessing the recent changes to non-commodity charges. We hope to get an update out to you later this week (by 11<sup>th</sup> February).

### Water

The wholesale cost of water is set to increase by 2.68%; for budgeting purposes we recommend allowing for a 3% increase.

## nPower invoices

nPower introduced a new billing system in August 2021. This means that the look of your bills has changed, especially if you have more than one supply in your school.

For information on the new bills, and other information on billing and payments, visit nPower's website at:

[Customer invoices and payments | npower Business Solutions](#)

If you experience any problems with your electricity bills, please contact [energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk) with details so that we can help.

## Climate Aware Kids Pledge to Cut Carbon

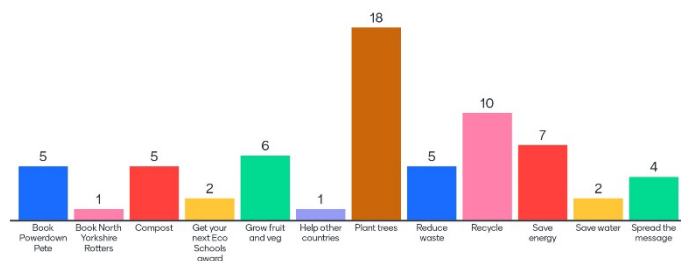
The energy and sustainability service has delivered their largest pupil event to date; bringing over 70 schools and over a thousand children to their virtual event on 18 November 2021. Discussing the actions we can all take after the COP 26 Climate change talks in Glasgow; this schools event aimed to provide future generations with the knowledge, skills and understanding, they will need to adapt to a changing planet. Director of COP 26 Alok Sharma said, *“Wherever I have been in the world, I have been struck by the passion and the commitment of young people on climate action. The voices of young people must be heard and reflected in these negotiations here at COP. The actions and scrutiny of young people are key to us keeping 1.5 [degrees] alive and creating a net-zero future.”*

Councillor Gregg White who opened the event said, *“Young People are leading the call for the changes required to bring down greenhouse gas emissions across the planet. NYCC has always been committed to supporting its young people to understand the issues around climate change and to reduce their own carbon footprints.”*

It took place after the COP 26 talks concluded in Scotland, the virtual event enabled school children to take part in engaging, interactive online workshops delivered by the North Yorkshire Rotters, NYCC Youth Voice, Craven Development Education Centre and the Energy team’s own Superhero ‘Power Down Pete’. Local author Katie Daynes read from her latest environmental book ‘Can we really help the polar bears?’ to inspire children to take action to protect the planet.

Pupils were asked at the end of the virtual event by the Council’s Chief Executive Richard Flinton, to make their own pledges to cut carbon through actions such as walking to school, switching off appliances and reducing their waste.

### Choose your Pledge



Richard Flinton said: *“It is inspiring to see so many school pupils coming together to pledge to take action to reduce carbon emissions in school. I will be sharing the Council’s own actions to reduce carbon and am sure will hear many new ideas for reducing my own carbon footprint from taking part in this exciting event.”*

Many North Yorkshire schools are already progressing through the international Eco Schools award scheme. With the support of the Council’s Energy & Sustainability Service and the partnerships they have developed across the county, schools and their students are well placed and ready for action, leading the change and developing the ideas, we will all need to limit climate change now and in the future. In addition, the Department for Education recently announced a draft policy on climate change and sustainability which we will keep you up to date on as more information is released (see info. below).

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## Brokers

The energy and sustainability team are aware that a number of brokers are contacting schools, offering to seek refunds for CCL and VAT contributions which they tell the school should not be included on their energy bills. They offer to claim a refund back on your behalf, and will use the information they obtain in doing this to sell you other services. But, they often won't mention that they are in fact calling from a broker.

We're afraid we have some bad news for you. Not all schools qualify for this exception, and if your school does then we will have informed you and so you should already be benefitting.

In order to be exempt from CCL, the school must first qualify for the reduced rate of VAT. Supplies that qualify for the reduced rate of VAT are automatically exempt from paying CCL. Only church schools, registered charities, and academies with charitable status qualify for the reduced rate of VAT, and the energy team (as part of our service to you) will have provided you with the forms to register (completely free of charge or of any charge on the refund) if you did qualify.

If a school does convert to academy status and is using the NYCC contracts at the time, the Energy team will send you information and guidance for claiming the reduced rate of VAT upon conversion.

There is one other reason why you may see the reduced rate on VAT on the school's bills. If consumption falls below a certain level then it is automatically classed as domestic under the "De Minimis" rule; the reduced rate of VAT is applied and CCL is not applied. Some supplies on the border of this level may find the reduced rate applied in summer when consumption is lower, and the full rate applied in winter when consumption is higher. The qualifying consumption levels are different for electricity and gas supplies.

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## DfE combines curriculum, campus and climate

Last month saw the release of a draft policy document from the Department for Education, it is due to be released in its final form from April 2022. The policy aims to put schools in the front line to become the “world-leading education sector in sustainability and climate change by 2030”. This is certainly a change of pace from a curriculum previously thin on environmental issues. The 29 new school climate change policies are set to combine the running of the school buildings with the education of the pupils.



This will sound familiar to you as it's the approach of the Energy and Sustainability Service have had as our core aim. You cannot expect to realise savings from energy and water efficiency without changing the habits of the building users, the children. By this year the policy states the DfE will “review subject-specific training” to ensure all teachers are “equipped to deliver a knowledge-rich curriculum and improve climate education”. They also aim to “deliver Science CPD for teachers which will include climate change and sustainability.” The schools carbon reduction officers have supported schools and staff to deliver this over 15 years and have a range of resources available to schools who buy into the Primary Package. They will also be supported with access to a range of documents on our forthcoming new website.

By 2023 the DfE will be looking for schools to “encourage partnerships to support children learn more about the environment,” As part of the Primary Package, your school has access to our resident super hero Power Down Pete to work with the children and staff. Following our highly successful COP 26 online pupil event which saw over 1000 children engage with climate issues we are planning a programme of events for our package customers.

We also work closely with the National Eco-schools programme team. Eco schools is the UK premier environmental awards scheme for schools.



The Energy and Sustainability service provide a range of other services that impact on the efficient use of the school buildings. For example:

- in the next few years, the DFE will be *“assisting with feasibility studies for schools with end-of-life boilers to switch to new low-carbon heating systems, funded through the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy’s decarbonisation fund.”* Our team has already been successful in bidding into these funding pots for non-school buildings and can offer impartial expert support to schools to transition to low-carbon technologies.
- By 2025 schools will have to *“Evaluate the best value for money approaches for retrofitting education buildings. Develop standards for retrofit and repair to empower the education estate to make change”* as well as create *“Climate Action Plans”* to increase *“sustainability literacy”*. We can assist you in all elements of this through our DEC officers. With each Display Energy Certificate, they provide an advisory report on the next steps of energy efficiency measures, highlighting which ones will lower the schools Carbon emissions the most. We are well placed with over 15 years of knowledge of your school buildings.



Whilst we await details of the final policies it is clear that our Primary and Secondary Package services cover much of what the DFE propose and we have been working for many years to support school customers in delivering a lot of what is proposed.

Our service has recently been recognised on a national stage winning the APSE (Association for Public Sector Excellence) Best Climate Action initiative for our work with schools. We continue to develop, innovate and deliver what our customers need.



This is a key new policy from the Department for education. Against the background of the government’s pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030 Ofsted are likely to inspect this agenda as part of a school’s overall effectiveness judgement. We aim to support our customers in implementing these new policies by delivering the highest quality service tied to both the aims of central government and the school.



Watch this space!

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## Eat Them to Defeat Them

returns in February 2022. This heavily-advertised programme from Veg Power and ITV uses a fantastic in-school programme and to get kids to eat more vegetables.

Veg Power was founded in 2018 to turn around vegetable consumption in the UK. 80% of our children are not eating enough vegetables, with a third eating less than one portion a day. Veg Power's mission is to inspire kids to veggie loving habits they can carry on through life.


In 2021 the Eat Them to Defeat Them school's Programme was their biggest yet, reaching 467,518 kids in 1,828 primary schools in every corner of the UK. Each school ran veg-themed weeks, catering teams put on amazing spreads, and each child took home a reward chart, sticker pack and a puzzle book.

Don't miss out on the chance to join in with the 2022 Programme by registering here: [Sign in | Veg Power](#)



## FAO all Harrogate & Selby primary schools


An opportunity to access a fully funded programme around healthy eating in schools by taking part in a research project being carried out by Leeds University.



### Recruiting now!

**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

#### Cooking in Yorkshire – a Randomised Controlled Trial in Primary Schools



Researchers at the University of Leeds are recruiting 30 Mainstream Primary schools from the Harrogate and Selby areas of North Yorkshire between December 2021 and February 2022 for a new research project about food literacy and cooking skills. The participating schools will get **fully funded** access to the [PhunkyFoods](#) programme for one year starting either May 2022 or May 2023.

To find out more see the trial registration at <https://doi.org/10.1186/ISRCTN68114155>

To register your interest, please email Karen Vaughan at [mc17kv@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:mc17kv@leeds.ac.uk)

Ethics approval number AREA 21-011

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## FREE online Healthy Schools training available this term

To book 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) .



**Healthy Schools**  
North Yorkshire

**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:

- Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) including the statutory relationships, sex and health education curriculum
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing
- Active Lives
- Food in Schools
- Staff wellbeing (for a submission at Silver and Gold)

Over 220 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](mailto:healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk) and please access the training we are providing set out below.

**All training on the North Yorkshire Healthy Schools award is fully funded by Public Health for all North Yorkshire schools**

*“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)



## **Focus on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Theme of the Healthy Schools Award (cross-phase)**

Thursday 20th January 2022, 1:30-3:30pm  
Course code SI-0122-T010

This course will use the North Yorkshire Emotional Health and Wellbeing (EHWB) Theme to explore an effective whole school approach to emotional wellbeing and enable schools to effectively evidence the North Yorkshire EHWB theme.

## **Getting started on the North Yorkshire Healthy schools award (cross-phase)**

Monday 7th February 2022, 3:45 – 4:45pm  
Course code: SI-0222- T004

The course will provide schools with information to enable them to effectively get started on the North Yorkshire Healthy schools award 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.

## **Getting ready to submit for a Healthy Schools award (cross-phase)**

Wednesday 15th February 2022 , 1:30-3:00pm  
Course code: SI-0222-T009

The course will provide schools with information to enable them to effectively submit for a North Yorkshire Healthy schools award covering an effective action plan, 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.

Please register with the Healthy Schools award before attending training, at:  
[Register - Healthy Schools North Yorkshire](#)

For any queries about the scheme, please email: [healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk)

**\*\*\*NEXT AWARD APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: \*\*\***  
**\*\*\* 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022\*\*\***



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## North Yorkshire Healthy Early Years Award

We are pleased to announce that due to the success of the North Yorkshire Healthy Schools award; we are now launching the North Yorkshire Healthy Early Years award. Due to funding from Public Health, the programme is free for all Early Years settings in North Yorkshire to access.



The award covers the key themes of:

- Active Lives
- Healthy Food
- Personal, Social Education Development (PSED) and Emotional Health & Wellbeing
- Staff wellbeing

The award is aimed at all Early Years settings including: day nurseries, playgroups, pre-schools, childminders who work on their own, childminders with assistants or childcare on domestic premises.

The award will enable Early Years settings to share their effective practice in supporting a whole setting approach to health and wellbeing by working through the criteria for each of the key themes.

### Training

The award is funded by public health so the training is free to all Early Years Settings in North Yorkshire.

**We would highly recommend that a member of staff attends the, 'Getting started on North Yorkshire Healthy Early Years Award' training which are being run online on the following days:**

| Date                          | Time        | Course Code  |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 | 1:30-2:30pm | SI-0122-T006 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 | 7-8pm       | SI-0122-T007 |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2022   | 1:30-2:30pm | SI-0322-T014 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022    | 7-8pm       | SI-0421-T001 |

To apply for any of the training please go to North Yorkshire Education Services (NYES) <http://www.nyestraining.co.uk/> Your setting will need a username and password, which will enable your setting 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)

Further information about the award can be accessed via the Healthy Early Years website <http://healthyschoolsnorthyorks.org/> (click on the Early Years section of the website) or email [healthyschool@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:healthyschool@northyorks.gov.uk) with any further questions.

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## School workshops at RHS Harlow Carr

The unique spaces and rich landscapes at RHS Harlow Carr are a fantastic resource to enrich learning across the curriculum. Our workshops give students the opportunity to explore and extend their knowledge – bringing learning to life in a varied and stimulating environment. The workshops capture children’s curiosity about nature and gardening through exciting hands-on experiences.

Great workshops for the months ahead are:

- Signs of the Season
- Gardens are good for you
- Woodland Explorers
- Planting for the Planet

As well as our workshops, the Garden and Bramhall Learning Centre are available to use for self-guided activities.

Learning outdoors is not only fantastic for student wellbeing, it further supports our Covid-secure practices. Visit our [website](#) to find out about how to book your free educational visit.

Contact us on 01423 724646 or by email: [schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk)



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