



Energy Matters

The energy and sustainability service's newsletter
Issue 2019

Welcome to our new look Energy Matters newsletter.

We hope you like the fresh modern new layout – why not complete our [Survey \(click here\)](#) to let us know what you think of it? You can also tell us what you think of the Energy and Sustainability team's other services.



Energy prices for 2021/22

An update on what prices are likely to look like...



Watch out for those brokers!

A number of schools have contacted us following calls "its not a sales call, but..." - what do they really want? Find out...



Welcome back Stephen!

A new team member... or was that an old team member?



Get those kids involved!

Sign up to our new SystemsLink for kids service, and they could win a prize from Power-down Pete!



The state of our planet

Whether we enjoyed the summer heat or not there is no doubt we are seeing temperatures rise year on year...



Cartoon corner

Time to smile...



Have you booked Power-down Pete for the new term?

Power Down Pete is the Energy and sustainability team Resident Super hero! Find out more...



Healthy Schools
North Yorkshire

Healthy Schools training dates

Join us to hear more about the new North Yorkshire Healthy Schools award...



And finally – What did you do on Bank Holiday Monday? Kristina swam the Channel!

See the stunning pictures, and donate to Cosmic (her chosen charity) here...

Energy prices for 2021/22

This update is from our energy buying partners, YPO. It gives the Likely changed, based on what has been bought to date. Please note that these are our best indications at this time and may change.

Electricity: We are looking at an 8% increase for 2020/21 on 19/20 costs, this is based on 64% of the required power having been hedged; therefore 64% probability that this will be the actual increase.

Gas: We are looking at a 12% reduction for 2020/21 on 19/20 costs, this is based on 80% of the required gas having been hedged; therefore 80% probability that this will be the actual reduction.



[Return to top](#)

Watch out for those brokers!

A number of schools have contacted us following calls “its not a sales call, but...“ - and then go on to confuse the listener with talk about capacity checks, CCL, smart meters, HH data, or some other technical term... Or perhaps they just say they can save you money on your energy bills before even asking what rates you are on!

Firstly, a word of warning: these calls tend to be from brokers, and they are making these calls in the hope they can gather enough information from you to transfer your energy accounts. We advise you not to provide them with any supply information. They may be using the excuse of recent changes in regulation about supply capacity to contact you.

Please be assured that as part of the Energy team's service to you, we are aware of the regulations and have already carried out all necessary checks and made sure that your supply is fully compliant. If the caller is pushy, feel free to provide them with our contact number and we will be happy to speak with them: 01609 535775

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions or concerns about this, on the number above or at energy-team@northyorks.gov.uk .

[Return to top](#)

Welcome back, Stephen!

Following the departure of Display Energy Certification Officer (DECO) Gordon Harrison, we welcome Stephen Armstrong to the team. This is a happy return, as Stephen is returning after a sabbatical in France. Stephen has joined Steffi Harangozo in delivering energy reports and certificates to our schools.



[Return to top](#)

Get those kids involved!

What is SystemsLink?

SystemsLink is the energy and sustainability service's database holding data on your energy consumption and bills, allowing us to monitor what you use, make sure you only pay what you should, and identify possible savings.

Why have a pupils version?

A pupils version can be used to engage eco teams and schools councils in handling energy and water use data (but not bill data!). This allows them to understand how much energy and water is used in schools and generate different consumption graphs. In turn this develops a deeper understanding of energy and water use, and therefore encourages efforts to reduce consumption and cost. Using data in this manner is part of the monitoring and evaluating required through the Eco-Schools programme. It also ties into the curriculum, from Maths with data handling and ICT , to the Science of carbon emissions and associated Geographical impacts of a changing climate.

Encourage the pupils to join in

Each term pupils are invited to enter an energy- or sustainability- related competition. They can email their answers to Power-down Pete, and the winner will receive a prize and a mention on the pupil page next term.

What do you do next?

Your School council/ eco team will need to have their own log in, allowing them access to their own area of the database. Be assured that they will not be allowed access to your bill data.

To request log in details please contact

Energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk

From there, you are good to go.!

The screenshot shows the SystemsLink website interface. At the top, it says "Power-down-Pete welcomes you to SystemsLink" and provides a link to a YouTube video. Below this is a quote by Chief Seattle: "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children".

The main content area is divided into three columns:

- Top tips:** A section titled "Eco top tips for greening your school" with several bullet points:
 - Bring the sunshine. In your classroom can you turn off lights near windows and use daylight. Turn it down turn it off.
 - Press the button and Switch off the energy suckers. 750 million pounds a year is wasted by people in the UK leaving things on standby.
 - Turning the heating down by one degree could cut your heating bills by up to 10 per cent. Set it to turn off and on at the correct times of day.
 - Shut it and save. In winter keeping doors closed and heated air inside can save hundreds on your bill.
 - Lights out! Only use lights you need when you need them. Switching off for just a few seconds will save more energy than it takes for the light to start up again.
- Eco schools twitter timeline:** A feed showing a tweet from the "Eco Group" (@Eco_Group) about Eco Captains back in school. It includes a photo of a young person.
- Competition:** A section asking users to show they've been using SystemsLink by entering a competition. It asks: "How many tonnes of rubbish do the average household throw away each year?" and provides an email address: peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk".

[Return to top](#)

The state of our planet

Whether we enjoyed the summer heat or not there is no doubt we are seeing temperatures rise year on year. The 38.7°C recorded in Cambridge Botanic Garden on 25 July during the recent European heatwave has now been confirmed to be the highest temperature ever recorded in the UK.

[Read more:

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2211744-met-office-confirms-highest-temperature-ever-recorded-in-the-uk/#ixzz5y5Vvf0IB>



This year the highest ever June temperatures were recorded in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Andorra, Luxembourg, Poland and Germany, while France registered an all-time record high of 45.9C. Germany also saw the highest temperatures ever recorded and we saw the second hottest July on records. There is a pattern to increasing temperature; the past five years have each now ranked among the five warmest on record. According to NASA, 18 of the 19 warmest years have occurred since 2000. The warming of the planet is unambiguous and irrefutable, with records smashed across Europe and 40 degree summer temperatures becoming the norm.

This is having a significant impact on our lives right now. In June main line trains were cancelled as signal electronics failed in unrelenting sunshine. In Spain a state of emergency was declared where the worst wildfires in 20 years took place in June. In France two nuclear reactors were shut down in an effort to limit the heating of water used to keep reactors cool.

Clare Nullis, a World Meteorological Organization spokeswoman, said the heatwaves bore the “hallmark of climate change”. The extreme events were “becoming more frequent, they’re starting earlier, and they’re becoming more intense”

A study published earlier this year by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich said the summer heatwave across northern Europe last year would have been “statistically impossible” without climate change driven by human activity.

We need to take steps to stop climate change at its current levels before irreparable damage is done to the planet. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society the U.N said in a new assessment.

The scientific consensus that humans are causing global warming is likely to have passed 99% from the previous 97%. That’s a higher scientific consensus than “Smoking causes Cancer”.

Yet still we have some world leaders are still refusing to acknowledge the cause of the problem and the urgency of action.

Like any type of addict the world is addicted to Fossil fuels and is finding it difficult to quit! It’s the way we have built our societies for the last 200 years. But as we try to grapple with what seems an insurmountable problem there is hope on the horizon.

Low-carbon energy was used to generate more than half of the electricity used in the UK for the first time last year, according to official data.

A rapid rise in renewable energy, combined with lower-carbon electricity from nuclear reactors, made up almost 53% of generation in 2018, the government's annual review of energy statistics revealed.

Britain has broken its record for the longest continuous period without generating electricity from coal.

The government plans to phase out Britain's last coal power plants by 2025 to cut greenhouse gases and is making progress, the question is will this progress be enough?

If the demand for Energy had not been so high the coal free period could have lasted longer but it seems that energy efficiency is not high up on many people's agenda and this needs to change. Thinking back to history lessons of world War two we were shown posters of 'make do and mend', 'recycle metal for spitfires' and 'dig for victory'. We need the same momentum and attitudes now for our planet.

As 16 year old activist Greta Thunberg leader of the climate change school strikes has said many times. "The main solution is so simple that even a small child can understand it. We have to stop our emissions of greenhouse gasses. Either we do that or we don't!"

[Return to top](#)

Cartoon Corner



Source: USA Today

[Return to top](#)

Have you booked Power Down Pete For the new term?

Power Down Pete is the Energy and sustainability team's Resident Super Hero!

This is all part of the total service the majority of our primary schools are signed up to.

Don't forget to Book Power down Pete to reinvigorate your Eco team. As part of your energy traded service total package you can book time with the schools carbon reduction officers. Our very own Planet protecting superhero 'Power Down Pete' is now booking schools for the new term. From composting, habitats and mini wormeries, to learning about plastic pollution and the great pacific garbage patch, it's vital that future generations learn about their responsibilities to the planet. Your waste, energy or water 'Eco Days' are now available to book. We also support eco teams, school councils and members of staff who are working on the Environmental curriculum.

We have also developed specialist days to support the curriculum around rainforest eco systems and an international flavour with a Japanese experience. These can now be booked at no extra cost.

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

[Return to top](#)



Healthy Schools award training dates

Autumn Term 2019



Overview

Join us to hear more about the new North Yorkshire Healthy Schools award, how to register your school to take part and how to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold award. This is an exciting new scheme for North Yorkshire, funded by Public Health to enable all North Yorkshire schools (private/independent schools can join for a fee), 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 direct on 01609 533 222.

Date	Time	Location	NYES course code
17/10/19	9.30am-12.00	RHS garden Harlow Carr, Harrogate	NRG-1019-T002
17/10/19	1pm-3.30pm	RHS garden Harlow Carr, Harrogate	NRG-1019-T003
24/10/19	9.30am-12.00	Regen Centre, Selby	NRG-1019-T004
24/10/19	1pm-3.30pm	Regen Centre, Selby	NRG-1019-T005
07/11/19	9.30am-12.00	Evolution Business Centre, Northallerton	NRG-1119-T005
07/11/19	1pm-3.30pm	Evolution Business Centre, Northallerton	NRG-1119-T006
13/11/19	9.30am-12.00	Green Lane Centre, Whitby	NRG-1119-T001
13/11/19	1pm-3.30pm	Falsgrave Community Centre, Scarborough	NRG-1119-T002
21/11/19	9.30am-12.00	Rendevous Hotel, Skipton	NRG-1119-T003
21/11/19	1pm-3.30pm	Rendevous Hotel, Skipton	NRG-1119-T004

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

[Return to top](#)

And finally – What did you do on Bank Holiday Monday? Kristina swam the Channel!

I've been planning to swim the English Channel as part of a relay team for the children's charity Cosmic. After all the training, anticipation and a long wait due to poor weather (19 nervous days) the call came and I swam on Bank Holiday Monday.

It was an amazing experience and I've attached some selected photos from the 12 hour 35 minute crossing which I hope gives a feel of the day.

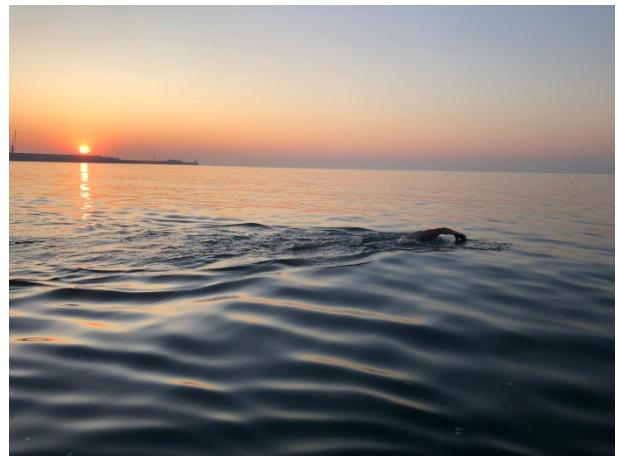
You can have a look at the Cosmic Rays 2019 Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/994893087545814/> where there are the live feeds and photos put up throughout the swim.

Thanks to everyone who has supported me so far and if you would like to donate to Cosmic here is my Just Giving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kristina-peat13>



[Return to top](#)



Clockwise from top right: Happy after my first swim;; And we're off, sunrise over Dover harbour; A perfect course; Landed! The rest of the team – it's behind you!

