

# Energy Matters

The energy and sustainability service's newsletter

Issue 41 May 2018



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This issue is full of rubbish – see our new waste contract on page 3

**North Yorkshire**  
education services

 **North Yorkshire**  
County Council



**Energy & Sustainability Traded Service**

*... helping you save*

## Energy costs for 2018/19

**Gas** Across the general market, the cost of the gas commodity has risen by 20%; but good news, our buying partners at YPO have kept the increase for our supplies down to 10%.

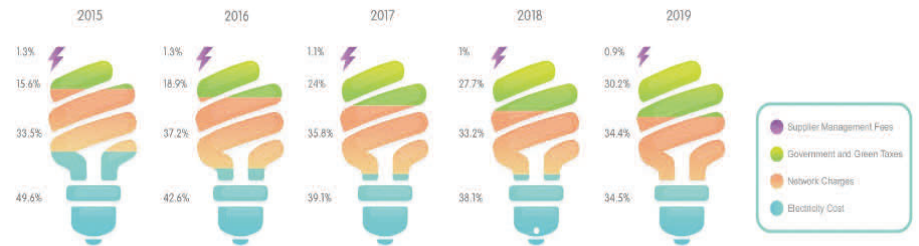
However the non-commodity charges, over which we have no control, have increased from approx. 0.11p/kWh (2017) to 0.178p/kWh (2018).

Overall, the increase on our gas bills will be 5-10%.

**Electricity** The commodity price is up by 7.5% (which is only 39% of the cost of the unit rate now).

Other charges such as taxes are up by 14%.

Therefore, we are expecting at least a 22% overall increase on our electricity bills.



## How is my bill made up?

Everyone knows that the fuel bills for our schools are going up. But not everyone realises that this isn't necessarily because the price of the gas and electricity is going up—it's those other, hidden charges that are increasing year-on-year.

The cost of the electricity—the commodity—is now only 39% of the total bill—while 27% of the bill is made up of pass through charges such as transportation and distribution charges and taxes. Compare that with three years ago, when the commodity made

up almost half of the bills and the taxes were only 15%.

These pass through charges are projected to continue to rise, year-on-year—as the diagram above shows.

Hidden elements of the gas bills are also set to rise. The network operators have changed the way they charge for unidentified gas (for example, lost to metering errors or theft). The suppliers collect these charges and pass them back to the network operators.

If you are comparing our prices with those provided by brokers, make sure you are comparing the same thing. What elements are the brokers providing prices for? - commodity only, or delivered price with all the pass through charges included—not forgetting their management fee!

Gas Oil - Average Price paid Pence per litre (inc 5% VAT)		Kerosene - Average Price paid Pence per litre (inc 5% VAT)	
YPO Framework	UK Average (Boilerjuice)	YPO Framework	UK Average (Boilerjuice)
52.79	60.83	42.66	56.86

Liquid fuel prices March 2018

## Thinking of opting out of our bulk fuel contracts?

A small number of schools have opted out of one or another of our bulk fuel contracts. But are their new suppliers providing the best value for money?

Because of our partnership with YPO, who purchase on behalf of 90+ public organisations, you benefit from the best possible prices.

Here are some recent examples that have come to our attention:

**Gas** A primary academy opted out of the gas contract last year; a cost comparison was carried out using their annual consumption figure of 233,275 kWh/pa

The school are paying 2.420p/kWh plus standing charge of 106.56p/day – annual bill will be £6,034.20

Our contract rates are 1.7772p/kWh plus standing charge 393p/day – annual bill would be £5,580.22

**The saving if they used our contract would be over £450 pa.**

**Liquid fuel** A community primary school ordered their kerosene from a local supplier last year. The prices they paid were compared with our contract rates for the size and dates of the deliveries.

**The saving if they had used our contract is over £580 in one year.**

**Electricity MOP contract**

A secondary school opted out of our half-hourly Meter Operator (MOP) contract. However the trust

didn't set up a replacement contract, meaning they went onto out-of-contract rates. Currently, the out-of-contract rates from our supplier are £50/month for MOP plus £26.25 data collection charge—a total of £915 per annum. Our contract charge is £215 pa—a saving of £700 pa.

Setting up your own MOP contract will still be more expensive than our special contract rate.

**Electricity** We don't have any data to do a comparison on electricity supply prices. If you are currently buying off-contract, let us know what you are paying and we'll do the sums!

The primary schools illustrated here are average-sized. But the higher your consumption, the bigger the savings to be made!

## Waste contract

We have sent an email to all schools who are currently our customers, providing details of a new offer from the Energy & Sustainability Service in partnership with Yorwaste. If you haven't received yours, please email [energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk) and ask for a copy.

The new waste and recycling contract will be offered in the same way as our energy supply contracts are, but the service will be delivered by Yorwaste.

If you are interested then please reply to the email and we will kick off the process: first, representatives of Yorwaste and the Energy & Sustainability Service will visit you to go through your requirements and provide prices, then once you've made a

decision to join the contract you will get a welcome pack with all the paperwork for you to sign and return and details of the service.

As part of this service you will receive a waste audit and Power-down Pete can work with the children as required. In addition the Energy & Sustainability Service will undertake our normal contract management role and provide an complaint escalation route.



## Water contract



This contract has been slightly delayed due to procurement reasons, but we are happy to announce that a fully compliant contract for water supply will be available to schools at the start of the next Academic year.

This will be a framework run by YPO and similar to the energy supply contracts. Once we have details we will be in contact with all our customers.

In the meantime don't worry about procurement compliance, as an existing customer of the NYCC Energy & Sustainability Service you can demonstrate due diligence via the work we are currently undertaking on your behalf.

## New! for schools with liquid fuel heating

Run out of fuel unexpectedly because of a cold snap? Worried about theft of oil from your tank?

This is new service for sites with liquid fuel tanks might just be the answer.

The Kingspan **Signalman** device is a monitor that measures the level of fuel in your tank using ultrasonic pulses, and sends the information to your personal dashboard, This can be viewed from your computer, tablet or smartphone, wherever you are. It will alert you to sudden drops that might indicate theft or a leak. And it can even end an order to our supplier when fuel drops to a certain level—meaning you need never worry about running out,



again. And the improved data means that your Display Energy Certificate will more accurately reflect your heating fuel consumption.

In partnership with our liquid fuel supplier, Certas Energy t/a Bayford Oil, we are able to offer this device at the specially reduced price of **£380**, a 10% saving on the normal price of £425 (prices may vary for tank sizes above 10,000 litres)

This price includes the cost for the unit itself, installation, daily call fees and management information

with access to mobile app and log in details. This also includes a 3 year warranty on the units. After the 3 years are up there will be an annual charge of £70.00 (current price) a year to keep the unit active and to send out daily calls.

**Interested?** We would like to install the device during the summer ready for the next heating season, so please email as soon as possible with 'Signalman' in the subject line, to let us know.

[energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk)



# SystemsLink—past and future

## What do you think?

Over 70 users have voiced their opinions in our SystemsLink survey, and I'm please to report that there have been only two negative comments! One of those was about spider-infested boiler rooms, rather than SystemsLink itself...

We asked what other features you'd like to see in SystemsLink:

*Comparisons to similar schools*—this will be included in the upgraded version coming in September

*Ability to drill down into the data*—also coming in the new version.

Everyone logs on to enter their meter readings, and many look at the dashboards and messages while they're logged on.

But not many of you are using the system to it's full potential, to view your half-hourly data or run reports; this data can help you identify problems and save money on your bills.

**"I like being able to see the data and like the warning feature if the reads are higher or lower than normal"**

- then you'll be happy to hear that the new version has even better validation checks!

The survey is still open, so do let us know if there's anything else you'd like to see.

**New this month—check out the dashboard to see information on who to contact if you have a gas or electricity related emergency.**

A **new-look**, upgraded version of **SystemsLink** is to be launched in September. All the current functionality will remain, with new features such as:

- see how your school is doing, compared with other schools
- drill down into reports
- set your own password
- meter photos and their location
- catch the latest news on the NYES twitter feed
- log on using your smart phone—ideal for when you're reading the meters!
- and coming soon. the ability to personalise certain areas to your own preferences

The new platform will allow more advanced features to be added more easily, so watch this space!

For one special user...



## Summer tips to save the cash!

Some top tips to help avoid waste during the summer months:

Put your heating system into **summer mode**. This leaves your hot water on and turns your heating off.

A third of schools have a **Drayton DC1100** controller, turn the dial to summer mode (normally set to auto).

If you have **night storage heaters**, remember to turn the charge off or down during the summer months.

If your heating system does not have summer mode it is likely to have **day economy**. Day economy is a set point, if the temperature exceeds the set point your heating is turned off. Typically this is set at 15c because the occupants add about 4-5c to a

buildings temperature. If your school overheats in the summer we recommend you set the set point at 10c.

For further information, please call Peter Greaves on 01609 535733



# Reinvigorate your Eco team

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 progressing through the international Eco Schools award.

A recent article in the times education supplement highlighted the importance of integrating these issues into the curriculum wherever possible:

“Teaching is about helping young people to learn life skills, perhaps passing on enduring values, developing pupils’ integrity and autonomy – and even helping them to be “responsible and caring citizens capable of contributing to the development of a just society”, as stated in the 2000 national curriculum.

That same curriculum cited developing pupils’ “awareness and understanding of, and respect for, the environments in which they live, and securing their commitment to sustainable development at a personal, national and global level” among the overarching aims and purposes of

education.

We fool ourselves if we think we can address economic or social issues without also recognising that we need to protect the environment. So surely we have a responsibility to make sure that environment and sustainable development are vital parts of education.”

*Cherry Duggan, head of schools and youth, WWF-UK*

Full article <https://www.tes.com/sponsored/wwf/why-education-about-sustainable-development-should-be-heart-every-school-sponsored>



We have also developed specialist days to support the curriculum around rainforest eco systems and an international flavour with a Japanese experience. These can be booked for an additional fee. Schools who are already in the energy traded service can book at preferential rates.

Schools are already booking these days for the new term, especially the Japan day as a post SATS treat for year 6.

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



North Yorkshire  
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Energy & Sustainability Traded Service

*... helping you save*

# Summer celebration Eco Event 2018

28<sup>th</sup> June

RHS Harlow Carr Gardens, Harrogate



Interactive, educational workshops provided by:

- \* Craven Development Education Centre - global activities
- \* FACE (Farming & Countryside Education) - food and farming activities
- \* RHS Harlow Carr Education team - pond dipping

Book now for your eco team or school council  
(maximum of 12 students)  
Bookings close 24th May

Contact: [schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk).

Contact the Energy and sustainability service: (E) [energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk) (T) 01609 535775  
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