

# Energy Matters

The energy and sustainability service's newsletter

Issue 39 September 2017



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## Japan days take off as Power Down Pete goes global!

... Full story on page five.

### Are you craving savings?

#### Did you switch off for summer?

A sample of schools recently helped us look at their electricity base load over the summer holidays and the results demonstrated the importance of switching off to save. Whilst we all understand that items like servers, fridges, freezers and emergency lighting may well be left on, do we really know that everything else was turned off. Our findings discovered that across five similar primary schools, electricity costs for the summer holidays ranging from £105 to £259.

We will be gathering this information again next year and some of those sample schools have already demonstrated savings from last summer.

It shows how vital it is for schools to read their meters and input their figures into SystemsLink. That way we can identify schools that have the potential to realise their summer savings.

## ...Stop press ... Stop press ... New electricity contracts

Our electricity contract with nPower is coming to an end in March 2019. Because we buy our energy a year ahead to get the best price, that means we need to get a new contract in place for March 2018. Therefore we will be in touch very soon with details of the new contracts.

Please look out for the email that will be sent at the end of October, and respond by the deadline.



New look! Smart Solutions is now  
North Yorkshire Educational Service (NYES)



**Energy & Sustainability Traded Service**

... helping you save money

## Supply contract updates

### Gas meter replacement programme

Following the change of our gas supplier, our new supplier Corona is arranging the installation of new AMR (smart) meters in schools. This work will be undertaken by their contractors, Energy Assets.

In many cases the gas supply will not need to be interrupted while a logger is attached to the existing meter.

If the meter needs to be replaced the gas supply will be interrupted for a short period, typically up to half an hour (up to a maximum of two hours in extreme cases).

The contractor will contact you to arrange an appointment when they are working in your area; book an appointment at a time convenient to yourselves and allow access to the engineers when they arrive. The energy team don't know the details of their timetable, so don't call us to ask!

You may be charged for abortive visits, so if the engineer does not turn up please email [energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk) with the time and date of the appointment, the time someone was on site until, and any other relevant information so that we can follow up on the reason for the failure.

If you have a new meter fitted, we

need to update our records with details of the change.

There should be a notice stuck to the meter or close by, this gives the information we need to do this and check you are billed correctly.

Please send a photo like the example below, to [energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk).

Having a SMART meter doesn't guarantee that a reading will be taken every month, just that our supplier can obtain a reading



without visiting the school. Also the energy team can't see the data from your meter, and the technology is not 100% reliable; therefore we ask that you please continue to read the meter every month and enter the readings into SystemsLink for now.

If you have any questions or concerns about this work, please contact Karen Atkinson from the Energy team on 01609 535775 [karen.p.atkinson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:karen.p.atkinson@northyorks.gov.uk)

### Why the NYCC/YPO bulk fuel contracts are the way to go

Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening issued a statement to parliament on school funding, in which she announced an additional £1.3 billion of funding for schools between 2018 and 2020.

Ms Greening highlighted the price competitiveness of energy contracts negotiated by YPO and other centralised contracts, and the savings that schools and academies can achieve from using these contracts. She went on to say...

“Good value National Deals, that procure better value goods and services on areas all schools spend money on and purchase goods in can save significant amounts. They are available under the deals based on our existing work such as on insurance or energy. Schools can save an average of 10% on their energy bills if they use a national deal. We will expect schools to be clear if they do not make use of these deals and consequently have higher costs.”



### Are you still using Ultra 35 gas oil for heating?

Back in 2013, the energy and sustainability team funded a programme to upgrade oil heating boilers so they can run on kerosene. Kerosene is a cleaner fuel than gas oil, and is exempt from Customs and Excise Duty of 11.14 pence per litre that gas oil attracts, meaning it's cheaper too.

Schools who took advantage of this programme have

been making combined savings of £128,388 every year!

Not all schools have converted—but it's not too late to start saving. Sadly the funding is no longer available, but the conversion can pay for itself in a single delivery, so contact your heating engineers to arrange your conversion today.

## Time for an energy health check?

Under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) regulations, Display Energy Certificates (DECs) are a legal requirement for all buildings over 250m<sup>2</sup> which are occupied by publicly funded organisations. For those buildings over 1000m<sup>2</sup> the DEC must be renewed annually. For those buildings below 1000m<sup>2</sup> the DEC is valid for 10 years.

The majority of NYCC schools occupy buildings below 1000m<sup>2</sup> and some have DECs which are coming up to 5 years old. DECs, along with being a legally required document, and because they take into account fluctuations in the weather, are a great way to measure your year-on-year energy consumption. This would be an ideal time to have a mid-point health check to see how your energy consumption measures up and to identify any bad practices that may have crept in.

The Energy Team can go through the DEC procedure and produce an Energy Health Check for your school.

**An Energy Health Check is a concise document which is simple and easy to follow and can be used for planning future work and expenditure on school buildings.**

It tells you what your new DEC Rating would be and how it compares with the previous DEC Rating. This quickly highlights any significant changes in energy consumption.

More importantly, it compares your heating and electrical energy usage against a benchmark figure for schools and expresses this as a

percentage overspend or underspend. This percentage and the actual amount you have spent on gas/oil and electric in the last 12 months are combined to calculate the potential saving offered by bringing your school back in line with the benchmark, or the amount you have underspent by performing better than the benchmark. This highlights whether your focus and priority should be on electrical energy reduction or heating energy reduction.

If you would like to receive an Energy Audit, they can be purchased as a Pick & Mix option from <https://sla-online.co.uk> for a cost of £60 .

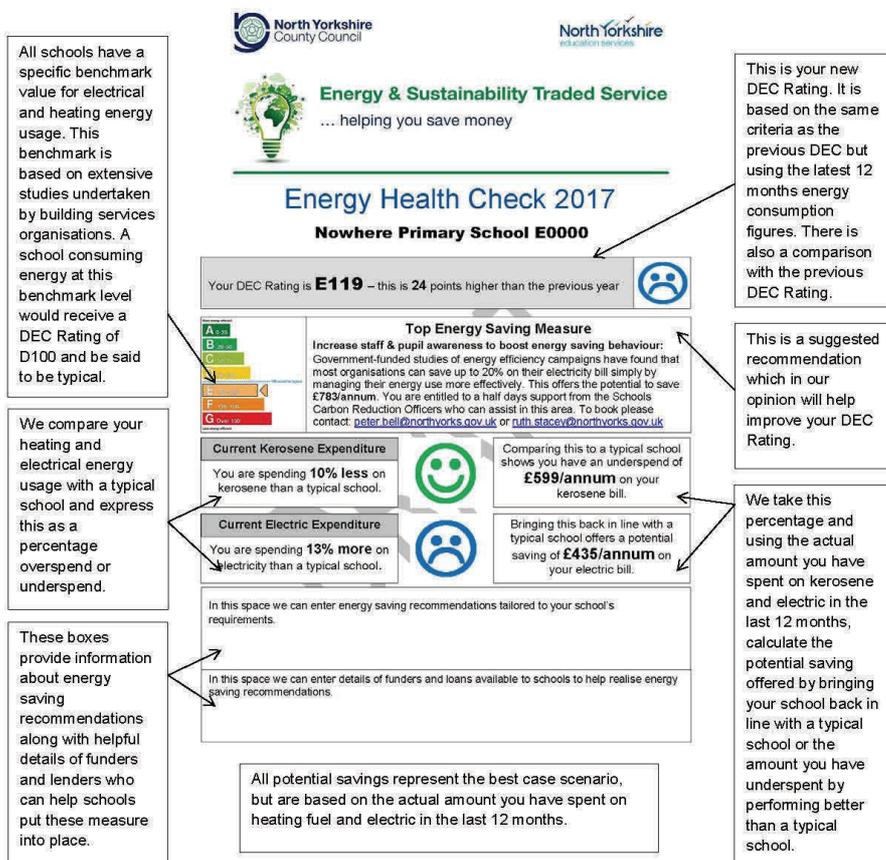
## Update on the SFX Effect

In the last edition of Energy Matters (May 2017), Margaret Land from St Francis Xavier school told us about the campaign she led to reduce the school's energy spend.

Since then their Display Energy Certification officer, Gordon Harrison, has undertaken the annual renewal of their DEC and the news is all good: their rating has improved by ten points, making the school more energy efficient than the average secondary school.

Well done SFX!

## Energy Health Check Explained



# Food fiesta ensures healthy habits

The Energy and sustainability traded service again delivered their annual schools' event at Harlow Carr gardens in Harrogate. The rain failed to dampen enthusiasm as 82 students and 18 staff attended the 4<sup>th</sup> year of this unique schools focused event. These events are always based on environmental and sustainability themes to celebrate progress on the Eco Schools award scheme, which runs internationally and many schools in North Yorkshire take part in. Every year sees a different theme and this year it was developed in conjunction with the soil association's 'Food for Life' programme.

The North Yorkshire Food for Life programme will work with 10 schools per year over two years. It is delivered through North Yorkshire County Council's Energy & Sustainability Traded Service.

The programme supports schools to help pupils learn about where their food comes from through growing and cooking lessons as well as farm visits. As part of the programme, schools receive in school support to work on the award programme. Staff receive training on growing, cooking with pupils and taking pupils on Farm visits. School cooks also receive a session to motivate them on the importance of their role in school to pupils' health.

At the annual school event, children took part in a variety of workshops from Seed planting with RHS Harlow Carr Education Team to discovering what life is like as a farmer with Rigmoor Reindeer mobile farm and Farming & Countryside Education (FACE). It was a first for our team to have live farm animals on site and this certainly proved popular.

One of the most thought provoking workshops highlighted where our food actually comes from with a workshop

from Craven development education centre entitled "the world in my shopping bag."

However for those more motivated by their stomachs there was the opportunity to sample fruit with the NYCC Educational Services Catering team who also provided their ever popular healthy muffins. The 'Love Food Hate Waste' Chef Nigel Brown provided cookery demonstrations with leftovers.



After all this food it was time to burn some calories with the North Yorkshire rotter's who used their smoothie bike to good effect with children powering the blender full of ripe fruit to produce healthy drinks.

Schools who had progressed through the Food for Life scheme this year were Aspin Park Primary, Bentham Primary, Clapham Primary, Cononley Primary, Kirk Fenton Primary and West Cliff Primary who have now gained their Bronze Food for Life Award. They were presented with their certificates by County Councillor Caroline Dickinson, executive member for public health, together with HERBIE, the healthy eating carrot. Cllr Dickinson said: "This is a fantastic achievement and the

*schools who have achieved their Bronze Award can be very proud of themselves."*

The schools have also introduced more choice at meal time, including salad bars and grab-and-go lunches. Healthy snacks are sold at lunchtime and schools are now growing and cooking more of their own produce.

Schools really appreciated the opportunity to take part in this event.

Aspin Park school said, "We all had a fantastic time on Wednesday and shared the day in assembly today. Thank you very much indeed for organising the day and for all your support this year." Whilst Ripon Cathedral school said, "We had a fantastic time yesterday. You did an amazing job organising such fun and educational activities and then adapting them to the weather."

Also in attendance was Kelly Grady of North Yorkshire Education Services NYCC (Formerly Smart Solutions) who said, "The summer event was a great success and I could see from the interaction and engagement from the children that they were all having a great time, regardless if the weather wasn't on our side. There was so much for the children to see and do and covered a range of subjects in a fun and educational way, milking the cow was a favourite and the children were having a great time. I am looking forward to attending future events".

Helping pupils to lead a healthier lifestyle in North Yorkshire is one of the key aims in the Young and Yorkshire children and young people's plan, "ensuring a healthy start to life, with more children and young people leading healthy lifestyles". Food for Life enables pupils to learn about the origin of their food and why eating good food, along with having an active lifestyle, really matters.

## Energy Education Excellence as the bike is back!

Finally, after a few years break, our Energy bike has returned. Many of you have been to our events or have had a visit in school from "Power Down Pete" in the past. You may remember sweating children desperately trying to generate enough energy to power a set of lightbulbs during an assembly or workshop.

Well, the bike has metamorphosed into a brand new concept. Now we have our energy totalizer display showing how much energy is actually needed to power everyday appliances.

Did you know that:

- You would have to pedal a bike at full power for 15 minutes to make one slice of toast.
- Pedal a bike at full power for

over 3 hours for a 5 minute electric shower.

To power an average domestic house with all the modern day electrical items we take for granted would need 80 cyclists pedalling all day.

Around £750 million of energy is wasted by leaving things on standby. Those little red lights in the corners of the TV can certainly be energy suckers without us even realising it! It works out at £60 to £80 a year on your energy bill.

The energy bike focuses the mind on the ways in which we waste energy and makes us more aware of the environmental impact of using too much energy.



We have developed ways that the bike can link into the maths and science curriculums, so do ask for these when booking Power Down Pete.

To book Power Down Pete and his Energy bike, all schools have to do is email

[Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Konnichiwa as Power Down Pete trades his cape for a kimono

The Energy and sustainability traded service has taken on an international feel of late.

Schools carbon Reduction officer Peter Bell aka Power Down Pete has dusted off the Kimono to bring an oriental treat into schools.

In a former life, Pete participated in the Japan Foundation School teacher's tour of Japan. It has had a profound effect on his teaching ever since.

As part of the Eco Schools Global Citizenship topic it is vital that children have knowledge and understanding of countries and cultures different to their own. This is where Japan days fit in.

Children learn through authentic Japanese artefacts both old and new, the traditions and customs of Japan. They handle Japanese



school books, dress in traditional clothes and even learn to count in

Japanese. There's no need to be shy as the whole class then has to participate in the Awa Odori or fools dance. The dance is traditionally from the prefecture of Tokushima on the island of Shikoku. The concept behind it is, who is the bigger fool? The fool who dances? Or the person watching something foolish? If both people are foolish why not dance!

For many the highlight of the day was sushi sampling with chop sticks. The technique may have been simple for some but for others stick frustration was the norm!

Most importantly, the children had a great time and it really enriched their Japan topic.

Japan days are available to book through

[Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Energy and sustainability traded service Autumn Term 2017 Training and Events

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October Open Farm School Day

*For Food for Life project schools only*

Peat Rigg environment centre

With the Soil Association, FACE and the North York Moors National Park. There is a limit of 50 people for this event.

To make enquiries or book a place, email [foodforlife@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:foodforlife@northyorks.gov.uk) or ring 07792954112.



### NOVEMBER IS ENERGY MONTH

Register online at <http://jointhepod.org/campaigns> for your free school energy saving pack.

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 10-2pm Pupil Energy Event

Bramall Learning Centre, RHS Harlow Carr, Harrogate.

Bring a team of Eco Committee or School Council pupils to take part in an action packed Energy Day. Pupils will take part in three interactive workshops to find out more about saving energy in school, how energy is produced by renewable energy and the global impact of our energy use.

Please note staff and pupils will need to bring a packed lunch and all drinks as refreshments cannot be provided. You will be free to have lunch in the beautiful grounds at Harlow Carr over lunchtime. Please wear suitable outdoor clothing as some of the workshops will take place outside.

Places are limited to 10 pupils per school (90 pupil limit for the event).

To make your booking, please contact the Harlow Carr booking team on 01423 724646 or email [schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk) quoting 'Pupil Energy Event'.

If you would like to discuss any details before making your booking please contact Ruth Stacey: [ruth.stacey@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.stacey@northyorks.gov.uk) 07792954112.

### Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12 o'clock Eco Schools award training

RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Beckwithshaw, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1UE.

For schools just starting out or those ready to apply for an award. This training will help you understand all the Eco Schools award requirements and help plan the next steps you need to take to achieve an award. This session is designed to be a working session so please bring along any Eco Schools files you may already have.

To book go to go to [www.nyeducationalservices.co.uk](http://www.nyeducationalservices.co.uk) and use NYES course code: NRG-1217-T001

If you are a school you will have been issued with a username and password for NYES Online, 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).



### Booking Details

To book your place on Energy and sustainability traded service training sessions please use the email or web address provided.

Primary schools signed up to the Energy and sustainability traded service's Total Primary Package are entitled to attend events or training for free, otherwise there is a charge to attend.

For general enquiries about all these events and

training sessions please email Ruth Stacey (Schools Carbon Reduction Officer)

[ruth.stacey@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.stacey@northyorks.gov.uk) or ring 07792954112

### Cancellation Policy

If you unable to attend an event please cancel with the booking email address as soon as possible. We reserve the right to charge schools for places booked, if the delegate fails to attend an event without giving apologies 7 working days prior to an event. The cancellation charge is £50 per school and applies to all schools including those who have signed up to the Total Energy and sustainability traded service.

Contact the Energy and sustainability service: (E) [energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk) (T) 01609 535775  
North Yorkshire County Council, Energy Team, Facilities Management, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AL