

Energy Matters

The energy and sustainability service's newsletter

Issue 40 January 2018



In this issue....

Building and contracts

pages 1,2,3

- New offers from the energy team
- Building works and your DEC rating
- Air source heat pumps
- New meters and their data
- Half-hourly meters
- British Gas update

Education Zone

pages 4,5,6

- Power Down Pete goes viral
- What we did in 2017!
- Food glorious food
- Sunshine and wind
- Training and pupil events

The Energy & Sustainability Traded Service is very pleased to announce that, due to contract management of the gas supply contract, a sum of money has been returned to the council by the supplier for the 2016/17 supply period. In order to be fair the money has been divided by the total consumption used by all schools in that supply period, and then that figure multiplied by the consumption for each school. Therefore, the sums going back to schools range from £14.53 to £4,557.46 with the average being £467.14. So if you are a very small school it's not going to be a huge amount, but as they say 'every little helps'.

Schools in our Packages use 8% less energy per pupil than those schools in BFC only

(based on a 2 year average, total kWh/pupil energy consumption of schools in Primary and Secondary Package compared to those schools who just take the Bulk Fuel Only option)

North Yorkshire
education services

 **North Yorkshire**
County Council



Energy & Sustainability Traded Service

... helping you save

Coming soon to an energy & sustainability service near you!

New Water contract

As mentioned in previous editions the commercial water market has been opened up to competition and split between the wholesaler (the company that manages the pipe and owns the water) and the retailer (the company who runs the billing and has direct contact with the customer). It's the retailer who we will need to contract with and are currently running a procurement for. We are hoping to have a bulk water contract in place soon in the spring and will offer it to schools in the same way as we currently provide energy supply. Keep an eye out in the spring for correspondence from us.

New waste and recycling collection contract

Working in partnership with Yorwaste we are hoping to offer a waste and recycling collection contract to schools, again early in the next financial year and provided to schools in the same way as we do for energy supply. Keep an eye out for correspondence from us in the spring. Linked to this is a potential partnership with Allerton Park energy from waste site so we can link up how you manage your waste in school, through collection and then treatment, reuse and disposal at the Allerton Park site – truly closing the loop!

How to get accurate DEC ratings during school building works

High energy use during the construction of new school extensions can greatly affect a school's Display Energy Certificate (DEC) rating. Works can increase electric use by 50% or more.

However if you can provide your DEC assessor with regular readings from reliable electric sub-meters monitoring the construction works, e.g. portakabins, this can be allowed for when calculating the DEC rating of energy performance.

The contractor is responsible for the accuracy of the sub-meter, but it is essential the school requests regular sub-meter readings to avoid inaccurate DEC's, and incurring expenditure on non-school energy use. Your DEC assessor ideally requires monthly readings on SystemsLink to calculate the actual 12 month energy use of the school to ensure the DEC rating is correct.

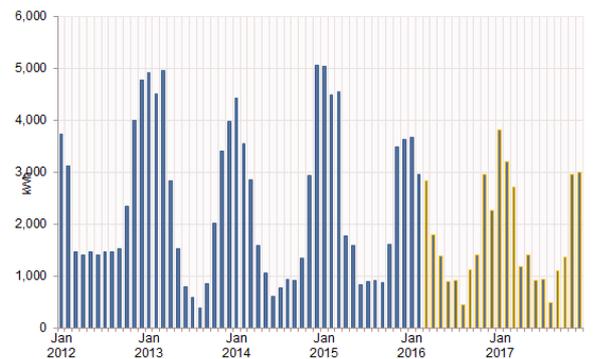
Finally, ask your contractors to confirm electric heaters in site cabins are turned off or down at night to avoid any unnecessary use.



Switch and save: are air source heat pumps the way to go?

Burton Salmon Community Primary School have seen a 20 to 25% drop in their electricity consumption by replacing their night storage heaters with an air source heat pump (ASHP). ASHPs absorb heat from the outside air, and this heat can then be used to heat radiators, underfloor heating systems, or warm air convectors and hot water. For more information on air source heat pumps please see the following link <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/renewable-energy/heat/air-source-heat-pumps>

The graph shows the school's reduction in consumption, months in orange are after the installation of the ASHP.



Month	2012 kWh	2013 kWh	2014 kWh	2015 kWh	2016 kWh	2017 kWh
Jan	3,720	4,902	4,417	5,034	3,655	3,816
Feb	3,114	4,493	3,549	4,475	2,953	3,192
Mar	1,454	4,945	2,854	4,550	2,820	2,707
Apr	1,407	2,834	1,589	1,773	1,781	1,178
May	1,454	1,512	1,049	1,585	1,374	1,400
Jun	1,407	782	610	821	885	917
Jul	1,454	577	756	879	913	928
Aug	1,454	375	934	905	444	486
Sep	1,511	851	903	876	1,110	1,083
Oct	2,329	2,003	1,337	1,598	1,393	1,359
Nov	3,995	3,401	2,930	3,474	2,947	2,942
Dec	4,766	3,977	5,044	3,624	2,254	2,993
Total	28,065	30,653	25,972	29,593	22,528	23,000

How smart meters and their data can help you save

By the beginning of January 2018, our new gas suppliers Corona Energy and their partners Energy Assets had upgraded over 50% of the meters in NYCC schools with new Smart meters. The remaining meters are on track to be upgraded by the end of March.

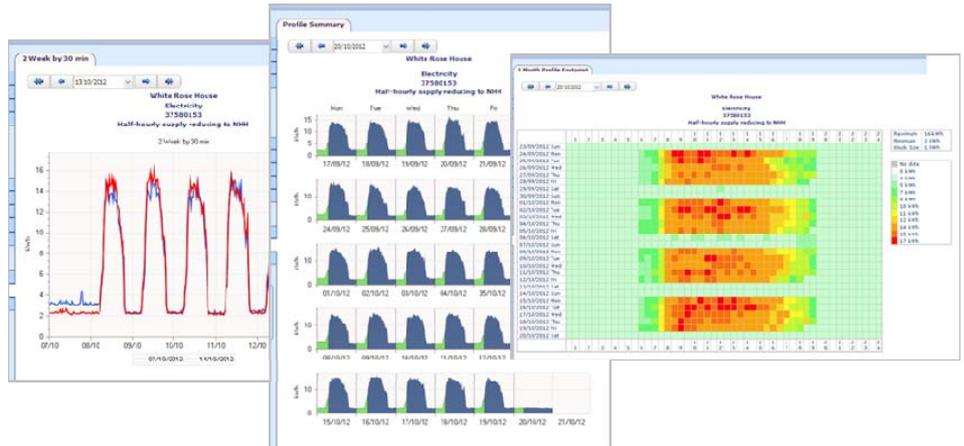
While these meters aren't quite like the ones you see advertised on television, they do mean your bills will be more accurate as they can be read without visiting the school. And you also have the option to buy your data for a small monthly fee. This data is available to view via SystemsLink and MyCorona, and gives you the opportunity to identify possible savings on your gas bills.

The same is true of electricity;

22% of school meters are half-hourly meters, for which we already receive the data. A further 60% are AMR-enabled, which means the data is available for a small monthly fee. Again, this data can be viewed in SystemsLink, giving you the opportunity to

identify possible savings on your electricity bills.

For more information, or to arrange to receive your data, please contact Karen Atkinson, energy data officer, on 01609 535775 or by emailing karen.p.atkinson@northyorks.gov.uk



Upgraded electricity meters and AC

A number of school electricity supplies were upgraded to **half-hourly meters** this time last year. Some other schools already had half-hourly meters. These meters have an **Agreed Capacity (AC)** assigned to them, and from April 2018 there will be a charge if consumption regularly exceeds the Agreed Capacity (under regulations DCP161 and P272).

Some schools have been contacted by brokers offering to review their AC. There is no need to take up such an offer, as the energy team will be carrying out this review as part of the contract management service we provide. If action is necessary, we will take it for you.

If you use a broker, please let us know as this could lead to conflicting information going to the industry.

If you would like more information on this subject please send an email (subject: DCP161) to energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk

British Gas update

Although our contract with British Gas (BG) ended on 31 March 2017, many of you are aware that there are outstanding problems with the final accounts. BG indicate that many accounts are in debt and have been chasing payments; while other accounts have a credit balance that BG have yet to refund.

Things have been very quiet for the last few months; however sadly, if you have previously received correspondence about an outstanding balance, you should not assume that because you have not heard anything lately the issue has been resolved.

The energy team and our buying partners, Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO), have been working throughout with BG. YPO provided this update on 10th January 2018:

- The provision of debt reports has been confusing everyone due to their inaccuracies,

therefore BG stopped producing them – this should have been communicated to customers but wasn't.

- We (YPO) provided a report to OFGEM through our Directors towards the end of November, and we were asked to monitor the situation over the following month. We advised that nothing had improved and the lack of reporting was actually creating more issues. This was fed back to OFGEM prior to Christmas and we are still awaiting a response.
- BG should be emailing customers in January to update them. [STOP PRESS: This deadline has been missed].
- YPO continue to push OFGEM and BG to get answers.

If you would like more information about the complaints procedure for energy suppliers, please follow this link:

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/consumers/business-gas-and-electricity-guide/complain-about-your-gas-or-electricity-bill-or-supplier>

Food glorious food - but where does it come from?

The food for life programme, led by schools carbon reduction officer Ruth Stacey, has provided nourishment of an educational type with a recent event at outdoor education centre Peat Rigg near Pickering.

In October, 46 children from 3 different schools were invited to see where their food actually comes from and understand the processes of growing both crops and livestock. This led to some amazing activities, from pig rustling to nettle tasting.

The aims of the programme are

about making good food the easy choice for everyone, making healthy, tasty and sustainable meals the norm for all to enjoy, reconnecting people with where their food comes from, teaching them how it's grown and cooked, and championing the importance of well-sourced ingredients.

Did you know that by folding nettle leaves in a certain way you can eat them without fear of stinging?

Do you know the five freedoms for animal welfare are?

Do you know how best to get a



group of pigs to move in a certain direction?

The last question certainly led to some interesting practical experiences for the children, not to mention muddy wellies.

Getting the children outdoors and letting them experience first-hand where their food comes from gave them a real insight into animal welfare and the importance of the environment.

The event at Peat Rig was one of the first of its kind for the team and despite the weather was enjoyed by students and staff alike.



Sunshine and wind

Last term our annual energy event focused on power from wind and sunshine; how is it made, and why do we need it?

Sunshine The Harlow Carr education team looked at how humans use solar energy to make electricity, and also heat water using their own solar arrays at Harlow Carr education centre. The children then learned about how solar energy was important to plants and how that energy moved through the food chain, before planting seeds which they took home.

Wind One of the highlights was the energy race [www.powerrace.org]. Children

worked collaboratively to design their own mini wind turbine which connected to a network of turbines across the classroom. Fans provided the wind, and the children altered their blade designs to allow the maximum amount of energy to be generated. Only those with the best turbine designs could win the race.

Power down Pete looked at the issues of siting wind turbines, a topic that many politicians and pressure groups struggle with on a regular basis. Whatever the decisions made, we all know we need to move to a sustainable energy supply that is not going to run out or damage our planet.



Juggling the many issues that face wind turbines locations is never easy, so the children did well to balance the arguments and decide on a course of action.

Informed citizens

Undoubtedly, the children had a great time and have developed the knowledge skills and understanding they will need to have to be the informed citizens, making the decisions required to ensure our planets sustainable future!

Power Down Pete hits the headlines

... and goes viral!



power down pete north yorkshire

All News Videos Shopping

About 165,000 results (0.49 seconds)



Goodbye 2017... ... hello 2018

The schools carbon reduction officers have been very busy last year, with

- ⇒ 4162 children involved in Power down Pete's planet saving assembly
- ⇒ 3645 children attending workshops, with
- ⇒ 68 children from school eco teams and school councils who were supported in their Eco endeavours
- ⇒ 124 staff were assisted through our visits and Eco schools support programme

At our schools events we worked with 614 children, an increase of 321 from the previous year.

The schools carbon reduction officers are available to schools in the primary package

Booking are now being taken for January and are filling up fast. Have you had a visit from Power down Pete this term? With curriculum

linked activities and support to progress the eco schools scheme, the spring term is going to be a busy one.



Power down Pete has been on his first ever visit to Masham School and it certainly got people talking.

The day started in assembly, involving the children with the new energy bike to demonstrate how much energy it actually takes to power everyday household items. Then the children got involved in the energy items parachute game and the giant climate change snakes and ladders board, learning about the energy saving actions we can all take.

All of the activities are now linked to elements of the curriculum. Older children are tackling issues of philosophy for children when looking at environmental issues, whilst the younger children take their first steps into environmental education with songs and stories to develop key stage one English and Music.

In Masham news of the visit was shared with parents via the school twitter account. One

parent Commented " Every time a light is left on in our house now I just say, *what would Power Down Pete say?* Then it's switched off in a flash!"

With activities on energy, water and waste as well as teaching children about their responsibilities to the planet, the service is proving ever popular.

This year Power down Pete is bringing an international flavour to school visits with a special key stage 2 Japan day where children learn Japanese dancing and even get to try sushi. Schools can also book a rainforest activity day where children can compare their environment with that of the rainforest discovering the dangers that face this vital eco system. These days are priced at £199 per half day.

Power down Pete is now booking visits for the spring term. To contact him please get in touch via email:

Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk

Training and pupil events Spring term 2018

Pupil Eco Days

KS1/2 Eco Day

Thursday 1st February 2018
(FULLY BOOKED)

KS2 Eco day

Thursday 8th February 2018 (last few places remaining)

Come along with a group of pupils to take part in an action packed Eco Day at the fantastic sustainable Bramall Learning Centre at RHS garden Harlow Carr, Harrogate. Bring up to 30 pupils to take part in two interactive workshops on an environmental theme and a self-guided session using spotter and trail sheets in the beautiful gardens or the eco building. Eco Days will run between 10-2pm. Pupils and staff will need warm, waterproof clothing, wellies/ boots and to bring lunch and refreshments. There is a 100 pupil limit for each event.

Book soon to avoid disappointment via the Harlow Carr booking team, quoting the



full date and title of the Eco Day you want to attend.

Ring: 01423 724646 or via email schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk

For general queries about any of the Eco Days please email Ruth Stacey (Schools Carbon Reduction Officer) ruth.stacey@northyorks.gov.uk



The Eco Days are free to schools who are signed up to the Energy & Sustainability Traded Service, there is a £50 charge for schools not part of the service which will be invoiced before the event. Please note if places are cancelled within 7 days of the event, a charge may be incurred.



Food for Life training sessions

Growing & Farm Links

6th February 2018, 9.30-3.30pm
Gazegill Organic Farm,
Rimington, Clitheroe, BB7 4EE

A farm based course that will advise how to organise a farm trip and inspire children through learning about where their food comes from and how to grow it in school. Lots of practical ideas for growing when back in school.

Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.

Please wear practical, waterproof clothing and bring outdoor boots, ready for a tour of the working organic farm that hosts up to 300 free school visits each year.

Priority will be given to Food for Life project schools, but all schools can attend at no charge, subject to available space. Please enquire and book places by contacting Ruth Stacey (Food for Life Programme Manager) ruth.stacey@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 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 (T) 01609 535775
North Yorkshire County Council, Energy Team, Facilities Management, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD