

Energy Matters

The energy and sustainability service's newsletter

Issue 42 September 2018



Three more schools have gained their **Bronze Food for Life Awards**: Applegarth Primary School, Romanby Primary School and Trinity Academy Richmond.

The schools were presented with their certificates by County Councillor Caroline Dickinson, Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention and Supported Housing, and County Councillor Janet Sanderson, Executive Member for the Children and Young People's Service - supported by **Herbie**, the healthy-eating carrot. Director of Public Health Lincoln Sargent also joined in the celebrations.

Find out more about the **Food For Life** programme and our big summer celebration event, on page 4.

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North Yorkshire
education services

 **North Yorkshire**
County Council



Energy & Sustainability Traded Service

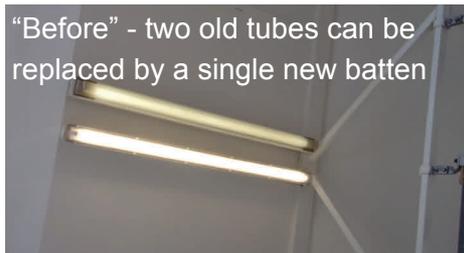
... helping you save

LEDs are lighting the way in schools

As electric prices soar even higher, more schools are opting for long-life LED (light emitting diodes) lights not only to save money but, because of the quality light they provide, to improve learning environments. Here are some top tips to get the best savings from LED lights whatever your budget:

1. Routinely use LEDs for all failed lights, especially for high wattage lights.
2. When considering lighting upgrades, target areas with long-running lights, e.g. corridors, external security lights etc and those with the least efficient fluorescent tubes. Changing 'non high frequency' T8, T9 and T12 tubes will all save a large amount.

3. Replace all 'double' tube fittings with single LED strips which could cut power usage by up to 70%. In the same way, in areas lit with pairs of lights located close to each other a single LED strip could well be adequate.



Lighting procurement framework

Contact the YPO for advice on their Low Energy Lighting Framework:

www.ypo.co.uk/news-and-events/news/lighting-upgrade-to-save-y-po-78-percent

Financing your lighting improvements

Remember that zero percent Salix Finance Loans over eight years can be used for all school lighting projects, for more information go to

www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/maintained-schools-and-sixth-form-colleges

Paying your energy bills

We monitor all energy supply accounts, in partnership with our suppliers.

Please pay promptly; if bills are overdue we will get in touch, but we'd rather we didn't have to.

We will also let you know when you have credit balance, perhaps as a result of a rebill – and how to get your money back.

If you are having problems paying, please contact the supplier to discuss using the contact details on the bill.

If you have a query you can't resolve with the supplier, contact Karen Atkinson, Energy data officer, for help on 01609 535775 or Karen.p.atkinson@northyorks.gov.uk

Emergency contact information

Gas emergency

Call 0800 111 999 for: leaks, pressure issues, explosion, no gas, carbon monoxide alarm. Once the site has been made safe, call our supplier Corona Energy and they will work with you to get you back on gas.

Water interruption to supply or leak

View details or report a problem at: www.yorkshirewater.com/report/

Electricity power cut

Click on the link below for information on power cuts in your area, and for emergency contact numbers:

www.northernpowergrid.com/power-cuts

Electricity emergency

Call 0800 404 090 if you see a hazard or emergency involving overhead power lines or pylons, plus electrical safety advice.

Are we changing enough for the climate? - Discuss

2018 saw some seriously extreme weather events. With 11 wildfires inside the Arctic Circle and over 30 degree heat breaking regional records. Forest fires in Greece, followed by the hottest European temperatures seen in 40 years. An unprecedented heat wave in Eastern Canada whilst on the other side of the world Japan saw heat, floods and more recently a record breaking typhoon.

Surely it didn't used to be like this?

Pinning down the cause of complex weather events isn't straightforward. Breaking apart a natural phenomenon from human influence is not easy. But science is rapidly linking the crazy weather we're experiencing to greenhouse gas emissions.

Since the early 1990s, scientists have been able to clearly show a rise in global temperature due to human-caused greenhouse gases. With the Earth getting hotter, heat waves become more intense and more frequent. More heat evaporates more water, so average global rainfall increases too. With more energy and water vapour in the system, extreme events become the norm.

Blaming any given weather event on climate change has long been controversial. Prof Peter Stott of the Met Office, said global warming of 1C since the industrial revolution was clearly making extreme heat more likely. "It is increasing quite significantly the risk of such a heatwave. The temperatures of 30C and above have gone from being a very rare occurrence to much more likely," he said.

The wide geographical spread of the heatwave, right across four continents, also points to global warming as the culprit. "That pattern is something we wouldn't be seeing without climate change," Stott said.

In March the "Beast

from the East" was in full swing. The UK became a victim of a direction change in the northern polar jet stream caused by a rise in temperatures above the Arctic. This unexpected warming weakened the jet stream that brings warm air in from the Atlantic to Britain. And so cold air from thousands of miles away is dragged over to us.

Yes, it's complicated. How can freezing cold weather be the result of warming! This is perhaps the problem the world has with Climate Change. If I had a penny for everyone who had passed comments similar to "how can we have global warming? It's snowing!" I would be able to afford a holiday in the Maldives (before rising sea levels swamp the islands).

We struggle as humans to be able to see the connections as 2018 becomes the hottest on record. Yet the science is clear "There's no question human influence on climate is playing a huge role in this heatwave," said Prof Myles Allen, a climate scientist at the University of Oxford.

So if so many scientists are saying this is climate change, how is it we see news reports in mainstream media who never mention the term in connection with yet another weather record being broken or another associated freak weather event?

Mainstream media campaigns like the recent Sky ocean rescue have made great strides into bringing the problems of plastic pollution into the public domain. We now see genuine action from the ground up. Before the summer, my trip to the theatre saw interval drinks served with paper straws. Single use plastic banning statements followed from huge multinational corporations who looked to protect their reputations and be seen as taking steps to protect the environment.

So why do we not have a similar response to global extreme weather events? Yes, this issue is more complex, we cannot live without energy—but we can call for greater use of renewable energy and a move away from fossil fuels.

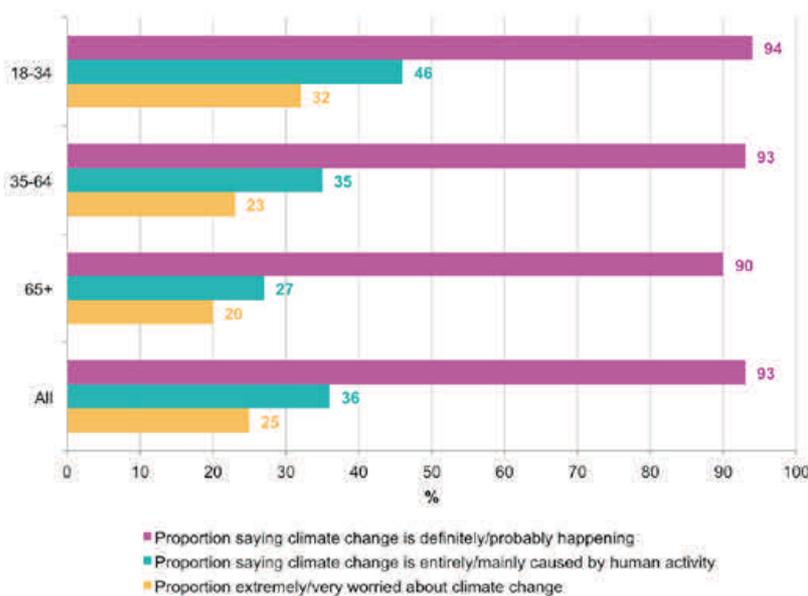
As the general public, will we only react to the extreme weather events that permeate the news channels if we are explicitly told this is climate change?

This is what we can expect year after year. This is our fault and we need to change our habits.

Perhaps, like the plastics problem, we need a call to action but will we ever get such a response when only 36% of British people think we caused this*. Plastic pollution is easy to see. Our TV News and internet carries pictures of plastic bags wrapped around turtles. Its undeniable we put that there and it shames us into changing our habits.

If carbon emissions could be seen, perhaps we would be equally shamed and thereby take action. Climate change need its own "turtle" and only then will we look at our own ways to save energy and reduce our carbon footprint.

Views on existence, causes and consequences of climate change, by age



* Source: The National Centre for Social Research 2018

Summer event celebrates Food for Life's success



School pupils from across North Yorkshire had a great time when they got together at Allerton Court Hotel to celebrate their achievements and mark the end of the two year Food for Life project in the County.

Food for Life is a Soil Association national initiative and its aim is to encourage schools to make good food a central part of the school day. Key elements of the programme are providing healthy meals and good food education, as well as enriching classroom learning and pupil understanding of where their food comes from with farm visits and practical cooking and growing.

At the celebration event at Allerton Court Hotel, pupils took part in four food and physical activity themed workshops delivered by project partners, helping to cook delicious recipes from 'Love Food Hate Waste' Chef Nigel Brown and get active with North Yorkshire Sport.

North Yorkshire County Council's (NYCC) school meals provider, NYCC Facilities Management Catering, ran a herb-tasting workshop and provided healthy snacks for pupils and visitors to enjoy over break-time. North



Yorkshire Rotters brought their popular smoothie bike, with pupils supplying the pedal power to run the blender on the back.



The latest schools to achieve their Bronze award (see front page) join another 9 from across the county who have already earned their awards during the first year of the project. Clapham CE Primary School has gained their Silver award through lots of growing and cooking in school and by developing a whole school food policy to ensure a consistent message about healthy eating is promoted.

The North Yorkshire schools Food for Life project has been funded by NYCC through its public health grant. During the 2016-2018 academic years, NYCC's Energy and Sustainability Traded Service has provided hands-on tailored support to 22 schools in the



county to help them achieve awards and increase cooking and growing in school. All schools in North Yorkshire have been able to access the Food for Life Programme independently and attend local training to support them. Over 70 school staff have received training on cooking, growing and taking pupils on farm visits.

Another successful part of the programme has been to take 90 pupils to two pupil Farm Days where they learn about food and farming through meeting the farm animals, herding geese and pigs, making butter and discovering the differences between alpaca and sheep wool.



To find out more about the national Food for Life programme go to www.foodforlife.org.uk/schools For more information on the Food for Life programme in North Yorkshire and what comes next, contact Ruth Stacey, ruth.stacey@northyorks.gov.uk or call 07792954112.



Pupil events—Autumn Term 2018

Pupil Eco Day @ Peat Rigg

Tuesday 6th November: 10-2pm

Peat Rigg Outdoor Training Centre Cropton, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 8EX

Bring a group of up to 15 pupils, such as your School Council or eco committee to take part in an interactive day at the fantastic Peat Rigg Outdoor Centre.

Take part in workshops around the themes of farming, the countryside & outdoor learning. Workshops will be delivered by the Peat Rigg education team and FACE (Farming & Countryside Education).

Pupils and staff will need to wear warm, waterproof clothing as the majority of workshops will take place outside. Please bring packed lunches and drinks. We hope to sit around a campfire over lunchtime.

Please book via NYES www.nyeducationalservices.co.uk using the course code NRG-1118-T001. Please enter each pupil as a delegate on the system (no need for names). This event is free for schools in the Primary Energy Traded Service. There is a £50 charge for all other schools to attend.

Please note there is a maximum of 50 pupils for this event.

Switch off Fortnight

For your free school energy saving pack to run your own Switch off Fortnight, register online anytime during November at <https://jointhepod.org/campaigns/switch-off-fortnight-2018>



KS1 Minibeast Mayhem

Tuesday 13th or Wednesday 14th November 10-2pm

RHS Garden Harlow Carr,

Bring up to 30 pupils to take part in two hands-on workshops celebrating marvellous minibeasts that call the garden their home. Pupils will go back to school with a mini wormery and a mini bug hotel that they've created. Workshops will be provided by the North Yorkshire Rotters and the RHS Education Team.

You will have time during the day to do a self-guided session in the beautiful grounds of Harlow Carr gardens. Worksheets can be provided. Warm, waterproof clothing is essential.

KS2 Pupil Energy Event

Thursday 29th November 10am-2pm

RHS Garden Harlow Carr,

Bring a group of up to 30 Key Stage 2 pupils to take part in this exciting team challenge event for Energy Month. Pupils will take part in three workshops during the day exploring renewable energy and climate change. Please note we will be running the popular 'Renewable Energy Race' which involves building wind turbines in teams. If pupils have already done this in previous years, please do send different pupils along to the event.

You will be free to have lunch in the beautiful grounds at Harlow Carr gardens over lunchtime.

Booking for Minibeast Mayhem and Pupil Energy Event

is via RHS Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Beckwithshaw, Harrogate, HG3 1QB

Telephone 01423 724646 or email schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk

These events are only available to all schools signed up to our Energy Traded Service primary package. There is no additional charge to attend.

Please note there is a maximum of 90 pupils for each event. Please bring a packed lunch and all drinks as refreshments cannot be provided.

For general enquiries about all these pupil events please email Ruth Stacey (Schools Carbon Reduction Officer) Ruth.stacey@northyorks.gov.uk or ring 07792954112.

Latest from our partners at RHS Harlow Carr:

FREE Educational Workshops

Wrap up warm and head outside to enjoy a FREE Autumn and Winter adventure at Harlow Carr. Our schools programme runs all year round so come and join us to experience one of the following seasonal workshops: Autumn Adventure, Naturally Festive and All About Birds, or choose from one of our existing workshops.

Find out more at www.rhs.org.uk/harlowcarrschoolvisits

To book, call 01423 724646 or email schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk

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