

Energy Matters

The energy and sustainability service's newsletter

Issue 43 January 2019



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New Water contract

As reported in previous editions of Energy Matters, the water industry has changed for commercial supplies. It has been split up between the 'wholesaler', the company providing, treating and transporting the water and the 'retailer', who manages meter reads and billing.

Therefore we are now required to undertake competitive procurement for our water supply retailer, as both NYCC's corporate water supplies and

those to schools are considered commercial supply.

This is being undertaken by YPO for us and we are currently taking part in the evaluation of the submissions to the tenders issued. We are expecting to have a contract in place for the 1st April 2019, and this will make us fully compliant with the new water regulations.

This contract will only cover the retail part of the water bill; the cost of the water itself is set by

the water wholesaler and then the retailer (the company we are currently procuring) will add a small amount to manage the meters and billing and issue a complete bill which includes the cost of the water from the 'wholesaler'.

This contract will be organised in the same way as our energy ones. It is the contract that NYCC will be using for all its own water supplies, and can make available

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North Yorkshire
education services

 **North Yorkshire**
County Council



Energy & Sustainability Traded Service

... helping you save

New electricity contract

The YPO/NYCC electricity contract for April 2019 to March 2023 has been awarded to nPower plc.

YPO have negotiated a lower management fee compared with the current contract. The new offer also includes curriculum support for schools, and an on-line enquiry system, details to follow.

As nPower are our existing suppliers, the switch from the old to the new contract should be smooth; but we recommend that you read your meters on 1st April and enter the readings into SystemsLink, to be sure your bills are correct.



Not signed the new Electricity Contract Agreement?

If you don't wish to stay on the NYCC contract then you need to make sure your new contract is set up to start on 1st April. If you don't set a new supplier your won't be cut off, you will still have electricity supplied by nPower—but you will be moved onto out-of-contract rates, which are at least three times as high as our contract rates.

Don't forget to send a meter reading to your new supplier, and also enter it into SystemsLink, so that both suppliers bill you correctly.

It's not too late to join

- if you haven't yet signed the agreement but would like to join, please email energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk for a copy of the agreement, sign and return it to us and we'll get you added.

Let's talk rubbish - again

In the May 2018 issue of Energy Matters we launched the possibility of a waste and recycling contract via a partnership with Yorwaste. A number of schools expressed an interest and many of these have been visited and received quotes.

What it has shown is that there is a real need to provide a robust and cost effective contract that offers what schools really want and need at the best possible price. The work has highlighted the complexities of rubbish – its collection, what we do with it, where it goes and how it is all priced.

As a result we have put the official launch of this contract on hold while we review the outcomes of this initial piece of work, what we offer may change but above all we want to make sure what we offer is the best possible deal for school.

So for now thank you to the schools who have so far participated and we will be in direct contact with you soon. We're afraid it's a bit of a watch this space with this contract again

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for schools to use. If a school wishes to use the contract then a small fee will be added to the bill (1.2p/m3 e.g. £10 for an average sized primary for a year or £45 for a secondary), as with the energy contracts this will cover the cost to NYCC of the all the procurement and ongoing contract management that relates to the water supplies to schools.

Data will be entered into SystemsLink and a data portal will be provided by the retailer.

We will be sending emails to all schools who currently use our bulk fuel contracts with full details once we have a retailer identified, hopefully this will be at the end of January.

If a school chooses not to join the new contract they should be able to show due diligence, whether choosing an alternative supplier or remaining with the incumbent supplier.

- apologies for this but we would rather wait and launch something that's right for schools.

YPO wins two energy awards

Our buying partners, YPO, won an award in the "Third Party Intermediary of the Year (broker) - over 50 employees" category at The Energy Awards 2018 in December. The ceremony saw over 600 of the most senior operators in the energy market come together to celebrate the best of the energy industry.

Reasons that contributed to the team winning included:

- OJEU frameworks with a focus on CSR and social values
- Quarterly category council meetings
- Free expert guidance
- A monthly market update
- Energy for schools initiative



And YPO's Energy Category Manager, Adam Throup, won a "Highly commended" award in the Energy Champion of the Year category. Adam was recognised for initiating, developing and managing framework contracts within the Energy category, delivering cost effective, best value frameworks within the public sector.



Green flag success for SFX

St Francis Xavier School in Richmond were recently awarded the coveted Eco Schools Green Flag, School Business manager Margaret Land explains how they achieved their success:

Over the last few years the staff and students at St Francis Xavier School have been committed to protecting the environment, and in recognition of this were awarded the prestigious Eco Schools Green Flag in October 2018. To achieve this award the school, led by an active eco team has:

- reduced its energy consumption by 23% since 2014/15;
- reduced its paper usage - over the last 12 months 172 fewer reams of paper were purchased compared with the previous 12 months;
- promoted the issue of food waste - since January 2018 a lunchtime recycling system has been in place which includes the composting of raw food waste and measuring the total food wasted to see if this can be reduced;
- carried out over 50 litter picks in the school grounds collecting over 30 bags of litter;
- planted over 3,000 spring bulbs and making plans to create a wildflower meadow within the school grounds;
- stopped selling single use plastic bottles and single use plastic sachets (such as ketchup and mayonnaise) replacing them with dispensers;
- arranged a textiles recycling collection raising

almost £150; and,

- worked with a local company, RJ Farrow, to recycle a full skip of aluminium cans.

In addition to RJ Farrow Skip Hire the school was also generously supported by Richmond Rotters who provided free composting bins, GCH Grounds Maintenance of Richmond, who provided four good quality litter pickers and Richmond Town Council, who provided the funding for the spring bulbs.

The school has recently signed up for the surfers against sewage plastic free schools Award and will be working towards this goal over the next 12 months.

The Energy and sustainability traded service were delighted to help the school in their endeavours:

The Schools Carbon reduction officers have always been keen to support secondary schools, and St Francis Xavier School have used the service to help deliver 2 whole school assembly's with the Energy saving planet protecting message. We have also supported their eco team in meetings and practical "switch off" tours of the school.

The school has been given practical help and guidance on environmental issues and how to progress through the "Eco-schools scheme. On one occasion a year 8 class got a special workshop all about how we have to work as a team to solve the environmental problems of the planet.

Secondary schools can purchase this type of support on a bespoke basis through the team.

Circuits, sun pipes and plants - all in a day's lesson!

The schools carbon reduction officers have again delivered a fantastic Energy event. In partnership with the education team at RHS Harlow Carr and UK STEM, children from different schools developed an in depth understanding of the different types of energy, how we generate it and the importance of energy efficiency for our warming planet.

This year we welcomed Beckie from UK STEM. The ever popular activity involved children building the most efficient wind turbine model as possible in order to generate the most energy in an energy race. On a national scale the UK is the windiest country in Europe and is well placed to develop these technologies. Last year we actually managed to produce enough renewable energy for the whole energy needs of the country. However the ability to produce this energy is not always available and until battery storage capability is developed we will be unable to simply switch off our coal fired power stations that are warming the planet.

Power Down Pete had everyone holding hands to start his workshop. No, not some bizarre welcoming ceremony but an opportunity to understand that energy can flow through us all in a circuit. With the help of the 'light up buzzing energy stick' each class managed to complete their circuit as well as gain an insight into energy flows.

The new energy bike was a big hit, with children pedalling their legs off to generate enough energy to increase the light box illumination. To learn that you would have to pedal the bike for an hour just to have an hour playing on the Xbox, certainly raised some eyebrows. Perhaps we just take energy for granted. Flick a switch and it's there! To generate the energy required for a standard family of 4 would require the efforts of over 80 cyclists.

The Harlow Carr team gave an insight into the Learning Centre which uses solar panels to convert the heat from the sun to provide half of the energy needed for producing hot water for the



building, and also uses sun pipes to let in daylight and reduce electricity costs. Children discussed how solar energy links to food chains and how plants harness energy from the sun, and got the chance to plant their own bulbs to take back to school and observe how they grow.

Students and staff gained a great deal from a day of learning outside the classroom. One school described it as a really interesting topic and something we can take back into the classroom, whilst another school described it as a fantastic opportunity for their children.

The team are now booking further event for schools at Harlow Carr, giving children and staff the opportunity to develop an understanding of the world around them and the challenges our planet faces. Email schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk for details.



Power Down Pete is now booking new school visits

Do you have an eco-team or School council who can help you save energy, save money and save the planet?

Would your school benefit from curriculum enrichment with an Environment themed "eco day"?

Do you want to enthuse and engage the children and staff to save energy and water thereby reducing your bills?

Why not have a look at Pete in action—click on the link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=feb956Pd6N0

This is all part of the Energy traded primary package, there are no additional costs for this part of the service.

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

Training and pupil events—Spring 2019

KS1 Pupil Eco Day

Tuesday 22nd
January
RHS Harlow Carr
gardens,
Harrogate, HG3 1QB.



Bring up to 30 pupils to take part in two hands on workshops with an environmental theme, including making natural art. Workshops will be provided by the Energy & Sustainability team and the RHS Education Team.

You will also have time during the day to do a self-guided session in the grounds with spotter booklets provided. Warm, waterproof clothing is essential. Please note staff and pupils will need to bring a packed lunch and all drinks, as refreshments cannot be provided.

To book contact the Harlow Carr booking team on: 01423 724646 or email schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk

Book soon to avoid disappointment. LAST FEW PLACES AVAILABLE.

KS2 Pupil Eco Day

Tuesday 5th
February
RHS Harlow Carr
gardens, Harrogate, HG3 1QB.
This event is now FULLY BOOKED.



Fair trade fortnight

Monday 25
February to
Sunday 10
March



This year the spotlight is on the cocoa industry and the exploitation of cocoa farmers, particularly in West Africa where most cocoa is grown.

You can run activities in your school with the help of the Fairtrade foundation and free school event packs can be ordered here

<https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/>

Packs are full of ideas about what you can do to support the campaign, and will be sent out during January.



Waste week is back!

You can choose any week in March to get involved.

For all budding 'Eco-schools'. Your school can choose any week during March and staff from the Energy & Sustainability team can help you run activities in school.

The theme for 2019 is plastic waste. Discover the pros and cons of plastic - there will be fascinating facts, interesting infographics, whole school activities, prize draws and much more.

To join in visit <https://jointhepod.org/campaigns/waste-week-2019>

Contact:
Peter.bell@northyorks.gov.uk to book an assembly or workshop on waste.

Pupil Waste Event

Thursday 7th March 10am-2pm
HS Harlow Carr gardens,
Harrogate, HG3 1QB.

Bring up to 15 pupils to take part in three interactive workshops around waste. Learn what happens to your rubbish in North Yorkshire and how it helps generate energy for 40,000 homes, with education staff from the Allerton Waste Recovery Park. Reuse plastic to create a fantastic bookmark or plant label to take home with the Cone Exchange team. Find out how we have reduced, re-used and recycled in the Learning Centre at Harlow Carr and make your own paper pot to plant up and take home with the RHS Education team.

Please note staff and pupils will need to bring a packed lunch and all drinks, as refreshments cannot be provided. Warm and waterproof clothing is essential as one of the workshops will take place outside.

To book contact the Harlow Carr booking team on: 01423 724646 or schoolsharlowcarr@rhs.org.uk stating 'Waste Event'.

Book soon to avoid disappointment. 90 pupil limit.

Attending pupil events is free to all schools signed up to the Primary Energy & Sustainability package.

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