

# Energy Matters

The energy and sustainability service's newsletter

Issue 44 May 2019



Climate strike: Why are students striking and will it have an impact?

Fresh wave of youth climate action protests expected across Britain

The Youth Climate Strike Is Exactly What the Planet Needs Right Now

Parents around the world mobilise behind youth climate strikes

## Youth activism or skipping school - "There is no planet B"

Pupils from around the UK are going "on strike" on the first Friday in every month as part of a global campaign for action on climate change. Students are skipping school to take up positions in their local towns to get the decision makers to listen, with many carrying placards reading "there is no Planet B"

There is no doubt that manmade climate change is a reality. 97% of climate scientists say we are the cause of the 1.5 degree temperature rise the world has now seen. The greater the climate expertise, the higher the consensus on human-caused global warming. 2016 was the hottest year on record since 1880. The ten

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**North Yorkshire**  
education services

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County Council



**Energy & Sustainability Traded Service**

*... helping you save*

# Gas update—prepared by our buying partners YPO

Commodity price up 8%, transportation costs up 1%, CCL up 69%.

Gas pricing has seen some significant volatility over the past 12 months and this has been reflected in the pricing for customers. As an example, Summer 2019 gas prices increased by 70% in 2018, Although YPO made strategic purchasing decisions to limit the impact of this on customers, there is still a price rise on commodity costs of approximately 8%.

There are a number of reasons for this volatility. The main natural gas storage facility in the North Sea, Rough, closed this year and

that led to a shortage of storage options and placed more reliance on imports. This global demand for LNG has added to rising prices.

Brexit uncertainty also played its part, with international exchange rates seeing downward pressure on the value of Sterling against the Euro and US Dollar, resulting in more expensive commodity trades. There is expected to be more movement as we leave the EU over the next 2 years.

Gas transportation costs increased by roughly 4% across the country. However the cost of unidentified gas charges (UIG) has reduced, this has offset the

increase resulting in a general transportation increase of ~1% instead. The Treasury has also increased Climate Change Levy (CCL) rates by 69% year as a replacement for the outgoing Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). See our jargon buster below for more on CCL and CRC!

Volatility in the market is expected to continue through 2019, and YPO is working closely with Corona Energy to limit increases in 2020-21.

## DECO retires

After 10 years being a member of the Energy Team delivering DEC's to many schools around the county, Gordon Harrison retired on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. We are in the process of recruiting a new team member and in the meantime DEC's due will be completed by Steffi. The team wishes Gordon all the very best for his retirement!



## Jargon Buster!

**Climate Change Levy (CCL)** is a tax on non-domestic energy users. Its aim is to provide an incentive to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. It is applied to all energy, gas and electricity (however generated).

The **Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme (CRC)**, a scheme where local government had to report emissions and then buy carbon allowances, has been abolished and the CCL has increased to cover the carbon costs no longer provided under the CRC. This means that some organisations who were not subject to the CRC are now paying for the carbon they emit.

## Water update



We have a confirmed start date of 1st June 2019 for our new water contract with Business Stream. For those schools that have signed up, there is nothing further you need to do except co-operate in allowing Business Stream to read your water meter(s) on or around this date. If you can access your meter, it is a good idea to enter a reading into SystemsLink at the end of May.

If you haven't joined our contract, be aware that you should be able to demonstrate due diligence in your alternative arrangements, especially if you remain with the incumbent supplier.

It's not too late—if you missed our earlier offer or have changed your mind, you can still join our contract. Just contact [energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk) for an Agreement, and we will confirm your start date upon receipt of the completed agreement.

## Climate Change Levy increases

From April 2019, the Climate Change Levy (CCL) rate will increase to compensate for the loss of CRC revenue. There will be an overall increase of around 45% for electricity and 67% for

gas. This translates to around a 2% increase on your total electricity bill and 1% on your total gas bill.

The table below shows the main rates of CCL.:

Taxable commodity	Rate from 1st April 2018	Rate from 1st April 2019
Electricity (£ per kilowatt hour (KWh))	0.00583	0.00847
Natural gas (£ per KWh)	0.00203	0.00339
Any other taxable commodity (£ per kg)	0.01591	0.02653

# UK government report on national carbon emissions

It's worth noting that aviation & shipping emissions are not included in this report.

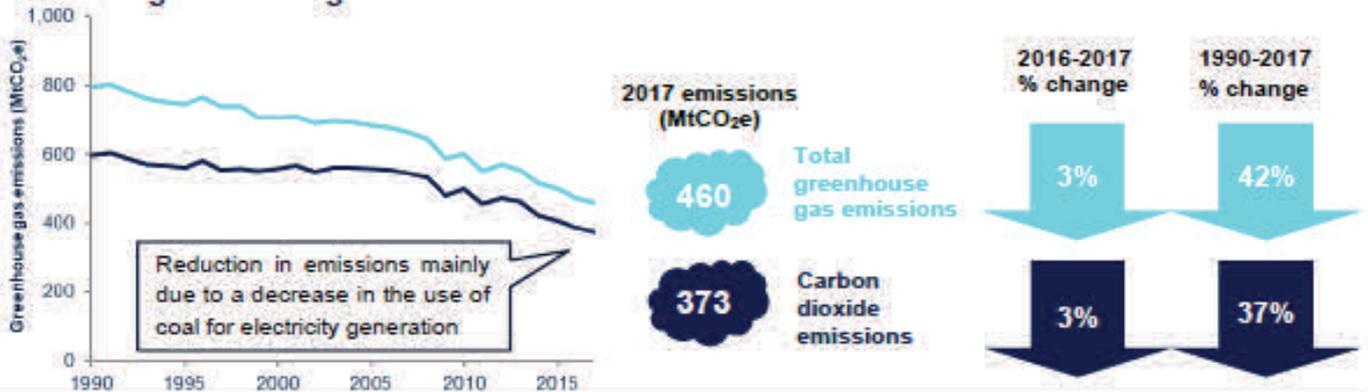


Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

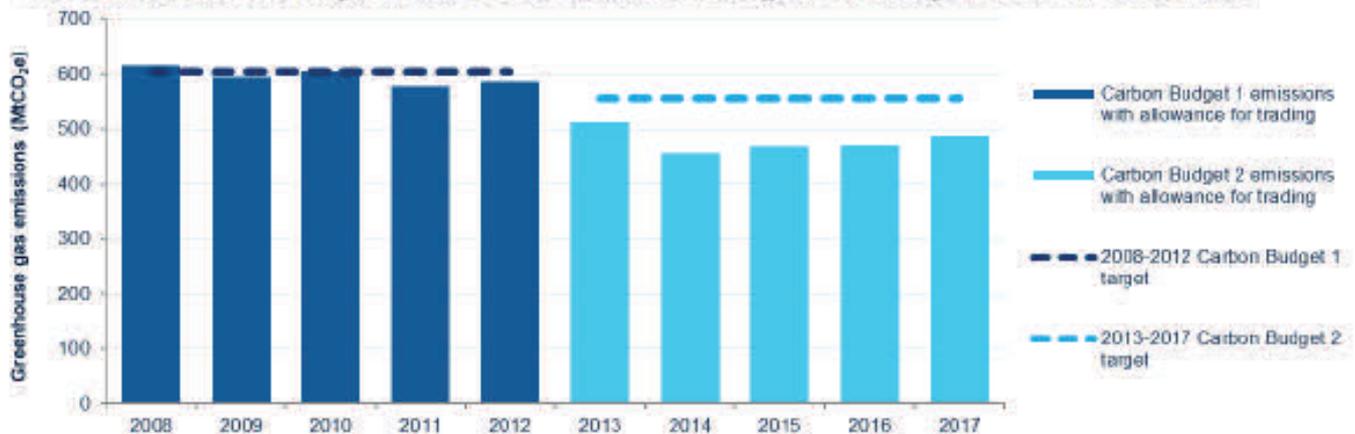
## 2017 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions



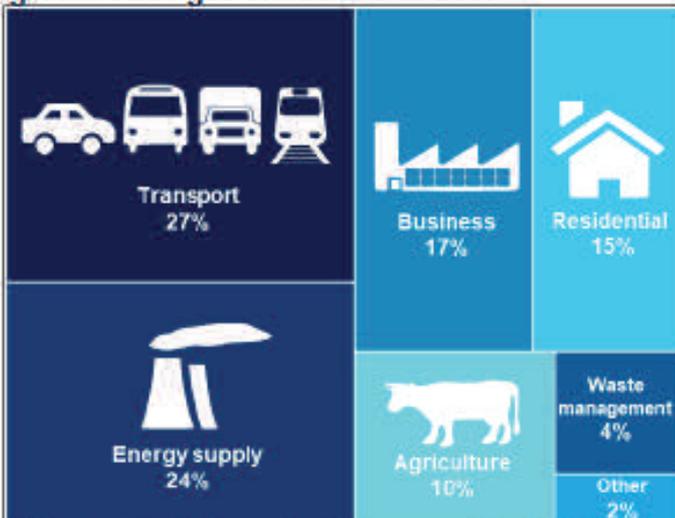
### 2017 UK greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to have decreased from 2016



### The UK has met its target in the Second Carbon Budget, covering 2013-2017 emissions



### Transport was the largest emitting sector of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2017



Other includes Public, Industrial Processes and the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sectors (note that LULUCF acts as a net sink of emissions). The percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

### Energy supply and the residential sector delivered the largest reductions in emissions from 2016 to 2017



The energy supply sector has accounted for around half of the overall reduction in UK emissions since 1990, at which point it accounted for 35% of all emissions in the UK. It was the largest emitting sector until its emissions fell below transport in 2016.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics>

Enquiries: [ClimateChange.Statistics@bets.gov.uk](mailto:ClimateChange.Statistics@bets.gov.uk)

Responsible statistician: Amanda Penstone Tel: 0300 068 8090

# Youth activism or skipping school? - “There is no Planet B”

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warmest years on record have all occurred since 1998, and the four warmest years on record have all occurred since 2014. Yet many believe some world leaders continue along the same economic model of consume more care less. Year upon year we see more extreme weather events directly attributable to climate change.

The YouthStrike4Climate movement are choosing to “rise up and take direct action where older generations have failed.” They believe “This is our final chance to fight for our futures, and our ages will not be what stop us” (<https://ukscn.org/ys4c>)

The Movement began when 15-year-old Swede Greta Thunberg did not attend school and sat outside government buildings instead, accusing her country of not following the Paris Climate Agreement. She has since spoken to politicians at the UN and continues to campaign for greater

awareness and therefore greater action on climate change. Students around the country walked out of schools to call on the government to declare a climate emergency. Organisers of Youth Strike 4 Climate said protests took place in more than 60 towns and cities, with an estimated 15,000 taking part. With a growing global following, youth direct

action is here to stay as young people feel disenfranchised from the decision making processes around the issues that impact on their futures.

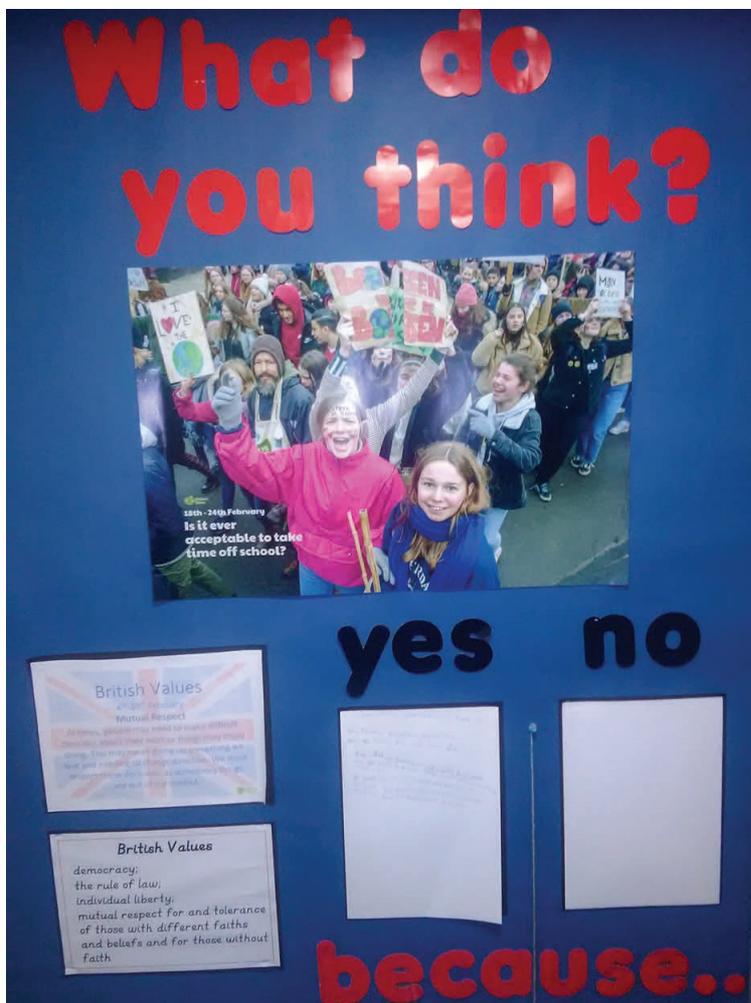
So where does this leave us? The response to the strikes has been polarising the political world. Energy minister Claire Perry told the BBC she would have joined the walkouts in her younger years, while the prime minister said she understood their concerns but also said “it is important to

emphasise that disruption increases teachers’ workloads and wastes lesson time that teachers have carefully prepared for.” How do you give young people a voice whilst avoiding disruption to the very education they will need to solve the problems caused by previous generations?

Practical action to achieve social change is shown to have a huge range of educational benefits for children who take part from a young age. Where do we place this in a packed curriculum devoid of any direct links to climate change? The natural motivations of young people who care about social issues more than any other generation must be supported and encouraged. It cultivates skills that are highly sought after by employers and develops the very British values so recently encouraged in schools (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-on-promoting-british-values-in-schools-published>).

Achieving these aims is not easy. We must do it in a way that motivates and energises young people into action, whilst ensuring their safety, continuity of education and engagement in it.

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Sharing their views with their striking poster—  
Hunton and Arrathorne Community Primary School

(Continued from page 4)

Perhaps it is time for the current generations of educators to take a lead and place that much needed emphasis back into the classroom. While environmental education may not be explicit in the curriculum, with a little thought it can be included. Data handling, graphs and ICT can all be linked through raw data of school energy use from meter reads. Literacy skills can be developed through using appropriate style and tone in letters to key politicians on issues of climate. The list of connections and content is endless.

Local authorities are now looking at ways in which they can support their student actions, with one neighbouring authority organising student action within schools on the annual “Earth Hour” day. Perhaps this is a way forward and a model for the future of engaging young people.

Over 10 years this service has championed these issues with around 60,000 children in over 600 school visits experiencing environmentally themed assemblies and workshops. This work has always been met by interest, passion and action by the children. They see securing their future as their role. We have encouraged many a student council or Eco-team to complete the weekly survey of energy use in school and to take action in classrooms where things are left on. Whilst leaving a card on a teacher’s desk to remind them to turn things off might not seem a great deal, it is still activism, it is still student voice, it is still engagement!

Without this we will only see young people bypass the adult decision makers and take the required action for their futures into their own hands. And why wouldn’t they!

## New for 2019—SystemsLink for pupils

### What is SystemsLink?

SystemsLink is the energy and sustainability service’s database holding data on your energy consumption and bills, allowing us to monitor what you use, make sure you only pay what you should, and identify possible savings.

### Why have a pupils version?

A pupils version can be used to engage eco teams and schools councils in handling energy and water use data (but not bill data!). This allows them to understand how much energy and water is used in schools and generate different consumption graphs. In turn this develops a deeper understanding of energy and water use, and therefore encourages efforts to reduce consumption and cost. Using data in this manner is part of the monitoring and evaluating required through the Eco-Schools programme. It also ties into the curriculum, from Maths with data handling and ICT, to the Science of carbon emissions and associated Geographical impacts of a changing climate.

### Encourage the pupils to join in

Each term pupils are invited to enter an energy or sustainability related competition. They can email their answers to Power-down Pete, and the winner will receive a prize, and a mention on the pupil page next term.

### What do you do next?

Your School council/ eco team will need to have their own log in, allowing them access to their own area of the database. Be assured that they will not be allowed access to your bill data.

To request log in details please contact [Energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Energy.team@northyorks.gov.uk)

From there, you are good to go.!



# 10 years a super hero

## Reflections from Power-down Pete

After 10 years it's fascinating to look back at what has been undoubtedly the most interesting period of my career to date.

If I was to look at just a statistical analysis, I have been on over 600 school visits, delivered assembly to over 60,000 children

and nearly 40,000 children have enjoyed one of my school workshops. However statistics are only part of the story and there has been so much more to the Energy and Sustainability service.

In 2009 I left my previous career as a secondary school teacher to take a rarely offered opportunity to work full time on an environmental education agenda. In February 2009 I interviewed for the position. Having successfully secured the role I submitted my resignation mid OFSTED inspection at my school and started looking at train times to Northallerton.

It wasn't long before I was in the thick of primary school action. With the diary filling up fast I received a phone call from Askrigg School. Their Eco Team leader, Julie Fawcett, told me that I had to have a nick name as the kids had called my predecessor "Eco Emma". As the day approached I slowly drove up Wensleydale intent on pulling some sort of nick name out of my increasingly muddled mind. I pulled into the school car park panicking. I had nothing! No nick name. No clever alliteration, no rhyme, nothing. It was at that point I met Julie and she said "the kids have called you Power Down Pete". There it was! The mind's 'light bulb' had switched on (I



quickly turned it off and changed the bulb to a more efficient version).

Having returned to the office with this idea of Power Down Pete it was met with much amusement by my colleagues. So much so that one of our team actually made me a green cape, and another whisked it down to the print unit to have "Power down Pete" emblazoned across the back. A super hero was born and the team embraced the madness.

Since then the service has grown in popularity. I regularly get phone calls from head teachers asking to speak to Power down Pete. The kids write me thankyou letters, all of which I have kept, and school staff really appreciate having the expertise and support to deliver environmental issues whilst still linking it to the curriculum with positive learning outcomes.

The whole service we have offered schools has certainly been a team effort. Not only have I been supported by my manager who has always been willing to let me run with my ideas, but our whole team have helped in the technical and data sides of the role. My colleague Ruth Stacey has been instrumental in running all our schools events. We have seen thousands of children experience our workshops at RHS Harlow Carr and other venues,

where we work with the many different partners we have developed over the past 10 years. These events continue to be popular with demand outstripping supply every year.

So to the next ten years. We are introducing new curriculum inputs with an environmental theme. With a make do and mend theme, AR Pete will deliver the WW2 curriculum input. Neanderthal man and their ability to live in balance with the environment is another topic area we are looking at - however I don't fancy the costume much. We are also looking to further develop our international issues topics with our Japanese culture day and Rainforest experience.

I can only see environmental issues taking a greater role in schools as time passes, to solve the issues of climate change and environmental degradation. The future of our planet does not look positive and we look to the next generation of leaders to solve the issues we face.

If I was the sum up the last ten years I could paraphrase a comment made by a Headteacher about the eco day at their school: it has been "Relevant , Fun and full of learning!". That's exactly what I'm trying to achieve.

## New Healthy Schools award for North Yorkshire schools

We are pleased to announce that North Yorkshire County Council's Public Health team are funding a new Healthy Schools award scheme, which will be free for two years to all North Yorkshire schools.

The scheme aims to support the County's schools with pupil's emotional and physical health & wellbeing by providing a structured approach to teaching and providing support services. There will be four key themes: Active lifestyles; Food in Schools; Sex & Relationships Education and PHSE; along with Emotional Health & Wellbeing.

The scheme will be based online with a new website currently under development. We plan to launch the new website at a Healthy Schools pupil event on the 1<sup>st</sup> July at RHS Harlow Carr gardens. We will be running a series of free teacher training sessions around the

County in the Autumn term for schools to find out more about the new scheme.

Schools will be able to work towards Bronze, Silver and Gold Healthy School awards with pupil voice being a key part of the scheme along with staff health & wellbeing.

We will be running celebration events in 2020 to reward achievement and share success.

This is a partnership project between the Energy & Sustainability Traded Service, who previously ran the Food for Life Project; Children & Young People's Service and external partners North Yorkshire Sport.

We will be announcing the start of the scheme once development work is complete but in the meantime if you have any questions please email

[healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk)



### Healthy School

## Training and pupil events— Summer 2019



### Becoming a successful Eco School

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am-3.30pm

RHS Harlow Carr gardens, Harrogate, HG3 1QB.

This one day course will be delivered by the National Eco Schools team and is suitable for all schools, whether just starting out on your Eco School journey or ready to apply for the Green Flag award. You will leave the course reassured, inspired and with the confidence to achieve an international Eco Schools Award for your school. To find out more about Eco Schools or to register for free to join the scheme access [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)

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

To book your training place log in online at <https://www.nyeducationsservices.co.uk/> and use course code NRG-0619-T002. The National Eco Schools team will be in touch to invoice your school before the training. We have negotiated a reduced rate of £100/ delegate on your behalf for this training day, normally the cost is £155 per school for national Eco Schools training.



### Great Yorkshire Show

The Schools Carbon Reduction Officers will be running growing and energy saving activities at this

year's Countryside Days 11-12<sup>th</sup> June and the Great Yorkshire Show 9-11<sup>th</sup> July. Both events are run by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, find out more at

<https://yas.co.uk/shows/>. We look forward to seeing many North Yorkshire schools there.



### Healthy School

### Healthy Schools

KS2 pupil event Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 10am-2pm

RHS Harlow Carr gardens, Harrogate, HG3 1QB.

We will be launching the new Healthy Schools award scheme for North Yorkshire schools. **SAVE THE DATE** – more details to follow via the Red Bag.

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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