



Your local partner for a sustainable future.



YEP NEWS

December 2011

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter

It's been a whirlwind few months – with some big changes for Yorkshire Energy Partnership. From delivering free insulation schemes, running expert seminars for local businesses and launching an exciting new project with schools in North Yorkshire, our work has really gathered pace in the final leg of 2011.

Given our notable achievements in actively reducing carbon emissions and promoting renewable technology, we've been lobbying the government's recent decision to cut the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) for installing solar PV panels. At the time of writing, the dispute over the sudden FIT cut was taken to the High Court by solar panel installers and Friends of the Earth. We'll update you with more news about the outcome in the next newsletter.

In other developments, our website has had a revamp and we're now tweeting and blogging away as if we've never known any different. You can check out our new user-friendly website at www.yorkshireenergypartnership.org.uk and follow us on Twitter at @YEPpartnership.

There's lots to read about in this edition – and we hope that you'll take advantage of the 'Warmer Winter' scheme to keep yourselves and your families warm, cosy and energy efficient this winter.

As always, if there's any way we can help your home, business or community to benefit from energy efficiency solutions or advice, please do get in touch.

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Councillor Fleur Butler
Chair of Yorkshire Energy Partnership



NEWSFLASH Investors in the Environment

Investors in the Environment is an exciting new environmental accreditation scheme designed to help businesses save money and reduce their impact on the environment.

Yorkshire Energy Partnership is looking to launch the scheme – the first of its kind in our area - across Yorkshire and the Humber in spring next year and will give local businesses all the help and support needed for accreditation – guiding them throughout the process.

Watch this space for more information in our next newsletter.

A 'Warmer Winter' for thousands of residents

Our new 'Warmer Winter' insulation scheme – running in partnership with councils across North Yorkshire – has been a fantastic success, resulting in hundreds of local people taking up free insulation this winter. Running first in York, the scheme is due to be rolled out across Harrogate with more areas in the pipeline for early 2012.

If you'd like to find out more – or even claim your own free 'Warmer Winter' insulation – call one of our advice team on **01904 55 44 06**.



Call us today on 01904 554406 or visit yorkshireenergypartnership.org.uk

Alternatively you can email the team at advice@energypartnership.org.uk



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Yorkshire Energy Partnership is gearing up for Climate Week 2012, running from 12-18th March with activities planned for businesses and communities and through work with our partners.

This year the week will comprise of activity in the run-up separated into four themes, Energy (renewables and efficiency), Food, Waste and Sustainable Transport.

We'll keep you posted on what's in store via our website, yorkshireenergypartnership.org.uk

Or check out the Climate Week website at www.climateweek.com

Green Neighbourhood Challenge: the final frontier

We're nearing the end of the hugely successful Green Neighbourhood Challenge project – and each of the seven groups involved in the carbon reduction challenge is invited to an award ceremony on 28th January in central York – along with partners and other stakeholders.

The project has seen some fantastic highlights, including a whole host of events based around waste reduction, sourcing local and sustainable food, renewable energy, water saving methods and overall efficiency advice.

"Each group has completed a carbon footprint questionnaire to see if they have achieved the 11% reduction – results and winners will be announced at the ceremony in January. The overall winner of the £500 prize will invest the money back into the community."

Denise Hall Project Coordinator

But this isn't the end! Phase two of the Green Neighbourhood Challenge will see the website and toolkits available for all communities to create their own version of the challenge. The new version of the website will relaunch in spring 2012.



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"It seems that many small, local businesses have not considered the impacts that climate change will have." Jayne Williams, Project Coordinator

The time is RIEP:

Yorkshire Energy Partnership's Jayne Williams' extreme weather project



In July this year I was approached by Craven District Council, who asked me to complete part of the RIEP (Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership) Climate Change Adaptation Project for the York and North Yorkshire region; this was due to my having completed a dissertation in a similar subject for my MSc degree in Environmental Technology.

The aim of the project was to liaise with a wide range of organisations to determine how they have been impacted by extreme weather events in the past, what is being done to adapt to current weather extremes and what plans are being put in place to adapt to current weather extremes and projected climate change.

These organisations included the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission, Yorkshire Water the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authorities, RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Northern Powergrid as well as the health service, police, ambulance service, fire service, coastguard and mountain rescue. Organisations such as CO2Sense, Welcome to Yorkshire, the Chamber of Commerce and NYFF, that represent smaller businesses and voluntary organisations were also involved.

My research highlighted a distinct number of key similarities and patterns emerging between the organisations. Although data can't be quantified or proved scientifically, many organisations said that they have seen an increase in both the severity and frequency of extreme weather events in recent years, especially incidents of flooding and flash flooding.

Additionally, many of the organisations do not have specific extreme weather event plans in place, but do have emergency response plans and business continuity plans which take weather extremes into account.

One emerging factor that most large, often national, organisations do have plans and policies in place with regard to climate change, but the degrees of detail vary.

Conversely, it seems that many small, local businesses have not considered the impacts that climate change will have. The occurrence of extreme weather events that have occurred over recent years have highlighted the seriousness of extreme weather events, but many small business are still of the opinion that "it won't happen to me."

To see a copy of the full report, please contact me on Jayne.williams@energypartnership.org.uk

Energy saving in Knayton

The North York Moors, Coast and Hills Sustainable Communities project is pleased to announce that Knayton is now tackling energy efficiency in their village. Following a well-attended Energy Day in their Village Hall last month, villagers were able to speak to experts about insulation, heat pumps, solar technologies and wood fuel pellets.

An energy efficiency presentation has helped residents to learn about the direct link between saving energy and saving money. Knayton has also joined Osmotherley oil club, meaning those who use oil to heat their home can negotiate better prices.

Would your village benefit from our help? Call Rosie on 01904 554408 to find out how we can help you and your neighbours to become more energy efficient and save money at the same time.

Green North York Moors is now on Twitter!
Follow us @GreenNYMoors.



SAVING
ENERGY
and cutting
costs

A frost-proof winter for North Yorkshire schools

The North Yorkshire schools insulation project is now live!

The new project will see insulation being rolled out across North Yorkshire schools, helping them to become more energy efficient, cheaper to heat, warmer, more comfortable – and, in turn, lowering their carbon emissions. The work will also help schools to avoid winter closures when faced with burst pipes from frost damage.

Schools that have had problems with burst pipes over the last two winters will be prioritized, but the scheme will eventually be offered to all schools across North Yorkshire.

"This project is a fantastic opportunity for schools to prepare for the frost. We will guide schools through the process and leave them safe in the knowledge that there should be no more closures due to burst pipes; they'll also make ongoing savings through reduced fuel bills."

Ruth Collins, Senior Project Coordinator

If you would like more information on the scheme or would like to register your interest please contact: Ruth Collins on 01904 554432 or email nyccschools@energypartnership.org.uk.

Dates for your diary

**Humber Environmental Network:
Sustainable Buildings seminar**

7th February 2012

Time: 4.40 pm

Location: The Waters Edge, Barton.

**Green Business Club: First steps
to greening your business**

8th February 2012

Time: 9.30 am

Location: Scarborough Spa Pavilion,
Scarborough.

Climate Week

12-18th March 2012

Events across many different
locations. Keep an eye on
our website.

Richmondshire Eco Week

19-25th March 2012

Events across Richmond and locally.

Yorkshire Business Market

30th April 2012

Time: 11 am-5 pm

Location: Pavilions of Harrogate,
Great Yorkshire Showground,
Harrogate.



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