

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



New club explores energy sources in Kentucky

Being from Kentucky, a state where over 90 percent of our energy comes from coal combustion, it can be hard to even consider the alternatives. But one of the new clubs on campus, the ECU Energy Club, has made educating the students at Eastern in all areas related to energy. Bruce Pratt, Ph.D., director of ECU Center for Renewable and Alternative Fuel Technologies (CRAFT), said his office has been in charge of “facilitating the development of the energy club on campus.” The Kentucky Energy Club, located in Lexington, is in charge of establishing CRAFT chapters at different universities, including the University of Kentucky, Center College, Morehead State University and Ashland Community and Technical College. (The Eastern Progress, Dec. 7, 2011)

GE Brings green lights to life

At GE's historic 90-acre Nela Park in Cleveland--home to America's first industrial park and to GE Lighting--a light bulb revolution is underway that could help solve one of the world's greatest environmental threats: climate change. Tucked away in a brick lab building of this leafy technology research campus, veteran GE lighting engineer and physicist Gary Allen reviews a chart of global greenhouse gas emissions that points in one direction—up. But, Allen says, there's a simple step we can take to curtail these emissions and change course; screw in a more efficient light bulb. “The number one thing we can do to cut greenhouse gas emissions is to change our light bulbs....it's the strongest lever we have to get CO2 emissions out of the atmosphere. So if you are going to spend money on anything, spend it on energy efficient lighting.” (Huffington Post, Dec. 12, 2011)

Facebook, Greenpeace partner on renewable energy

Facebook and Greenpeace today announced a partnership after a feud over where the social networking giant gets its energy from. The truce consists of three parts: the two companies will collaborate on the promotion of renewable energy, encourage major utilities to develop renewable energy generation, as well as develop programs that will enable Facebook users to save energy and engage their communities in clean energy decisions. The two released the following joint statement:... (ZDNet.com, Dec. 15, 2011)

Ex-Massey CEO resurfaces, forms Ky. coal company

Don Blankenship, the former Massey Energy executive whom many hold accountable for the explosion that killed 29 West Virginia coal miners, virtually vanished from public view a year ago this week. But he's kept a toe in the mining business and may be angling to raise his profile. Public records show that Blankenship has incorporated a new venture in Kentucky. Paperwork for McCoy Coal Group Inc. of Belfry, Ky., has been on file since January, though, and it has yet to seek a single mining permit, says Kentucky Energy and Environment spokesman Dick Brown. Blankenship was pressured into retiring last December amid the fallout from the Upper Big Branch mine explosion, the worst U.S. mining disaster in four decades. He is listed as McCoy's president and may be living in Tennessee. A person who answered a call for Blankenship on Thursday said he could not come to the phone. (CBS Money Watch, Dec. 8, 2011)

Much at stake with final EPA power-plant rule

Political pressure on the Obama administration has intensified as the Environmental Protection Agency prepares to finalize a proposed rule that would require sharp cuts of mercury and other toxic emissions from power plants. The EPA is under court deadline to finalize the proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants by Friday — though the agency reportedly may push the date back to Monday next week. The new regulation would require generating units at more than 500 power plants, which are running on coal and oil, to cut mercury by roughly 90 percent. Plants also would have to cut other air toxins, such as acid gases and arsenic. (FuelFix.com, Dec. 15, 2011)

CTL plant company touts new financial backer

The New York-based company that plans to construct a \$3 billion coal-to-gasoline plant in Mingo County and two identical plants in Pike County has attracted additional financial backing. Adam Victor, president and CEO of TransGas Systems Development, LLC made the announcement at a recent energy summit that CB Richard Ellis has agreed to partner with the company in the CTL project. CB Richard Ellis, which advertises itself as the “the global leader in real estate services,” has agreed to provide its financial expertise to help negotiate contracts and raise money for the endeavor. Victor told participants at the fifth annual Governor's Energy Summit held at the Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, W.Va., that “they'll partner with TransGas — they'll have skin in the game.” CB Ellis is widely known for its large commercial real estate ventures and serves as a leasing agent for Chase Tower. (Appalachian News Express, Dec. 9, 2011)

New York entrepreneur buys idled Somerset crude-oil refinery

Deme trios Haseotes, a New York entrepreneur with interests in convenience stores, truck stops and a large dairy, has bought the idled Somerset Energy Refining operation, one of two crude-oil refineries in Kentucky. Haseotes said he hopes to have the plant back in operation by early summer under the name Continental Refining Co. He did not disclose how much he paid for the refinery but said in a news release he planned to invest \$10 million to get the plant running and make improvements. The previous owner said in early 2010 he hoped to get at least \$12 million for the facility and equipment such as tanker trucks. (Kentucky.com, Dec. 15, 2011)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	12/15/2011	12/8/2011	12/2/2011	11/23/2011	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.19	3.259	3.237	3.236	2.927
Ashland	3.331	3.36	3.251	3.296	2.973
Covington	3.238	3.253	3.24	3.291	2.973
Lexington	3.19	3.301	3.245	3.22	2.948
Louisville	3.113	3.222	3.237	3.126	2.929
Owensboro	3.189	3.252	3.216	3.158	2.898
Diesel (State avg.)	3.866	3.918	3.939	3.983	3.156
Ashland	3.89	3.941	3.964	4.021	3.158
Covington	3.911	3.928	3.942	3.976	3.151
Lexington	3.855	3.918	3.941	4.004	3.162
Louisville	3.866	3.915	3.946	3.979	3.139
Owensboro	3.965	3.99	3.989	4.001	3.135

Note: The record high average price for gasoline in Kentucky is \$4.089, reported on July 10, 2008.
 Source: Gasoline (unleaded regular) & Diesel: National AAA,

Product	12/12/2011	12/5/2011	11/28/2011	11/21/2011	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	3.866	3.894	3.896	3.935	3.242
Propane (dollars per gallon)	2.852	2.847	2.846	2.84	2.625

Source: the U.S. Energy Information Administration

Wholesale Fuel Prices

Spot Prices	12/5/2011	12/8/2011	12/2/2011	11/23/2011	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	94.95	100.49	100.2	98.01	88.62
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3.073	3.436	3.47	3.038	4.225

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Jan	12-Feb	12-Mar
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	12/14/2011	94.95	95.14	95.37
	12/8/2011	100.49	100.68	100.86
	12/1/2011	100.20	100.33	100.45
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	12/14/2011	3.136	3.187	3.223
	12/8/2011	3.421	3.458	3.47
	12/1/2011	3.648	3.675	3.68
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	12/14/2011	1.367	1.355	1.305
	12/8/2011	1.449	1.435	1.369
	12/1/2011	1.455	1.44	1.368
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	12/14/2011	67.83	68.02	68.23
	12/8/2011	69.05	69.15	69.28
	12/1/2011	69.25	69.47	69.68

Source: CME Group



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