

# Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

*A snapshot of state and national energy issues*



## **2011 Governor's Emergency Management Workshop and Energy Summit Huge Success**

The 2011 Governor's Emergency Management Workshop and Energy Summit was held Dec. 14 - 16, at the Galt House Hotel and Suites in historic downtown Louisville, Kentucky. The theme for this year's workshop was "Partnering for the Future." Partnering with Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) at this year's workshop was Louisville Gas and Electric and Kentucky Utilities, LG&E and KU. The 2011 Governor's Emergency Management Workshop/Energy Summit was the first of its kind and the foundation which to build from. The workshop promoted and enhanced the knowledge of leaders throughout Kentucky in terms of emergency preparedness, response and recovery. KYEM Director John Heltzel said, "Kentucky has been hit hard in the past 4 years, with 10 presidentially declared disasters. The workshop presented an excellent opportunity for nearly 600 participants to review the 'lessons learned' from those events, and use them as building blocks for the future. (SurfKYNewsGroup.com, Dec. 21, 2011)

## **Energy conservation spurs LED lighting acceptance**

2012 will mark the phasing out of inefficient lighting sources in the US as specified in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Although incandescent lights are not specifically banned, their technology is incapable of meeting the new lighting efficacy specifications laid out in the bill. Just in time, affordable LED-based replacement lights are becoming available; Philips' 60W dimmable LED bulb, winner of the Department of Energy's \$10M L-Prize in 2011, will sell for \$22 dollars when introduced in January 2012, and then, as a condition of the L-Prize, will drop to \$15 in 2013 and then \$8 in 2014. (Electronics Design News, Dec. 12, 2011)

## **2012 Kentucky Legislative Preview | Green groups face lean times in Kentucky General Assembly**

Expect some talk but not much progress on the environment during the General Assembly, which convenes next month. Environmentalists, the coal lobby and some key lawmakers predict a light environmental agenda from lawmakers worried mostly about political redistricting and balancing an extremely tight budget. "I am not proposing any legislation," said Rep. Jim Gooch, R-Providence, the longtime pro-coal chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. "I haven't heard one peep from anyone at this point" about environmental legislation, said Sen. Dan Seum, R-Louisville, the majority caucus chairman in the Senate. (The Courier Journal.com, Dec. 27, 2011)

## **10 Ways to boost your building's energy efficiency in 2012**

Faced with a promising new year, we have an opportunity to start fresh and get fit -- and that includes our buildings. Has your building become fat and lazy? Is it consuming more than it provides? Efficiency is cheaper than energy. Guidance is not coming from national policy makers. Tight competition for commercial tenants means you need to offer healthy, bright, sustainable spaces -- with a green lease so everyone benefits. It's past time for real people to get serious about building energy efficiency and start to move the needle. Here are 10 ways to go deep on energy efficiency in 2012:... (GreenBiz.com, Dec. 28, 2011)

## **Two state agencies honored by Green Fleets of the Bluegrass**

The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet's Department for Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Finance and Administration Cabinet's Division of Fleet Management have been honored by the Kentucky Clean Fuels Coalition (KCFC) for the agencies' work to improve the environmental performance of state vehicle fleets. Both agencies earned the status as a "Pioneer" member of the Green Fleets of the Bluegrass program. The agencies' participation in Green Fleets supports the Governor's Energy Plan, which calls for a 30 percent improvement in the fuel economy of the state vehicle fleet by 2015 and a 50 percent improvement by 2025. A key strategy of the Governor's plan is the development of purchasing criteria to increase the overall fuel efficiency of the vehicles in the state fleet. (KentuckyAgConnection, Dec. 28, 2011)

## **All eyes on German renewable energy efforts**

This tiny village of 37 gray homes and farm buildings clustered along the main road in a wind-swept corner of rural eastern Germany seems an unlikely place for a revolution. Yet environmentalists, experts and politicians from El Salvador to Japan to South Africa have flocked here in the past year to learn how Feldheim, a village of just 145 people, is already putting into practice Germany's vision of a future powered entirely by renewable energy. Chancellor Angela Merkel's government passed legislation in June setting the country on course to generate a third of its power through renewable sources -- such as wind, solar, geothermal and bioenergy -- within a decade, reaching 80 percent by 2050, while creating jobs, increasing energy security and reducing harmful emissions. (San Francisco Chronicle, Dec. 29, 2011)

## **Environmentalists find success fighting shale oil boom**

A resurgent green movement is launching a multi-pronged counter-attack against the shale oil and gas boom in the United States that could slow, though ultimately not stop, development. Building upon their unexpected success in the battle against the Keystone XL pipeline, a renewed onslaught from environmentalists is putting the shale industry on the defensive while adding to costs, limiting expansion and potentially scuttling major projects. "I think it's the totality of what's going on all at once, that's the biggest concern," said Barclay Nicholson, a lawyer for the Washington-based Fulbright & Jaworski law firm, which has represented companies involved in shale development. (FinancialPost.com, Dec. 27, 2011)

**Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)**

Product	12/29/2011	12/22/2011	12/15/2011	12/8/2011	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.256	3.184	3.19	3.259	3.059
Ashland	3.344	3.311	3.331	3.36	3.206
Covington	3.308	3.231	3.238	3.253	3.101
Lexington	3.298	3.27	3.19	3.301	3.096
Louisville	3.263	3.109	3.113	3.222	3.098
Owensboro	3.18	3.161	3.189	3.252	2.972
Diesel (State avg.)	3.767	3.794	3.866	3.918	3.231
Ashland	3.8	3.817	3.89	3.941	3.275
Covington	3.799	3.828	3.911	3.928	3.242
Lexington	3.75	3.801	3.855	3.918	3.232
Louisville	3.731	3.787	3.866	3.915	3.193
Owensboro	3.844	3.965	3.99	3.989	3.2

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	12/26/2011	12/19/2011	12/12/2011	12/5/2011	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	3.831	3.823	3.866	3.894	3.314
Propane (dollars per gallon)	2.857	2.855	2.852	2.847	2.857

Source: the U.S. Energy Information Administration

**Wholesale Fuel Prices**

Spot Prices	12/29/2011	12/22/2011	12/5/2011	12/8/2011	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	99.36	98.67	94.95	100.49	91.12
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3.073	3.035	3.073	3.436	4.17

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Jan	12-Feb	12-Mar
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	12/29/2011	*	99.36	99.51
	12/22/2011	97.22	98.67	98.85
	12/14/2011	94.95	95.14	95.37
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	12/29/2011	3.084	3.121	3.148
	12/22/2011	3.155	3.198	3.239
	12/14/2011	3.136	3.187	3.223
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	12/29/2011	1.4	1.389	1.343
	12/22/2011	1.353	1.342	1.301
	12/14/2011	1.367	1.355	1.305
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	12/29/2011	73.17	70.22	69.88
	12/22/2011	68.75	68.87	69
	12/14/2011	67.83	68.02	68.23

Source: CME Group

\* - Information Not Available



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