

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



House leader Adkins seeks to make state schools greener

House Majority Leader Rocky Adkins touted Rosa Parks Elementary School in Lexington Thursday in promoting his legislation to make schools more energy efficient. At a Capitol news conference, Adkins, D-Sandy Hook, unveiled his "Kentucky Green Schools Initiative" that would allow schools to tap into a \$50 million bond pool previously authorized to apply for loans for energy conservation measures such as new insulation and weather stripping. A Kentucky Green Schools Authority made up of various state officials and a representative from the Kentucky School Boards Association would oversee the bond pool. (Bluegrass Politics, Jan. 12, 2011)

Kentucky's proposed renewable energy legislation has big potential, study says

Kentucky could create over 28,000 jobs over 10 years and lower electricity costs by passing the clean energy legislation that is currently in front of the state's General Assembly, according to a new study from Synapse Energy Economics. The Clean Energy Opportunity Act (H.B.167), introduced by State Rep. Mary Lou Marzian, D-District 34, calls for the establishment of a renewable and efficiency portfolio standard (REPS), which would require utilities to obtain 12.5% of their electricity from renewable energy and achieve 10.25% cumulative savings from energy-efficiency efforts by 2022. Furthermore, the REPS would lead to over 28,000 net new jobs in addition to any jobs lost in fossil fuels, and would add \$1.5 billion to gross state product once fully implemented in 2022. (NorthAmericanWindPower, Jan. 18, 2011)

The 'Greening' of Army housing

With the campaign slogan "Go Green, Be Green, Live ARMY Green," the Army aims to be a leader in energy awareness, conservation and cutting edge technologies. Across 44 installations, with more than 80,000 homes, the Army's private sector associates provide on-post housing as part of the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) for almost one third of all accompanied Soldiers and Soldier Families. Together the privatized associates and the Army are raising awareness with Soldiers and Families of the importance of conserving energy. Paul Cramer, acting deputy assistant secretary for Installations Housing and Partnerships said, "Within the next year it is estimated that over 70 percent of all RCI homes will be individually metered and incorporated into the RCI Energy Conservation Program. The program makes Soldiers and Families aware of the energy they use each month, which has led to a 10-20 percent decrease in energy consumption. This has resulted in lowering operating costs across the RCI housing portfolio." (Army.mil, Jan. 10, 2011)

USGBC awards Gold Certification to WKU's Ransdell Hall

The first building at Western Kentucky University to be built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards has received the second-highest level of certification. The U.S. Green Building Council announced that Gary A. Ransdell Hall has earned gold LEED certification. Nate Allen of the USGBC made the announcement at a reception in Ransdell Hall. "This is an incredible facility," Allen said. "I understand that this has been a pilot for future building projects on this campus and because of the success of this, WKU has a commitment to LEED in future projects. That as well is a major accomplishment." Project Manager Ben Johnson said the University originally sought certification at the silver level, but scored enough points to reach gold. "This LEED designation is further recognition of the sustainable initiatives that we are undertaking at WKU," Johnson said. (bgdailynews.com, Jan. 10, 2011)

Obama administration rejects Keystone pipeline construction

The Obama administration has denied a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, with officials suggesting Wednesday there was not enough time to determine whether it was in America's interest to give the controversial \$7 billion project the go-ahead. The State Department said in a statement it did not have "sufficient time to obtain the information necessary to assess whether the project, in its current state, is in the national interest." However, the department -- which has the final say in the pipeline's approval because it crosses international borders -- said its denial of TransCanada Corp.'s request for a permit did not preclude other applications for similar projects, meaning it could revisit the project if alternative routes are proposed. (New York Post, Jan. 18, 2011)

First Solar reaches record 14.4% efficiency, company says

The world's largest maker of thin-film solar products, beat its own record for making the most efficient panels. The company used factory equipment to produce cadmium telluride panels that convert 14.4 percent of the energy in sunlight into electricity, it said in a statement yesterday. The results surpassed the previous record of 13.4 percent, also with a First Solar panel, and were confirmed by the U.S. Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Lab. First Solar's efficiency rates for panels in commercial production reached 12.4 percent at some manufacturing lines in the third quarter. The company announced in July a record 17.3 percent conversion rate for a solar cell in a lab. (bloomberg.com, Jan. 17, 2011)

Hiring logjam breaks as CEOs plan fastest U.S. growth in years

Companies from General Electric to yogurt producer Chobani are adding U.S. workers, accelerating a rebound in hiring, as chief executive officers prepare for greater demand in a strengthening economic recovery. Boeing is bringing in more than 100 union machinists a week for a 60 percent boost in output by 2014. Nissan will expand in Tennessee with 1,000 people making lithium-ion batteries. And a GE executive was at a Kentucky appliance plant before dawn this month to greet some of its 500 new employees. (chron.com, Jan. 14, 2011)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	1/19/2012	1/12/2012	1/5/2012	12/29/2011	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.338	3.401	3.304	3.256	3.085
Ashland	3.418	3.483	3.413	3.344	3.137
Covington	3.344	3.386	3.397	3.308	3.131
Lexington	3.31	3.406	3.35	3.298	3.1
Louisville	3.273	3.379	3.242	3.263	3.108
Owensboro	3.364	3.423	3.245	3.18	3.015
Diesel (State avg.)	3.775	3.783	3.744	3.767	3.322
Ashland	3.801	3.811	3.795	3.8	3.369
Covington	3.724	3.748	3.751	3.799	3.298
Lexington	3.764	3.769	3.727	3.75	3.33
Louisville	3.73	3.756	3.712	3.731	3.315
Owensboro	3.86	3.845	3.835	3.844	3.28

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	1/16/2012	1/9/2012	1/2/2012	12/26/2011	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	3.952	3.935	3.843	3.832	3.45
Propane (dollars per gallon)	2.867	2.87	2.865	2.856	2.789

Source: the U.S. Energy Information Administration

Wholesale Fuel Prices

Spot Prices	1/19/2012	1/12/2012	1/5/2012	12/29/2011	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	100.59	100.87	103.22	99.36	90.86
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	2.491	2.775	2.965	3.073	4.485

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Feb	12-Mar	12-Apr
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	1/19/2012	100.59	100.76	100.98
	1/12/2012	100.87	101.09	101.33
	1/5/2012	103.22	103.40	103.60
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	1/19/2012	2.472	2.516	2.614
	1/12/2012	2.774	2.803	2.883
	1/5/2012	3.096	3.127	3.185
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	1/19/2012	1.295	1.287	1.283
	1/12/2012	1.235	1.225	1.221
	1/5/2012	1.37	1.344	1.33
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	1/19/2012	61.67	61.52	61.42
	1/12/2012	65.1	65.33	65.17
	1/5/2012	69.25	69.37	69.55

Source: CME Group

* - Information Not Available



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