

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Kentucky named 2012 Energy Star Partner of the Year by EPA

Lt. Gov. Jerry Abramson today announced three Kentucky state government programs have been awarded the 2012 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year distinction by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. Kentucky state government, the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) and the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center (KPPC) earned this distinction for outstanding contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by delivering information and services to Kentuckians to increase energy efficiency. The Lieutenant Governor made the announcement during the Midwest Regional ENERGY STAR Conference in Lexington. Lt. Gov. Abramson and Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters will join officials recognizing the Commonwealth Partnership award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on March 15, 2012, which marks the 20th anniversary of ENERGY STAR. "It is exciting that Kentucky is receiving national attention for our efforts to lead the nation in a progressive action on energy reduction and savings," said Lt. Gov. Abramson. "Gov. Steve Beshear and I are extremely proud of the contributions made by Kentuckians to create efficient, sustainable energy solutions while protecting the environment." (The Lane Report, Mar. 8, 2012)

Gov. Beshear announces more than \$226,000 in industrial retrofit grants to four Kentucky companies

Governor Steve Beshear today announced the award of more than \$226,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to four Kentucky companies. The funding will be used for energy efficiency upgrades in existing Kentucky industrial facilities. Companies receiving funding include: 3M in Cynthiana (\$86,689); Hausner Hard-Chrome in Owensboro (\$35,377); AGC Automotive Americas in Elizabethtown (\$83,990); and General Motors in Bowling Green (\$20,900). "The Commonwealth is pleased to award these four industrial retrofit grants that will help to further reduce energy consumption in Kentucky's industrial sector," Gov. Beshear said. (Kentucky Press Release, Mar. 2, 2012)

Pilot program with Fayette County schools, UK meshes green initiatives, STEM skills

Lucie Williams, a University of Kentucky graduate student, showed Jessie Clark Middle School's green team how pie charts and other graphs can help them analyze and interpret their energy-usage data. Collecting energy-usage data is one thing. Analyzing that data and drawing useful conclusions is quite another. That's Step 5 in the districtwide E=USE2 sustainability initiative, which educates students and staff about energy efficiency and promotes conservation. Lucie Williams, a University of Kentucky graduate student, helped Jessie Clark Middle School's green team get a handle on their numbers and realize how they can make a difference in saving energy and saving money. (Campbellsville University, Mar. 5, 2012)

Boyle County Fiscal Court approves solar panels for recycling center

If all goes according to plan, the Boyle County Recycling Center will be turned into a sun-sipping power plant just in time for summer. Boyle County Fiscal Court approved plans to spend about \$71,000 of a federal grant on 75 solar panels to cover the recycling center's roof. The panels will be produced by one of the recycling center's neighbors on the South Danville Bypass, Alternative Energies of Kentucky. County Public Works Director Duane Campbell said the system could be up and running as early as April or May. (The Advocate Messenger, Feb. 29, 2012)

Zero Energy buildings on the rise across the U.S.

A new report released today by the New Buildings Institute (NBI) and the Zero Energy Commercial Building Consortium (CBC) shows zero energy commercial buildings are cropping up across the United States. The report, "Getting To Zero 2012 Status Update: A First Look at the Costs and Features of Zero Energy Commercial Buildings" examines the number, location, costs and design strategies of various types of zero energy commercial buildings (ZEBs) as well as zero energy-capable (ZEC) buildings, which are energy efficient enough to be zero energy, but have not taken the final step of on-site renewable generation. [Warren County Public Schools' Richardsville Elementary School, was one of the buildings features in the report] NBI is a nonprofit organization working collaboratively with commercial building professionals and the energy industry to promote better building energy performance. (GreenBuildingElements, Mar. 6, 2012)

Bright hope for our future

Recently, I had the profoundly uplifting experience of visiting Richardsville Elementary School, outside of Bowling Green. Several weeks ago a second-grader at Richardsville hand-wrote a letter inviting me to visit the school. Classes at the school had been conducting research on each university in the state; part of a thoughtful effort to get children to start thinking about college and their futures early. It was an invitation I couldn't resist. But there was no way that I could anticipate just how moving the experience would be and how it underscored many of the things that Kentucky is doing right in educating our children and preparing them for future leadership. (UK Now, Feb. 28, 2012)

Houseboat industry eyes new venture for comeback

Kentucky's houseboat manufacturers once thrived by churning out luxurious floating residences, but the industry was nearly capsize by the economic downturn. Now it's dabbling in a new venture as it looks for a different course — the construction of moderately priced, energy efficient landlocked homes. Houseboat maker Stardust Cruisers has built two relatively low-cost modular homes in a test that area residents hope will help revive the industry and bring back jobs to this struggling town on the edge of Appalachia. Houseboat manufacturers clustered around one of Kentucky and Tennessee's most popular tourist areas — Lake Cumberland in southeastern Kentucky — have shed hundreds of jobs since the Great Recession dried up orders. (Fox News, Jan. 27, 2012)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	3/8/2012	3/1/2012	2/23/2012	2/16/2012	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.653	3.679	3.563	3.457	3.452
Ashland	3.669	3.675	3.624	3.461	3.476
Covington	3.703	3.751	3.557	3.444	3.485
Lexington	3.638	3.709	3.607	3.455	3.459
Louisville	3.599	3.672	3.576	3.436	3.438
Owensboro	3.645	3.597	3.457	3.392	3.434
Diesel (State avg.)	4.012	3.978	3.88	3.854	3.843
Ashland	4.045	4.027	3.886	3.866	3.842
Covington	3.986	3.923	3.825	3.816	3.848
Lexington	4.015	3.983	3.867	3.859	3.838
Louisville	3.987	3.961	3.859	3.837	3.832
Owensboro	4.036	4	3.922	3.88	3.797

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	3/5/2012	2/27/2012	2/20/2012	2/13/2012	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	4.1	4.108	4.044	4.032	3.873
Propane (dollars per gallon)	2.867	2.867	3.863	2.862	2.88

Source: the U.S. Energy Information Administration

Wholesale Fuel Prices

Spot Prices	3/7/2012	2/29/2012	2/23/2012	2/16/2012	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	106.16	107.07	106.28	101.8	105.02
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	2.233	2.426	2.61	2.535	3.825

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Apr	12-May	12-Jun
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	3/7/2012	106.16	106.65	107.18
	2/29/2012	107.07	107.52	107.95
	2/23/2012	106.28	106.78	*
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3/7/2012	2.302	2.4	2.49
	2/29/2012	2.616	2.71	2.786
	2/23/2012	2.775	2.882	*
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	3/7/2012	1.25	1.262	1.269
	2/29/2012	1.224	1.23	1.236
	2/23/2012	1.218	1.225	*
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	3/7/2012	58.13	58.5	58.92
	2/29/2012	60.67	61.03	61.45
	2/23/2012	60.88	61.74	*

Source: CME Group



The Department for Energy Development and Independence does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or disability and provides, on request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. To request materials in an alternative format, call the Department for Energy Development and Independence at (800) 282-0868. Persons with hearing and speech impairments can contact the agency by using the Kentucky Relay Service, a toll-free telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD). For voice to TDD, call (800) 648-6057. For TDD to voice, call (800) 648-6056.

