

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Kentucky State Parks initiate energy savings program

The Kentucky Department of Parks has entered into an agreement to launch a long-term energy savings project at nine of its resort parks, the Department of Parks announced. Under the agreement, energy efficient lighting, water systems, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, and other conservation measures will be installed at these parks. The contract for this work was awarded to Ameresco, based in Framingham, Mass. The utility and operational savings will pay for the energy upgrades. "This is an important step by our Kentucky State Parks to become more energy efficient to reduce energy use and to save taxpayer money," said Tourism, Arts and Heritage Secretary Marcheta Sparrow. (The Lane Report – Mar. 19, 2012)

PSC approves rate redesign for Owen Electric Cooperative

The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) has approved a request by Owen Electric Cooperative Corp. to alter its rate structure to more accurately reflect the cost of serving its residential and small commercial customers. In approving the rates, the PSC said it agreed with Owen Electric that the restructuring will allow the distribution cooperative to maintain financial stability while stepping up efforts to encourage its customers to reduce energy usage. The PSC also approved a request by Owen Electric to offer optional rates that are designed to promote energy efficiency. The changes are designed to leave Owen Electric's total revenue unchanged. Bills for individual customers will change somewhat, depending on the amount of electric consumption, because the new rate structure allocates a larger portion of the total bill to the fixed monthly charge while reducing the amount charged for each kilowatt-hour of electricity consumed. (Kentucky.gov – Feb. 29, 2012)

Cincinnati area gas prices jump to \$4

Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky gas prices have taken another big jump, to \$3.99 a gallon for regular, the highest they have ever been in the month of March. Let's call a spade and spade and say what it really is: \$4. In some areas, this was a 25-cent jump in one day. It's not confined to one area: As of late Tuesday, we were finding gas up to \$3.99 at stations from Mason in the north, to Delhi Township on the west side, and Newport and Florence in Kentucky. Some stations still remain lower, ranging from at \$3.69 to \$3.89. (kypost.com, Mar. 20, 2012)

Residents support switch to gas-fired power plant on Cane Run

Allow Louisville Gas & Electric to replace a coal-fired plant on Cane Run Road with one using natural gas, residents told representatives of the Kentucky Public Service Commission on Thursday at a public meeting. And many of the speakers during the comment period asked why the natural-gas plant won't open until 2016, as LG&E stated in its application. "I think four years is a little long," said Virginia Bush, a registered nurse who expressed concerns about the health effects of coal ash on the neighborhoods surrounding the plant. None of the seven speakers expressed explicit opposition to closing the coal-fired plant or replacing it with a natural gas-fired one. The PSC organized the meeting at Shacklette Elementary School on Mercury Drive as part of its approval process, and Chairman David Armstrong and Vice Chairman James Gardner attended. (Courier-Journal.com, Mar. 9, 2012)

Brooks Elementary shows off its energy efficiency

While Brooks Elementary students were in their classrooms learning, their school building was being used to teach a group of architects and facilities professionals from across the state how to build an energy efficient school. Brooks was one of two showcase schools visited March 14-15 by attendees of the High Performance Sustainable School Buildings Workshop, held in downtown Louisville. Cane Run Elementary in Louisville was the other showcase school. The workshop was held by the National Energy Education Development Project and the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence. "It's just focused on how we can build schools that save energy, which leads to saving money," said Andrea Rock, the energy manager for Bullitt County Public Schools. (Courier-Journal.com, Mar. 20, 2012)

EPA Celebrates 20th Anniversary of ENERGY STAR by recognizing Six Organizations in Kentucky

As a part of the celebration of ENERGY STAR's 20th anniversary, three organizations in Kentucky were honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the 2012 ENERGY STAR award. This award was given because of their outstanding leadership and commitment to protecting America's environment through superior energy efficiency. (EPA.gov, Mar. 19, 2012)

GE unveils french door refrigerator factory in Louisville

GE previewed today its new refrigerator product line, the soon-to-be-launched French door bottom freezer refrigerator series, at the grand opening of a new factory at GE's Appliance Park, the second manufacturing facility to open within six weeks here. The new refrigeration line – which features the most advanced ice and water technology on the market today – will support 600 new local jobs and improve the competitive position of the 130-year-old brand. GE Chairman and CEO Jeff Immelt will be joined by Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear and more than 1,000 GE employees to celebrate the facility opening as another milestone in the revitalization of GE's Appliances business. Efforts to revitalize the business began in 2009 when GE committed to invest a total of \$1 billion (\$800 million in Louisville) and create more than 1,300 new jobs in the U.S. by 2014. (KAM.US.com, Mar. 20, 2012)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	3/23/2012	3/15/2012	3/8/2012	3/1/2012	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.892	3.736	3.653	3.679	3.489
Ashland	3.942	3.762	3.669	3.675	3.554
Covington	3.994	3.889	3.703	3.751	3.563
Lexington	3.881	3.662	3.638	3.709	3.527
Louisville	3.979	3.821	3.599	3.672	3.546
Owensboro	3.833	3.716	3.645	3.597	3.42
Diesel (State avg.)	4.109	4.038	4.012	3.978	3.861
Ashland	4.14	4.063	4.045	4.027	3.846
Covington	4.128	4.005	3.986	3.923	3.902
Lexington	4.139	4.04	4.015	3.983	3.862
Louisville	4.112	4.011	3.987	3.961	3.846
Owensboro	4.105	4.066	4.036	4	3.839

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	3/19/2012	3/12/2012	3/5/2012	2/27/2012	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	4.112	4.105	4.1	4.108	3.878
Propane (dollars per gallon)	2.869	2.868	2.867	2.867	2.857

Source: the U.S. Energy Information Administration

Wholesale Fuel Prices

Spot Prices	3/22/2012	3/14/2012	3/7/2012	2/29/2012	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	105.35	105.43	106.16	107.07	105.25
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	2.135	2.118	2.233	2.426	4.205

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Apr	12-May	12-Jun
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	3/22/2012	105.61	105.35	105.84
	3/14/2012	105.43	105.95	106.48
	3/7/2012	106.16	106.65	107.18
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3/22/2012	2.269	2.372	2.477
	3/14/2012	2.284	2.416	2.533
	3/7/2012	2.302	2.4	2.49
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	3/22/2012	1.275	1.281	1.289
	3/14/2012	1.253	1.254	1.26
	3/7/2012	1.25	1.262	1.269
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	3/22/2012	56.75	57.33	57.7
	3/14/2012	58.38	58.7	58.77
	3/7/2012	58.13	58.5	58.92

Source: CME Group



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