

# Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

*A snapshot of state and national energy issues*



## **Two more Bullitt schools earn green distinction**

Two more Bullitt County schools will soon be recognized as Energy Star facilities, giving the county a total of 12. Nichols and Lebanon Junction elementary schools recently earned the distinction, said Andrea Rock, energy manager for Bullitt County Public Schools. Both schools had renovations and got rid of inefficient boilers. The buildings' recognition is a testament to the school system's effort to conserve energy, Kentucky Division of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Director Greg Guess said. "They have one of the most effective programs in the state right now," Guess said. "Bullitt County ranks up there in the top tier of counties with good programs." (The Courier-Journal – Apr. 10, 2012)

## **Sts. Mary & Elizabeth completes \$16 million project**

Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital, part of KentuckyOne Health Inc., dedicated a new \$16 million central utility plant, replacing boilers, chillers and air handling units. The hospital estimates it will save about \$300,000 per year in energy costs as a result of the project, according to Harshaw Trane, which managed the construction and served as consultant for the project. According to a news release, the new facility was built above the floodplain at the hospital after a 2009 flood left 16-feet of water in the basement of the hospital, where the facility's infrastructure was located. (Bizjournals.com – Apr. 11, 2012)

## **Coal miners test their skills in Madisonville**

In Hopkins County Wednesday morning, coal miners participated in a pre-rescue team competition. It's a contest to evaluate the skills of pre-shift examiners that's put on by the Kentucky Coal Academy in Madisonville. Miners from all over Kentucky, and even Illinois and Indiana, participated in Wednesday's event. Representatives say every mine across the nation has to have a pre-shift examiner to make sure the mine is safe before the miners are allowed in, and during this event, those examiners were evaluated on their skills. Miners were faced with simulated hazards, were required to fix them, and they were judged on their accuracy. (14news.com – Apr. 11, 2012)

## **CEDAR Coal Fair sees 36 schools, 528 projects compete**

Students in Eastern Kentucky recently competed for prizes while learning and educating others about the leading industry in the area. Coal Education, Development and Research (CEDAR) is a not-for-profit corporation formed in July 1993 as a partnership between the coal industry, business community and academia. CEDAR works to educate the public about the many benefits the coal industry provides in our daily lives by providing financial resources and coal education materials to implement its study in the school curriculum. The group targets students in grades K-12 in all schools in Eastern Kentucky counties. (The Williamson Daily News – Apr. 11, 2012)

## **Former President Clinton will be in Lexington April 23**

Former President Bill Clinton will be in Lexington on April 23 to celebrate Earth Day and bring attention to sustainability efforts by local students and leaders. Clinton will speak to about 6,000 students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and community and state leaders from noon to 1 p.m. at Alltech Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park. His visit is in special recognition of the Bluegrass Youth Sustainability Council, a coalition of students from Fayette County public and private high schools. Henry Clay High School senior Jane Brady Knight, who heads the Bluegrass Youth Sustainability Council, said she wrote to Clinton in February and invited him to visit. (Herald-Leader.com – Apr. 10, 2012)

## **Gas glut rejiggers industry**

Plummeting natural-gas prices are pushing U.S. industries into virgin terrain, even beginning to dislodge cheap Western coal from its once-untouchable perch as the nation's favorite fuel for power production. On Tuesday, natural-gas futures settled at \$2.03 per million British thermal units—just a hint above \$2, the lowest price since January 2002. The shock wave for industry could intensify this summer because the U.S. is running out of room to store the glut of natural gas, which could drive gas prices down to sustained lows not seen in decades. The situation is "without question, unprecedented," said Fred Metzger, vice president of gas-storage engineering for Kinder Morgan Inc., a Houston-based pipeline giant. (The Wall Street Journal – Apr. 10, 2012)

## **AMP tests FedEx electric conversions**

Loveland-based AMP Holdings Inc. is converting FedEx delivery trucks to electric power in a test that could open a huge, lucrative new market. Repowering daily delivery truck fleets "seems to be a nice niche," said Steve Burns, president and founder of AMP, which started five years ago and has yet to turn a profit in the electric-vehicle conversion business. "Delivery fleets drive defined routes daily. There are no long-range anxieties," Burns said, referring to fears about batteries running low on electric vehicles making long-range trips. Delivery fleets typically operate within the 100-mile charge range of AMP's lithium batteries. Delivery trucks also usually return at night to distribution centers where they can be recharged for the next day. In addition, delivery fleet operators increasingly are faced with the costly decision to replace older diesel engines, which may get only 6 miles per gallon, with new cleaner-burning engines to comply with environmental rules. (Cincinatti.com – Apr. 11, 2012)

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

Product	4/13/2012	4/5/2012	3/28/2012	3/23/2012	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.84	3.896	3.885	3.892	3.802
Ashland	3.757	3.849	3.879	3.942	3.925
Covington	3.88	3.955	3.977	3.994	3.861
Lexington	3.813	3.827	3.845	3.881	3.852
Louisville	3.887	4.039	3.976	3.979	3.694
Owensboro	3.875	3.874	3.799	3.833	3.735
Diesel (State avg.)	4.098	4.112	4.111	4.109	4.053
Ashland	4.115	4.106	4.126	4.14	4.078
Covington	4.116	4.133	4.133	4.128	4.067
Lexington	4.118	4.124	4.13	4.139	4.066
Louisville	4.08	4.1	4.114	4.112	4.041
Owensboro	4.127	4.127	4.111	4.105	4.017

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	4/12/2012	4/4/2012	3/27/2012	3/22/2012	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	103.64	101.47	107.33	105.35	107.11
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	1.888	2.059	2.086	2.135	4.12

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-May	12-Jun	12-Jul
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	4/12/2012	103.64	104.10	104.57
	4/4/2012	101.47	102.03	102.61
	3/27/2012	107.33	107.85	107.85
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	4/12/2012	1.983	2.092	2.218
	4/4/2012	2.141	2.267	2.406
	3/27/2012	2.294	2.414	2.414
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	4/12/2012	1.212	1.218	1.225
	4/4/2012	1.199	1.205	1.213
	3/27/2012	1.29	1.297	1.297
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	4/12/2012	57.12	57.85	59.08
	4/4/2012	57.87	58.6	59.72
	3/27/2012	56.63	57.33	57.33

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.

