

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Schools in Fayette, Scott, Warren counties named Green Ribbon Schools

Lexington's Rosa Parks Elementary School joined Georgetown Middle School and 76 other schools across the nation Monday in being named U.S. Green Ribbon Schools in recognition of their environmental improvement efforts. Richardsville Elementary School in Warren County also received Green School designation on Monday. All 78 schools were honored for their comprehensive approaches to "green" programs aimed at reducing adverse environmental effects, promoting sustainability and melding environmental concerns into their educational programs. Rosa Parks, for example, was one of two pilot schools in the Fayette County Public Schools' sustainability program starting in 2010. (The Herald Leader – Apr. 23, 2012)

Governor Beshear announces completion of new safe sidewalk projects in Murray

Governor Steve Beshear today joined community leaders and students at Calloway County Middle School to celebrate the completion of two new safety sidewalk projects. The city of Murray received a combined \$339,000 in investment for the projects, aimed at improving pedestrian and bicycle access for local students. "These projects have afforded students the opportunity to walk or bike to school without compromising their safety," Gov. Beshear said. "Students and pedestrians in the city of Murray will greatly benefit from these overdue safety enhancement and energy efficient projects." The combined funding included a \$214,000 Safe Routes to School grant and \$125,000 Energy Efficiency Block Grant (EECBG). (SurfKY News Group – Apr. 24, 2012)

Bill Clinton praises student sustainability council at Rupp

In a post-Earth Day address Monday, former President Bill Clinton encouraged Fayette County students to follow through on their efforts to ensure that people and nature exist in harmony. In an address to 5,000 to 6,000 students, teachers, parents and politicians at Rupp Arena, the 42nd U.S. president praised the efforts of the Bluegrass Youth Sustainability Council, a coalition of students that promotes environmental awareness. The students encourage others to conserve energy and try to live in a way that doesn't deplete resources. "We live in a world where, I hate to say it, constant conflict produces the best political results, but it is lousy economics," Clinton said. Getting people of differing viewpoints to work together for a sustainable future has proved beneficial in Sweden, Denmark and Germany. (The Herald Leader – Apr. 23, 2012)

Making dreams a reality

Thanks to the efforts of local, state and federal partners, a Corbin family will soon be first-time homeowners, but they won't be moving into a typical home. Key members in the multi-organization partnership gathered together Monday morning at the University of Kentucky Extension Office to celebrate the near completion and ribbon cutting on the second prototype of an energy-efficient manufactured house called Houseboat to Energy Efficient Residences (HBEER). Dennis Reynolds, 29, his wife, Billie Reynolds, 28, and their 3-year-old son, Grabrille Reynolds, will hopefully move into their new home by early May, according to Leah Norvell, who is a family worker with Southern Tier Housing. The process to build the home used the same equipment used to create houseboats and the home's design utilized a process that allowed it to be manufactured in an existing houseboat factory, Stardust Cruisers, located in Monticello, according to Tom Manning-Beavin, director of housing with Kentucky Highlands Corporation. (The Times Tribune – Apr. 17, 2012)

Coal states fear for future of the industry

Last month, when the Obama administration moved for stricter regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin accused the administration of "trying to end the use of coal as we know it." He was echoing sentiments in other coal-producing states and those of the coal industry itself. Hal Quinn, president of the National Mining Association, called the proposal "the latest convoy in EPA's regulatory train wreck that is rolling across America, crushing jobs and arresting our economic recovery at every stop." The greenhouse gas crackdown followed another EPA rule, announced in December, limiting the amount of mercury and other toxics that power plants can spew into the air, requiring coal-fired units to employ new pollutant-capturing technology. (Stateline – Apr. 20, 2012)

U.S. gasoline futures fall in 7 of last 8 days

U.S. gasoline futures prices have dropped 16 cents a gallon, with declines in seven of the past eight trading days, as more U.S. crude becomes available for refining into gasoline and fears about a shortage of refining capacity fades. Helping to spur the downturn is the early reversal of a pipeline that will allow refiners in the key Gulf Coast region greater access to crude, the basic feedstock for gasoline. North Sea Brent crude, the international benchmark crude which holds sway over gasoline prices, already has fallen by more than \$7 a barrel this month, in part due to the increased competition. Reformulated gasoline blendstock futures fell 2.8 cents Tuesday to settle at \$3.1593 a gallon and has repeatedly traded near seven-week lows in recent days. (Market Watch – Apr. 24, 2012)

LNG export ruling heard around the world

Most Americans have never heard of the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. But a decision it made this week to permit certain natural gas here to be exported will likely be felt around the world. On Monday, FERC voted to allow Cheniere Energy to retrofit its Sabine Pass natural gas terminal so that it can export Liquefied Natural Gas. The facility, which sits on the border of Texas and Louisiana and is near the Gulf of Mexico, will start delivering LNG by 2014. (Energy Biz – Apr. 24, 2012)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	4/26/2012	4/19/2012	4/13/2012	4/5/2012	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.787	3.89	3.84	3.896	3.859
Ashland	3.752	3.845	3.757	3.849	4.019
Covington	3.825	3.928	3.88	3.955	3.908
Lexington	3.769	3.918	3.813	3.827	3.874
Louisville	3.794	3.923	3.887	4.039	3.92
Owensboro	3.797	3.868	3.875	3.874	3.787
Diesel (State avg.)	4.041	4.084	4.098	4.112	4.053
Ashland	4.069	4.107	4.115	4.106	4.059
Covington	4.069	4.104	4.116	4.133	4.057
Lexington	4.04	4.098	4.118	4.124	4.058
Louisville	4.018	4.055	4.08	4.1	4.061
Owensboro	4.085	4.123	4.127	4.127	4.048

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	4/25/2012	4/18/2012	4/12/2012	4/4/2012	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	104.12	102.67	103.64	101.47	112.76
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	1.998	1.859	1.888	2.059	4.353

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-May	12-Jun	12-Jul
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	4/25/2012	*	104.12	104.50
	4/18/2012	102.67	103.12	103.58
	4/12/2012	103.64	104.10	104.57
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	4/25/2012	2.068	2.17	2.286
	4/18/2012	1.951	2.042	2.159
	4/12/2012	1.983	2.092	2.218
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	4/25/2012	1.184	1.188	1.194
	4/18/2012	1.2	1.205	1.212
	4/12/2012	1.212	1.218	1.225
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	4/25/2012	56.82	57.62	58.68
	4/18/2012	56.68	57.62	58.92
	4/12/2012	57.12	57.85	59.08

Source: CME Group

* - Information Not Available

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