

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Lt. Governor Abramson recognizes 12 ENERGY STAR schools

Lieutenant Governor Jerry Abramson joined state energy and education leaders this week to recognize 12 Kentucky schools for their efforts to lower energy costs by improving efficiencies in their buildings. Each school earned an “ENERGY STAR” designation, part of a federal program that identifies education institutions that are among the top 5 percent in the nation for energy efficiency. “As an administration that has a comprehensive energy plan aimed at creating state wide efficient, sustainable energy solutions and strategies, Governor Beshear and I are proud to recognize these schools for their leadership in this area,” Lt. Gov. Abramson said. (SurfKY News Group – May 22, 2012)

Local schools earn recognition, \$12,500 in awards for sustainability, conservation efforts

Bluegrass PRIDE, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, Kentucky American Water and Fayette County Public Schools came together to honor this year’s sustainability and conservation efforts in local schools. The annual Live Green Lexington Partner recognition program, held May 16 at “It’s About Kids” Support Services, cited initiatives to reduce waste, improve water quality and achieve greater energy efficiency. Schools were honored as WasteBuster, water and energy partners. Several schools also received a total of \$12,500 for their participation in the FCPS E=USE2 energy-savings program, while Kentucky American Water presented \$500 Excellence in Water Education Awards to Liberty Elementary, Beaumont Middle and Bryan Station High School. The reward funds will be used for student-driven sustainability projects. (KYForward.com – May 21, 2012)

Congressman speaks on coal at National Energy Summit

Congressman Hal Rogers and other members of Congress came to Pulaski County to talk about the future of energy. Rep. Hal Rogers (R) was one speaker at the Tennessee Valley Corridor’s 27th annual National Energy Summit. He and others talked about the importance of coal and other fossil energies in America’s energy future. Congressman Rogers talked about the importance of securing America’s energy future, starting with coal. “The research capabilities that we have in this region can help us burn coal cleaner, clean coal if you will,” said Rogers. (WKYT – May 23, 2012)

Sustainable design consultants begin work evaluating East Market District

Earlier today, a group of environmental analysts descended on Louisville’s East Market—or NuLu—neighborhood for a tour. They’re in town thanks to a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, and for three days they’ll be studying the neighborhood with an eye toward ways to improve its sustainability. Global Green—a California-based environmental non-profit—is leading the project, with help from local community leaders and the U.S. Green Building Council. As they learn more about NuLu, they’ll be offering recommendations to make the neighborhood more livable and environmentally friendly. (WFPL News – May 17, 2012)

Coal-state senators pan clean energy standard bill

Senators from states with significant coal production said Thursday they were concerned that a pending bill instituting a so-called “clean energy standard” could ruin the industry. The bill (S.2146) introduced by Senator Jeff Bingaman, Democrat-New Mexico, would require the largest utilities to obtain by 2015 nearly a quarter of the electricity they sell from clean energy sources, including renewables, natural gas, nuclear power and coal with carbon dioxide capture and storage. It is backed by the Obama administration. At a hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Joe Manchin, Democrat-West Virginia, said the bill could phase out the use of coal, given that carbon capture and storage has yet to be commercially viable. Coal currently accounts for nearly half of US electricity production and is a cheap energy source. (Platts – May 17, 2012)

Former federal energy official says U.S. needs a balanced energy mix

Coal-producing states like Kentucky are warily eyeing federal regulations that have begun moving the country away from fossil fuels. Even so, Sue Tierney says she thinks coal will be around for awhile, though it will be cleaner and make up less of the nation’s energy mix. Tierney was the Assistant Secretary for Policy in the U.S. Department of Energy under President Bill Clinton. She’s giving a talk on what she calls “sustainable energy” in both the U.S. and China next week. “I think of sustainable energy as a category or a way to categorize energy supplies as highly efficient, a relatively light footprint on the environment, provides a way for people to have affordable energy supplies over time,” Tierney said. (WFPL News – May 18, 2012)

New facilities spotlight next-generation biofuels

After a decade of promise, advanced biofuels makers are entering a crucial make-or-break period with the first of a new generation of production facilities about to come on line. The new facilities are designed to take biofuels beyond corn-based ethanol and begin to shift the industry to “advanced” fuels made with a lower carbon footprint derived from products that will not compete with demand for food. Many of the companies are turning to cellulosic plant materials, animal waste and plant oils to churn out millions of gallons of ethanol, diesel, jet fuel or components for gasoline. Driving the industry are U.S. government targets stretching out a decade that call for fuel suppliers to blend billions of gallons of the new biofuels into the U.S. gasoline and diesel pools, on top of the corn ethanol that already makes up about 10 percent of the gasoline market. (Reuters - May 21, 2012)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	5/24/2012	5/18/2012	5/10/2012	5/3/2012	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.582	3.616	3.609	3.706	3.788
Ashland	3.749	3.604	3.651	3.72	3.918
Covington	3.772	3.758	3.71	3.745	3.862
Lexington	3.549	3.661	3.559	3.664	3.775
Louisville	3.639	3.557	3.631	3.728	3.891
Owensboro	3.497	3.57	3.617	3.723	3.764
Diesel (State avg.)	3.908	3.951	3.993	4.033	3.954
Ashland	3.918	3.931	4.003	4.054	4.016
Covington	3.961	3.973	4.008	4.07	3.965
Lexington	3.909	3.957	3.993	4.03	3.982
Louisville	3.927	3.967	3.995	4.013	3.978
Owensboro	3.936	3.98	4.017	4.06	3.97

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,

Wholesale Fuel Prices

Spot Prices	5/23/2012	5/17/2012	5/9/2012	5/2/2012	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	89.59	92.56	96.81	105.22	101.32
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	2.601	2.559	2.368	2.288	4.358

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Jun	12-Jul	12-Aug
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	5/23/2012	91.66	89.90	90.20
	5/17/2012	92.56	92.94	93.19
	5/9/2012	96.81	97.15	97.42
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	5/23/2012	2.737	2.796	2.836
	5/17/2012	2.594	2.673	2.73
	5/9/2012	2.465	2.55	2.61
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	5/23/2012	0.837	0.841	0.848
	5/17/2012	0.938	0.943	0.951
	5/9/2012	1.005	1.01	1.02
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	5/23/2012	54.33	56.03	57.01
	5/17/2012	55.9	57.37	58.15
	5/9/2012	52.28	59.05	59.63

Source: CME Group

* - Information Not Available



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