

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



KU offering rebates for energy efficient appliances

Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company are offering home energy rebates to customers who make specific appliance and product upgrades. KU says up to 70% of home energy use may be attributed to heating, cooling and appliances. Home energy rebates range from \$50 to \$300 for various ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances, as well as high-efficiency window film and HVAC systems. Rebates are available for the following items: ENERGY STAR Heat pump water heater \$300, ENERGY STAR Refrigerator \$100, ENERGY STAR clothes washer \$75, ENERGY STAR Freezer \$50, ENERGY STAR Dishwasher \$50, Window Film Up to 50 percent of material costs; a maximum of \$200 (Labor not included.) (WKYT – May 31, 2012)

Gov. Beshear signs bill allowing nuclear-related industries to develop in Kentucky

On Thursday, May 31, 2012, Governor Steve Beshear held a ceremonial bill signing of House Bill 559, legislation that clarifies the types of nuclear-based technologies that can be developed and used in the Commonwealth. The legislation, sponsored by House Majority Floor Leader Rocky Adkins, of Sandy Hook, allows nuclear-related industries to exist in Kentucky as long as electricity generation is not the primary output of their processes. “This legislation is an important step toward developing industries that will give western Kentucky potentially significant employment opportunities,” Gov. Beshear said. “While I have been assured through efforts of our congressional delegation that the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant will continue its work for some time to come, I believe this legislation allows us to plan for the future in such a way to ensure there will not only be job stability at that facility, but also added employment opportunities as well.” (SurfKY News – June 1, 2012)

Milton Elementary named an ‘ENERGY STAR’

Kentucky Lt. Gov. Jerry Abramson recognized Milton Elementary School and 11 other 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 educational institutions that are among the top 5 percent in the nation for energy efficiency. “As an administrator that has a comprehensive energy plan aimed at creating statewide efficient, sustainable energy solutions and strategies, Gov. Beshear and I are proud to recognize these schools for their leadership in this area,” Abramson said. The newly announced 12 schools bring the number of Kentucky’s ENERGY STAR school buildings to 160. The number has more than doubled over the last two years. (MadisonCourier.com – June 1, 2012)

Coal industry, environmentalists clash at EPA hearing in Frankfort

Kentucky’s coal industry clashed with environmentalists Tuesday in a raucous public debate over state-issued mining permits that federal regulators have blocked amid the Obama administration’s clampdown on coal pollution. Hundreds of supporters and critics of coal mining gathered in competing rallies in areas around Capital Plaza in Frankfort to wave signs and exchange heated rhetoric ahead of a hearing by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The contentious debate continued throughout the evening as the EPA received comments on 36 water quality permits that state regulators issued to mining companies in 2010 and 2011 before federal regulators intervened. “This is about Obama’s war on coal,” Rep. Ben Waide, R-Madisonville, said to the cheers of more than 500 coal proponents on the plaza terrace where lawmakers, industry leaders and others accused the federal government of overreaching its constitutional authority with unfair and burdensome regulations that harm Kentucky’s economy. (Courier-Journal – June 6, 2012)

Whitfield blasts EPA for rejecting Kentucky coal permits

U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield, (KY-01), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power, submitted the following official Statement for the Record to the Environmental Protection Agency in advance of today’s public hearing on coal mine permits in Kentucky. The hearing is being held at the Frankfort Convention Center from 7 to 11 p.m. Over the past three years, I have been astounded and outraged by actions of the Environmental Protection Agency. This Administration and this EPA have launched an all-out “War on Coal.” Although EPA has not “crucified” the Kentucky coal industry, yet, it has effectively strangled the industry by blocking individual permits for new and expanded surface mines in Kentucky for more than two years. This is unacceptable. (SurfKY News – June 5, 2012)

Technology saves energy with ‘intelligent efficiency’

The United States is using technology to develop “intelligent efficiency” that could save as much energy as produced by natural gas, coal or nuclear power, a new report says. Cities, companies and buildings are moving beyond efficient devices to system-wide approaches that could slash U.S. energy use 12% to 22%, according to the study released Tuesday by the non-profit American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. For example, individuals can cut energy use via video conferencing, real-time bus arrival apps and home energy monitors. Buildings, such as the retrofitted Empire State Building in Manhattan, can do so via wireless thermostats and occupancy sensors that automatically heat, cool, ventilate and light rooms based on the weather outside and the number of people inside. (USA Today – June 5, 2012)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	6/7/2012	5/31/2012	5/24/2012	5/18/2012	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.455	3.509	3.582	3.616	3.74
Ashland	3.6	3.686	3.749	3.604	3.833
Covington	3.683	3.74	3.772	3.758	3.92
Lexington	3.484	3.44	3.549	3.661	3.725
Louisville	3.491	3.58	3.639	3.557	3.881
Owensboro	3.365	3.451	3.497	3.57	3.674
Diesel (State avg.)	3.816	3.866	3.908	3.951	3.909
Ashland	3.828	3.89	3.918	3.931	3.953
Covington	3.856	3.932	3.961	3.973	3.912
Lexington	3.838	3.873	3.909	3.957	3.906
Louisville	3.876	3.894	3.927	3.967	3.922
Owensboro	3.846	3.898	3.936	3.98	3.917

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	6/6/2012	5/30/2012	5/23/2012	5/17/2012	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	85.02	87.82	89.59	92.56	100.74
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	2.395	2.395	2.601	2.559	4.86

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Jul	12-Aug	12-Sep
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	6/6/2012	85.02	85.33	85.64
	5/30/2012	87.82	88.14	*
	5/23/2012	89.90	90.20	*
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	6/6/2012	2.421	2.474	2.521
	5/30/2012	2.418	2.471	*
	5/23/2012	2.796	2.836	*
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	6/6/2012	0.785	0.792	0.801
	5/30/2012	0.794	0.802	*
	5/23/2012	0.841	0.848	*
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	6/6/2012	54.82	55.72	55.97
	5/30/2012	56.13	57.13	*
	5/23/2012	56.03	57.01	*

Source: CME Group

* - Information Not Available



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