

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Wilmore seeks to be first LEED-certified existing school in Ky.

Wilmore Elementary could become the first school in the state to receive an internationally recognized green certification for existing buildings. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) system was developed in 2000 by the U.S. Green Building Council. It was announced at Monday's Jessamine County Board of Education meeting that the Kentucky chapter of the council had chosen Wilmore Elementary as its candidate to pursue the state's first LEED existing-building (EB) certification for a school. "It had been done numerous times throughout the country and throughout the state but never in a school environment," said Bill Sharp, a volunteer with the Kentucky chapter. "We recognize the importance of those buildings as a community, so we wanted to really advocate for that certification." (The Jessamine Journal – Aug. 29, 2012)

Cost of natural gas to decrease for Columbia customers

Columbia Gas of Kentucky has received approval from the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) for its most recent Gas Cost Adjustment (GCA). Effective August 28, Columbia Gas of Kentucky's gas supply cost will be \$3.5459 per Mcf (1,000 cubic feet), a 4.7 percent decrease from its current price of \$3.7230 and a 37 percent decrease from the September 2011 price of \$5.6418. The new price will remain in effect until the next scheduled Gas Cost Adjustment in December 2012. Columbia Gas of Kentucky typically adjusts its prices quarterly to reflect current market conditions. Natural gas distribution companies do not earn a profit on their gas commodity costs and Columbia Gas of Kentucky passes the cost along to customers without markup. (WilliamsonDailyNews.com - Aug. 29, 2012)

Chamber members hear advantages of solar power

Representatives with Blue Sky Solar spoke to Murray Calloway County Chamber of Commerce members Friday about how they can benefit from installing solar panels at their homes or businesses. Chuck Houston, who is with Blue Sky Solar and Houston Security Company, said some solar panel owners in California directly power their homes with the energy they collect, and then sell the excess energy to electric companies. However, he said Kentucky residents who purchase solar panels can get a much better deal through a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) program in which they can sell solar power to TVA at a premium rate of 12 cents per kilowatt hour above the price they would currently be paying for electricity. Murray Electric System and West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation both offer the program, he said. (Murray Ledger & Times – Aug. 25, 2012)

Report says nation's newest coal plant isn't as cheap as promised

A large coal-burning power plant in Illinois that provides electricity to some areas of Western Kentucky and Indiana is under fire. A non-profit analyzed the costs of the plant and the numbers suggest ratepayers in eight states are paying more than they should. Prairie State is a 1600 megawatt coal plant just outside of St. Louis. It's owned in part by nine municipal energy agencies and co-ops. One of those is the Kentucky Municipal Power Agency (KMPA) which owns nearly eight percent of the plant and provides power to the Paducah area. (WFPL News - Aug. 29, 2012)

U.S. sets higher fuel efficiency standards

The Obama administration issued on Tuesday the final version of new rules that require automakers to nearly double the average fuel economy of new cars and trucks by 2025. The standards — which mandate an average fuel economy of 54.5 miles per gallon for the 2025 model year — will increase the pressure on auto manufacturers to step up development of electrified vehicles as well as sharply improve the mileage of their mass-market models through techniques like more efficient engines and lighter car bodies. Current rules for the Corporate Average Fuel Economy, or CAFE, program mandate an average of about 29 miles per gallon, with gradual increases to 35.5 m.p.g. by 2016. The new rules represent a victory for environmentalists and advocates of fuel conservation, but were attacked by opponents, including the Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, as too costly for consumers. (The New York Times – Aug. 28, 2012)

Isaac causes national gas price bump

If you've driven past a gas station you may have noticed prices are even higher than they were last week. Yesterday drivers in much of the country were hit with the biggest one-day jump in gasoline prices in 18 months. The price shock comes just as the last heavy driving weekend of the summer approaches. Hurricane Isaac shut down most oil production and refining along the Gulf coast. Gasbuddy.com says the national average price of a gallon of gas jumped almost 5 cents in one day to \$3.80. Prices are expected to continue to climb through Labor Day weekend. (ABC News – Aug. 30, 2012)

President Obama signs executive order promoting industrial energy efficiency

Today, President Obama signed an Executive Order to facilitate investments in industrial energy efficiency that will strengthen American manufacturing and help create jobs. These efforts to boost industrial energy efficiency, including combined heat and power systems, can save manufacturers as much as \$100 billion in energy costs over the next decade, improving their bottom lines and strengthening U.S. manufacturing competitiveness. (Imperial Valley News - Aug. 30, 2012)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	8/30/2012	8/23/2012	8/16/2012	8/10/2012	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.852	3.664	3.716	3.7	3.599
Ashland	3.95	3.702	3.752	3.801	3.67
Covington	3.959	3.805	3.822	3.844	3.664
Lexington	3.916	3.652	3.781	3.72	3.624
Louisville	3.785	3.642	3.677	3.691	3.666
Owensboro	3.719	3.645	3.652	3.656	3.556
Diesel (State avg.)	4.039	3.956	3.927	3.858	3.83
Ashland	4.062	3.981	3.971	3.926	3.839
Covington	3.981	3.87	3.839	3.841	3.768
Lexington	4.067	3.97	3.964	3.883	3.818
Louisville	4.014	3.956	3.937	3.876	3.81
Owensboro	4.03	3.971	3.961	3.862	3.831

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	8/29/2012	8/22/2012	8/15/2012	8/9/2012	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	95.49	97.26	94.33	93.36	88.81
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	2.65	2.818	2.781	2.933	4.027

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Sep	12-Oct	12-Nov
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	8/29/2012	*	95.49	95.81
	8/22/2012	96.68	97.26	97.55
	8/15/2012	94.33	94.62	94.91
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	8/29/2012	2.634	2.685	2.867
	8/22/2012	2.826	2.863	3.03
	8/15/2012	2.748	2.787	2.981
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	8/29/2012	0.894	0.903	0.911
	8/22/2012	0.921	0.93	0.938
	8/15/2012	0.963	0.972	0.98
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	8/29/2012	57.05	57.95	59.35
	8/22/2012	57.88	60.58	62.53
	8/15/2012	58.9	61.45	62.9

Source: CME Group

* - Information Unavailable



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