

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Berea working toward energy efficiency

The Berea City Council plans to serve as Berea College's bond issuing authority to finance a "Deep Green" residence hall to be built near Boone Tavern Hotel and Restaurant. The state-of-the-art facility is estimated to house 120 students in 66 rooms. Construction is expected to be completed by August 2013. The city will simply act as the issuing authority, which means it will in no way be liable for the funding, according to Berea City Administrator Randy Stone. (The Richmond Register – Sept. 7, 2012)

Somerset oil refinery will resume production in early fall

Production is set to resume this fall at a decades-old oil refinery in Somerset that was largely offline the past few years because of a management dispute and bankruptcy. Demetrios Haseotes, a New York entrepreneur with interests in convenience stores, truck stops and other businesses, bought the idled Somerset operation in December. Employees and consultants have spent months going over tanks, pipes and other equipment at the plant to make sure it is in good condition. That work didn't turn up any major problems, Haseotes said in an interview. (The Herald Leader – Sept. 9, 2012)

KU seeking more power generation

Kentucky Utilities and affiliated company Louisville Gas and Electric have announced they are seeking to purchase up to 700 megawatts of power generation supply. The request for proposals issued late last week is the latest step in the companies' move to modify how it produces electricity to meet more stringent federal environmental standards. The utilities previously announced plans to end coal-fired power generation at three of its older plants — Cane Run, Green River and Tyrone — by the end of 2015. To offset the 800 or so megawatts of generation that is being lost, the companies have received approval from the state Public Service Commission to build a 640-megawatt natural gas combined cycle generation unit at the Cane Run plant. (The Herald Leader - Sept. 11, 2012)

Natural gas vehicles ever more feasible for fleets

Natural gas is becoming increasingly popular as a source of electricity, and in many places—including Louisville—it's replacing coal. But natural gas is also becoming more prevalent as fuel for vehicles. In Waste Management's facility off of Fern Valley Road, there's a garbage truck parked after its daily route. On one side, so large it's hard to miss, is a sign that says "Think Green, Think Clean"—a reference to the fact that this truck burns cleaner natural gas. Mike Fuller is the Senior District Manager for Waste Management. He's showing off one of the 17 new natural-gas powered garbage trucks the company introduced in Louisville last month. (WFPL News – Sept. 7, 2012)

100,000th refrigerator recycled as part of GE agreement with Appliance Recycling Centers of America

This week, GE, in collaboration with Appliance Recycling Centers of America (ARCA), reached a milestone of 100,000 refrigerators and freezers recycled through North America's only UNTHA Recycling Technology (URT) System. ARCA's URT machine, a unique 40-foot-tall engineering marvel, recovers approximately 95 percent of the insulating foam in refrigerators and freezers, reducing landfill waste and greenhouse gas and ozone depleting substance emissions. As a result of this milestone, an estimated 5.5 million pounds of refrigerator and freezer material has been diverted from U.S. landfills. Eighty-nine percent of the material has been recovered for reuse for new products, and 11 percent is being used as fuel in cement manufacturing. (Business Wire – Sept. 7, 2012)

Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance improves 1,000 homes, driving energy efficiency and economic development

The Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance is creating jobs, training programs, and new financing programs aimed at increasing energy efficiency in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area. "The Energy Alliance is paving the way in terms of innovative energy efficiency programs here in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky," said Jonathan Cohen, DOE Building Technologies Program, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. "We have been more than impressed by the innovative work and results we have seen from the Energy Alliance." Cohen spoke to the accomplishments of the non-profit during a 10 a.m. press conference at Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park Pavilion, which also recognized the 1,000th homeowner in the region served by the Energy Alliance. (Market Wire – Sept. 13, 2012)

Businesses, schools to go dark

Dozens of local businesses and schools will get paid to go dark – or partially dark – between 2-3 p.m. Wednesday in a drill to help Duke Energy plan for and avoid true blackouts. The drill includes 72 customers, including five to 10 school districts in Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky. They all signed up for Duke Energy's voluntary PowerShare program. Customers receive financial incentives for reducing energy use. (The Community Press & Recorder – Sept. 11, 2012)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	9/6/2012	8/30/2012	8/23/2012	8/16/2012	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.846	3.852	3.664	3.716	3.627
Ashland	3.872	3.95	3.702	3.752	3.655
Covington	3.935	3.959	3.805	3.822	3.701
Lexington	3.849	3.916	3.652	3.781	3.613
Louisville	3.899	3.785	3.642	3.677	3.609
Owensboro	3.752	3.719	3.645	3.652	3.613
Diesel (State avg.)	4.07	4.039	3.956	3.927	3.861
Ashland	4.097	4.062	3.981	3.971	3.889
Covington	4.055	3.981	3.87	3.839	3.825
Lexington	4.092	4.067	3.97	3.964	3.861
Louisville	4.054	4.014	3.956	3.937	3.836
Owensboro	4.073	4.03	3.971	3.961	3.875

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	9/12/2012	9/5/2012	8/29/2012	8/22/2012	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	97.01	95.36	95.49	97.26	88.91
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	2.941	2.88	2.65	2.818	4.003

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Oct	12-Nov	12-Dec
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	9/12/2012	97.01	97.34	97.66
	9/5/2012	95.36	95.69	96.03
	8/29/2012	95.49	95.81	96.14
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	9/12/2012	3.063	3.191	3.41
	9/5/2012	2.795	2.937	3.18
	8/29/2012	2.685	2.867	3.137
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	9/12/2012	0.937	0.943	0.95
	9/5/2012	0.994	1.002	1.01
	8/29/2012	0.903	0.911	0.92
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	9/12/2012	55.57	56.32	57.02
	9/5/2012	57.07	58.12	58.75
	8/29/2012	57.95	59.35	59.35

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.

