

## ***Kentucky releases action plan for energy efficiency programs***

The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet released today Kentucky's Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, a series of recommendations to mobilize energy efficiency in the Commonwealth which can ensure energy security, environmental protection, create jobs and maintain low-cost, reliable energy into the future. The Action Plan outlines a strategy for furthering Governor Steve Beshear's energy goals in his 2008 plan, Kentucky's 7-Point Strategy for Energy Independence, and identifies energy efficiency efforts that are already in place in Kentucky. The Plan comes after a two-year, comprehensive stakeholder process through a partnership with U.S. Department of Energy and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. (www.surfky.com May 15, 2013)

## ***Declines in Central Appalachian Coal Production, Demand Will Continue***

A new report takes a comprehensive look at the numerous factors behind the decline in Central Appalachian coal production, and predicts that more production declines are in the future. The report was released today by Downstream Strategies, a West Virginia-based environmental consulting company. Lead author Rory McIlmoil says over the past few years, the most commonly-cited reasons for problems in the coal industry have been regulatory challenges and declining coal reserves. And while those play a major role, there are other factors, too. (www.wfpl.org May 14, 2013)

## ***Federal Data Shows Kentucky's Carbon Dioxide Emissions Increased from 2000-2010***

New state-level data from the Energy Information Administration shows that carbon dioxide emissions fell in most states in the last decade. But Kentucky saw a slight increase in emissions. Thirteen years ago, Kentucky was emitting 144.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, generated during electricity generation. Ten years later, that number was up to about 150 million metric tons. That's more than a four percent increase. Three years ago, Kentucky's electricity-related carbon dioxide emissions were the twelfth highest in the country. But when the emissions are considered on a per capita basis, Kentucky is in the top seven. (www.wfpl.org May 13, 2013)

## ***The coal industry is in far more trouble than anyone realizes***

Here's some bleak news for the coal industry: As much as 65 percent of the U.S. coal fleet could find itself under threat in the years ahead, thanks to cheap natural gas and stricter air-pollution regulations. That's according to a new peer-reviewed study by three researchers at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, who take a detailed look at the costs of operating both coal-fired power plants and natural-gas plants around the United States. Their conclusion? Coal power is far more economically vulnerable than most analysts have realized to date. (www.washingtonpost.com May 8, 2013)

## ***Biomass crops, use focal points for MSU***

It is not every day you hear wood shavings, wheat straw, sorghum, switchgrass and miscanthus described as energy-and-cost efficient crops wielding enough power to heat barns, enhance ethanol and provide feedstock for farm animals. However, step into the Hutson School of Agriculture or the Department of Science, Engineering and Technology at Murray State University, and suddenly it is all you can do to not talk about the major innovations taking place in the region involving biomass crops and technology. Merriam-Webster Dictionary describes biomass as "plant materials and animal waste used especially as a source of fuel," but Loretta Daniel, director of the Business and Innovation Center at MSU, said the research being conducted at MSU may lead to so much more. At the forefront of the West Kentucky AgBioworks project, which is helping facilitate a regional and multi-state network of farmers and businesses to commercialize bio-energy crops, is Murray State. (www.murrayledger.com May 16, 2013)

## ***Mixed Response to President's Proposal to Privatize the TVA***

President Obama wants to privatize one of the nation's largest government-owned companies, a proposal that is bringing pushback from some unlikely sources: politicians who ordinarily promote themselves as favoring smaller government and more free enterprise. In his 2014 budget, President Obama called for a strategic review of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The budget stated that selling or privatizing the TVA could result in a significant cut in the federal debt (at least \$25 billion) and "put the nation on a sustainable fiscal path." Born during the Great Depression of the 1930s as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, the TVA is a federally owned corporation that was created to provide electricity, navigation improvements, flood control and economic development in the Tennessee Valley, an area that was particularly hard hit during the Depression. (www.news.heartland.org May 16, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	5/17/2013	5/9/2013	5/2/2013	4/25/2013	Year Ago
<b>Gasoline (State avg.)</b>	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.62
Ashland	\$ 3.62	\$ 3.62	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.61
Covington	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.75
Lexington	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.39	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.67
Louisville	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.57
Owensboro	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.48	\$ 3.34	\$ 3.58
<b>Diesel (State avg.)</b>	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.96
Ashland	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.97	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.94
Covington	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.98
Lexington	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.97
Louisville	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.97
Owensboro	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.98	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.99

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,

Spot Prices	5/16/2013	5/8/2013	5/1/2013	4/24/2013	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 95.16	\$ 96.62	\$ 91.03	\$ 91.43	\$ 92.56
MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 4.01	\$ 3.87	\$ 4.32	\$ 4.28	\$ 2.56

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		June 2013	July 2013	August 2013
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	5/16/2013	\$ 95.16	\$ 95.45	\$ 95.56
	5/8/2013	\$ 96.62	\$ 96.85	\$ 96.77
	5/1/2013	\$ 91.03	\$ 91.24	\$ 91.21
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	5/16/2013	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.98	\$ 4.01
	5/8/2013	\$ 3.98	\$ 4.03	\$ 4.06
	5/1/2013	\$ 4.33	\$ 4.38	\$ 4.41
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	5/16/2013	\$ 0.94	\$ 0.94	\$ 0.94
	5/8/2013	\$ 0.97	\$ 0.97	\$ 0.97
	5/1/2013	\$ 0.93	\$ 0.93	\$ 0.93
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	5/16/2013	\$ 59.87	\$ 60.37	\$ 61.00
	5/8/2013	\$ 60.02	\$ 60.18	\$ 61.07
	5/1/2013	\$ 60.38	\$ 60.67	\$ 61.57

Source: CME Group



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