

Solar panel system installed atop EKU New Science Building

A solar panel system has been installed atop Eastern Kentucky University's New Science Building. The seven-panel solar array, which will incorporate a small but expandable renewable energy source into the EKU campus energy mix, will serve as a pilot to explore the practical viability of solar energy as a campus and regional energy source. (The Lane Report June 28, 2013)

Obama's climate speech hits close to home

It's always been said the two topics that should never be discussed at the dinner table are politics and religion. In the Eastern Kentucky coalfields, climate change and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been added to that list, especially after President Barack Obama's speech on climate change last week in which was announced a plan for further regulations on carbon emissions for fossil-fuel-burning power plants. "This doesn't mean we're suddenly going to stop producing fossil fuels. Our economy wouldn't run very well if we did," the president assured Americans after announcing his plan. (The Hazard Herald, June 30, 2013)

Westport acquires BAF Technologies, ServoTech Engineering

Westport Innovations has acquired BAF Technologies and ServoTech Engineering, both subsidiaries of Clean Energy Fuels Corp. for \$25 million in Westport stock. Westport and Clean Energy also announced a \$5 million joint marketing and sales program. With the purchase, Westport said it has secured its position as Ford's largest partner under the Qualified Vehicle Modifier (QVM) program with over 10 products and approximately 150 Ford authorized dealerships. The transaction allows both Westport and Clean Energy to focus on the significant growth opportunities as natural gas emerges as a global fuel for transportation. (www.fleetowner.com July 1, 2013)

EIA publishes consumption, price estimates for biomass

The U.S. Energy Information Administration published a set of annual statistics in May that include state-level estimates of consumption, prices and expenditures for woody and waste biomass. The most recent release includes data for 2011. The electric power sector consumed a total of 436.7 trillion Btu of wood and waste biomass in 2011. California led consumption on a state level, with 69 trillion Btu. (Biomass Magazine, July 1, 2013)

Big Rivers' rate hearing to start Monday in Frankfort

A formal hearing will begin in Frankfort on Monday as state regulators consider whether to approve Big Rivers Electric Corp.'s request to raise its wholesale electric rates by \$74.5 million a year. If approved, electric rates for a residential customer of the Kenergy Corp. rural electric co-op would increase 19 percent, or about \$24 a month for a typical home. Big Rivers is seeking to raise rates primarily to make up for the loss of its biggest customer, the Century Aluminum smelter at Hawesville, Ky., in mid-August. Big Rivers is also preparing to file a request for a second rate increase, to take effect early next year, to compensate for the upcoming departure of the Century (formerly Rio Tinto Alcan) aluminum smelter at Sebree. (www.courierpress.com June 30, 2013)(The Courier Journal June 26, 2013)

Ky. Power backup plan would see rates soar

Electricity bills for a "typical residential customer" could surge from about \$120 a month to about \$157, according to a base rate case to be filed with the state Public Service Commission today by Kentucky Power. For its part, Kentucky Power is hoping the rate hike will prove unnecessary, but a spokesman said the company was left with no other choice as it continues to wait for other, less costly measures to be approved. According to a statement from the company, the new plan would cause rates for residential customers to surge 31 percent, although the company also points out that cost mitigation measures could bring that number closer to 20 percent. (The Hazard Herald June 29, 2013)

How a Kentucky school teacher stopped a 756-acre surface mine — for now

Knott County protesters blocked bulldozers with their bodies in the 1960s, lying in mud to shut down strip mines for hours. Today, they go to court and tie up everything for years. Environmental protection laws have grown more powerful, much like the machines used to dismantle mountains, in the half-century since coal operators brought surface mining to southeastern Kentucky. (The Herald Leader, June 29, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	7/3/2013	6/27/2013	6/20/2013	6/13/2013	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.54	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.21
Ashland	\$ 3.32	\$ 3.34	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.53	\$ 3.22
Covington	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.62	\$ 3.79	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.42
Lexington	\$ 3.33	\$ 3.33	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.20
Louisville	\$ 3.43	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.35
Owensboro	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.16
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.61
Ashland	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.61
Covington	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.66
Lexington	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.63
Louisville	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.67
Owensboro	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.97	\$ 3.67

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	7/2/2013	6/26/2013	6/19/2013	6/12/2013	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 99.60	\$ 95.50	\$ 98.24	\$ 95.88	\$ 97.66
MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 3.57	\$ 3.73	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.79	\$ 2.80

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		August 2013	Sept. 2013	Oct. 2013
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	7/2/2013	\$ 99.60	\$ 99.42	\$ 98.38
	6/26/2013	\$ 95.50	\$ 95.41	\$ 94.88
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	7/2/2013	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.67
	6/26/2013	\$ 3.74	\$ 3.73	\$ 3.75
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	7/2/2013	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.87	\$ 0.87
	6/26/2013	\$ 0.84	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.85
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	7/2/2013	\$ 54.93	\$ 55.22	\$ 55.70
	6/26/2013	\$ 54.48	\$ 54.52	\$ 54.97

Source: CME Group



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