

Agriculture Secretary Announces Projects in 42 States and Two Territories Designed to Improve Farm and Rural Business Energy Efficiency

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced funding for 631 projects across the nation - including 45 in North Carolina - that will help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce their energy consumption and costs, use renewable energy technologies in their operations and/or conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy projects. Grant and loan funding is made available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which is authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Kentucky received 10 of these awards totaling \$ 509,980. (www.usda.gov August 16 2013)

Zumbiel Packaging Joins Green Power Partnership

As part of an ongoing commitment to sustainable business practices, Zumbiel Packaging (www.zumbiel.com) joined the EPA's Green Power Partnership (GPP) in June, 2013. The Cincinnati-area paperboard packaging company has committed to purchase five percent of its electricity from renewable sources in order to reduce the environmental impact of its operations. As part of the Green Power Partnership, Zumbiel purchased Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for wind energy. Shifting 5% of their use to sustainable wind energy will avoid approximately 544 tons of CO2 emissions annually—the equivalent of taking 103 passenger cars off of U.S. roads. The GPP program is only one part of the sustainability plan for Zumbiel Packaging, which has been a member of the EPA's Energy Star program since 2008. (www.prnewswire.com August 1, 2013)

Marcellus natural gas production rises fast

Marcellus Shale natural gas production is rising even faster this year than energy experts had predicted, and that's having a national effect on energy. Bentek, a Colorado company that analyzes energy trends, said 2013 production in Pennsylvania and West Virginia is up about 50 percent compared with last year. Figures for the pipelines that take gas out of the shale show that in the first six months of the year, Pennsylvania produced about 1.5 trillion cubic feet of gas, with projections for a year-end total of about 3.2 trillion cubic feet. (The Courier Journal, August 16, 2013)

Century starts receiving cheaper power for Hawesville smelter

The cost of power for Century Aluminum's 244,000 mt/year Hawesville smelter in Kentucky plummeted Monday, just as the company had hoped, after Big Rivers Electric bought less expensive supplies for the smelter in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's day-ahead market. An August 14 Kentucky Public Service Commission order authorized Century to prematurely terminate its long-term power purchase agreement with Big Rivers and buy power on the open market for Hawesville. Chicago-based Century argues Hawesville has been losing money for more than a year, largely because of rising power costs.(www.platts.com August 19, 2013)

Kenergy power rates rising Tuesday

Power rates for customers of Henderson-based Kenergy Corp. and two other rural electric co-ops in Western Kentucky are going up Tuesday. Kenergy serves more than 55,000 homes and businesses in 14 Western Kentucky counties, including portions of Henderson, Union and Webster. Its power supplier, Big Rivers Electric Corp., is increasing its wholesale rates Tuesday to make up for the loss of its largest customer, Century Aluminum's Hawesville smelter, which is now acquiring power from the open market. (www.courierpress.com August 19, 2013)

Students working on solar house concept

Students from three universities are working on a solar house concept they hope will be useful as low-cost, energy-efficient housing after natural disasters. The team from the University of Louisville, University of Kentucky and Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., are putting the final touches on the Phoenix House — a domicile that may one day replace temporary trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. (www.sacbee.com August 22, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	8/22/2013	8/15/2013	8/8/2013	8/1/2013	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.67
Ashland	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.53	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.71
Covington	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.81
Lexington	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.62	\$ 3.67
Louisville	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.62
Owensboro	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.38	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.64
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.95
Ashland	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.98
Covington	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.86
Lexington	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.98
Louisville	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.81	\$ 3.95
Owensboro	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.97

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	8/21/2013	8/14/2013	8/7/2013	7/31/2013	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 105.08	\$ 107.37	\$ 102.73	\$ 105.03	\$ 95.87
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.30	\$ 3.44	\$ 2.82

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		September 2013	October 2013	November 2013
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	8/21/2013	\$ 104.96	\$ 103.85	\$ 103.37
	8/14/2013	\$ 106.85	\$ 106.56	\$ 105.41
	8/7/2013	\$ 104.37	\$ 103.91	\$ 102.75
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	8/21/2013	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.62
	8/14/2013	\$ 3.34	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.49
	8/7/2013	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.27	\$ 3.39
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Behvieu (OPIS)</i>	8/21/2013	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.11
	8/14/2013	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.05
	8/7/2013	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.01	\$ 1.01
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	8/21/2013	\$ 53.30	\$ 53.49	\$ 53.70
	8/14/2013	\$ 53.44	\$ 53.62	\$ 53.70
	8/7/2013	\$ 52.59	\$ 52.85	\$ 52.90

Source: CME Group



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