

Six Myths About Renewable Energy

Old ideas die hard. The country has been debating renewable energy for decades—how much we should support it, what place it should have in our energy policy, how big an impact it actually has. Yet many of the things we think we know about renewable energy go back to the earliest arguments. (The Wall Street Journal, Sept. 22, 2013)

Dark future: Long-held beliefs about China's demand for coal starting to crumble

The future of coal is getting darker. Economic forces, pollution concerns and competition from cleaner fuels are slowly nudging nations around the globe away from the fuel that made the industrial revolution possible. The U.S. will burn 943 million tons of coal this year, only about as much as it did in 1993. (www.courierpress.com Sept. 23, 2013)

EKPC wants Cooper Plant to burn coal

If East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) has its way, both generating units at John Sherman Cooper Power Station will continue to burn coal despite very strict greenhouse gas emission regulations proposed Friday by the Obama administration. The proposed emission regulations do not apply to existing power plants, but the Environmental Protection Agency will propose greenhouse gas standards next June for existing plants. (The Commonwealth Journal, Sept. 23, 2013)

EPA won't require carbon trapping for existing power plants

The Environmental Protection Agency will not call for existing coal plants to install carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology next year, the head of the agency said Monday. By ruling out the requirement, the EPA avoids a major fight over its upcoming rules to reduce carbon emissions. Energy companies have long warned that the capture technology is too expensive, not yet ready for commercial scale and might not even work as intended. (www.thehill.com Sept. 23, 2013)

EPA unveils tougher pollution limits for new power plants; Kentucky coal could suffer

New federal regulations aimed at slashing pollution limits for new power plants threaten to further undermine Kentucky's reeling coal industry, the state's congressional leaders say. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency unveiled the regulations Friday to sharply curb carbon emissions, with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy saying failure to act seriously threatens public health and the environment. (www.courier-journal.com Sept. 20, 2013)

Southern Company sees decline in Central Appalachian coal buying

Electrical utility giant Southern Company expects its Central Appalachian coal purchases to drop to 1% of its total projected 2016 coal receipts of 45 million-50 million short tons, the company's director of coal services said Tuesday. The reason is cost, and increasing its plants' 2016 coal burn to 29% Illinois Basin and 64% Powder River Basin will mean "that savings translate ... into hundreds of millions of dollars a year for our customers," Southern Company's Robert Hardman said at Platts Coal Marketing Days in Pittsburgh. (www.platts.com Sept. 24, 2013)

Kentucky leads nation in energy management system, receives award

The Commonwealth Energy Management Control System (CEMCS) recently received more awards and recognition. The National Association of Chief State Administrators featured CEMCS as a case study at its leadership conference in Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 15-17. The Association of Energy Engineers chose CEMCS as the 2013 National Project of the Year and is presenting the award at the 2013 World Energy Engineering Congress in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 25. (www.surfky.com Sept. 24, 2013)

Louisville Metro Announces \$27 Million Deal for Energy Efficient Upgrades

A new public-private partnership will provide energy efficient upgrades to government buildings across Louisville—at no upfront cost to Louisville Metro Government. Johnson Controls will pay nearly \$27 million to replace inefficient chillers and boilers, update old electrical systems and install solar-powered hot water heaters. Metro Government will in turn make annual payments to the company from the energy savings the project generates an estimated \$2 million per year. (www.wfpl.org Sept. 24, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	9/26/2013	9/19/2013	9/12/2013	9/5/2013	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.75
Ashland	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.78
Covington	\$ 3.54	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.87
Lexington	\$ 3.34	\$ 3.34	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.83
Louisville	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.66
Owensboro	\$ 3.22	\$ 3.30	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.71
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.94	\$ 4.02
Ashland	\$ 3.97	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.98	\$ 4.06
Covington	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.97
Lexington	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 4.02
Louisville	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.92	\$ 4.01
Owensboro	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.91	\$ 4.09

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	9/25/2013	9/18/2013	9/11/2013	9/4/2013	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 102.88	\$ 106.75	\$ 107.56	\$ 108.15	\$ 91.89
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.69	\$ 2.94

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	9/25/2013	\$ 104.67	\$ 102.66	\$ 105.05
	9/18/2013	\$ 105.42	\$ 104.82	\$ 103.46
	9/11/2012	\$ 107.56	\$ 106.64	\$ 105.09
MMBtu <i>Henry-Hub</i>	9/25/2013	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.72
	9/18/2013	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.79	\$ 3.94
	9/11/2013	\$ 3.57	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.80
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	9/25/2013	\$ 1.03	\$ 1.03	\$ 1.03
	9/18/2013	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.13
	9/11/2013	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.11
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	9/25/2013	\$ 53.74	\$ 53.22	\$ 53.26
	9/18/2013	\$ 51.96	\$ 52.11	\$ 52.23
	9/11/2013	\$ 51.19	\$ 51.19	\$ 51.19

Source: CME Group



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