

Energy efficiency can reduce home heating costs

With a blast of Arctic air covering the state, the Kentucky Public Service Commission says consumers can limit the impact on their home heating bills by taking steps to reduce energy consumption. (www.surfky.com Jan. 7, 2014)

Temporary Rebound Expected for Coal Mining in 2014

The U.S. coal mining industry will see a modest and short-lived rebound in 2014, driven by more production in Western states after two successive years of declines, according to a government forecast released Tuesday. The Energy Information Administration projected a 36 million ton increase in coal production for the year, to 1.04 billion tons. That's up 3.6 percent from 2013 figures. (www.abcnews.go.com Jan. 8, 2014)

Coal's New Best Friends: An Environmentalist and Obama's EPA

Big coal's newest best friends? A prominent environmentalist and the White House. That's not what you usually hear, but coal investors should listen to Armond Cohen, a lifelong environmental organization lawyer and environmental group chief executive, and read the brand new federal rule on carbon capture and sequestration published by the Environmental Protection Agency last Friday. (www.forbes.com Jan. 9, 2014)

MSU Only Interruptible Service Contract Exercised in West KY

A Tennessee Valley Authority spokesman says at least 1,200 interruptible service contract customers participated in helping the utility get through the high demand for power during this week's arctic cold. Duncan Mansfield said Murray State University, which shut down power Monday night, was the only such customer in western Kentucky. (www.wkms.org Jan. 8, 2014)

Missouri project to turn hog waste into energy

Developers of a renewable biogas project in remote north-central Missouri are hoping to turn hog manure into energy. Murphy-Brown of Missouri LLC is teaming up with Roeslein Alternative Energy LLC on the project near Princeton, Mo., a small town in one of the most sparsely populated areas of the state. Plans, announced Wednesday, call for construction of the \$100 million project to begin in April. (www.washingtonpost.com Jan. 8, 2014)

Natural gas exports: Slow walk or 'danger zone'?

The debate over exporting liquefied natural gas is intensifying as the Energy Department considers an array of applications to ship the fuel to Japan, India and other countries where prices are far higher than in the United States. Some large manufacturers that use natural gas say the department is moving too quickly to approve gas exports, pushing the United States into a "danger zone" that could raise prices and harm the economy. (www.kentucky.com Jan. 8, 2014)

Five Reasons California's Energy Efficiency Plan Flopped

On paper, Energy Upgrade California looks like a sure winner. Under the program, California utilities have been offering qualified homeowners \$4,500 in matching funds to make their homes more energy efficient. The retrofits not only lower bills, they can raise the value of real estate. The state received \$146 million of Federal stimulus money to fund the program while the state of California and residents (through bill surcharges) kicked in \$91 million. (www.forbes.com Jan 6, 2014)

Thanks To Fracking, Natural Gas Supplies (Barely) Withstand 'Polar Vortex' Assault

The polar vortex gripping the nation has brought a crazy week for natural gas. On Monday the demand for gas nationwide hit a record 125 billion cubic feet as homeowners and power generators sought to burn as much of it as they could get to keep the cold at bay. In a normal early-January week the draw on natural gas inventories is about 170 billion cubic feet. This week, according to market watcher Bentek, the drawdown is expected to be on the order of 310 bcf — the most ever. (www.forbes.com Jan. 8, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	1/9/2014	1/2/2014	12/19/2013	12/12/2013	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.28	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.16	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.27
Ashland	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.21	\$ 3.28	\$ 3.26
Covington	\$ 3.30	\$ 3.38	\$ 3.19	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.28
Lexington	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.34	\$ 3.10	\$ 3.22	\$ 3.21
Louisville	\$ 3.30	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.26
Owensboro	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.12	\$ 3.20	\$ 3.22
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.92
Ashland	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.96
Covington	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.97
Lexington	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.92
Louisville	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.91
Owensboro	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.90	\$ 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,

Product	1/6/2014	12/23/2013	12/16/2013	12/9/2013	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 3.48	\$ 3.48	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.56
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 2.52	\$ 2.43	\$ 2.38	\$ 2.30	\$ 2.14

Spot Prices	1/8/2014	12/31/2013	12/18/2013	12/11/2013	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 91.46	\$ 96.45	\$ 98.83	\$ 97.64	\$ 93.20
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 4.35	\$ 4.32	\$ 4.26	\$ 4.23	\$ 3.21

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	1/8/2014	\$ 92.33	\$ 92.53	\$ 92.47
	12/31/2013	\$ 98.42	\$ 98.55	\$ 98.44
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	1/8/2014	\$ 4.22	\$ 4.18	\$ 4.06
	12/31/2013	\$ 4.23	\$ 4.19	\$ 4.11
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	1/8/2014	\$ 1.26	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.10
	12/31/2013	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.08
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	1/8/2014	\$ 57.55	\$ 57.35	\$ 57.68
	12/31/2013	\$ 57.44	\$ 57.16	\$ 58.04

Source: CME Group

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