

Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Energy-storing batteries will cut peak usage in Glasgow

The Glasgow Electric Plant Board is installing electricity-storing batteries at dozens of homes to help reduce emissions during peak energy demand. The battery system was produced by San Francisco, California-based Sunverge Energy. The devices capture power from the electric grid when demand is lower. (www.kentucky.com August 14, 2015)

Trying to Break the U.S. Energy System for Its Own Good

The White House doesn't want anyone to panic over its new climate rules. Instead of marking a big shift, the Obama team believes the Clean Power Plan is piggybacking on trends already under way in the economy: (www.bloomberg.com August 19, 2015)

Nymex oil off its lows but volatile ahead of contract expiration

U.S. oil futures bounced off six-and-half year lows Thursday, but the moves represent a modest tick higher for the commodity which has been pressured by a surprise weekly increase in crude supplies and concerns about the Chinese economy, ahead of the expiration of the September futures contracts. (www.marketwatch.com August 20, 2015)

Natural gas futures jump 2% after bullish storage data

Investing.com - Natural gas futures extended gains on Thursday, after data showed that U.S. natural gas supplies rose less than expected last week. Natural gas for delivery in September on the New York Mercantile Exchange rallied 5.6 cents, or 2.08%, to trade at \$2.772 per million British thermal units during U.S. morning hours. (www.investing.com August 20, 2015)

Cheaper fuel cuts TVA power bills, but base rate hike expected by October

The Tennessee Valley Authority will cut its electricity charges again next month due to lower fuel and purchased power costs. (www.timesfreepress.com August 14, 2015)

Fuzzy lines in battle over Clean Power Plan

Oftentimes, when the federal government unveils a massive plan to regulate an industry, the industry responds with one voice. The Environmental Protection Agency's issuance of the Clean Power Plan wasn't one of those times. The electric-power industry is just starting to come to grips with the 1,560-page plan. (www.energybiz.com August 18, 2015)

U.S. proposes to cut methane from oil, gas by nearly half

The Obama administration on Tuesday proposed cutting methane emissions from U.S. oil and gas production by nearly half over the next decade, part of an ongoing push by President Barack Obama to curb climate change. The administration's target is to cut methane from oil and gas drilling by 40 to 45 percent by 2025, compared to 2012 levels. (www.energybiz.com August 18, 2015)

An 'artificial leaf' could one day power the world with clean energy

The race is on to find a new way to power the world free from polluting fossil fuels, and a group of Australian scientists think they've found an option. A solar-powered device developed by researchers at Monash University in Melbourne is replicating what plants and bacteria do with photosynthesis. (http://mashable.com August 20, 2015)

Even Doubled, America's Gas Tax Would Be Low by World Standards

The federal gas tax that pays for America's highways hasn't been raised in decades, but that doesn't stop some determined lawmakers from trying. The latest effort comes via Senator Tom Carper of Delaware, who has introduced a plan to raise the tax four cents a year for four years then index it to inflation so it remains effective over time. (www.citylab.com August 10, 2015)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	8/20/2015	8/13/2015	8/6/2015	7/30/2015	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.62	\$ 2.62	\$ 2.67	\$ 3.44
Ashland	\$ 2.58	\$ 2.36	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.44	\$ 3.38
Covington	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.61	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.69	\$ 3.60
Lexington	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.39	\$ 2.31	\$ 2.39	\$ 3.35
Louisville	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.55	\$ 2.45	\$ 2.48	\$ 3.49
Owensboro	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.36	\$ 2.42	\$ 3.34
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.66	\$ 2.71	\$ 2.75	\$ 3.82
Ashland	\$ 2.57	\$ 2.59	\$ 2.61	\$ 2.63	\$ 3.66
Covington	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.62	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.68	\$ 3.81
Lexington	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.68	\$ 3.75
Louisville	\$ 2.58	\$ 2.60	\$ 2.62	\$ 2.64	\$ 3.78
Owensboro	\$ 2.53	\$ 2.52	\$ 2.55	\$ 2.58	\$ 3.82

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	8/17/2015	8/10/2015	8/3/2015	7/27/2015	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 41.93	\$ 44.94	\$ 45.25	\$ 47.17	\$ 96.40
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.85	\$ 2.76	\$ 2.92	\$ 3.80
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Central Appalachia</i>	\$ 49.95	\$ 49.95	\$ 54.90	\$ 54.90	\$ 57.25
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Illinois Basin</i>	\$ 34.35	\$ 34.35	\$ 34.35	\$ 34.35	\$ 44.00

Sources: <http://www.infomine.com/investment/metal-prices/coal/1-year> http://ycharts.com/indicators/natural_gas_spot_price <https://www.quandl.com/data/DOE/COAL-US-Coal-Prices-by-Region> <http://markets.ft.com/research/Markets/>

Futures		September 2015	October 2015	November 2015
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	8/19/2015	\$ 40.80	\$ 41.27	\$ 42.18
	8/12/2015	\$ 43.30	\$ 44.01	\$ 45.04
	8/5/2015	\$ 45.15	\$ 45.55	\$ 46.18
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	8/19/2015	\$ 2.72	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.84
	8/12/2015	\$ 2.93	\$ 2.96	\$ 3.05
	8/5/2015	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.82	\$ 2.91
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	8/19/2015	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.42
	8/12/2015	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.42
	8/5/2015	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.42

Source: http://www.cmegroup.com/daily_bulletin/current/Section61_Energy_Futures_Products.pdf



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