

Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Plans move forward for largest solar-powered generating facility in Kentucky

Plans are proceeding to build in Mercer County the largest solar-powered generating facility in Kentucky. Louisville Gas & Electric Co. and Kentucky Utilities announced Friday that they have secured a contract for engineering, procurement and construction of the facility, and that construction is expected to begin in November. (www.Kentucky.com Oct. 10, 2015)

Energy-Saving Solutions in the Bluegrass State

The Energy Department is continuing partnerships with state and local governments to advance efficiency in both energy and water use. Kentucky's Energy and Environment Cabinet contracted with the Kentucky Department for Local Government (DLG) to establish a public facilities energy retrofit program to help city and county officials evaluate the feasibility of Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) and to provide technical assistance throughout the ESPC process. (www.energy.gov Oct. 9, 2015)

Inventor's motor aims to save millions, energy

On the list of a million things Americans think about, electric motors are probably, oh, number one million and one. But people like Kansas City inventor Joe Flynn and his two dozen co-workers at QM Power in suburban Kansas City think about motors every day — and now they have one for sale that federal researchers say could save half a billion dollars in energy costs every year. (The Columbus Dispatch Oct. 12, 2015)

Renewable energy financing hits a snag

Only a few months ago, it seemed that the renewable energy sector could do little wrong: Stock prices were soaring and money was pouring in as investors flocked to get in on the action. That is no longer the case. Low oil and gas prices have roiled the energy markets, and the specter of rising interest rates has rattled investors' confidence in the industry's returns. (The New York Times Oct. 12, 2015)

EVolve KY celebrates new electric vehicle charging station at Green Building

EVolve KY, an organization of owners and enthusiasts of electric vehicles, is celebrating the installation of a new electric vehicle (EV) charging station at the Green Building in NuLu. The charger is fee-free, and the two parking spots designated for EVs are free in the otherwise pay-to-park lot. This is the first of EVolve KY's Adopt a Charger locations, where they seek sponsorship to provide a charger and installation for free. (INSIDER Louisville, Oct. 14, 2015)

America's newest nuke plant shows why nuclear power is dying in the U.S.

Shortly after New Year's Day, the Tennessee Valley Authority is expected to bring its newest nuclear power plant online. The TVA says Watts Bar Unit 2 in Spring City, Tenn., about 50 miles north of Chattanooga, will be fully modern and superlatively safe -- "the nation's first new nuclear generation of the 21st century," the utility says. (L.A. Times Oct. 11, 2015)

Tri-State pledges cooperation in natural gas production, promotion

Natural gas production in the region increased at a torrid pace for several years. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that "The Tri-State Region (West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania) represents 85 percent of the increase in natural gas production in the United States since 2012." However, drilling and production have leveled off in recent months because of the energy glut and depressed prices. (Metro News Oct. 15, 2015)

25 Michigan coal plants are set to retire by 2020

Michigan's long love affair with coal is on the wane. Coal-fired power plants have for years supplied over 50% of the state's electricity generation. Now that figure is poised for a big drop. Due to old age and tighter environmental regulations, 25 coal units at Michigan power plants are scheduled to shut down by 2020. (Detroit Free Press Oct. 10, 2015)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	10/15/2015	10/8/2015	10/2/2015	9/24/2015	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.31	\$ 2.29	\$ 2.29	\$ 3.12
Ashland	\$ 2.38	\$ 2.38	\$ 2.31	\$ 2.33	\$ 3.23
Covington	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.47	\$ 2.43	\$ 2.46	\$ 3.30
Lexington	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.36	\$ 2.29	\$ 2.41	\$ 3.07
Louisville	\$ 2.36	\$ 2.44	\$ 2.43	\$ 2.53	\$ 3.23
Owensboro	\$ 2.22	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.27	\$ 2.09	\$ 2.94
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 2.55	\$ 2.51	\$ 2.49	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.64
Ashland	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.51	\$ 2.38	\$ 2.41	\$ 3.54
Covington	\$ 2.67	\$ 2.57	\$ 2.51	\$ 2.51	\$ 3.65
Lexington	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.56	\$ 2.54	\$ 2.55	\$ 3.62
Louisville	\$ 2.61	\$ 2.51	\$ 2.54	\$ 2.51	\$ 3.68
Owensboro	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.41	\$ 2.37	\$ 2.37	\$ 3.64

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	10/15/2015	10/5/2015		Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)		\$ 2.22		\$ 3.31
Propane (dollars per gallon)		\$ 1.57		\$ 2.20

http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_wfr_dcus_SKY_w.htm

Spot Prices	10/12/2015	10/5/2015	9/29/2015	9/21/2015	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel)	\$ 46.28	\$ 46.28	\$ 44.40	\$ 46.67	\$ 90.33
<i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>					
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu)	\$ 2.47	\$ 2.57	\$ 2.66	\$ 2.61	\$ 3.87
<i>Henry-Hub</i>					
Coal Price (dollars per short ton)	\$ 48.15	\$ 48.15	\$ 48.65	\$ 48.65	\$ 56.30
<i>Central Appalachia</i>					
Coal Price (dollars per short ton)	\$ 32.75	\$ 32.75	\$ 34.35	\$ 34.35	\$ 44.70
<i>Illinois Basin</i>					

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/Tearsheets/Summary?s=1069936>

Futures		November 2015	December 2015	January 2016
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel)	10/14/2015	\$ 46.66	\$ 47.15	\$ 47.90
	10/7/2015	\$ 47.81	\$ 48.40	\$ 49.13
	<i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	10/1/2015	\$ 44.74	\$ 45.22
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu)	10/14/2015	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.72	\$ 2.86
	10/7/2015	\$ 2.47	\$ 2.68	\$ 2.81
	<i>Henry-Hub</i>	10/1/2015	\$ 2.43	\$ 2.63
Propane (Dollars per gallon)	10/14/2015	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.47
	10/7/2015	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.51
	<i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	10/1/2015	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.47

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

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