

Kentucky *Department for Energy Development and Independence* Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Coal interests hope for a break in Obama's second term

Despite a scathing campaign that pilloried him for waging a “war on coal,” industry and government officials say they are guardedly hopeful that President Obama is ready take a more lenient approach after winning a second term. Kentucky, the third largest coal-producing state, produced a 61 percent to 38 percent win for Republican candidate Mitt Romney, who promised to loosen environmental regulations in an industry that faces new and stiff competition from cheaper natural gas. (Courier Journal-Nov.11, 2012)

LIHEAP-funds-arrive-as-temperatures-drop

Low-income families in Carter County receiving assistance with their utility bills can put their uncertainty to rest for the upcoming cold season. According to David Carroll, executive director of the Northeast Kentucky Community Action Agency, funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been released as of last Friday. The Journal-Times reported last week that Northeast had yet to receive the money it normally gets from the federal government to fund the program. Carroll informed the Journal-Times on Tuesday, however, that with the much-needed funds now in hand, Northeast finally will be able to release payment assistance vouchers to heating source providers and utility companies. (Journal Times – Nov. 14, 2012)

Water delivery system makes up 12.6 percent of US energy consumption

A team of researchers from the University of Texas at Austin has released a detailed report on energy use in water delivery to citizens of the United States, finding that no less than 12.6 percent of the nation's total annual energy consumption is devoted to the task. Published in September's issue of Environmental Research Letters, a peer-reviewed scientific journal of the highest standing, the report details the investigation conducted by the team as they traced water from its source to the taps of average American households and back again. The study focused on each aspect of water delivery, including pumping from natural sources, building and maintaining reservoirs, treating the water for safety and then pumping it to individual residences and businesses, including those in the industrial sector. (The Christian Science Monitor – Nov. 1, 2012)

Going green saves taxpayers' green, primary school earns Energy Star rating

Owen County Primary School has been recognized by the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet for earning the prestigious Energy Star, a national symbol for protecting the environment through superior energy performance. A certificate signed by Gov. Steve Beshear was presented to the school's principal during a ceremony that included representatives from the Kentucky School Boards Association, teachers, students, and district leaders. Throughout the past two years, the school has undergone renovations to improve efficiency. These renovations include lighting upgrades, occupancy sensors in rooms, and high efficiency water heaters and boilers. (The News-Herald – Nov. 14, 2012)

Tips for buying an energy efficient house

Buying an energy efficient home can be a great investment that will save you money on energy costs in the long term in addition to increasing the resale value of your home, when you're ready to move on. With increasing consumer awareness of environmental issues, it's growing much easier to find energy efficient homes, but it helps to be armored with some tips before you set out on your home buying journey. Savvy buyers can find the perfect house for their needs and negotiate the best deals. If you're using a real estate agent, which is a very good idea unless you're familiar with real estate transactions, look for one who has experience with green homes. Some may have attended certification programs on green real estate, while others simply have experience based on previous home sales and the community in general. (KSTP-TV – Nov. 14, 2012)

U.S. poised for energy self-sufficiency

Before the close of the decade, the United States could become the world's top producer of oil and natural gas. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), increasing domestic production combined with domestic energy efficiency could leave the country “all but [energy] self-sufficient.” The U.S. could even become a net oil exporter by 2030, shifting a trend that has been a hallmark in the energy debate for decades. Last year, about 60% of crude oil processed in U.S. oil refineries was imported from other countries. While a significant amount of crude oil and refined petroleum is also exported, in 2011 America still faced a 45% net import level. (Scientific American – Nov. 13, 2012)

UofL establishes \$50,000 prize for renewable energy

The University of Louisville will present a new \$50,000 award – the Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy – to recognize outstanding energy ideas or achievements that have shown or likely will have global impact. The award is intended to spotlight wide-ranging research related to the science, technology, engineering and commercialization of renewable energy and energy efficiency throughout the world. The prize, managed by UofL's Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research, is named for the late daughter of Hank and Rebecca Conn of Atlanta, research center supporters and prize benefactors. The recipient will be announced in fall 2013 and will give a public talk in Louisville about the winning work and participate in community and campus events as well as a medal ceremony. (PRNews Wire - Nov. 15, 2012)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	11/15/2012	11/8/2012	11/1/2012	10/25/2012	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.348	3.358	3.363	3.447	3.345
Ashland	3.397	3.37	3.307	3.462	3.459
Covington	3.496	3.453	3.411	3.447	3.432
Lexington	3.472	3.442	3.391	3.358	3.322
Louisville	3.211	3.288	3.381	3.515	3.285
Owensboro	3.286	3.278	3.332	3.383	3.245
Diesel (State avg.)	3.966	3.961	3.972	4.061	3.968
Ashland	3.961	3.972	3.981	4.001	4.033
Covington	3.963	3.947	3.978	4.003	3.975
Lexington	3.968	3.968	3.967	4.004	4.018
Louisville	3.987	3.988	3.999	4.024	3.967
Owensboro	3.978	3.989	4.001	4.058	3.947

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	11/5/2012	10/29/2012	10/22/2012	10/15/2012	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	3.651	3.658	3.753	3.755	3.471
Propane (dollars per gallon)	2.04	2.03	1.996	2.014	2.561

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Wholesale Fuel Prices

Spot Prices	11/14/2012	11/7/2012	10/31/2012	10/24/2012	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	86.32	84.44	86.24	85.73	102.59
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3.655	3.473	3.49	3.428	3.105

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Dec	13-Jan	13-Feb
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	11/14/2012	86.32	86.75	87.31
	11/7/2012	84.44	84.91	85.51
	10/31/2012	86.24	86.73	87.28
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	11/14/2012	3.76	3.879	3.89
	11/7/2012	3.578	3.714	3.72
	10/31/2012	3.692	3.82	3.827
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	11/14/2012	0.915	0.931	0.933
	11/7/2012	0.938	0.95	0.95
	10/31/2012	1.001	1.011	1.01
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	11/14/2012	61.43	63.03	64.16
	11/7/2012	59.65	60.75	61.91
	10/31/2012	59.55	60.98	60.98

Source: CME Group

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