

Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Gov. Beshear Announces New, Creative Energy Project in Glasgow

Gov. Beshear today announced funding to help create an environmentally-friendly methane gas recovery system in the city of Glasgow that will also save taxpayer dollars. The new system will harness the gas emitted from the Glasgow Regional Landfill and turn it into electricity. “This effort is the ultimate recycling project—using science and innovation to literally turn trash in to energy,” said Gov. Beshear. (<http://migration.kentucky.gov> April 9, 2014)

Rethinking Daylighting

When designers of the first net zero energy school in the U.S. considered how they would approach the lighting design differently using today’s LED technology, the results extended far beyond just switching out the lightbulbs. (www.nxtbook.com Spring 2014)

U.S. Homeowners to Benefit from Groundbreaking Home Energy Loan Financing Platform

Homeowners across the United States will benefit from an innovative public-private partnership announced today to make it easier to find lower-cost loans for home energy efficiency improvements. Leading institutions from the public and private sectors today announced the formation of a national financing platform that will for the first time bring low-cost, large-scale capital to government and utility-sponsored residential energy efficiency loan programs – which can be utilized by homeowners in states that participate. (www.sys-con.com April 9, 2014)

Ohio may freeze energy standards

Scheduled increases in the state’s energy-efficiency standards would be put on hold under a bill under consideration in the Ohio Senate. Ohio established energy-saving standards in 2008, seeking to cut down on energy usage and pollution. (www.cinicnati.com April 3, 2014)

Coal country starts to ask ‘What’s after coal?’

It’s no secret that coal is on the outs in the United States. The country’s natural gas boom and environmental regulations are dethroning King Coal after decades of rule in the electricity market. That should be good for the climate, but the transition to natural gas and renewables has human costs. (www.marketplace.org April 7, 2014)

RICE presentation suggests solution to Kentucky’s waning coal economy

“Kentucky’s dependence on coal, as a tax base and employer, has seriously undermined our ability to sustain our economy,” says Mary Tanner ’14, a Centre College government and history major from Louisville. “Exacerbating this problem is the entrenched influence of the coal industry on Kentucky politics.” Tanner has a personal interest in the topic. Her grandfather was president of the Kentucky Coal Association for more than 15 years. (www.lanereport.com April 8, 2014)

In Kentucky, who’s to blame for coal’s decline?

An official with the Federal Reserve recently made this rosy prediction: the jobless rate could dip below six percent this year. But there are still pockets of double-digit unemployment around the country. (www.marketplace.org April 7, 2014)

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy: ‘EPA listened’ on carbon rules

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy on Monday attempted to assuage fears about a forthcoming carbon emissions rule for existing power plants, as she said it would contain flexibility for states. “The only thing I really hope when this proposal goes out is that people look at it and say ‘EPA listened,’” said McCarthy, speaking at a Washington event hosted by the Bipartisan Policy Center. (<http://washingtonexaminer.com> April 7, 2014)

Whitfield presses energy Secretary on Paducah cleanup efforts

The hearing on the Department of Energy’s 2015 Fiscal Year budget provided the opportunity for Whitfield to address the issues surrounding the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and the ongoing cleanup at the site. (<http://surfky.com> April 3, 2014)

EPA Honors Four Kentucky Organizations with 2014 Energy Star Awards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are honoring four organizations in Kentucky with 2014 Energy Star awards. A total of 127 organizations will be honored for their commitment to protecting the environment through superior energy efficiency. (<http://yosemite.epa.gov> April 9, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	4/10/2014	4/3/2014	3/27/2014	3/20/2014	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.51
Ashland	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.54	\$ 3.53
Covington	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.67
Lexington	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.46
Louisville	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.62
Owensboro	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.40
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 4.04	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.07	\$ 3.96
Ashland	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.00
Covington	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.16	\$ 4.14	\$ 4.17	\$ 4.01
Lexington	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.12	\$ 3.98
Louisville	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.07	\$ 4.08	\$ 3.95
Owensboro	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.09	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.01

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	4/7/2014	4/1/2014	3/24/2014	3/19/2014	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	\$ 100.43	\$ 99.69	\$ 100.05	\$ 100.08	\$ 91.23
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 4.64	\$ 4.33	\$ 4.40	\$ 4.45	\$ 4.11

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	4/9/2014	\$ 103.60	\$ 102.65	\$ 101.68
	4/2/2014	\$ 99.62	\$ 98.90	\$ 98.04
	3/26/2014	\$ 100.26	\$ 99.53	\$ 98.63
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	4/9/2014	\$ 4.59	\$ 4.62	\$ 4.62
	4/2/2014	\$ 4.36	\$ 4.40	\$ 4.44
	3/26/2014	\$ 4.40	\$ 4.42	\$ 4.46
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	4/9/2014	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.11
	4/2/2014	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.06
	3/26/2014	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.05
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	4/9/2014	\$ 60.39	\$ 60.45	\$ 61.80
	4/2/2014	\$ 59.38	\$ 60.10	\$ 60.85
	3/26/2014	\$ 60.33	\$ 60.38	\$ 61.10

Source: CME Group

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