

# Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

*A snapshot of state and national energy issues*

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## ***West Irvine Elementary School certified ENERGY STAR***

West Irvine Elementary School has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ENERGY STAR certification, which signifies the school building performs in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency. ([www.lanereport.com](http://www.lanereport.com) November 23, 2015)

## ***Columbia GAS: PREPARE FOR WINTER HEATING SEASON***

Columbia Gas of Kentucky is encouraging customers to take steps now to prepare for winter heating season. Budget payment plans, weatherization programs and various forms of energy assistance are available to help customers of varying income levels be prepared for the colder months ahead. ([www.wtvq.com](http://www.wtvq.com) November 25, 2015)

## ***LG&E and KU Establishing Industrial and Commercial-Scale Solar Offering***

Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company have taken another step in the solar market with the intent of offering their business and industrial customers individual, renewable generation facilities. (<http://pplweb.mediaroom.com> November 20, 2015)

## ***West Virginia's Coal Industry is Reeling – Will Shale Gas Take Its Place?***

Coal has powered West Virginia's economy for centuries. Generations of West Virginians have come and gone in the Mountain State, and its stalwart blue-collar coal industry continuously attracts the next wave of young people in search of a career in the rolling hills of Appalachia. ([www.oilandgas360.com](http://www.oilandgas360.com) November 20, 2015)

## ***Cheaper fuel helps cut TVA electric rates over past four years***

As the economy of the Tennessee Valley has gained back most of the power it lost during the Great Recession, the cost of power in the region has declined over the past four years. ([www.timesfreepress.com](http://www.timesfreepress.com) November 23, 2015)

## ***Electric cars and the coal that runs them***

In this traffic-packed Dutch city, electric cars jostle for space at charging stations. The oldest exhaust-spewing vehicles will soon be banned from the city center. Thanks to generous tax incentives, the share of electric vehicles has grown faster in the Netherlands than in nearly any other country in the world. ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) November 23, 2015)

## ***Energy efficiency in Michigan: what you need to know***

A centerpiece of Gov. Rick Snyder's long-range energy plan derives from a simple premise — using less. How Michigan can best require or incentivize utilities and their customers to cut electricity and natural gas "waste" through efficiency programs is a big issue for lawmakers looking to rewrite energy laws, potentially yet this year. ([www.lansingstatejournal.com](http://www.lansingstatejournal.com) November 23, 2015)

## ***Will Cheap Natural Gas Box Out Investments In Advanced Coal And Nuclear Energy?***

Natural gas is flowing inexorably into the power system and helping to increase the national competitiveness. But the concern going forward is whether the United States will develop an over reliance on it and by extension, whether it is shortsighted to "ignore" advanced coal or nuclear technologies. ([www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com) November 23, 2015)

## ***Arch Coal's battle with creditors highlights the week in coal***

To say last week was a slow seven days for the coal industry is like stating the Titanic was just another ocean accident. Perhaps the biggest story was the intensifying battle between Arch Coal's creditors, which many analysts believe is a sure sign the second largest domestic coal producer is headed for bankruptcy filing soon, real soon. ([www.register-herald.com](http://www.register-herald.com) November 23, 2015)

## ***Oil Bulls See Little Chance of Help From OPEC as Supply Grows***

Hedge funds are betting OPEC won't do anything next month to keep crude oil above \$40 a barrel. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) November 23, 2015)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	11/25/2015	11/19/2015	11/12/2015	11/5/2015	Year Ago
<b>Gasoline (State avg.)</b>	\$ 2.06	\$ 2.12	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.81
Ashland	\$ 1.97	\$ 2.04	\$ 2.12	\$ 2.24	\$ 2.87
Covington	\$ 2.03	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.32	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.88
Lexington	\$ 1.88	\$ 2.02	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.80
Louisville	\$ 1.87	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.30	\$ 2.83
Owensboro	\$ 1.89	\$ 1.98	\$ 2.15	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.71
<b>Diesel (State avg.)</b>	\$ 2.43	\$ 2.46	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.49	\$ 3.59
Ashland	\$ 2.43	\$ 2.46	\$ 2.47	\$ 2.53	\$ 3.68
Covington	\$ 2.52	\$ 2.57	\$ 2.66	\$ 2.64	\$ 3.71
Lexington	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.52	\$ 2.57	\$ 2.59	\$ 3.65
Louisville	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.51	\$ 2.55	\$ 2.56	\$ 3.68
Owensboro	\$ 2.38	\$ 2.42	\$ 2.46	\$ 2.48	\$ 3.67

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	11/16/2015	11/9/2015	11/2/2015	10/26/2015	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 2.04	\$ 2.17	\$ 2.17	\$ 2.16	\$ 3.46
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 1.66	\$ 1.69	\$ 1.66	\$ 1.59	\$ 2.21

[http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\\_pri\\_wfr\\_dcus\\_SKY\\_w.htm](http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_wfr_dcus_SKY_w.htm)

Spot Prices	11/18/2015	11/16/2015	11/10/2015	11/4/2015	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 41.68	\$ 41.68	\$ 44.23	\$ 46.12	\$ 74.04
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 2.02	\$ 2.02	\$ 1.92	\$ 2.15	\$ 4.05
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Central Appalachia</i>	\$ 43.50	\$ 43.50	\$ 49.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 56.10
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Illinois Basin</i>	\$ 32.60	\$ 32.60	\$ 32.75	\$ 32.75	\$ 44.55

Sources: <http://www.infomine.com/investment/metal-prices/coal/1-year> [http://ycharts.com/indicators/natural\\_gas\\_spot\\_price](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		December 2015	January 2016	February 2016
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	11/24/2015	\$ 40.39	\$ 42.87	\$ 44.33
	11/18/2015	\$ 40.75	\$ 41.95	\$ 43.09
	11/11/2015	\$ 42.93	\$ 44.20	\$ 45.13
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	11/24/2015	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.32	\$ 2.37
	11/18/2015	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.54
	11/11/2015	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.45	\$ 2.49
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	11/24/2015	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44
	11/18/2015	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.42
	11/11/2015	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44

Source: [http://www.cmegroup.com/daily\\_bulletin/current/Section61\\_Energy\\_Futures\\_Products.pdf](http://www.cmegroup.com/daily_bulletin/current/Section61_Energy_Futures_Products.pdf)

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