From the KEEPS Program Manager: Why Follow the Seven Steps?

By Fred Byrd
KEEPS Program Manager

As your school district considers its energy management strategy, ask yourself how you would like to see your district’s energy management program perform three, five, 10 years and longer down the road.

The KEEPS Seven-Step Energy Management Process is based on the U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR® Guidelines for Energy Management and incorporates additional information designed specifically for KEEPS participants. This systems approach helps energy managers, facilities personnel and energy team representatives learn the process of energy management and understand how an effective energy management program benefits their district and the environment.

It’s a free and proven resource that allows a school district to take ownership of its energy program. The process helps prioritize energy management goals based on available funds and resources and incorporates a strategic approach to implementing low-cost/no-cost energy management strategies and long-term, capital-intensive energy management investments.

Furthermore, the Seven-Step Process addresses behavioral changes necessary to ensure the energy management program’s success year after year and establishes the program as a standard by which the district operates. It also encourages involvement and buy-in from all facets of the school district – administration, faculty, staff and students.

Don’t take my word for it, though. Log onto the ENERGY STAR® Web site and see how this process works for school districts across the country – districts large and small, with different budgetary concerns and different energy management needs.

Send your questions and comments to KEEPS@kppc.org.

Coming Soon: KEEPS on Facebook

KEEPS is about to join the social networking community. Kentucky school districts will soon have access to the new KEEPS Facebook page. The Facebook page will feature news and updates about KEEPS and provide school districts and district energy teams with the opportunity to share ideas and ask questions about implementing best energy management practices via Facebook networking mechanisms, such as discussion threads and wall...
postings. It will also facilitate communication between school districts and KEEPS regional coordinators.

Watch the KEEPS Web site and the May issue of the KEEPS Moving Forward e-newsletter for details about when the KEEPS Facebook page will be available.

**Kentucky School Energy Managers Project**

On March 1, 2010, the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet to administer the School Energy Managers Project (SEMP).

KSBA will administer the project, which will help pay for 40 to 50 energy manager positions throughout the Commonwealth. School districts may apply to KSBA for funding to hire a local energy manager. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds will underwrite the operation of the project and pay 75 percent of a district energy manager’s salary up to $45,000 for the first year with a 50-50 split between the program and the district in the second year.

KSBA provided all superintendents a Request for Proposal on March 19 for districts to submit applications for SEMP funding. The application deadline is April 30. Applicants for project funding should know by early May if their application has been approved. The district energy managers will be selected and hired by July 1.

Visit the KSBA Web site for more information about the School Energy Managers Project.

**KEEPS Welcomes Two New Staff Members**

To meet the demands of the growing KEEPS initiative, KPPC recently added two new regional coordinators to the KEEPS team.

Adam Hoette and Nancy Shives provide assistance to school districts to further their progress in KEEPS. They develop information and tools to support the KEEPS Seven-Step Energy Management Process and other KEEPS initiatives, provide training and outreach to KEEPS member districts and facilitate regional network meetings and events.

Adam Hoette represents KEEPS Region 1, which includes 24 school districts in Western Kentucky.

Contact Adam at (502) 377-2854 or adam.hoette@louisville.edu.

Nancy Shives represents KEEPS Region 4, which includes 28 school districts in Northern Kentucky.

Contact Nancy at (502) 377-3084 or nancy.shives@louisville.edu.
To find out your school district’s KEEPS region or to schedule a meeting with your KEEPS regional coordinator, call (502) 475-1829 or e-mail KEEPS@kppc.org.

**KEEPS Kudos To …**

- **The Barren County School District.** On April 15, the Barren County Board of Education passed the district’s energy management policy - a critical step toward building a foundation of commitment to ensure ongoing success of the district’s energy management program.

**KEEPS Tip of the Month: Spread the Word**

Your school district has enrolled in KEEPS. Your school board has approved your district's energy policy. Your district’s energy team is identifying ways to reduce energy consumption and operating expenses.

These are just three examples of KEEPS milestones that your district’s administration, faculty, staff, students and the general public would find noteworthy – even newsworthy.

Use your school district’s internal and external communications and outreach mechanisms to garner as much attention about your energy initiatives as possible. For example, the Mercer County School District Energy Team recently identified almost 20 outreach mechanisms, such as their Web site, Facebook page, newsletters and press releases, that they can use to raise awareness about their energy program.

The more your stakeholders know about your district’s energy management initiatives, the more they will understand, support and even participate in those initiatives.

**Energy Savings Resources**

- The KEEPS Web site features a list of more than 40 energy resources that provide information on the benefits of energy efficiency and best energy management practices for schools.
- **Environmental Education in Kentucky** provides a listing of grants that could fund school improvement projects and listings of organizations, businesses and resources whose focus is environmental education.
- The [Kentucky Environmental Education Council](http://www.kentuckyenvironmentalcouncil.org) provides information about organizations, materials and events that will help educators and students learn more about Kentucky’s environment.

**Celebrate Earth Day**

There are plenty of opportunities for your school district to participate in the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, which takes place April 22, 2010. Visit [KPPC’s Earth Day 2010 Web page](http://www.kppc.org/earthday2010) for information, resources and ideas about how your district’s faculty, staff and students can get involved.

**Training Opportunities**

**Kentucky Association of School Business Officials Spring 2010 Conference – May 5-7, Louisville**

KEEPS will present a session that focuses on what steps school districts must take following enrollment in the program with emphasis on Step One of the KEEPS Energy Management Process – *Commitment to Continuous Improvement.*
KEEPS will also have an exhibit booth at the event. Log onto the [KASBO Web site](http://kasbo.ky.gov) to register and for more information.

**Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools Conference – May 13, Frankfort**

Schools from across Kentucky will be on hand to showcase their successful environmental initiatives. Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools and the Kentucky chapter of the National Energy Education Development Project will issue awards for the best environmental projects. The event will also feature a BBQ lunch and a guest speaker (TBA). For more information and to register, contact Merin Roseman at [merin.roseman@ky.gov](mailto:merin.roseman@ky.gov).

**Kentucky NEED 2010 Kentucky Energy Conference for Educators – June 14-18, Eastern Kentucky**

The conference will provide teachers with up-to-date information on all aspects of energy including the science of energy, sources of energy, transportation, consumption, electricity, efficiency and environmental and economic impacts. Participants will travel via tour bus to energy sites in Eastern Kentucky to meet with energy professionals and receive materials necessary to implement innovative, hands-on energy units for the classroom, multi-disciplinary teams and after-school programs. Information and registration is available on the [Kentucky NEED Web site](http://kentuckyneed.org).

**2010 Kentucky Association of School Superintendents Summer Institute – June 21-23, Bowling Green**

KEEPS will be among the many exhibitors at this event, which will provide information, resources and networking opportunities for Kentucky school district superintendents. Further details are available on the [Kentucky Association of School Superintendents Web site](http://kass.org).

---

KEEPS is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the combined efforts of the following organizations: Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence, the U.S. Department of Energy and KPPC.