From the Program Manager: 'KEEPS Certified' Contractor? No Such Thing

By Fred Byrd
KEEPS Program Manager

Not too long ago, it was brought to my attention that a school district was solicited for services by a “KEEPS Certified Contractor.”

School districts are likely to enlist the services of an environmental consulting firm, energy services performance contractor or other similar business when it's time to invest in capital-intensive energy-savings measures. Unfortunately some businesses push ethical boundaries to suit their bottom line. In this case, a business was wrongfully promoting itself with an endorsement from KEEPS that simply did not exist.

It is important for school districts to understand that KEEPS and its administrator, KPPC, are not environmental consultants. Such businesses provide comprehensive environmental management services for a fee. We do not certify, recommend, refer or otherwise endorse companies, products or services that school districts may use to facilitate energy management initiatives. We also do not solicit or receive payment for services and cannot use our services to compete against private businesses.

With that said, we also understand that making financial commitments to capital improvements is no light matter, and we certainly do not want our districts to feel like they are left out in the cold. As with all other facets of the seven-step energy management process, KEEPS helps districts identify and prioritize short- and long-term energy measures and investments and establish a strategy for making the most of those investments.

Beyond the assistance that our regional coordinators and engineers provide to district energy teams, the Energy Resources tab on the KEEPS website offers excellent information on the benefits of best energy management practices.

KPPC also maintains a list of environmental consulting companies that provide environmental management services. This is not a preferred vendor list; it is a free service made available through funding KPPC receives from the Kentucky Hazardous Waste Management Fund pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 224.46-320. To be added to the list or receive a copy of the list, call (502) 852-0965 or e-mail ES@kppc.org.

Research your energy consultants carefully before you commit to a service contract, and contact us if you have questions or concerns about claims regarding KEEPS endorsements for any particular business or service.

Send your questions and comments to KEEPS@kppc.org.
**New Hybrid School Bus Hits the Road in LaRue**

Students on their way to school in LaRue County can breathe a little easier thanks to the new hybrid school bus that LaRue County Public Schools received as part of the first round of federal stimulus dollars aimed at helping public schools become more eco-friendly.

LaRue is the first of 22 Kentucky school districts to receive the hybrid buses, which are manufactured by Thomas Built Buses with the Eaton Hybrid System. A press conference was held on July 27 in Louisville at Whayne Supply Company, where LaRue County Public Schools Superintendent Sam Sanders, members of the LaRue County School Board and other district representatives officially accepted the keys to the new school bus.

"The benefits include 12 miles per gallon, instead of seven-and-a-half, 30 percent reduced carbon monoxide emissions, noise reduction and an overall effort to go green," said Sanders. "At LaRue County Public Schools, we want to do our part for a clean environment, and, as we replace the buses in our fleet, our goal is to continue to go hybrid if funds are available."

A $13 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant from the U.S. Department of Energy was awarded to the Kentucky Department of Education in December 2009. The grant offsets the purchase price of the hybrid system for 213 buses. Once all buses are delivered, Kentucky will have the largest hybrid school bus fleet in the country.

Performance data for the buses will be gathered by the Kentucky Clean Fuels Coalition (KCFC), a non-profit organization that submitted the grant proposal. KCFC and the Kentucky Department of Education partnered to create the Hybrid Horsepower for Kentucky Schools program.

Throughout August and September, Whayne Supply will deliver hybrid school buses to Allen, Pike, Corbin Independent, Franklin, Frankfort Independent and Covington public schools.

A second Request for Application to fund hybrid buses will be available soon. See the KCFC website for more information.

**KEEPS Kudos To ...**

Kentucky School Energy Managers Project

Thanks to $5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, 35 energy managers began work in 130 school districts throughout Kentucky to create and implement district energy management plans. From July 7-9, the Kentucky School Boards Association conducted training for the new school energy managers. Learn more about the initiative on KSBA’s website.

Several Districts are now ENERGY STAR® Partners

Barren, Bracken, Carter, Crittenden, Marshall, Mercer, Muhlenberg and Oldham county public school districts recently became ENERGY STAR® Partners. In doing so, these districts have access to valuable tools and resources that will facilitate their progress through the seven-step energy management process. Nineteen Kentucky school districts are now ENERGY STAR® Partners. Learn more about how ENERGY STAR® can help improve your school district's energy and financial performance.
East Oldham Middle School
East Oldham Middle School recently received an ENERGY STAR® rating of 92. Oldham County School district now has five ENERGY STAR®-rated schools. See other ENERGY STAR®-rated schools in Kentucky.

Washington County Public Schools
The Washington County Board of Education recently passed the district's energy policy, and the district's Energy Team recently established its energy management program's communications plan.

Send us your KEEPS Kudos
Has your school or school district realized success through best energy management practices? Great! Use the KEEPS KUDOS form to share the good news, and your KEEPS Kudos may appear in an upcoming issue of KEEPS Moving Forward, on the KEEPS Facebook page or on the KEEPS website.

Energy Saving Resources

- **Energy's Impact on Kentucky's K-12 Public Schools** is a special edition of the *Kentucky Energy Watch* e-newsletter. See how energy efficient schools not only save the environment and taxpayer dollars, but also help improve the health and education of Kentucky's children. See: www.energy.ky.gov/resources

- **High Performance Sustainable Schools Workshop presentations** are available on the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence website. See: www.energy.ky.gov/programs

- **U.S. Energy Information Administration's Energy Kids website** provides resources and information to help students and teachers learn the value of energy efficiency.

Events and Training Opportunities

**Economic Development through BioEnergy Symposium Series**
- August 12 - Morehead
- September 8 - Bowling Green
- September 22 - Springfield
- September 23 - Prestonsburg
- October 13 - Maysville
- October 19 - Henderson
- October 27 - Corbin

The Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence (DEDI) will sponsor this series of conferences that will provide information about potential development through BioEnergy, mandates that drive BioEnergy markets and federal and state resource organizations that provide financing, marketing and other BioEnergy-related services. The symposium series is designed to help grow the BioEnergy industry while looking at energy cost-saving opportunities in Kentucky. Details about each conference in the series are available on DEDI's website, www.energy.ky.gov.

**National Pollution Prevention Week**
- September 19-25

National Pollution Prevention Week is an opportunity for individuals, businesses, organizations and government to emphasize and highlight their pollution prevention and environmental sustainability activities and achievements, expand current pollution prevention efforts and commit to new actions. Information and resources are available on the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable's website.

**Energy Awareness Month**
- October 2010

Since 1991, the federal government has set aside October as Energy Awareness Month to promote the wise and efficient use of our nation's energy resources. Information and ideas about how to promote energy awareness in your organization is available on the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy and Renewable Energy website.
Green Energy Showcase
October 1
Covington
The event showcases green energy services provided by local energy industries and educational opportunities provided at Gateway Community and Technical College. E-mail Yvonne Meichtry or call (859) 442-4190 for more information.

34th Annual Kentucky Governor's Conference on the Environment
October 20-21
Louisville
Speakers and panel discussions on a variety of issues that concern energy efficiency and renewable energy in Kentucky highlight this event. Details will soon be available on the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence website. For questions, e-mail Natalie Jens or call (502) 564-7192.

Kentucky School Plant Management Association Annual Conference
October 26-29
Lexington
The event will feature workshops, presentations and information about how to promote and enhance the educational process through proper management practices related to school operations and maintenance. Visit KSPMA's website for information and to register.

KPPC is Kentucky's primary resource to help businesses, industries and other organizations develop environmentally sustainable, cost-saving solutions for improved efficiency. Based at the University of Louisville J.B. Speed School of Engineering, KPPC provides technical information and assistance that is free, confidential and non-regulatory.

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.

This message was sent from KEEPS to chris.wooton@louisville.edu. It was sent from: Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center, KPPC, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292. You can modify/update your subscription via the link below.