From the Program Manager: Back to School for District Energy Teams

Summer break is just about over, which means it's time for school district energy managers and cross-functional energy teams to determine how they want to direct their energy management programs for the upcoming academic year. Here are a few tips to help energy teams get focused.

**Back to the Basics**
Before your team determines how it wants to direct this year's energy-saving initiatives, assess how the team itself has evolved since its inception. A quick review of how team meetings are conducted is a good start. How are agenda items determined? Who records meeting minutes? What are the roles and responsibilities of each team member?

Many districts see transitions in staff during the summer break. Has anyone left the energy team since June? Are there new team members who need to be brought up to speed on energy program efforts? To help address some of these issues, review the materials in KEEPS Energy Management Toolkit 1B: Establish an Energy Team.

Determine what the team has accomplished to date and where energy program goals have fallen short. See KEEPS Energy Management Toolkit 3A: Set Energy Performance Goals and Toolkit 4: Create an Energy Management Action Plan for further guidance.

**Assess Available Resources**
KEEPS continues to provide updated and new resources that offer guidance on the process of energy management. Since June, KEEPS has added several new materials to its online KEEPS Toolkit Library. In addition, the new KEEPS webinar series offers presentations and insights from energy management experts, partner organizations and school district energy managers and energy team members.

**Prepare for the Future**
Remember, for a school district to realize year-over-year cost savings
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.

through improved energy performance, the district must take ownership of its energy management program. That is, under the guidance of the district energy team, it's up to the district to determine how it wants to save energy and drive its own efforts to achieve those goals. KEEPS and other organizations offer several tools to help school districts realize those goals; but it's up to the district to use those tools to realize the benefits.

In addition to the energy and cost savings realized through energy program initiatives, school districts have the opportunity to be recognized by KEEPS and other organizations for their program success. KEEPS Energy Management Toolkit materials for Step 7 of the energy management process - Recognize Achievements provide guidance on how district energy teams can focus their efforts toward measurable success.

As always, our KEEPS Regional Coordinators, Engineers and Energy Managers are available to lend a hand. So, don't hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns or for guidance.

KEEPS wishes you a great 2011-2012 academic year.

Questions? Comments? Contact KEEPS.

Now Available: Improved KEEPS Awards Toolkit Materials

Through its awards program, KEEPS provides an opportunity for external recognition of district-wide energy management program efforts. The KEEPS Stewardship, Champion and Leadership awards are presented to school districts that reach certain milestones in the seven-step framework of the Energy Star Guidelines for Energy Management.

As part of its Energy Management Toolkit series, KEEPS provides training, resources and application materials that school districts can submit for consideration for each of the three awards. Award application materials have recently been updated to make it easier for energy managers and energy team members to fill out and submit. These materials are free and downloadable from the KEEPS website.

Find out more about the KEEPS Stewardship, Champion and Leadership awards.

Oldham County Public School District Earns KEEPS Stewardship Award

Oldham County Public Schools (OCPS) is the latest Kentucky school
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.

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Oldham County Public Schools
District Energy Manager Nancy Wenz and Facilities Director Jim Ewalt.

"Oldham County Schools has made a commitment to energy conservation because it is the right thing to do," said OCPS Energy Manager Nancy Wenz. "We must work toward reducing our energy consumption to conserve natural resources, avoid the rise in energy costs and to preserve funds for educational programs and jobs."

Through its energy conservation program, OCPS has developed several initiatives and resources to garner support and raise awareness about the district’s energy-saving efforts to district officials, faculty, staff, students and the community.

In September 2009, the district board of education adopted its Energy Management and Conservation Policy, which outlines the principles for conservation of fuel and energy and for economical use of other natural resources.

The district’s Energy Team Program uses several energy management tools, such as shutdown checklists, assessment forms and energy project planning forms to drive energy-saving efforts. Program guidelines are outlined in a 31-page manual that defines energy team make-up, how to assess facility energy performance, raising awareness about program initiatives and gaining recognition for team initiatives.

Results of the district's energy conservation initiatives are posted on the district's website. Energy usage and energy cost reports, as well as electricity and gas reduction reports, are used to monitor energy use and help identify opportunities for improvement.

Oldham County Public Schools is an Energy Star Partner, and Crestwood Elementary School became the first school in Kentucky to score a perfect 100 Energy Star rating. Other Energy Star rated schools in the district are Locust Grove Elementary, East Oldham Middle School, Harmony Elementary, and Kenwood Station Elementary.

"The KEEPS (training) process has helped Oldham County Schools maintain focus on realizing key objectives toward achieving our energy
management goals," said Wenz. "KEEPS provides support, tools and training opportunities to ensure success."

Read more about OCPS and the KEEPS Stewardship Award on WAVE3.com.

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**KEEPS Kudos and Newsmakers**

**Bullitt County School Recognized by Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools**

Old Mill Elementary School in the Bullitt County Public School District was recently named a "school in progress" by Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools, a Kentucky Energy in Education Collaborative partner that raises environmental awareness among schools throughout Kentucky.

Read more in *The Courier-Journal*.

**Warren County Net-zero School Featured as Part of WKU Sustainability Conference**

*Bowling Green Daily News*

**New Energy Star Partners**

Marion County Public Schools and Franklin County Public Schools recently became Energy Star partners for their commitment to best energy management practices.

There are 112 K-12 Energy Star Partners and 105 K-12 Energy Star certified facilities in Kentucky.

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**Events and Training Opportunities**

**Energy Star Offers Several Energy Efficiency Webcasts**

The federal Energy Star program offers several free web-based training opportunities that provide information about how to improve facility energy performance with Energy Star resources. Select the following webcast titles to learn more.

- **Energy Star and Green Building Rating Systems**
  August 10
  2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET

- **Computer Power Management with Energy Star**
  August 16
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

**Purchasing and Procuring Efficient Equipment**
August 17
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

**LED Lighting Basics**
August 10
2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET
Cincinnati, Ohio
This free workshop, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Solid-State Lighting Program, will introduce participants to LED lighting basics and help improve their understanding of the technology by taking a no-nonsense look at how and where LED lighting can help reduce energy use.

Learn more and register on GovEnergy's website.

See the KPPC online Event Calendar for details about the following statewide and regional energy management training opportunities. Select the event titles to learn more.

**Introduction to Solar Photovoltaics**
August 16-17
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET
Frankfort, Kentucky

**2011 Resource Recycling Conference**
August 17-18
Indianapolis, Indiana

**Solar Site Assessments and Photovoltaic System Design**
August 18
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET
Frankfort, Kentucky

**Solar Photovoltaics and the National Electric Code**
August 19
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET
Frankfort, Kentucky

**Drinking Water and Wastewater System Energy Efficiency Workshop**
August 24
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET
Florence, Kentucky

**Drinking Water and Wastewater System Energy Efficiency Workshop**
August 25
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET
Grayson, Kentucky