Successful School District Energy Programs Recognized at KEEPS Awards Banquet

It was time for school district energy management programs to shine at the KEEPS Awards Banquet, which took place at the KFC YUM! Center in Louisville, Kentucky, on February 3. The event, which coincided with the Kentucky School Boards Association's annual conference, recognized 47 Kentucky school districts that created successful energy-saving initiatives since the KEEPS Awards and Recognition Program began in January 2011. KEEPS Stewardship, Champion and Leadership awards were presented to school district superintendents, energy managers and board members. Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters and University of Louisville J.B. Speed School of Engineering Dean Dr. Neville Pinto were the keynote speakers for the event, which drew nearly 300 guests.

See photos from the KEEPS Awards Banquet on KPPC's Flickr site.

"Thanks to your efforts, Kentucky has set a high standard for energy efficiency in its schools, and that standard is receiving national recognition," said Peters. "The districts being recognized tonight have developed energy management programs that realize quick savings through low-cost and no-cost energy-saving measures and that strategically address their capital-intensive facility improvements."

KEEPS introduced its Awards and Recognition Program as part of the KEEPS Energy Management Toolkit Series. The program helps school districts meet the requirements of step seven of the Energy Star energy management process - Recognize Achievements.

"The more a district invests in the seven-step process, the more likely its energy management program will realize year-over-year energy and cost savings," said KPPC Executive Director Cam Metcalf. To illustrate this point, Metcalf noted that 100 percent of KEEPS Leadership Award winners and 65 percent of Champion and Stewardship Award winners reduced their energy consumption over the past...
two fiscal years.

See the list of KEEPS energy award winners from January 2011 to February 2012.

The event also formally introduced the 2011 KEEPS Status Report [PDF, 8.8 MB], which provides an overview of the free and non-regulatory services that KEEPS offers to school districts, summarizes program activities and achievements to date and highlights the energy use reduction of nearly 72,000 MMBtu and avoided energy costs of more than $4.5 million through best energy management practices implemented by the districts in fiscal year 2011.

"My congratulations to the award recipients and everyone in your school districts who make best energy management practices part of your district's culture and operating standards," said Pinto in his remarks to the banquet attendees. "With what your students experience through KEEPS, they are more likely to ask 'Why not?' instead of 'Why?' when it comes to energy efficiency, renewable energy and environmental sustainability as effective, sustainable business models."

Information about the KEEPS Awards and Recognition Program is available on the KEEPS website. School districts that wish to apply for KEEPS energy awards may still do so. For questions about the KEEPS Awards and Recognition Program or to submit award applications and materials, send an e-mail to KEEPS program administrators or call (502) 852-0965.

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**Now Available: Recent KEEPS Webinar Recordings**


The School Shutdown Energy Management Procedures webinar provides information about energy and cost savings realized through shutdown procedures of key operational components, such as HVAC, lighting and plug load during short-term and long-term breaks throughout the school year. School district energy managers from Christian County, Jessamine County and Mercer County share their long-term shutdown procedures for holiday, spring and summer breaks as well as their short-term shutdown procedures for weekend and after-hours.

The Student Engagement in Sustainability Initiatives webinar features representatives from the Campbellsville Independent School District and the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative who share best practices for how to engage K-12 students in energy and sustainability initiatives.

These webinars are part of the KEEPS Webinar Series, which facilitates school districts' progress through the Energy Star seven-step energy management process.

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**ARRA Funding for KEEPS Ends April 30, 2012**

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, which supports the services that KEEPS provides to Kentucky public school districts, will end April 30, 2012. KPPC - Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center, the KEEPS program administrator, is currently seeking funding, which will allow KEEPS to provide services beyond the ARRA funding sunset.

As pertinent information becomes available, KPPC will provide Kentucky school district superintendents, energy managers and boards of education with updates concerning the future funding of KEEPS and to what extent the KEEPS service model will change after April 30, 2012. Updates will be provided through the KEEPS website, the *KEEPS Moving Forward* e-newsletter and direct communications to district representatives and partner organizations.

KEEPS energy management information, software and webinars will remain
available on the KEEPS website; however, gradual reduction of KEEPS staff (regional coordinators, engineers and energy managers) begins in February.

For questions about how the end of ARRA funding and future program development will affect specific school district energy management programs, please call KPPC at (502) 852-0965.

Green Schools Initiative Launched for Kentucky Schools

On January 12, House Majority Leader Rocky Adkins (D-Sandy Hook) announced the Kentucky Green Schools Initiative, a broad collaborative legislative effort that will allow K-12 schools to achieve energy efficiencies, help small and mid-sized manufacturing facilities upgrade their energy systems and create jobs across Kentucky.

The initiative will create the Kentucky Green Schools Authority, which will tap into a $50 million bond pool previously authorized and other sources of funding. School districts will be able to apply for loans for energy conservation measures, such as new insulation, windows and doors, caulking and weather stripping, HVAC modifications or replacements.

The Green Schools Initiative is part of House Bill 255. See the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission’s website for details about the bill and to track the bill through the legislative process.

Kudos and Newsmakers

Lincoln County Public School District Recognized as Energy Star Leader

On January 18, the Lincoln County Public School District was designated an Energy Star Leader for achieving a 10 percent overall reduction in energy usage. Lincoln County Public Schools joins Mercer County Public Schools and Kenton County Public Schools as the only K-12 Energy Star Leaders in Kentucky.

Read the article on the Energy Star website.


The Barren County High School's Green Team pictured with the school’s new outdoor recycling receptacle. Students, faculty and staff are collecting paper, plastic, aluminum, metal and cardboard to be recycled in their efforts to
"Give Our Earth a Hand."

In the News

Kentucky's Hybrid School Bus Fleet is Leading the Nation, Cutting Fuel Costs

- *Louisville Courier-Journal*

McCracken County Schools Promotes Recycling Efforts

- *WPSD-TV*

Madison County Schools Rank 5th in State for Energy Conservation

- *Richmond Register*

Warren County Public Schools Rep Favors Green Cleaning Legislation

- *Bowling Green Daily News*

Oldham County Public School District Make Energy Efficiency List

- *Louisville Courier-Journal*

Energy Star Partners in Kentucky

Of Kentucky's 174 school districts, 126 (72%) are Energy Star Partners.
- A 1,160% increase in participation since 2009.

Kentucky has the highest percentage of Energy Star Partners of any state in the country.


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Events and Training Opportunities

**Energy Star Online Training**

Energy Star offers free online training to help you improve the energy performance of your organization. See the Energy Star WebEx Enterprise Site to register and for more information about the following are upcoming Energy Star training sessions.

February 21 - Computer Power Management with Energy Star

February 23 - IT Energy Savings for Non-Techies

March 6 - Energy Star Tools for Performance Contracting and Financial Evaluation

**Kentucky NEED Energy Workshops**

These workshops will provide information and resources to K-12 teachers who want to incorporate energy education into their curriculum. Select the following hyperlinks for workshop details and to register.
February 23 - Bowling Green
March 7 - Erlanger

High Performance Sustainable School Buildings Workshop

March 14 - Louisville, Kentucky

The workshop will include presentations and provide information about sustainable school design concepts and how, when applied, those concepts reduce energy use and operating costs. This annual event is sponsored by the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED) and the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence in cooperation with AIA Kentucky.

See the NEED website for details and to register.

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

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