In the past year, we have seen Kentucky school districts take incredible strides toward making best energy management practices part of their day-to-day operations.

In 2010, 173 school districts adopted a school board approved energy policy; 142 hired or appointed an energy manager to spearhead energy performance tracking standards; and 89 established cross-functional energy teams, which meet on a regular basis.

That's just a taste of the success realized to date, and it comes as a result of school district energy managers, energy teams, faculty, staff and students' willingness to take ownership of their energy management programs using the resources provided by KEEPS and its partner organizations. Acknowledging this success through district-sponsored recognition programs as well as external recognition programs plays an important role in the seven-step energy management process.

Recognizing achievement validates a district's energy management efforts to primary stakeholders, communicates program initiatives to target audiences and keeps the enthusiasm for the program alive as the district pursues more energy-saving goals.

Recognition by KEEPS
In February, KEEPS will roll out an awards program that recognizes achievements realized through the seven-step energy management process. There are three opportunities for recognition through the KEEPS awards program.

The KEEPS Stewardship Award will be given to school districts that submit a baseline KEEPS Energy Management Report and complete all four components of Step One of the energy management process - Make the Commitment. KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits are currently available for this step.

The KEEPS Champion Award is for school districts that earn a KEEPS Stewardship Award, demonstrate a commitment to the energy management process by submitting the KEEPS Energy Management Report annually, and complete Steps Two, Three and Four of the process.
Our highest award for outstanding energy management is the KEEPS Leadership Award. Districts that earn the KEEPS Stewardship and Champion awards and also complete Steps Five, Six and Seven of the energy management process are eligible to receive this award.

KEEPS regional coordinators will verify district energy program successes based on information submitted by district energy teams and energy managers. Watch the KEEPS website and future editions of KEEPS Moving Forward for information about awards criteria and applications as well as when toolkits for Steps Two through Seven of the energy management process become available.

Get Recognized Now
In the meantime, our partner organizations currently offer recognition opportunities for school district energy-saving initiatives.

The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project's Annual Youth Awards recognize those that achieve excellence in energy education in their schools and communities. Awards are given on both the state and national levels. For more information, contact Karen Reagor at kreagor@need.org.

Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools provides several recognition opportunities for schools that complete environmental stewardship projects. Award recipients are recognized each May at the Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools Summit. For more information, contact Merin Roseman at merin.roseman@ky.gov.

ENERGY STAR® also provides opportunities for schools and school districts to be recognized for outstanding energy performance. For more information about ENERGY STAR awards and criteria, contact awards@energystar.gov.

Questions? Comments? Contact KEEPS.

Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools Provides More Outreach

Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools (KGHS) is a KEEPS partner organization, which began in 2007. It is a joint project of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council and the Kentucky Department of Education. KGHS is a service learning and student centered program that empowers students and staff to move their school toward becoming healthier, safer and more environmentally sustainable.

In an effort to reach a broad audience, KGHS recently issued its first quarterly e-newsletter, the KGHS Update. The newsletter is free to anyone who would like to receive it. To be added to the KGHS Update distribution list, complete the form on the KGHS Contact Us web page.

KGHS also recently established its presence in the social networking arena with its new Facebook page, which features news and notes about KGHS initiatives, participating school projects, resources, upcoming events and links to partner organizations.

To learn more about KGHS services, contact Merin Roseman at merin.roseman@ky.gov or visit the KGHS website.
**KEEPS Kudos**

**Energy Efficiency on Display**
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. In addition to the school districts featured in the November 2010 issue of *KEEPS Moving Forward*, Carlisle County Schools and Fulton County Schools also used Energy Awareness Month as an opportunity to showcase the environmental and financial benefits of best energy management practices.

Marianna Harris, center, a sophomore at Fulton County High School, won a poster contest that her school held as part of Energy Awareness Month. Marianna’s poster emphasizes the importance of fuel efficiency. Pictured with Marianna are Fulton County Schools Energy Manager Jim Crouse, left, and Fulton County Schools Agriculture Instructor David Black.

Carlisle County Schools also held a poster contest for Energy Awareness Month. Winners of the district’s contest are, from left, Anna Grace Terry, Makena Edging, Abby Lyell, Megan Renee Quillen and Sierra Garrett.

**The Impact of Marion County Public Schools Energy Program**
The Marion County Public School District has made a positive contribution to the environment while improving the quality of education for the district’s students. From 2006 to 2010, the school district saved more than $192,000 in energy costs and reduced annual greenhouse gas emissions by 3,051 tons. This is the equivalent of:

- 660 cars not driven for one year
- 7,095 barrels of oil not burned
- 392 households’ electricity use for one year
- 25 acres of forest saved from deforestation

In recognition of this achievement, the school district received the Harshaw Trane Environmental Stewardship Award on November 9.

Read more about the district’s success in *The Lebanon Enterprise*.

**More K-12 ENERGY STAR® Partners and Schools**
Anchorage Independent, Anderson County, Clark County, Boone County, Christian County, Eminence Independent, Henry County, Shelby County and Todd County school districts all recently became ENERGY STAR Partners as part of their respective energy management programs. Kentucky now has 68 K-12 school districts that are ENERGY STAR Partners.

Warren East High School and Warren Elementary School recently became ENERGY STAR Labeled facilities. Fifteen of Warren County Public Schools’ 20 schools have earned the ENERGY STAR Label. Read more about this accomplishment in the *Bowling Green Daily News*. There are now 87 ENERGY STAR Labeled schools in Kentucky.
Learn more about the value of the ENERGY STAR program with Toolkit 1D: Become an ENERGY STAR Partner of the KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits.

**VendingMiser® Project Pays Off for Mercer County Public Schools**

Mercer County Intermediate School in Harrodsburg recently participated in a Kentucky NEED-sponsored project to examine how VendingMiser devices installed on vending machines save energy and reduce operating expenses.

As part of the project, a team of Mercer County Intermediate students completed a two-week plug-load study of a cold drink vending machine in their school. The students submitted the results of their study to Kentucky NEED, which in turn supplied the school with a VendingMiser. Results from a second two-week plug-load study of the same machine with the VendingMiser installed showed a projected annual energy consumption reduction of 3,796 kilowatt hours with a cost savings of about $128.

To learn more about the Kentucky NEED VendingMiser Project, contact Karen Reagor at kreagor@need.org.

**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.

**School District Energy Initiatives in the News**

- **Wurtland Middle School Students Raise Awareness About Energy, Environment**
  The Ashland Independent

- **Utilities to Purchase Energy from Net-Zero Schools**
  The Lane Report

- **Metcalfe County Public Schools' Energy Efficiency Efforts Projected to Save $15,000 in Utility Costs**
  Glasgow Daily Times

- **More Northern Kentucky Schools Go Green, Reduce Consumption**
  Cincinnati.com

**Events and Training Opportunities**

**School District Energy Manager Training**
February 2-4
Louisville

School district energy managers are invited to attend this two-day training event that will focus on energy performance assessment tools provided by KEEPS. This training is required for energy managers that are part of the Kentucky School Energy Managers Project. For more information, please contact your KEEPS regional coordinator.

**Kentucky School Boards Association Annual Conference**
February 4-6
Louisville

KEEPS will be among the participants in this year’s conference, which will focus on KSBA’s 75 years of service to school boards and school districts in such areas as government relations, board member and staff training, insurance and risk management, policy, publications and more. See the KSBA website for event details. E-mail kerri.schelling@ksba.org for event details.
2011 Kentucky Statewide Energy Workshop
March 13-15
Louisville
Hosted by the University of Louisville’s Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research and Environmental Stewardship, this workshop will provide opportunities for academic and industry researchers, energy professionals, state policymakers and regional organizations to address issues concerning renewable energy and energy efficiency. Workshop sessions will focus on energy storage, biomass/biofuels, advanced energy materials, energy efficiency and conservation, and solar energy. See the workshop website for details and to register. For information, contact Rodica McCoy at (502) 852-6348.

Kentucky High Performance Sustainable Schools Workshop
March 22-23
Bowling Green
The Kentucky NEED Project will host this workshop that will showcase how high-performance facilities improve student health and productivity, attract quality teachers, reduce energy consumption and operating costs and protect the environment. For event details, e-mail pproctor@need.org.

Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools Annual Summit
May 18
Frankfort
This annual event showcases projects that schools have completed through the KGHS program. Awards will be given for projects in several categories. Project submissions must be received by KGHS by April 8, 2011, to be considered. Contact the program coordinator for more information.

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. Information contained in this newsletter is a service of KPPC and is offered solely as a general reference. The University of Louisville, KPPC, their employees, sponsors and all technical sources referred in this correspondence do not: (a) make any warranty or representation, expressed or implied, with respect to the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information; and (b) assume any liabilities with respect to the use of or for damages resulting from any information contained in the correspondence. Mention of trade names, commercial products, or services does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of use.

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