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KEEPS Moves Forward in 2012

Welcome to the newly revised KEEPS Moving Forward e-newsletter! This issue of KEEPS Moving Forward introduces a new format to help make articles easier to access. From the KEEPS Moving Forward e-mail that subscribers receive each month, just click on any article headline or "Read More" link to go to a full version of each story on this page. All of the articles will be presented in the traditional newsletter format with easy access to other KEEPS web-based resources. Let us know what you think about the new format with the KEEPS Online Information Request Form.

Mike Ruckriegel is Acting KEEPS Program Manager

Effective January 1, 2012, Mike Ruckriegel has been appointed Acting KEEPS Program Manager. As such, Mike oversees development and management of the program, works with KPPC senior administration to close out current initiatives funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and identifies potential funding sources for program development.

Mike will continue his role as KEEPS Technical Manager, supervising the program's team of engineers and energy managers and overseeing the energy assessments and training conducted by KEEPS. See KPPC's staff directory to learn more about Mike Ruckriegel.

KPPC and KEEPS would like to thank Fred Byrd for the tireless and dedicated service that he provided as the KEEPS Program Manager from 2009 to 2011. Fred’s commitment to excellence contributed to KEEPS' success. The Center wishes Fred well in his future endeavors.

2011 KEEPS Status Report Now Available
KEEPS recently released its 2011 KEEPS Status Report [PDF, 8,803 KB]. This is the third status report published since 2010 when American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding expanded the program to serve all 174 of Kentucky's public school districts. The 2011 KEEPS Status Report includes an overview of the free and non-regulatory services that KEEPS provides to school districts, summarizes program activities and achievements to date, and highlights avoided energy costs through best energy management practices implemented by the districts.

In 2011, Kentucky's school districts faced several challenges with respect to managing energy costs and consumption. Increases in utility rates, the number of heating and cooling degree days and an increase in square footage of facilities contributed to more than $5.5 million in total energy costs for 124 of 174 Kentucky school districts. Faced with these challenges, many districts turned to KEEPS to help reduce operating costs through improved energy performance. Fiscal year 2011 energy management reports, which school district energy managers submitted to KEEPS, show that energy costs for those 124 districts would be much higher if not for school district energy-saving initiatives, which resulted in an energy usage reduction of 71,869 MMBtu and an energy cost avoidance of $4,580,000.

From January 2010 through December 2011, KEEPS conducted 190 on-site energy efficiency assessments, which identified a potential reduction of energy consumption of 212,781 MMBtu per year representing avoided energy costs of $3,306,000.

The year 2011 also marked the introduction of the KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits, the KEEPS Webinar Series and the KEEPS Awards and Recognition Program.

"The KEEPS Status Report shows a demonstrated need for KEEPS to continue to offer its services to Kentucky's school districts," said KPPC Executive Director Cam Metcalf. "Energy efficiency is a proven, educational, fiscal and environmental model for success. KEEPS provides a nationally recognized training system that drives that success, and we want the momentum to continue."

Use the KEEPS Online Information Request Form to submit questions, comments or requests for hard copies of the 2011 KEEPS Status Report or call (800) 334-8635, extension 8520965.
KEEPS will issue several Stewardship, Champion and Leadership awards to coincide with the Kentucky School Boards Association’s annual conference, which will take place February 3-5 at the Galt House East in Louisville, Kentucky. School districts that wish to be recognized at that time must submit their KEEPS award applications no later than Friday, January 20.

Further details about how and when the awards will be presented will soon be available on the KEEPS website, the KEEPS Facebook page and in special announcements issued to KEEPS Moving Forward subscribers.

See the KEEPS Awards and Recognition web page for more information and to download award applications.

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**KEEPS Webinar to Address Student Engagement in Sustainability Initiatives**

On Wednesday, January 11, KEEPS will host a fee webinar that will provide information about the benefits of student involvement in school district energy efficiency and environmental sustainability initiatives. Webinar attendees will learn about KEEPS and partner organization resources available to encourage students to be proactive in their schools’ sustainability efforts.

For webinar details and to register, log onto the KPPC calendar of events page.

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**Kudos and Newsmakers**

Recent KEEPS Award Winners:

- **Fleming County Public Schools** was presented with the KEEPS Champion and Stewardship Awards at the district’s December 14, Board of Education meeting.
- **Edmonson County Public Schools** (pictured to the right) was presented with the KEEPS Stewardship Award at the district’s December 12 Board of Education meeting.
- **Barren County Public Schools** was presented with the KEEPS Champion Award at the district’s December 8 Board of Education meeting.

Learn more about the KEEPS Awards and Recognition Program.

Lincoln County and Mercer County Public School Energy Teams Featured in CEFPI Publication

**Lincoln County** and **Mercer County** school district energy teams are featured on pages 48-51 in the latest issue of *Educational Facility Planner*. The article, "Engaging with Energy Star: How to Increase Student Involvement in Your Energy Management Plan" was written by Hanna Grene, the K-12 task lead for the Cadmus Group’s contract with the U.S. EPA’s Energy Star for Commercial Buildings in the public sector. *Educational Facility Planner* is a quarterly publication of the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI).

Read the article.
Bright Savings

*Tanner Bryant, an 8th grader at Whitley County Middle School, was one of the winners at the school’s recent science fair. His project, Change the Bulb, Save on $$$, was based on an energy management hypothesis. Tanner tested six different light bulbs using a kilowatt meter to determine which bulbs saved the most energy and money.*

In the News

**McCracken County School Works to Save Energy, Money**

- *The Paducah Sun*

**Schools Raise Bar for Environmental Literacy**

- *Grayson County News Gazette*

New Energy Star Partners

**Rowan County Public Schools, Rockcastle County Public Schools** and **East Bernstadt Independent Schools** recently became Energy Star Partners for their commitment to best energy management practices.

Kentucky now has 125 K-12 Energy Star Partner school districts and 125 K-12 Energy Star-labeled facilities.

Events and Training Opportunities

**Student Engagement in Sustainability Initiatives**

KEEPES Webinar
January 11
10:00 to 11:30 a.m. ET
Learn about available tools and resources that encourage students to contribute to the success of their school district’s energy management program.

See KPPC’s calendar of events for details and to register.

**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.

January 24 - Louisville
January 26 - Maple Mount
February 2 - Frankfort
February 9 - Ashland
February 23 - Bowling Green

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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