From the Program Manager: Welcome State Energy Managers

By Fred Byrd
KEEPS Program Manager

From July 7 to 9, one of our partner organizations, the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA), will conduct training and orientation for energy managers who are part of the School Energy Managers Project (SEMP).

Thanks to $5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, 35 energy managers will work in 130 school districts throughout Kentucky to create and implement district energy management plans.

The SEMP orientation entails three days of intensive training that will focus on the basics of energy management; work with partner organizations, such as KEEPS, Kentucky NEED and Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools; monitoring and measuring energy performance; the dynamics of building an energy team; and more.

"We want the impact of this program to go beyond school walls," says SEMP Director Ron Willhite. "We want students and staff to take energy lessons home and help their families make wise energy choices. We believe these cost savings can be realized all across the state."

Through KEEPS, KPPC will help the energy managers and district energy teams establish their energy management plans and goals and understand their energy profiles. The energy managers will have access to the tools, training, coaching and facilitation expertise that KEEPS provides to all of Kentucky's school districts. The KEEPS team invites the new energy managers to call on us whenever they need assistance.

ARRA funding that established SEMP and expanded KEEPS points to the fact that energy efficiency is an essential component of our school districts' fiscal planning.

As Kentucky's First Lady Jane Beshear said in a recently issued statement, "Not only will this initiative [SEMP] save money and help the environment - it will allow our schools to divert resources from utility bills toward academic enrichment. By building a healthier, greener atmosphere in schools, we will also create a more comprehensive educational experience for our young people."

We appreciate the ongoing support that our state and federal governments provide to KEEPS, SEMP and our other partner organizations. All of these organizations are dedicated to the betterment of our Commonwealth's schools, and we wish the new energy managers well in their efforts to contribute to the cause.

Send your questions and comments to KEEPS@kppc.org.

KEEPS Energy Engineers Help Assess Performance

Several KEEPS member school districts have embraced the seven-step energy management process, and some will soon be ready to move on to Step Two - Assess Performance & Opportunities.

"Assessing energy performance, both past and present, establishes a baseline of energy consumption and costs," says KEEPS Technical Manager Mike Ruckreigel. "This not only helps the KEEPS team better address each school district's specific energy efficiency needs, it also helps district representatives better understand how to develop its energy management programs."
As technical manager, Mike coordinates and supervises the KEEPS engineers and provides oversight on energy assessments and training conducted by the engineers as well as any reports and documents provided by the engineers. He also works closely with the KEEPS program manager and regional manager to assist in the overall development of the program.

Mike's team of KEEPS engineers provides energy efficiency technical assistance, conducts energy efficiency assessments, makes recommendations based on those assessments and assists school districts with energy efficiency projects. There are currently four KEEPS engineers on staff: Ann Piechota, Micah Johnson, Josh Tennan and Giovanni Beltran.

KEEPS engineers are available to assist district representatives with questions about how to complete the Energy Management Report (Those who missed the KEEPS Reporting and Tracking webinar in June can still download a free copy of the webinar from the KEEPS website.)

In mid-July, the engineers will begin conducting energy assessments for school districts throughout Kentucky. The assessments consist of a two-phase process. Phase I is a utility bill analysis that identifies excessive energy expenses and inconsistent energy use, looks for possible billing errors, and helps ensure that correct gas and electric rates are applied to charges. Phase II identifies possible energy management opportunities that could reduce energy consumption and operating expenses.

"It's important to note that KEEPS energy assessments are not investment-grade audits" says Mike. "Our assessments evaluate energy use, expenses and help identify potential energy saving opportunities for schools. An investment-grade audit is a comprehensive energy and financial analysis that details the potential cost benefits of investment in energy savings projects. These audits are usually done by an energy-certified private contractor."

See the ENERGY STAR® website for more information about assessing energy performance. Tools and resources are also available on the KEEPS website. For questions, send an e-mail to KEEPS@kppc.org.

KEEPS Welcomes New Regional Coordinator

KPPC recently welcomed Patrick Metz to the KEEPS team of regional coordinators. Patrick represents KEEPS Region 8, which includes 15 school districts in Eastern Kentucky. As regional coordinator, Patrick develops information and tools to support the KEEPS Training System and other KEEPS initiatives, provides training and outreach to districts and facilitates regional networks and meetings.

Contact Patrick at (502) 475-2180 or patrick.metz@louisville.edu.

With the addition of Patrick to the team, KEEPS now has a full complement of regional coordinators to represent all school districts in Kentucky. To date, KEEPS regional coordinators have formally introduced the program to more than 70 school districts throughout Kentucky.

For questions about how your KEEPS regional coordinator can help your district improve its energy performance, call (502) 475-1829 or e-mail KEEPS@kppc.org.

KEEPS Kudos To ...

Lincoln County Public Schools
Waynesburg and Crab Orchard elementary schools are implementing renewable energy and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems as the two schools undergo renovations. Read more about it in The Interior Journal.

Warren County Public Schools
On June 7, the Warren County Board of Education passed the district's Energy Incentive Program and approved the establishment of a district energy team.

Send us your KEEPS Kudos
Has your school or school district realized success through best energy management practices? Great! E-mail the details to KEEPS@kppc.org, and your KEEPS Kudos may appear in an upcoming issue of KEEPS Moving Forward, on the KEEPS Facebook page or on the KEEPS website.
**KEEPS Tip of the Month: Plug into ENERGY STAR®**

ENERGY STAR® is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy that promotes cost savings through the use of energy-saving products and practices.

KPPC became an ENERGY STAR® Partner in 2005. The Center often utilizes ENERGY STAR® resources to provide technical assistance, training and other services to its clients through programs such as KEEPS.

For example, the KEEPS Training System, which helps Kentucky school districts reduce energy consumption and lower operating costs, is based on the ENERGY STAR® Guidelines for Energy Management. It is a proven seven-step strategy that empowers organizations to take ownership of their energy efficiency programs and improve energy and financial performance.

As part of their participation in KEEPS, school districts are encouraged to take the ENERGY STAR® Challenge. This gives districts the opportunity to leverage the program’s resources toward promoting and enhancing their energy efficiency initiatives. Kentucky now has 61 high-performance ENERGY STAR® schools.

To track and assess energy consumption across a school district's entire portfolio of buildings, ENERGY STAR® offers Portfolio Manager as a secure online tool to help prioritize energy management investments, identify under-performing buildings, verify efficiency improvements and receive EPA recognition for superior energy performance.

ENERGY STAR® also provides many opportunities for schools and school districts to be recognized for outstanding energy management and performance. The EPA first introduced the ENERGY STAR® awards in 1992. Applications for 2011 ENERGY STAR awards are now available.

Find out more about what ENERGY STAR® can do to enhance your school district's commitment to its students and the environment.

**Energy Saving Resources**

- National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities provides more than 60 information-packed resource lists on energy-efficient planning, design, finance, construction and maintenance issues.

- EnergySmart Schools is a U.S. Department of Energy program designed to catalyze significant improvements in energy efficiency in the nation's K-12 schools.

- The Alliance to Save Energy provides ideas and resources for schools to implement best energy management practices.

**Training Opportunities**

**Benchmarking for Portfolio Manager Webinar**
July 15
2 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET
This free webinar will discuss ENERGY STAR® tools available to those with a large portfolio of buildings. See the ENERGY STAR® Training Center for details and registration.

**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.

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