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Visit the KEEPS Facebook page to share information, discuss ideas, ask questions, and join the KEEPS community.

KEEPS Program Notes

ARRA Funding
As was reported in the February 2012 issue of KEEPS Moving Forward, 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 is pursuing renewed funding in order to continue providing KEEPS services, such as on-site assessments for schools, statewide school energy data gathering and record keeping, and direct technical assistance to school districts. Updates on the status of continued funding will be provided through the KEEPS website, the KEEPS Moving Forward e-newsletter and communications to district representatives and partner organizations. KEEPS energy management information, software and recorded webinars will remain available on the KEEPS website.

KEEPS Energy Awards
School district energy management programs that reach milestones in the Energy Star seven-step energy management process will continue to be eligible to receive KEEPS Stewardship, Champion and Leadership Awards. Award application materials will continue to be available online and should be submitted via USPS to:

KPPC
ATTN: KEEPS Awards Program
University of Louisville
Burhans Hall
Louisville, KY 40292

Evaluate Progress
As the school year winds down, now is a good opportunity for school district energy management programs to assess where they are with respect to achieving district-wide energy performance goals and setting future goals for ongoing cost reduction and energy savings. District energy teams should review KEEPS Energy Management Toolkit 6 - Evaluate Progress to determine the most appropriate course of action for future energy program development.

KEEPS Partner Organization Resources
The Kentucky Chapter of the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project, Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools, Kentucky School Energy Managers Project, Kentucky School Plant Management Association and the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence provide services and resources that are essential to the ongoing success of school district energy program initiatives. Questions about these resources should be addressed to those organizations directly.

Kentucky Green Schools Initiative
The Kentucky Green Schools Initiative (HB 255) recently passed the Kentucky House of Representatives with a vote of 96-1. As reported in the February 2012 issue of KEEPES Moving Forward, 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. See the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission’s website for details about the bill and to follow the bill through the legislative process.

For More Information
KPPC will continue to provide details about post-ARRA delivery of KEEPES services as information becomes available. 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.

Barren County BOE Presents KEEPES Regional Coordinator Joseph with Community Leadership Award

The Barren County Board of Education presented KEEPES Regional Coordinator Kimberly Joseph with the district’s Community Leadership Award at the board’s February meeting. The Barren County Public School District is one of 30 school districts in Central and Western Kentucky that Joseph serves. The Community Leadership Award is the highest award that the board may present to a person or organization outside of the school district.

"This award is reserved for only those who have given generously and unselfishly of their time, expertise and leadership to make the Barren County School District a stronger district and a better district in support of our efforts to serve the children of Barren County, and Kimberly Joseph does exactly that," said Superintendent Bo Matthews.

As a KEEPES regional coordinator, Joseph develops information and tools to support KEEPES initiatives, provides training and outreach to school district energy teams and energy managers and facilitates regional network meetings and events. According to Matthews, Joseph helped the district develop and adopt an energy policy, create a district energy committee and school energy teams and has worked closely with the district’s energy manager and facilities director in establishing strong energy conservation and recycling programs.

"I am honored to receive this award," said Joseph. "Working with the people in the Barren County School District has been wonderful because they have been committed to building a district-wide program focused on conserving energy and recycling. It has been wonderful to see the district’s program grow over the past two years. Not only has the district realized energy and waste reduction, but the students are learning about these topics through hands-on projects, presentations and community involvement."

Keith Harlow, an energy specialist with whom the district has contracted for energy manager services, worked closely with Joseph in meeting all of the state’s requirements for collecting and reporting data on district energy consumption, energy reduction initiatives and cost savings realized through improved energy performance. Additionally, through Joseph’s work with Harlow and District Facilities Director Steve Russell, the district earned three state energy awards...
over the past year.

"The Barren County School District has been very fortunate to have had the support and guidance of Kimberly Joseph and the KEEP$ program," said Harlow. "Clearly, she is an advocate for children and a proponent of saving energy in order to redirect savings to support teaching and learning."

Previous recipients of the Community Leadership Award include Kentucky State Senator David Givens, Barren County Sheriff Chris Eaton, Kentucky State Representative Johnny Bell, the Glasgow-Barren County Chamber of Commerce, the Glasgow Electric Plant Board and the South Central Rural Telephone Corporation.

Kudos and Newsmakers

Richardsville Elementary School in the Warren County Public School District was featured in a new report released by the New Buildings Institute and the Zero Energy Commercial Building Consortium.

The report "Getting to Zero 2012 Status Update: A First Look at the Costs and Features of Zero Energy Commercial Buildings" was released on March 6 and examines the number, location, costs and design strategies of various types of zero energy and zero energy-capable commercial buildings - highly efficient buildings that produce as much energy as they use through on-site renewable energy resources.

See the New Buildings Institute's website for more information and to download a copy of the report.

In the News

New Roof, HVAC, Digital Controls Slash School's Energy Costs

■ Richmond Register

Russell County Superintendent Rewards Schools that Save Energy

■ Times Journal

K-12 Energy Star Partners in Kentucky

Letcher County Public Schools and Mason County Public Schools recently became Energy Star Partners.

Of Kentucky's 174 school districts, 128 (74%) are Energy Star Partners - a 1,180% increase in participation since 2009. Kentucky has the highest percentage of K-12 Energy Star Partners in the country.
Events and Training Opportunities

IT Energy Savings for Non-Techies

Webinar
March 13
3:00 p.m. ET

See the Energy Star WebEx Enterprise Site for more information and to register.

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.