From the Program Manager: KEEPS Energy Management Reports Measure Results

By Fred Byrd
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So, how are your school district's energy management initiatives doing? In early 2011, KPPC will provide the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission (LRC) with a KEEPS Status Report that will illustrate how KEEPS leverages its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to provide Kentucky school districts with the tools, training and resources they need to establish sustainable energy management programs.

Rest assured, we will not use specific references to district cost savings and energy performance in the Status Report without the district's knowledge or consent. With that said, this is a great opportunity to showcase the successes that many of our districts have enjoyed through KEEPS and its partner organizations.

We would like the Status Report to include some hard data that points to how our school districts have realized cost reductions through improved energy performance. To capture the most accurate assessment of statewide energy measures, we asked school districts to submit a baseline Energy Management Report (EMR) for Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009) by June 30, 2010. As a follow-up to the baseline EMR, districts were then asked to submit a follow-up EMR for Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010) by November 1, 2010.

For Your District's Benefit
The EMRs are not just reporting mechanisms. Many of the tools, training and other resources that KEEPS provides are based on our program's assessment of each district's specific energy management needs. The information KEEPS receives from district EMRs helps us determine those needs and develop a program that facilitates progress through the seven-step energy management process.

Resources to Help
A free webinar that provides guidance on how to complete the baseline and follow-up EMR is available on the KEEPS website. The webinar also demonstrates how the KEEPS Utility Tracking Tool can help school districts
better understand their energy consumption and information requested in the EMR. Our team of regional coordinators, engineers and energy managers will also work with district energy teams to gather EMR data.

If you have not already done so, please submit your baseline and follow-up EMRs to your KEEPS regional coordinator as soon as possible. Every school district in Kentucky has something to gain from its participation in KEEPS. The more engaged and involved the districts are in the process, the more energy and cost savings the districts will realize.

Questions? Comments? Contact KEEPS.

State Rep. Yonts Addresses the Importance of KEEPS

In his weekly "Legislator's Log" column, Kentucky State Representative Brent Yonts (15th House District) recently addressed the need for effective and sustainable energy management programs in Kentucky's schools and how KEEPS plays an important role in helping districts realize that goal.

"By improving our efficiency, we can lower energy costs, which lowers costs for schools and taxpayers," said Yonts, who represents Christian, Hopkins and Muhlenberg Counties and serves on the 2010 Special Subcommittee on Energy. "(School district participation in KEEPS) is a good idea and one I hope the General Assembly will continue to support."

KPPC appreciates Rep. Yonts' support of the KEEPS program and thanks the Special Subcommittee on Energy for the opportunity to share news and information about the program at the committee's September 17 meeting.


Energy Awareness Month Wrap-up

In October, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear issued an official proclamation naming October as Kentucky's Energy Awareness Month. In his weekly video commentary, Beshear asked all Kentuckians to make a difference by reducing their energy use. Several Kentucky school districts used Energy Awareness Month as an opportunity to showcase their energy management programs.

A Proclamation of Their Own

On October 4, Knox and Bell County Public Schools as well as Barbourville and Pineville Independent Schools signed a joint Energy Awareness Month proclamation for their districts. The signing took place at a special ceremony, which was held at the Knox County Board of Education Annex Building. District officials, faculty and students from each school district as well as representatives from KEEPS were on hand for the event.

Watch the ceremony on schooltube.com.
Reaching Out
Richard Gloyd, an energy manager with the Kentucky School Energy Managers Project (SEMP), did his part to help raise energy awareness at the October 10 Logan County Tobacco and Heritage Festival, where he set up a booth and provided information about energy initiatives that are underway in Russellville Independent Schools as well as Logan, Todd, Allen and Simpson County Public Schools.

KEEPS Regional Coordinator Kimberly Joseph and SEMP Energy Manager Chris Curtis were on hand at the Munfordville Elementary School Fall Festival on October 29 in Hart County to share information about the school district's energy initiatives.

There are many creative ways school districts can spread the word about district-wide and school-level energy savings initiatives. Find out more about how an effective communications and outreach plan can help garner support for your school district's energy management program with Toolkit 1C: Develop a Communications Plan in the KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits.

The Science (and "Magic") of Energy
Students from Henderson, Union, Webster and Crittenden County Public Schools brought a little magic to Energy Awareness Month with their production of "Harry Spotter and The Quest for the Right Light," which was performed at the October 19 Energy Awareness Day event at KCTCS Henderson Community College Campus Fine Arts Center and Sullivan Technology Center. The event was coordinated by SEMP Energy Manager Darrel Pfingston and utilized resources from the NEED Project. It also featured a presentation about the science of energy, an energy carnival and a game of Energy Jeopardy, where students from different schools competed against one another to see who would be the energy champions of the day.

"This was an excellent example of the partnership (between Kentucky NEED and the Kentucky SEMP) working together to facilitate a very exciting event," said Kentucky NEED Director Karen Reagor. "It was our pleasure to be part of the team."

Read More about the event in the Henderson Gleaner.

KEEPS Kudos
Warren, Kenton County Public Schools Receive Energy Leadership Awards
Warren County Public Schools and Kenton County Public Schools accepted Energy Leadership Awards from the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet at the 34th Governor's Conference on the Environment in Louisville.
Energy Leadership Awards are presented to leaders in the Kentucky energy field who make a positive impact on Kentuckians by promoting energy efficiency and the exploration and usage of alternative energy sources.

Since 2003, Warren County Public Schools has implemented energy-saving programs that have avoided more than $5.4 million in energy costs. The district has constructed new energy efficient school buildings including Richardsville Elementary - the first net-zero energy school in the nation - and is home to 11 ENERGY STAR school buildings.

Kenton County Public Schools is home to six ENERGY STAR school buildings and recently opened the doors to Turkey Foot Middle School, which is also a net-zero energy school.

"I commend these districts for implementing energy strategies into every facet of their students' education, from building sustainable, efficient buildings to including energy and environmental education into the curriculum," said Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters. "They are truly leaders in sustainable energy practices."

Kentucky NEED Also Recognized
The Kentucky Chapter of the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project received the 2010 Community Luminary Award at the 34th Governor's Conference on the Environment. The award recognizes Kentucky NEED's exemplary efforts in community-based environmental education and outreach for the Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR campaign.

New ENERGY STAR Schools
Jonathan Elementary School in the Marshall County Public School District as well as Murray High and Murray Elementary Schools in the Murray County Public School District recently earned the ENERGY STAR Label. Kentucky now has 74 ENERGY STAR Labeled K-12 facilities. Whitley County Public Schools also recently submitted their districts' ENERGY STAR Partnership application.

Learn more about how to make the most of ENERGY STAR's resources with Toolkit 1D: Become an ENERGY STAR Partner in the KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits.

Danville Independent Schools Honored for Energy Savings
Danville Independent Schools recently received the Harshaw Trane Environmental Stewardship Award in recognition of the savings the district has realized through its energy initiatives. From January 2007 through April 2010, the district saved $550,000 in energy costs and reduced annual greenhouse gas emissions by 8,408 tons. The district accepted the award at a special ceremony, which was held at Mary G. Hogsett Elementary School.

"We are honored to receive such wonderful recognition and especially proud to model for our students the importance of making the environment our top priority," said Danville Independent Superintendent Carmen Coleman. "It's so important for each of us to realize what a positive impact we can have if we simply take time to conserve."

Read more in the Danville Advocate Messenger.

Hybrid Buses Continue to Roll
Kenton and Whitley County Public Schools as well as Corbin Independent Schools recently added hybrid school buses to their fleets as part of the Hybrid Horsepower for Kentucky Schools program.
Whitley County Public Schools Passes District Energy Policy
The Whitley County Public Schools Board of Education recently passed the district's energy policy. Instituting a district energy policy is a key component to Step One of the energy management process - Make the Commitment. Learn how to develop and implement your school district's energy policy with Toolkit 1A: Develop an Energy Policy in the KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits.

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

Energy Efficiency Push has Saved Bellevue Independent $27,000 in First Year
Cincinnati.com

Burlington Elementary Wins Energy Award
nk.com

Casey School District Exploring Energy Saving Options
Casey County News

Energy Saving Resources

Change the World Mini Grants of $150 are available to student groups (schools and civic groups) who wish to facilitate environmental activities in their communities. The grants are available through the Change the World - Start with ENERGY STAR campaign, a joint effort between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. The campaign encourages all Americans to take small, individual steps that make a big difference in reducing carbon dioxide emissions and greenhouse gases. For questions send an e-mail to kreagor@need.org.

Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools Energy Savings Grant provides up to $400 per project for schools that are implementing energy-saving projects. Schools may apply for a total of up to $1,000 per school year. E-mail merin.roseman@ky.gov for more information.

KEEPS Needs a Sustainability Engineer

KPPC currently has a position open for a KEEPS Sustainability Engineer. The candidate will provide technical assistance for Kentucky public school districts enrolled in KEEPS pertaining to energy efficiency topics and assist with energy efficiency related special projects.

The deadline to apply for the position is Saturday, November 6.

A complete job description and application is available on the University of Louisville's Office of Human Resources website. Select the link to "View/apply for staff positions." Look for job ID 26451, "Sustainability Engineer Intermediate."
Events and Training Opportunities

Kentucky NEED Fall Workshops
November and December 2010
Various Locations
The Kentucky NEED Project offers a series of workshops for K-12 teachers in Kentucky who want to learn more about how to teach the value of energy efficiency in the classroom while meeting state and national education standards. Information and online registration is available on the NEED Project website.

America Recycles Day
November 15
America Recycles Day is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to the promotion of recycling programs in the United States. Learn more on the America Recycles Day website.

Economic Forum on Renewable Energy
November 17
Berea
The Kentucky Renewable Energy Consortium will host this event that will focus on how Kentucky can attract investments and create "green jobs" by developing comprehensive energy and funding strategies for Kentucky. More information and online registration are available on the KPPC website.

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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