From the Program Manager: Workshops Point to More Successes to Come

By Fred Byrd
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During the week of September 27, KEEPS and our partner organization, the Kentucky School Boards Association, hosted four Energy Matters in Kentucky Schools workshops, which were held in Morehead, Somerset, Fort Mitchell and Owensboro.

The timing of these workshops was just right. Since January, school district representatives have worked with their district Energy Managers and KEEPS Regional Coordinators to establish their Energy Teams, gathered baseline data of their energy performance and discussed how they want their Energy Management Programs to evolve. The time for talk is over, and the workshop attendees came ready to learn how to take action and raise awareness.

Our KEEPS Regional Coordinators and Engineers as well as representatives from KSBA’s School Energy Managers Project provided workshop attendees with training and information about how to assess energy performance, the value of an effective Communications Plan as well as new KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits available to facilitate districts’ progress through the seven-step energy management process.

An Opportunity to Share Ideas
The workshops also featured panel discussions, which focused on the role of district and school level Energy Teams, and roundtable discussions, which allowed attendees to ask questions and share experiences with their district’s energy-saving initiatives.

I was pleased to hear the honest and enlightening comments about the challenges and rewards of establishing an Energy Management Program and implementing an Energy Management Plan. Many panelists and attendees noted how important it is to make sure all Energy Team members are active participants in the process.

"I am a facilitator. I let my Energy Teams know that they own this process," said Chris Curtis, a SEMP Energy Manager for LaRue, Hart, Green and Taylor County Schools as well as Elizabethtown and Campbellsville Independent Schools. "That's why it is important to get people on Energy Teams who are excited about the process, who are willing to make behavior changes and lead by example."

Courtney Lewis, a SEMP Energy Manager for Whitley County Public Schools and Corbin Independent Schools spoke to the importance of raising awareness through her cross-functional Energy Teams.

"By bringing together representatives and resources from many different areas of our districts, we can better address the energy issues in those areas," said Lewis. "This also helps raise awareness about the energy program throughout the district."
Superintendents Weigh In
I would like to offer special thanks to the district superintendents who took time out of their busy schedules to deliver the keynote addresses during each of the workshops: Fleming County Superintendent Tony Roth, Corbin Independent Schools Superintendent Ed McNeel, Bellevue Independent Schools Superintendent Wayne Starnes and Barren County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jerry Ralston. Each provided insights on how their districts make effective energy management a priority. Videos of the presentations given by Mr. Starnes and Dr. Ralston will soon be available on the KPPC YouTube channel.

Looking Ahead
KEEPS will host more workshops as well as webinars in the near future that will expand on the lessons learned at the Energy Matters in Kentucky Schools workshops. In the meantime, I would like for all of those who attended the workshops - and even those who couldn't make it - to be mindful of the fact that successful energy management is a call to action for everyone: Energy Managers, Energy Team members, district faculty, staff and students. Find creative ways to raise awareness about your Energy Management Programs. Make the most of free resources such as the KEEPS Training System, ENERGY STAR®, Kentucky NEED and Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools.

One final note: As part of its commitment to hosting environmentally-friendly events, KPPC purchased 4.9 metric tons of carbon dioxide offsets for the workshops. The credits were purchased through the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, and the carbon was sequestered by family forest owners in Central Appalachia.

As Warren County Energy Manager Jay Wilson said, "The road to energy efficiency is not a sprint. It's a marathon." If you put in the time, effort and energy, you will realize the short- and long-term benefits. Send your questions and comments to KEEPS@kppc.org.

October is Energy Awareness Month
Since 1991, the federal government has set aside October as Energy Awareness Month to promote the wise and efficient uses of our nation's energy resources. "POWERING AMERICA: We're on Target" is the theme for this year's Energy Awareness Month. The theme depicts how businesses, industries and other organizations continue to zero in on energy targets to stimulate the economy, lower operating expenses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve long-term energy and economic security. Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear issued an official proclamation naming October as Kentucky’s Energy Awareness Month and is asking all Kentuckians to make a difference by reducing their energy use.

On October 4, Knox and Bell County Public Schools as well as Barbourville and Pineville Independent Schools answered Governor Beshear's call and 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. Students from each district as well as representatives from KEEPS were on hand for the event.

To follow suit with this theme, KPPC posted an Energy Awareness Month page on its website that provides information about energy-saving resources offered by KPPC and its partner organizations. KPPC's website offers several links to external resources in addition to the tools, training, technical assistance and information provided by KEEPS, KREC - Kentucky Renewable Energy Consortium and the Environmental Sustainability program.

For its part, KPPC has developed a "Lighten the Load" Energy Awareness Month initiative, where KPPC staff members are encouraged to limit the use of small appliances (space heaters, fans, etc.) at their desks, bring lunches to work that don't require the use of the microwave, turn off lights in unoccupied rooms and other simple, no-cost actions that have a positive impact on the environment.

See the KPPC Energy Awareness Month web page for details. Ideas and information about Energy Awareness Month are also available on the U.S. Department of Energy's website, the ENERGY STAR® website and the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence website.

Wind Energy in Schools Webinar Series Postponed
The Wind Energy Curriculum in Schools webinar scheduled for October 6 and the Wind Turbine in Schools webinar scheduled for October 14 have been postponed to a later date. These webinars will be rescheduled within the next few weeks to times more accommodating to school district educators, energy managers and administrators.

New dates and times for the webinars will soon be available on the KEEPS website, the KEEPS Facebook page and KEEPS Moving Forward training announcements.
Mercer County Public Schools Moves Forward with Energy Program
The Mercer County Public School District's Energy Team recently held its fourth meeting, where numerous actions were taken to implement the Communications Plan for the district's Energy Management Program. Actions include:

- Developing an energy awareness newsletter, which will be distributed to students, parents, staff and posted on the district's website
- Keeping regional media outlets aware of the district's energy-saving initiatives
- Hanging posters throughout the district to raise awareness about the district's Energy Management Program
- Initiating the first district-wide “Energy Break” to ensure school facilities are properly shut down before students and teachers leave for fall break

A district-wide Communications Plan garners support and raises awareness for the district Energy Management Program. **Toolkit 1C: Develop a Communications Plan** of the KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits includes information, presentations, exercises and ideas about how to implement an effective Communications Plan for your district's Energy Management Program.

New ENERGY STAR® Schools
Burlington Elementary School in the Boone County Public School District recently earned the ENERGY STAR Label. Kentucky now has **73 ENERGY STAR Labeled K-12 facilities**.

Becoming an ENERGY STAR Partner and earning the ENERGY STAR Label for school district facilities is an important component of Step One of the energy management process - Make the Commitment. 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.

District Energy Teams in Full Swing
Hart, LaRue, Green, Edmonson, Garrard, Bell, Lincoln, Clay and Whitley County Public Schools as well as Elizabethtown, Berea, Pineville, Barbourville, Corbin and Campbellsville Independent Schools now have active, cross-functional Energy Teams that meet frequently.

Establishing an Energy Team is essential to the energy management process. The team focuses on necessary steps to implement the district's Energy Management Program. **Toolkit 1B: Establish an Energy Team** of the KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits offers information about how to make the most of a cross-functional Energy Team in your school district.

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
**Student Teams Take Lead in Conservation**
*Bowling Green Daily News*

**Fuel Costs May Dip 40% With Hybrids**
*The State Journal*

**Environment-friendly Net-Zero School Opens in Bowling Green**
*Louisville Courier-Journal*

**Education Officials to Meet at South Warren**
*Bowling Green Daily News*

**Bell County Schools Launch Energy Conservation Program**
*Middlesboro Daily News*

**Williamstown Independent Scores Early ‘Slam Dunk’ in Energy Savings**
*Kentucky School Advocate*
**Energy Tip of the Month: School Shut-down Procedures**
Several schools and school districts throughout Kentucky close for a few days in October for what is commonly referred to as "Fall Break."

In an effort to avoid unnecessary energy consumption and ensuing costs for heating, cooling and lighting unoccupied facilities, district Energy Managers and Energy Team members should take the opportunity to review, update or initiate temporary shut-down procedures for their schools.

This sample [Energy Conservation Shutdown Checklist for Long Weekends](#) is available as part of the KEEPS Training System. For more information about the benefits of school shut-down procedures, contact your KEEPS Regional Coordinator.

**Energy Saving Resources**

**Kentucky NEED VendingMiser® Project** is an opportunity for schools to receive a free VendingMiser for one of the school's vending machines. VendingMisers help reduce operating costs by improving the energy performance of vending machines. To qualify for the program, students must complete a two-week plug load analysis of a cold drink machine in their school and submit the Kentucky NEED VendingMiser Project Application. After the VendingMiser is installed, the students must complete a second two-week study of the same machine to compare energy savings. 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.

**Request for Application for Hybrid Diesel/Electric School Buses** is now available from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). The KDE has received $12.98 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for project proposals from school districts to purchase approximately 213 diesel/electric hybrid school buses. For more information, send an e-mail to leah.settle@education.ky.gov.

**Events and Training Opportunities**

**U.S. Department of Energy Technical Assistance Program Webcasts**

**October 2010**
The U.S. Department of Energy recently made available a series of free online training to help you improve the energy performance of your organization. Throughout October and early November, 14 webcasts will be held and will focus on such subjects as Energy Savings Performance Contracts, Energy Management Systems, Energy Efficient Lighting Projects and Tips for Promoting your Energy-Efficiency Project. See the [U.S. DOE's Online Solution Center](#) for a complete list of upcoming webcasts.

**Economic Development through BioEnergy Symposium Series**

**October 13 - Maysville**
**October 19 - Henderson**
**October 27 - Corbin**

The Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence (DEDI) will sponsor this series of conferences that will provide information about potential development through BioEnergy, mandates that drive BioEnergy markets and federal and state resource organizations that provide financing, marketing and other BioEnergy-related services. The symposium series is designed to help grow the BioEnergy industry while looking at energy cost-saving opportunities in Kentucky. [Details about each conference in the series](#) are available on DEDI's website.

**34th Annual Kentucky Governor's Conference on the Environment**

**October 20-21**
**Louisville**
Speakers and panel discussions on a variety of issues that concern energy efficiency and renewable energy in Kentucky highlight this event. Details are available on the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet website. For questions, e-mail Karen Wilson.

**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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