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From the Program Manager: It's Never Too Late to Plug into Energy Efficiency

By Fred Byrd
KEEPS Program Manager

It's hard to believe that almost two years have passed since KEEPS was expanded to provide its services to all 174 Kentucky school districts. In that short time, many districts have already started to realize the financial, educational and environmental benefits that best energy management practices offer.

KEEPS Stewardship Award winner Bellevue Independent Schools saved about $30,000 in utility costs thanks to the district's energy management program.

School energy initiatives, like the ones at Lincoln County, are earning statewide recognition for their efforts.

Some districts, such as Warren County Public Schools, are even establishing themselves as national models for what an effective and sustainable energy management program should be.

It's Not Too Late

These are just a few examples of how energy management pays off for Kentucky school districts and the communities they serve. For those districts that initially approached KEEPS with a "wait-and-see" attitude, the good news is that it's not too late to reap the benefits and be a part of the high standards that our school districts are setting - not just for Kentucky, but for the entire country.

Even if environmental issues are not among your concerns, fiscal responsibility certainly has to be. KEEPS has developed hundreds of free resources that are designed to help school districts reduce operating expenses through improved energy performance. Our program administrator, KPPC - Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center, was recently recognized by the U.S. EPA Energy Star program and the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable for exceptional program delivery.

Go to our website, www.kppc.org/KEEPS and see what KEEPS has to
of interest about your school district's energy efficiency initiatives and success stories.

Send us your KEEPS Kudos

Has your school or school district realized success through best energy management practices? Good! 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.

Don't Forget: School District Energy Management Reports are Due

Per Kentucky Revised Statute 160.325, all Kentucky school boards of education must report data on energy usage, costs and energy saving measures to KPPC through KEEPS.

In August, KEEPS regional coordinators issued energy management reports for fiscal year 2011. Reports are to be completed by school district energy managers or energy team designees. Completion of this report fulfills the requirements of KRS 160.325. The deadline to submit energy management reports was October 1. If your district has not yet submitted its energy management report, please do so as soon as possible.

For questions, please contact your district's KEEPS regional coordinator.

Five More School Districts Earn KEEPS Energy Awards

The KEEPS Awards and Recognition Program continues to acknowledge school district energy management programs that realize the financial and environmental benefits of best energy management practices. In September, five school districts earned KEEPS energy awards, which is the most awards presented by KEEPS in one month.

First KEEPS Leadership Awarded to Scott County

Scott County Public Schools is the first district in Kentucky to earn the KEEPS Leadership Award, which is presented to districts that complete all seven steps of the Energy Star energy management framework. The district is also the first to earn all three KEEPS energy awards - the Stewardship Award, Champion Award and Leadership Award.

Scott County Energy Manager Jim McClanahan and the district's energy team established an energy management program that: follows an action plan based on identified energy performance goals; raises awareness...
KEEPS is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the combined efforts of the Kentucky Energy Department for Energy Development and Independence, the U.S. Department of Energy and KPPC.

KEEPS 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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about energy-saving activities throughout the district; maintains consistent energy performance tracking standards; seeks recognition opportunities to acknowledge energy program successes; and conducts energy assessments of district-owned facilities to identify energy-saving opportunities.

"Scott County is one of the shining stars in terms of exemplary energy management programs in Kentucky," said KEEPS Program Manager Fred Byrd. "The district intentionally submitted applications for all three KEEPS awards at the same time to show that they are ‘all in’ with creating an energy-efficient, cost-effective and healthy learning environment."

Read more about Scott County Public School District’s successful energy management program in the Georgetown News-Graphic.

Latest Stewardship Award Winners

KEEPS Regional Coordinator Kimberly Joseph and KEEPS Program Manager Fred Byrd presented the KEEPS Stewardship Award to Hart County Public Schools Superintendent Ricky Line and District Energy Manager Chris Curtis at the district’s September 15 Board of Education meeting.

Hart County Public Schools, Jackson County Public Schools, Berea Independent Schools and Bellevue Independent Schools were presented with KEEPS Stewardship awards in September. Stewardship Awards are presented to districts that complete all of the components to KEEPS Step 1 of the Energy Star framework - Make the Commitment.

Berea Independent Schools Superintendent Gary Conkin said the impact of his school district's commitment to energy efficiency goes beyond the classroom.

"We want to be a model of responsible citizenship and stewardship of our natural resources to our students, families and community," said Conkin. "By communicating our efforts and the savings of our efforts, we hope to encourage conservation and wise use of resources at home."
KEEPS Program Manager Fred Byrd, far left, and KEEPS Regional Coordinator Halida Hatic, far right, presented the KEEPS Stewardship Award to Berea Independent Schools on September 19.

KPPC Wins Two MVP2 Awards

On September 20, the KEEPS administrator, KPPC - Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center - received two awards from the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The Most Valuable Pollution Prevention (MVP2) Awards program recognizes the successes of innovators in the areas of pollution prevention and environmental sustainability.

**Project/Programs Award**
KPPC's Technical Assistance services were recognized in the Project/Programs Award category. Through its Environmental Sustainability program and KEEPS, KPPC offers on-site assessments, training, technology demonstrations, assistance with identifying project implementation resources, recognition of achievements and web-based online resources to help participants develop a systems approach to implementing environmental sustainability efforts.

**P2 Champion Award**
KPPC Executive Director Cam Metcalf received the P2 Champion Award, which recognizes an individual whose work has an outstanding impact on implementing pollution prevention. Metcalf is a national leader in pollution prevention and energy efficiency technical assistance, training and applied research. He joined KPPC in 1995, and currently serves on a number of advisory boards and boards of directors, including the Center for Renewable Energy Research and Environmental Stewardship, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's P2 Program Strategic Plan Workgroup and the University of Louisville Sustainability Council.

NPPR Executive Director Jeffrey Burke said, "I know of no one who is more deserving or worthy of the honor of being recognized as a P2 Champion than Cam Metcalf. He has been a leader in the P2 community."
for more than 30 years and continues to use his powerful voice to promote environmental sustainability.”

The MVP2 Awards are presented annually during National Pollution Prevention Week. A panel of national P2 experts reviews the nominations and chooses the winners.

October is Energy Awareness Month

Since 1991, the federal government has set aside October as Energy Awareness Month to promote the wise and efficient use of our nation's energy resources. “Turn Words into Action; Turn Action into Results” is the theme of this year's Energy Awareness Month. The theme depicts how wise energy attitudes, behaviors and organizational decisions achieve a clean and secure energy economy and save taxpayer dollars.

Energy Awareness Month outreach resources, ideas and other materials are available on the U.S. Federal Energy Management Program's website.

Austin Tracy Elementary Shares Energy Successes with District Energy Committee

The new school year brings new opportunities to save energy and reduce operating costs for Barren County Public Schools. On September 29, the Barren County School District Energy Committee held its team meeting at Austin Tracy Elementary School.

In keeping with Step 6 of the energy management framework - Evaluate Progress, the meeting agenda focused on assessing the progress of energy initiatives, both district-wide and on the school level. Austin Tracy Elementary was the venue for the September meeting because the school is one of two in the district to serve as pilot schools for the district's energy management program (the other being Temple Hill Elementary). During the meeting, Austin Tracy Elementary staff and students presented a summary of the school's efforts in energy conservation and recycling to the district energy committee.

Austin Tracy Principal Scott Harper pointed to the school's enthusiasm and willingness to take ownership of its energy program as keys to the school's success over the past two years. "We attribute our efforts to many who took the challenge to create a real focus here to look at our energy consumption and come up with ways to reduce our usage and waste," said Harper.
Austin Tracy Elementary teacher Teresa Harlow shared information about the school's work with Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools to secure grants for some of the school's energy-saving initiatives.

Garrett Stinson, an Austin Tracy Elementary sixth-grade student, made a presentation about his school's energy projects to the district's energy committee.

During the presentation, Teresa Harlow and Jeanie Rogers, who are teachers at Austin Tracy and serve on the school's energy team, discussed the school's work with Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools to secure grants for some of its energy-saving initiatives and the projects students implemented around the school to promote energy conservation. In May, the school was recognized as a Candidate School at the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools Summit in Frankfort.

The district energy committee also heard from Garrett Stinson, who helped film and produce a video about the school's energy efficiency and environmental sustainability efforts.

According to District Energy Manager Keith Harlow, energy teams now exist at every school in the Barren County Public School District, energy audits have been completed at several of the district's facilities, and the district recently added a hybrid electric school bus to its fleet.

Hear more about the Barren County School District Energy Committee meeting on WCLU 1490 AM radio.

**KEEPS Kudos and Newsmakers**

**Lessons Learned at Environmental Leadership Workshop**
Whit Pennington, a regional coordinator for the Kentucky NEED Project, and Courtney Lewis, energy manager for Whitley County, Corbin Independent and Williamsburg Independent school districts, worked with students who participated in the September 30 Environmental Leadership Workshop. The event was sponsored by Eastern Kentucky University Corbin Campus and funded in part by a grant from Kentucky PRIDE. Participants learned about the importance of energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

Energy Efficiency Efforts Save Bellevue Independent Schools $30,000

- Campbell County Connects

Trimble County Public Schools Sees Gains in Energy Savings

- The Madison Courier

Biomass Demonstration Could Save Lyon County Public Schools Thousands in Heating Costs

- Herald Ledger

"We Want Your Pants" Recycling Campaign Generates Interest in Fleming County Public Schools

- The Ledger Independent

Nearly 200 Fayette County Students Enrolled in Environmentally Advanced AgriScience Farm

- Kentucky.com

New Energy Star Partners
Caldwell County Public Schools, Beechwood Independent Schools, Raceland-Worthington Independent Schools, Jackson Independent Schools, Menifee County Public Schools and Boyd County Public Schools recently became Energy Star Partners for their commitment to best energy management practices.

Kentucky now has 120 K-12 Energy Star Partners and boasts the highest percentage (65%) of K-12 Energy Star Partners in the Country.

There are 107 K-12 Energy Star-labeled facilities in Kentucky.

Events and Training Opportunities

Kentucky NEED Fall 2011 Energy Workshops
October - November 2011

The Kentucky NEED Project recently announced the fall energy workshop schedule for K-12 educators interested in learning more about NEED's multi-disciplinary energy education program. These one-day workshops are free, and substitute reimbursement is provided. Following are dates and locations for workshops scheduled in October and November. A complete listing is available at www.need.org/states/kentucky. For questions, contact Karen Reagor at kreasor@need.org.

October 11 - Carrollton
October 18 - Danville
October 20 - Bowling Green
October 20 - Eddyville
November 17 - Elizabethtown

Energy Star Webinars
October 2011

Energy Star offers free, online, energy efficiency training for government and education organizations. Following are web-based training opportunities for October.

October 13 - IT Energy Savings for Non-techies
October 18 - Computer Power Management with Energy Star
October 19 - Purchasing and Procuring Energy Efficient Equipment
October 20 - Financing Energy Efficient Upgrades with Energy Star

Kentucky Energy Alliance Facility Tour and Roundtable
October 11
Louisville, Kentucky

Join KPPC for a tour of Republic Conduit's Louisville facility and see energy savings at work. See KPPC's website for more information and to register.
Sustainable Construction Virtual Expo
October 20
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

Sponsored by BASF, this online conference will feature presentations by industry experts, product suppliers, design professionals, engineers and facility managers. Attendees will have access to downloadable sustainable construction solutions and ask questions in real-time chat. See the event website to register and for more information.

Hands-on Photovoltaic Installation Workshop
October 24-28
Frankfort, Kentucky

During this five-day workshop participants will install a complete battery-based, off-grid PV system on an environmental education trailer used by Kentucky State University’s Land Grant Program. The workshop will provide a mix of lecture and hands-on activities, with in-depth discussion of solar electric system components, design and installation practices. See the Kentucky Solar Partnership’s website for more information and to register.

Power Factor Webinar
October 26
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET

Join KPPC’s environmental sustainability engineers to explore the basics of Power Factor and Power Factor Correction. During this free webinar, participants will develop an understanding of why Power Factor is important to industrial facilities and utility companies as well as learn about the benefits and drawbacks of common correction methods. Real examples from industrial facilities will illustrate how having a low Power Factor can increase utility bill charges and negatively affect production and equipment. Register online or call (502) 852-0965.