From the Program Manager: Energy Management Resources Are ready for You

By Fred Byrd
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Each month, more and more Kentucky school districts buy into the idea that best energy management practices have a positive impact on the financial bottom line.

To date, the KEEPS Team has reached out to 138 Kentucky school districts. Of those districts, 67 have passed a school board approved Energy Policy and 30 have established a district Energy Team. There are 66 ENERGY STAR® Labeled school buildings in Kentucky, and 23 school districts are ENERGY STAR Partners. New construction for several school districts feature energy-efficient design, and Kentucky is about to have the largest hybrid school bus fleet in the country.

As interest in energy efficiency increases among our school districts, so does the need for KEEPS to provide new resources that help the districts through the seven-step energy management process.

One new resource is the KEEPS Project Planning Tool, which outlines tasks, objectives and available resources associated with each step of the energy management process. It also provides areas to identify key participants, status and notes that apply to each task.

Over the next few months, KEEPS will also produce more than 30 self-guided training modules, or "toolkits," that provide information and resources about the components of the seven-step process. Toolkits include a presentation, an orientation module for the facilitator who will give the presentation, exercises, handouts and other resources.

The first four KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits focus on how to develop an Energy Policy, how to establish a cross-functional Energy Team, the importance of an effective Communications Plan for your Energy Management Program and the benefits of becoming an ENERGY STAR Partner.

The KEEPS Project Planning Tool and the KEEPS Energy Management Toolkits are part of the KEEPS Training System, which provides a valuable package of tools, training, coaching and expertise to help school districts establish and implement an effective Energy Management Program.

These new resources will be available to download from the KEEPS website later this month. Watch your e-mail for a special announcement about when these resources will be available online.

If you just can't wait to get started, contact your district's KEEPS Regional Coordinator to obtain copies of these resources right now. Stay tuned. More great resources will be available soon.

Send your questions and comments to KEEPS@kppc.org.
State and Federal Government Get Serious About Energy Efficiency

On August 25, U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler (6th District, Kentucky) spoke at the Kentucky General Assembly Green Schools Caucus. At the meeting, Chandler encouraged caucus members to spread the word to their constituents about the important role environmental sustainability plays in the educational development of Kentucky's children and the economic recovery of the country.

In his comments, Chandler pointed out that the savings realized through environmentally sustainable schools improve the learning experience and save the school districts money. Chandler is the lead sponsor for the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public Schools Facilities Act and co-chairs the national Green Schools Caucus.

Greg Guess, efficiency and conservation director for the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence, also gave a presentation about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding that organizations such as KEEPS, Kentucky NEED, Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools and the Kentucky School Boards Association have received to provide their services throughout the Commonwealth.

About 50 representatives from state government, education, business and environmental organizations attended the meeting. The Kentucky Green Schools Caucus was created following the unanimous passage of Kentucky House Resolution 24 in January 2010 and Kentucky Senate Resolution 90 in March 2010.

Frankfort wasn't the only place where school energy efficiency was the main talking point. On August 26, representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) met with representatives from KEEPS and other American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded programs at Turkey Foot Middle School in Kenton County. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the U.S. DOE with updates on ARRA-funded programs in Kentucky. KEEPS Program Manager Fred Byrd was among the speakers at the event. Following the formal meeting, attendees toured the new Turkey Foot Middle School, which opened this year with energy efficient measures including a geothermal heating and cooling system, photovoltaic solar panels and a lighting control system.

Morgan Co. High Wins District Energy Competition

During the 2009-2010 school year, the Morgan County Public School District held a competition among its custodial staff to see which school could save the most money by reducing their energy consumption. The Morgan County High School custodial staff earned the bragging rights for this year's competition.

On August 26, the district recognized the Morgan County High custodians at an award ceremony, which took place at the school's library. Custodians Mary Tharp and Eulas Hammonds accepted the award on behalf of their custodial team. Superintendent Deatrah Barnett presented the custodians with a certificate of appreciation, and Facilities Director Darren Sparkman presented the team with a compact water technology floor scrubber, which was purchased with a portion of the savings from the team's energy efficiency efforts. Frances Gulley, teacher and coordinator for the district's Gifted and Talented Program, brought students who will participate in the school's Energy/Green Team. Also in attendance to show support were Kentucky State Rep. John Will Stacy, Morgan County Judge Executive Tim Conley, Eastern Kentucky Pride Coordinator Linda Rose, Morgan County Board of Education Members Patty Hutchinson and Brian Lindon, Morgan County High School Principal Joseph Gamble and KEEPS Regional Coordinator Mary Hano.
Hybrid Buses Continue to Roll in Kentucky

Several Kentucky school districts recently received hybrid school buses as part of the first round of stimulus dollars aimed at helping public schools become more eco-friendly. A $13 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant from the U.S. Department of Energy was awarded to the Kentucky Department of Education in December 2009.

The grant offsets the purchase price of the hybrid system for 213 buses. Once all buses are delivered, Kentucky will have the largest hybrid school bus fleet in the country.

To date, LaRue, Allen, Pike, Corbin Independent, Franklin, Frankfort Independent and Covington Independent public schools have received the new buses.

A second Request for Application to fund hybrid buses will be available soon. See the Kentucky Clean Fuels Coalition website for more information.

KEEPS Kudos To ...

New ENERGY STAR Partners

Lyon, Fayette and Washington County Public Schools recently became ENERGY STAR Partners. In doing so, these districts gained access to valuable tools and resources that will facilitate their progress through the seven-step energy management process. Twenty-three Kentucky school districts are now ENERGY STAR Partners.

Learn more about how ENERGY STAR can help improve your school district's energy and financial performance.

New District Energy Teams

Pendleton, Monroe, Warren, Cumberland, Lyon and Fayette County Public Schools recently held their first Energy Team meetings.

Establishing an Energy Team is a key component of the energy management process. The teams will focus on necessary steps to implement their districts' energy management programs.

Recently Passed Energy Policies

The Frankfort Independent Schools Board of Education recently passed their district's Energy Policy.

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

Kentucky Schools to Take Lead in Energy Management

Cincinnati.com
Students Marvel at Bristow Elementary School's Amenities
Bowling Green Daily News

Kentucky Launches State-wide Energy Manager Program
energyempowers.gov

Allen Students to Ride Hybrid
Bowling Green Daily News

Energy Team Working to Save Money Across Local School District
Springfield Sun News

Cumberland Trace Elementary School Getting Face-lift
Bowling Green Daily News

School Districts Team Up On Energy
Ashland Independent

New Elementary School Saves Energy and Money
Lexington Herald-Leader

Energy Saving Resources

- Vice President Joe Biden's report showing the impact American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds have on energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.
- Energy Education & Workforce Development is a U.S. Department of Energy resource that provides energy-related lesson plans, labs, projects and other activities for grades K-12.
- Collaborative for High Performance Schools provides resources to help school districts design, construct and operate high-performance schools.

Events and Training Opportunities

Economic Development through BioEnergy Symposium Series

September 8 - Bowling Green
September 22 - Springfield
September 23 - Prestonsburg
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.

National Pollution Prevention Week
September 20-26

National Pollution Prevention Week is an opportunity for individuals, businesses, organizations and government to emphasize and highlight their pollution prevention and environmental sustainability activities and achievements, expand current pollution prevention efforts and commit to new actions. Information and resources are available on the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable's website.
K-12 Benchmarking 101 Webinar
September 29
2 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET
Learn the basics of benchmarking your K-12 buildings using the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. Register for this free webinar.

Energy Awareness Month
October 2010
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. Information and ideas about how to promote energy awareness in your organization are available on the U.S. DOE’s Office of Energy and Renewable Energy website.

Green Energy Showcase
October 1
Covington
The event showcases green energy services provided by local energy industries and educational opportunities provided at Gateway Community and Technical College. E-mail Yvonne Meichtry or call (859) 442-4190 for more information.

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 will soon be available on the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet website. For questions, e-mail Natalie Jensen or call (502) 564-7192.

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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