Kentucky Energy Alliance Meets in Elizabethtown

The fifth Kentucky Energy Alliance (KEA) meeting was held in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on April 4, 2012, bringing together 29 industry and state government representatives. KEA meetings provide a forum for energy managers, facility engineers and operators from various industries to discuss their experiences and to learn from one another with respect to energy management at their facilities.

At the April meeting, KPPC provided an update on the program and the activities of the Center, including ISO-50001 efforts and funding changes. Executive Director Cam Metcalf also recognized five companies for their recent progress in the Kentucky Save Energy Now program. Finally, two member companies, Republic Conduit and Sypris Technologies, both of Louisville, detailed their recent energy management activities and successes.

Discussion Highlights:

During the KEA roundtable discussion, attendees talked about their personal experiences in trying to improve energy efficiency at their facilities through lighting upgrades, compressed air audits, sub-metering and wastewater treatment. The group also talked at length about the effect that changing the behaviors and habits of employees can have on the success of energy management programs.

Agreeing that behavioral change is a critical component of effective energy management, attendees described the challenges they have faced in bringing about such change. One attendee stressed that, "probably the most paramount thing you can engage in is behavioral change." Another agreed that it is worth it, but it takes time to see the results. Addressing behavioral change is part of the energy management process, and "sometimes insignificant things (like turning off the lights) become significant when you factor in behavior and the habits of individual employees."

Five Companies Receive KY SEN Awards

Twenty-seven companies have now signed on to the Kentucky Save Energy Now (KY SEN) initiative, pledging to reduce energy use at their facilities by 2.5 percent per year for 10 years. Five of those companies were recognized during the April 4 Kentucky Energy Alliance meeting in Elizabethtown.

One of the newest companies to sign the pledge, Hendrickson Truck Commercial Vehicle Systems, has established its energy use baseline and is committed to strengthening its energy management program. Continuous Improvement Coordinator Jeffrey Paiz said,
ET, Webinar

Green Chemistry in Action:
Lubrication Technologies Develops Water Based Paint Booth Cleaner, May 21, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET, Webinar

“Hendrickson has worked closely with KPPC for many years and they have been a vital resource in helping us to manage our environmental system and in creating an energy management program.” He explained that, “When we found out about the KY SEN program, we knew right away that this was something that Hendrickson wanted to integrate within our energy programs. Hendrickson’s relationship with KPPC and our involvement with the KY SEN program has proven to be very positive and we look forward to maintaining this relationship in the future.”

Also recognized at the April 4 event for successfully progressing through the advanced stages of the KY SEN program were:

- Level-Five: Central Motor Wheel of America (CMWA) of Paris, KY. Establishing an internal recognition program and acting as a mentor to other KY SEN pledgers, CMWA has achieved the highest level of recognition possible through the KY SEN program. An on-site event is being planned to include the team members and employees in the formal presentation of the award from KPPC.

- Level-Four: Hausner Hard-Chrome of Owensboro, KY and The United States Playing Card Company of Erlanger, KY. Both of these companies have implemented their energy action plans and evaluated the progress of their energy management programs.

- Level-One: Sypris Technologies of Louisville, KY. The company has signed the KY SEN pledge and established its energy use baseline.

See additional photos of the awards presentations.

Many of the KY SEN pledgers are making significant progress and their efforts and successes will be recognized in the coming months. The KY SEN program is now in its second phase of implementation, and is now funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

KPPC Helps Owensboro Grain Company Address Energy Management

Working with the Owensboro Grain Company Soy Processing Plant since December 2011, KPPC has provided the company with utility bill and tariff analyses to help the manufacturing facility improve its energy management. On April 11 and 12, 2012, the Center also conducted customized, on-site training designed to help the team understand the seven steps of effective energy management, as outlined in the U.S. EPA’s Energy Star program.

Conducted by KPPC’s environmental sustainability engineers, the session included a walk-through of baseline energy information, identification of energy opportunities at the facility, brainstorming and prioritizing actions, and suggestions for evaluating and communicating progress. The facility’s Vice President of Operations, Mark Carlisle, said, “The training provided by KPPC will help us promote energy awareness throughout Owensboro Grain Company and help eliminate wasteful practices within our organization. It was very well thought out and the KPPC staff made the mundane material covered fun and entertaining for all participants.”

Describing how the training will benefit the company, Carlisle commented, “Owensboro Grain Company has already initiated several energy saving projects as a result of the information provided during the training sessions. We are looking forward to a long standing partnership with KPPC in order to exceed our objectives.

KPPC engineers provided customized, on-site training on April 11 and 12, 2012. One Owensboro Grain Company energy team member commented that the session was, “very informative and it helped me understand the challenge we faced and will face in the future.”
of lowering energy consumption and making our business more competitive. I would highly recommend this program to anyone.”

At the conclusion of the training, KPPC presented Owensboro Grain Company with an award (Level 1) for signing the Kentucky Save Energy Now (KY SEN) pledge and establishing an energy use baseline. The company joins 26 other industrial and commercial facilities across Kentucky that have signed the KY SEN pledge, which includes a provision to reduce energy use by at least 2.5 percent/year for 10 years.

Owensboro Grain Company produces a vast array of products from soybeans, including protein meal and hull pellets for animal feeds, crude and degummed oil, lecithin, various blends of refined vegetable oil for human consumption, biodiesel and glycerin.

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**KPPC Out and About in April**

**Louisville**

To both celebrate Earth Day, and to participate in Louisville Mayor’s Give a Day of Service event, KPPC organized a service project at a nearby state park. On April 20, ten volunteers from KPPC gathered at the E.P. "Tom" Sawyer Park in Louisville to help remove honeysuckle bushes, an invasive species that is overtaking a number of trees. Park Naturalist Nick Price informed the group that without intervention, the trees would be lost. He thanked the group for the hard work and invited KPPC to come back in the future to help with other projects at the park.

**Covington**

On April 23, KPPC engineers presented to a group of about 20 electric cooperative representatives. Topics included energy tracking, baselining and benchmarking, energy assessment opportunities and financing options. This workshop was hosted by the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives as part of the spring meeting of their Kentucky Member Services Association.

**Russellville**

On April 26, KPPC participated in Logan Aluminum’s Earth Day event aimed at helping employees learn more about environmental sustainability, and the opportunities available to them as individuals and to the company as a whole. Logan Aluminum manufactures aluminum sheet products with modern high-speed equipment and technology available in ingot casting, hot rolling, cold rolling and finishing.

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**Newsbits**

- **KCTCS Colleges Receive Energy Improvements**
  Ameresco, Inc., a leading energy efficiency and renewable energy company, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) announced April 16 that four colleges in the KCTCS are in the process of receiving energy upgrades and retrofits that are expected to save more than $480,000 annually in energy costs. The contract was finalized in December 2011 for projects at Ashland Community and Technical College, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Gateway Community and Technical College, and Maysville Community and Technical College. The 13-year project is valued at $4,662,066. To achieve the savings, the four colleges will receive lighting, water, electrical, mechanical, controls and building retrofits, and upgrades. Read more.

- **Three Kentucky schools named Green Ribbon Schools**
  U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, together with White House Council on Environmental Quality
Chair Nancy Sutley and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, announced Monday that Rosa Parks Elementary School in Lexington, Georgetown Middle School, and Richardsville Elementary School in Bowling Green have received the first-ever U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award, which is being given to 78 schools across the country. Kentucky is among 29 states and D.C. with schools receiving the awards. Read the full article at wkyt.com.

**WKU Earns 'Green College' Recognition Once Again**
Western Kentucky University was listed in Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2012 Edition for the third consecutive year. Other Kentucky schools, specifically Northern Kentucky University and the University of Louisville, join WKU for the first time. The guidebook lists information on the sustainable practices of 322 colleges and universities. WKU's entry in the guide lists all of the university's sustainable programs, certifications and “green facts” about the school. Some of the recent sustainable additions are the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification in Ransdell Hall, the establishment of a Master of Arts in Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities, and the sustainability concentration in the MBA program. Read the full article at wkuherald.com.

**Upcoming Training, Events and Conferences**

- **Recovering Food Waste Through Donation & Recycling**
  May 2, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET, Webinar
  The amount of food wasted in the United States is staggering. In the U.S. more food ends up in landfills and incinerators than any other material – even more than paper and plastic. This is especially true for the hospitality sector, where a considerable portion of the budget goes towards buying food – and then disposing of the unused food as waste. In this webinar, participants will learn how food waste has significant economic as well as environmental consequences, and ways that it can be diverted from the traditional disposal methods and recovered for donation, recycling and composting.
  
  Register for this free webinar. Hosted by the Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association.

- **Green Chemistry in Action: Lubrication Technologies Develops Water Based Paint Booth Cleaner**
  May 21, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET, Webinar
  Lubrication Technologies offered to specifically develop a product for the St. Paul, Minnesota Ford Motor Plant that would be safer, more effective and able to replace high VOC emitting solvents used in their glass cleaning, floor cleaning and paint booth maintenance operations. Lubrication Technologies worked with the Ford Motor Company to develop and test a cleaning product that works better than a solvent, contains less VOC’s per gallon, improves worker safety and is competitively priced. After 17 prototypes, a formula was developed that breaks the paint sludge bonds by separating the solvent from paint solids thereby causing it to work effectively and longer on more surfaces than originally intended. As a result, Ford Sludge Remover (FSR) reduced paint department costs both in product and labor, provided a more employee friendly product and significantly decreased Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions. Pollution is prevented at the source due to the reduced VOC content of the product coupled with the product’s ability to perform at a reduced usage rate.
  
  Register for this free webinar. Hosted by the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable.