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KREC Celebrates the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day

April 22, 2010 marked the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. KPPC staff promoted KREC during celebrations at the University of Louisville's Earthfest event on April 15 and the University of Kentucky's Earth Day exhibits in Lexington on April 22.

Earthfest featured vendors and organizations promoting sustainable products and practices. The event was hosted by UofL's Student Government Association. UK's Earth Day celebration was sponsored by UK Residence Life and included exhibits and activities for students and visitors.

KREC information was on display at both events, including publications and information about consortium activities. During the events, 11 new members joined KREC, bringing total membership to 342.



Visitors learned about renewable energy activities at KREC's display during UofL's Earthfest event on April 15.

Kentucky Profiled in Southeast Energy Efficiency Study

A team of researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Duke University's Nicholas Institute released its latest energy profile report -- *Southeast Energy Efficiency Study: Energy Efficiency in the South*. Released in April, the report used state-of-the-art economic modeling to evaluate the potential impact of energy efficiency policies on Southern states.

The report includes profiles for each state in the region and the economic and employment impacts of energy efficiency for each individual state. For Kentucky, the profile details the opportunities for cost-effective energy-efficiency improvements in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

While the report identifies many opportunities for improved efficiency in the Commonwealth, it also states that Kentucky already has a number of energy efficiency policies in place. For example, Kentucky supports the U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR® program to save energy and protect the environment through partnerships between private and public sectors. In 2009, Kentucky began providing a tax credit of up to \$800 for ENERGY STAR® qualified homes.

In addition, [KPPC - Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center](#) offers energy assessment and technology services to Kentucky's businesses and industries. In 2008, the Center conducted 54 assessments that identified over \$218,000 in potential annual savings. The State's recently released Energy Strategy sets a goal for state-supported facilities to reduce energy consumption by 25 percent as compared to the 2009 baseline, and unveiled an Energy Strategic Plan that includes a Renewable and Efficiency Portfolio Standard and an Alternative Transportation Fuels Standard. The full report can be found at the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance's [Web site](#).

Kentucky Awards \$2 Million in Smart-Grid Grants

Seven Kentucky electric power generators have been awarded more than \$2 million in smart-grid grants by the state. The companies will use the funding to install electric meters that will allow customers to see and control their real-time energy usage from an in-home display. They also will install distribution automation equipment that can reduce system energy losses and improve system reliability.

Power companies receiving grants --

- Warren RECC, \$950,000
- Jackson Energy Cooperative, \$100,000
- Owen Electric Cooperative, \$119,250
- Blue Grass Energy, \$330,770
- Nolin Rural Electric, \$100,000
- Hickman-Fulton Counties Rural Electric, \$168,000
- Shelby Energy Cooperative, \$264,000

The grants, funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, support Gov. Beshear's [statewide energy strategy](#). The strategy involves creating jobs, decreasing carbon dioxide emissions, providing more renewable energy resources and increasing energy efficiency in the Commonwealth.

Renewable Energy From Landfill Gas

East Kentucky Power Cooperative's (EKPC) Fleming-Mason Energy officially opened a renewable energy generating facility in Maysville on April 14. The facility is powered by a landfill that produces methane gas from decomposing organic waste. The Fleming-Mason facility will produce 1.6 MW of electricity and joins EKPC's five other landfill gas plants to give the power provider nearly 17 MW of renewable energy generation capacity. That means that about 10,000 homes can be powered by renewable energy from these six facilities.

Each block is 100 kwh, and costs \$2.75 per month with a one-year agreement. An Envirowatt block offsets the equivalent of 1,200 pounds of coal. According to Meredith Boyd, Marketing Representative for EKPC, this helps make Envirowatts a great choice for the environment and for renewable energy in Kentucky.

On hand to help open the facility were Craig Johnson of EKPC, Chris Perry of Fleming-Mason Energy, Mason County Judge Executive Buddy Gallenstien, Maysville Mayor David Catwell, Sec. Len Peters of Kentucky's Energy and Environment Cabinet, and Victoria Ludwig of the EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Division. The opening included tours of the landfill and plant, and Maysville County Middle School students shared their school's recycling projects.

EKPC customers can purchase the green energy generated from the landfill through the Envirowatts program, which sells the energy in blocks.



Jeff Ramsey, EKPC plant operator, provided visitors a close up look at operations during a tour of the Mason County landfill-to-gas facility.

USDA Seeks Comment on Rules for Renewable Energy Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture invites public comment on several proposed program rules designed to increase the production of advanced biofuels and the development of biorefineries. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says the proposals for the three programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill are part of the administration strategy to accelerate the commercial production of advanced biofuels and create a viable alternative fuels industry.

The proposed rule for the Biorefinery Assistance Program would establish guaranteed loan regulations to develop and construct commercial-scale biorefineries and to retrofit existing facilities using an eligible technology to develop advanced biofuels. The Repowering Assistance Payments program rule would make payments to eligible biorefineries to install new systems that encourage renewable biomass energy use and replace fossil fuels.

The rule proposed for the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels would establish a payment program for eligible producers of advanced biofuels made from renewable biomass, excluding corn kernel starch. For more information on the proposed rules and instructions on how to submit comments, visit the USDA's [Web site](#).

Alternative Energy Researcher to Discuss Global Energy Challenge

Massachusetts Institute of Technology chemist and energy researcher Daniel Nocera will give two free, public talks in Gheens Science Hall and Rauch Planetarium at the University of Louisville. In his first talk, to be held on May 3 at 1:30 p.m. (EDT), Nocera will discuss "The Global Energy Challenge". His more scientifically oriented talk, "The Chemistry Behind Personalized Energy for 1 (x 6 Billion)," will be held on May 4 at 1:30 p.m. (EDT).

Nocera is the Henry Dreyfus professor of energy and professor of chemistry at MIT, where his research group works on renewable energy at the molecular level. Adapting plant photosynthesis as a model, he is using sunlight to split water molecules in an effort to make hydrogen fuel and is trying to create from inexpensive materials a catalyst that works under common conditions. The scientist has received the American Institute of Chemists Award and the Eni-Italgas Prize for Energy and the Environment for his work and has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

For more information, contact Ricky Woofter at 502-852-3578 or by [e-mail](#).

Contribute an Article to *REnews!*

KREC would like to publish your thoughts on renewable energy and energy efficiency in Kentucky. Please send your opinions, articles or news about RE happenings in the Commonwealth to KREC@kppc.org. A short piece is preferable (300 or fewer words works best).

Make your voice heard – we want to give KREC members a forum to spread the word about renewable energy efforts and issues.

