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Kentucky Program to Create Jobs and Improve Energy Efficiency



Gov. Steve Beshear announced the launch of KY Home Performance, a comprehensive energy efficiency program that will create jobs while helping homeowners across the Commonwealth save money and energy.

“KY Home Performance gives Kentucky homeowners the financial resources and knowledge to help determine which modifications will have the most impact on their homes’ energy use and comfort, resulting in a reduction in utility usage and costs,” said Gov. Beshear. “As families look for ways to save money and protect our environment, I strongly encourage homeowners to take advantage of this unique opportunity to make the necessary changes in their homes that will have a lasting impact by greening Kentucky’s existing homes for future generations.”

KY Home Performance is a partnership between the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence (DEDI) and the Kentucky Finance and Administration Cabinet. It is funded by a \$4 million State Energy Program Grant, provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), plus an additional \$2.1 million from KHC. KHC will administer the program with support from DEDI and the Finance and Administration Cabinet.

Together, certified industry professionals will perform a comprehensive energy evaluation, make the necessary improvements the homeowner approves and perform a Quality Assurance Evaluation to verify the quality of the work to help protect the homeowner's investment.

Benefits of KY Home Performance

- Savings of 20 percent or more on utility bills
- Fewer drafts and more comfortable rooms
- Work performed by specially trained professionals
- Third-party quality assurance to make sure work gets done right
- Cash Rebates of up to \$2,000 or loans of 6.99 percent for up to \$20,000 (terms and conditions apply)

For more information about the program visit the [KY Home Performance](#) website, or call (877) 741-4306.

U.S. Department of Energy Announces Up to \$30 Million for Biofuels Research

NOTE: The following funding announcement represents an opportunity for Kentucky's rural communities to compete for federal funding to develop small-scale biofuels projects. As a DOE Biomass Program, KREC would like to support its members and Kentucky's biomass/biofuel developers by offering whatever assistance possible in applying for this funding. Please contact us as at (502) 852-0965 or KREC@kppc.org with your ideas for how KREC might help support your application. The deadline for submitting proposals to DOE is February 7, 2011.

On December 14, U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced that the Department is now accepting applications for up to \$30 million in total funding for small-scale process integration projects that support the development of advanced biofuels that will be able to replace gasoline or diesel without requiring special upgrades or changes to the vehicle or fueling infrastructure.

“Developing the next generation of American biofuels will enhance our national energy security, expand the domestic biofuels industry, and produce new clean energy jobs. It will help America’s farmers and create vast new opportunities for wealth creation in rural communities. By investing in innovative approaches and technologies, we can continue to move the biofuels industry forward and grow our economy,” said Secretary Chu.

The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) provides up to \$30 million over the next three to four years to support as many as five projects. The projects will focus on optimizing and integrating process steps that convert biomass into biofuels and bioproducts that will eventually be used to support hydrocarbon fuels and chemicals. These process improvements could include pretreatment methods that alter the biomass to improve the yield of sugars in subsequent process steps, less costly and more efficient enzymes that produce sugars, and fermentation organisms and catalysts that convert the sugars into fuel and chemical intermediates. Successful applicants will demonstrate the research potential to improve the economics and efficiency of their proposed process.

A description of the solicitation, eligibility requirements and application instructions can be found on the [FedConnect](#) website under Reference Number DE-FOA-0000337. Applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#) by no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on February 7, 2011.

DOE’s Biomass Program works with industry, academia and national laboratory partners on a balanced portfolio of research in biomass feedstocks and conversion technologies. For more information on DOE’s Biomass Program, please visit the [Biomass Program](#) website.

U.S. Launches Renewable Energy Export Initiative

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu joined seven other U.S. Government agencies in launching the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Export Initiative, a coordinated effort to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency exports. In partnership with the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy co-chairs the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee Working Group of the federal agencies participating in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Export Initiative.

“Expanding U.S. clean technology exports is a critical step to ensuring America’s economic competitiveness in the years ahead,” said Secretary Chu. “The initiatives we are announcing will provide us with a better understanding of the global clean energy



marketplace and help boost U.S. exports.”

The prospects for U.S. technology exports focusing on this industry are vast. More than 100 countries now have policies to encourage the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Many of these countries have substantial deployment targets that will drive demand for renewable energy and energy efficiency for years to come. The report is available for download at the export.gov website.

Pew Charitable Trust Releases Report on Global Clean Energy Investments

From *RenewableEnergyWorld.com*

Looking into the next decade for clean energy deployment gives perspective on where an industry is headed. Pew Charitable Trusts' recently released report on global clean power predicts that the clean energy industry is looking at incredible growth.

The report, [*Global Clean Power: A \\$2.3 Trillion Opportunity*](#), released on December 8, examined projected private investment in wind, solar, biomass/energy from waste, small hydro, geothermal and marine energy projects. Data for the report was compiled by Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

The overall takeaway from the report is that the global clean power sector will grow, at a huge rate. Pew found that in the G-20, total attracted clean power project investment is projected to be:

- BAU (Business As Usual with no change in policies) – \$1.7 trillion by 2020
- Copenhagen (policies to implement pledges made in 2009) – \$1.8 trillion by 2020
- Enhanced clean energy (maximized policies designed to stimulate increased investment and capacity additions) – \$2.3 trillion by 2020

Asia became the top regional destination for clean power finance this year – with China and India leading the way due to strong clean energy policies. By 2020, China, India, Japan and South Korea could account for approximately 40 percent of global clean power project investments.

Under all three scenarios, China maintains its global leadership position and has the potential to attract cumulative clean energy asset investments of \$620 billion over the next decade. Due to its clean energy policies, India moves up to third place by 2020 under all scenarios after being ranked 10th in 2009. India could realize a 763 percent increase in investment under the enhanced scenario, the largest of all G-20 members.

Europe, an early leader in the global clean energy economy thanks to strong clean energy policies and targets could see investments in clean energy projects total \$705 billion over the next decade under the enhanced clean energy scenario. The United Kingdom and Germany, traditional clean energy powers in Europe, rank in the top five globally of attracted clean power project investments under all three scenarios.

The report found that the United States is among those countries with the most to gain from passing strong clean energy policies. For example, the U.S. has the potential to attract \$342 billion in clean power project investments over the next 10 years under the enhanced clean energy scenario, an increase of \$97 billion over the BAU scenario.

GM to Hire 1,000 Engineers and Researchers in 2011-2012

General Motors Co. has announced that it plans to hire 1,000 engineers and researchers in Michigan over the next two years to develop more electric cars and hybrids. The announcement came as GM launched its battery-powered Chevrolet Volt. The Volt, which tops the Toyota Prius for fuel economy, is a first-of-its-kind vehicle that GM sees as a symbol of its commitment to advancing fuel efficiency and developing new technologies. GM North American chief Mark Reuss compared the Volt development to a NASA "moon shot" that included over \$700 million in investment in jobs and plants in Michigan.

The Volt is designed to run for 35 miles on a full charge of its 400-pound (181 kilo) lithium-ion battery pack supplied by a unit of Korea's LG Chem. After that, a 1.4-liter engine extends the driving range to about 379 miles. In November, Green Car Journal named the Volt the "Green Car of the Year" for 2011.

The Volt has a retail price of \$41,000, but could be eligible for a \$7,500 federal tax credit. GM plans to build 10,000 Volts next year, another 45,000 in 2012. Initially, the Volt will be sold in seven launch markets — California, New York, Michigan, Connecticut, Texas, New Jersey and Washington DC.



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Please join KREC members and friends at www.facebook.com/KyKREC to share information, discuss ideas, ask questions or post items of interest to the renewable energy community and help get the word out about what's happening in renewable energy and energy efficiency in Kentucky!

Contribute an Article to REnews!

KREC would like to publish your thoughts on renewable energy and energy efficiency in Kentucky in the "Members' Forum". 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 work best).

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



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