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## KREC at the National Farm Machinery Show in February

KREC will join the Kentucky Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP) at the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville on February 16-17, 2011. The exhibits will be in the Agricultural Energy Resource Room and will highlight services and products available to Kentucky farmers. GOAP will provide light refreshments for visitors during the noon hour.

KREC's exhibit will focus on available renewable energy and energy efficiency research and resources that encourage development of agricultural solutions to clean fuel production in the Commonwealth.



The 46th National Farm Machinery Show will be held at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Admission is free; parking is charged at the Fairgrounds.

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For more information about the show, call the National Farm Machinery Show Hotline at (502) 367-5004, or visit their [website](#).

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## GOAP Announces Farmer Incentives to Go Green in 2011

### *On-farm Energy Efficiency & Production ARRA Incentives Application Available*

The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP) recently announced the availability of applications for the 2011 ARRA On-farm Energy Efficiency & Production Incentives Program. Applications are due to GOAP postmarked no later than February 28, 2011.

On-farm energy incentives are made possible through the Renewable Energy Partnership between GOAP and the Energy and Environment Cabinet's Department for Energy Development and Independence. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"Over the last several years, reducing energy usage and developing alternative sources of energy have become critical issues for Kentucky agriculture," stated Roger Thomas, executive director of GOAP. "This program is helping Kentucky's farm families improve on-farm energy efficiency, and the projects already approved are estimated to save more than 56.7 billion BTUs of energy per year."

The on-farm energy incentive program will provide 25 percent reimbursement of the actual cost of a federally qualified energy saving item, up to \$10,000. Permissible items include, but are not limited to, energy audits, energy efficient farm building components, on-farm energy upgrades and on-farm energy efficiency training. Only expenditures made after March 26, 2010 will be eligible for reimbursement.

All applications received from across the Commonwealth will be reviewed and scored by a committee comprised of representatives from GOAP, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and a Rural Electric Cooperative. A representative from USDA Rural Development and the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet will each serve on the committee in an ex-officio capacity.

All applications meeting the minimum requirements of eligibility will be considered for funding. If the total eligible applications exceed the available funds, the committee will rank the applications using scoring criteria. Applicants will be notified of their approval.

For questions about the application process for the ARRA On-farm Energy Incentives Program, please contact GOAP at (502) 564-4627 or [govkyagpolicy@ky.gov](mailto:govkyagpolicy@ky.gov). The application is also available [online](#).

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## 2011 Kentucky Statewide Workshop: Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

The [Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research](#) at the University of Louisville is sponsoring a statewide workshop on March 13-15, 2011 at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville. The event will provide an excellent opportunity for researchers from Kentucky universities and industries to network and discuss the latest developments and challenges in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

Participants will discover current research from across the state and discuss a focused technological road map for commercialization of various renewable energy innovations in Kentucky.

The workshop highlights five themes:

- Energy Storage
- Biomass/Biofuels

- Advanced Energy Materials
- Efficiency & Conservation
- Solar

The Conn Center is looking for sponsors for the workshop. Please contact [Rodica McCoy](#) or call 502-852-6348 if you are interested in becoming a sponsor.

Workshop details and online registration are available at the Conn Center's [website](#).

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## Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance to Hold Clean Energy Summit

The Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance is offering a one-day Kentucky Clean Energy Summit to explore effective clean energy policies and their benefits for Kentuckians. The summit will be held on January 31, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Campbell House Inn in Lexington. The event will feature a panel discussion - *Making the Case for Clean Energy Policies in Kentucky*. Panel members include:

Jason Bailey, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development  
Elizabeth Crowe, Kentucky Environmental Foundation  
Kristin Tracz, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development  
Jim King, Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises  
Doug Doerfeld, Kentuckians For The Commonwealth  
Amanda Woodrum, Policy Matters Ohio.



The summit will also include a lunch speaker, Ben Taube from the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance, workshops and a closing session.

The summit is open to the public. Contact Lisa Abbott at [lisa@kysea.org](mailto:lisa@kysea.org) or 859-200-5159 for more information or to apply for a registration scholarship. Registration and information is available at the KYSEA [website](#).

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## Kentucky Farmers Encouraged to Plant Switchgrass

*From the Associated Press - [Kentucky.com](#)*

A new program to explore the viability of biofuels is seeking to establish 700 acres of switchgrass fields by offering financial assistance to Kentucky farmers. Switchgrass is a native Kentucky grass that has been tested as a supplemental fuel for burning with coal.



The project follows another that began in 2007 by the [Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council](#) and [University of Kentucky Plant and Soil Science department](#). That study established 20 research plots of switchgrass in the Buffalo Trace area and in Mason, Lewis, Bracken, Robertson and Fleming counties. Each 5-acre plot yielded five to six tons of switchgrass in the final year of the pilot program, Mason County Extension Agent Tad Campbell told the Ledger Independent in Maysville. East Kentucky Power Cooperative participated in the initial switchgrass project.

Campbell said data on the success of the program will be generated after some final steps are completed in the next few months. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is also offering funding assistance to farmers who plant switchgrass.

Lewis County Agriculture and Natural Resource agent Philip Konopka said switchgrass is not the cheapest crop to establish, at a cost of about \$200 per acre. It is a perennial crop. Konopka said the farmers in Lewis County who were part of the pilot project "absolutely love it" and are incorporating switchgrass in their livestock production.

When existing vegetation has been controlled and switchgrass is planted, the producer will be eligible for a conservation payment of about \$354, said Fleming County Extension Agent Jeff Smith. They will also receive another \$100 per acre from the new switchgrass program once the crop has been harvested.

There is a 5-acre minimum and the land must be contiguous. The switchgrass stands must remain in place five years. Nick Comer, spokesman for East Kentucky Power Cooperative, said the company is discussing the possibility of extending the original switchgrass pilot project.

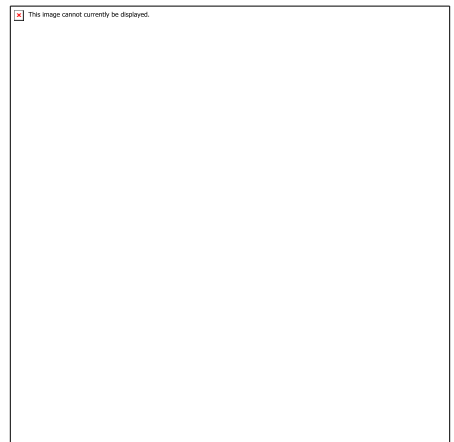
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## Biofuels for Schools Program in Kentucky

The Kentucky Biofuels for Schools program is offering grants to high schools in the state that design projects to teach, produce and use biofuels in their schools and community. The grants range from \$500 to \$2,000, and proposals are due by March 16.

The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet says selected schools will receive introductory biodiesel laboratory kits for 20 students in addition to the funds to support development of a teaching, production and training program.

The program is made possible by the [TogetherGreen Conservation Leadership Program](#) which invests in high-potential leaders, providing them with the tools, resources, visibility, and a peer network to help them lead the conservation actions needed to shape a greener, healthier future. Audubon and Toyota launched the five-year TogetherGreen initiative in 2008 to fund conservation projects, train environmental leaders, and offer volunteer opportunities that significantly benefit the environment. It is funded by a \$20 million Toyota gift to Audubon, the largest in the conservation group's long history.



The Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance serves as fiscal partner for the BioFuels for Schools program. More information and an application are available at the BioFuels for Schools [website](#).

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## Free Online Course - Intro to Renewable Energy

Solar Energy International (SEI) is offering a free online course for anyone who wants to learn the basics of renewable energy. SEI was founded in 1991 as a non-profit educational organization that works to empower people around the world through the education of sustainable practices.

The Introduction to Renewable Energy online course includes information on where it is found, how it can be harvested for use in homes and businesses and how it can help ease pressures on the environment. Participants will not become experts through the course, but will get to know renewable energy in its many forms.

This course also serves as an introduction to Solar Energy International's Online Campus. It is made up of ten lessons, each containing readings, exercises, a quiz and an open discussion forum.

Lessons Include:

- Why Renewable Energy?
- Conservation & Efficiency
- Green Building
- Solar Thermal
- Solar Electricity
- Wind Power
- Micro-Hydro
- Other Renewable Energy
- Renewable Energy for the Developing World
- Economics of Renewable Energy

Upon completion of the course - with good quiz grades - participants will receive a printable SEI Record of Completion.

Register for the course at SEI's [website](#).

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Join KREC on Facebook

Please join KREC members and friends at [www.facebook.com/KyKREC](http://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!

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## 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](mailto: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.



*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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