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KREC Holds Wind Energy Webinar

KREC and the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence held a *Wind Energy in Kentucky* webinar on July 23 to hear wind energy experts discuss a crucial question: does Kentucky have what it takes to harvest wind energy?

Cam Metcalf, Executive Director of KPPC and Kate Shanks, Assistant Director for the Division of Renewable Energy - DEDI, moderated the hour-long webinar. Sixty-three attendees, representing commercial RE installers and producers, government, consulting, higher education and the public, participated in the webinar and heard Peggy Beltrone from Cascade County Montana, Jeff Reinkemeyer from Iberdrola, Katie Stokes from the Tennessee Valley & Eastern Kentucky Wind Working Group and Dr. Stuart Foster from the Kentucky Climate Center, Western Kentucky University, share their insights on Kentucky's wind energy potential.

The webinar provided an industry perspective on wind power as well as a look at how other states have developed their wind potential into usable energy. Dr. Foster gave an overview of the [Kentucky Mesonet Program](#) in Kentucky, which collects and shares wind speed and climate data for the state.



KREC's July 23 webinar attracted 63 attendees from six states who heard presentations from wind energy experts.

25x'25 Holds its 6th National Summit



The United Nations sponsored 25x'25 organization held its 6th national summit in Arlington, Virginia from June 29 to July 1. The summit drew key national policy makers; farm, ranch, livestock and forestry leaders; state alliance leaders; congressional staff and federal agency representatives to hear some of the nation's foremost experts address what role renewable energy development is playing in helping the nation transition to a clean energy future.

Summit attendees heard about contributions that America's farms, ranches and forestlands are making to reach the 25x'25 goal of 25% of America's energy from renewable sources by 2025. Attendees also toured the National Arboretum's "Power Plants" garden and viewed exhibits that highlighted bioenergy production.

The national organization has published a new report that details progress towards renewable energy generation and production in the U.S. The report is available as a pdf at the [25x'25 Progress Report](#) website.

A Kentucky Perspective on the 25x'25 Summit

KREC interviews Tim Hughes, Senior Policy Analyst for the KY Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy

When 25x'25 held its 6th national summit this June, it drew a large and diverse group of people to the nation's capital. Tim Hughes, Senior Policy Analyst for the Kentucky Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy was among them. When Tim first arrived, he was struck by the variety of interests represented at the summit. "The thing that impressed me was how diversified the stakeholders were. There were people there because of their environmental convictions, others were there looking for economic opportunities for agriculture, and some were there from a national security perspective to discuss our dependence on imported oil. It was very interesting to see all those groups share a unified vision and work towards some common goals."



From a Kentucky perspective, Tim found the summit's presentations on biomass the most relevant. As he points out, "Kentucky's greatest opportunities will likely be in the area of biomass. We're not a strong candidate for wind and only limited for solar energy, but our strength in agriculture could help us become more energy independent."

The "food vs. fuel" issue was covered in several presentations and Tim found that the speakers did a good job of sorting out myth from reality in using grain for ethanol. Tim points out that "There are some limitations on what we can do with grain, but biomass from crops like switchgrass and others we are researching in Kentucky don't really have that limitation." Tim found a number of similarities between the goals of 25x'25 and the Governor's goals in Kentucky's [7-Point Strategy for Energy Independence](#) and KREC's [25x'25 Roadmap for Kentucky](#).

While at the summit, Tim found that the oil spill disaster in the Gulf helped focus everyone's attention on the importance of developing alternative energy. He was impressed by a presentation given by a retired CIA agent who demonstrated just how vulnerable our infrastructure and national security is when we depend so heavily on imported oil. Tim recommends a [video](#) created by the 25x'25 steering committee that brought together all the issues of economics, national security and policy issues and showed just how far the organization has come towards meeting its goals.

Tim believes that attending the 25x'25 summit helped him focus on what's important for Kentucky's energy future. "I think that we need to continue to keep the issues in front of people. Even though fuel prices are somewhat more stable than they were a few years ago, and the fact that Kentucky must stay competitive in the energy market, things could change almost overnight. Regulatory changes at the state or federal level, a new international conflict, or new players at the table could bring about new energy challenges that we should be preparing for now."

Dr. Ralph Brodd Selected to Lead Argonne Battery Center

Governor Steve Beshear has selected battery industry veteran Ralph Brodd to lead the Kentucky-Argonne Battery Manufacturing Research and Development Center. The Center, located in Lexington at the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research, is a partnership among the Argonne National Laboratory, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville.

"Dr. Brodd literally has written the book on advanced battery technologies, and I am overwhelmed by his willingness to help us develop a renowned battery manufacturing research and development center here in the Commonwealth," said Beshear. "Our partnership with the leading national laboratory on battery technologies, and the expertise of researchers at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville, will help move Kentucky to the forefront of energy storage capabilities to strengthen our automotive industry and improve the potential for renewable energy technologies." The photo at right shows Dr. Brodd (left) and Governor Beshear at the selection announcement press conference.



The center will help develop and deploy manufacturing technologies to ensure domestic competitiveness in advanced-battery technologies for vehicles and other applications. This type of production is considered especially important to Kentucky, being the nation's third leading producer of automobiles, since it will allow the state to position itself on an international level in the development and production of advanced-battery technologies for motor vehicles.

KREC spoke with Dr. Mahendra Sunkara, professor of chemical engineering in the J.B. Speed School of Engineering, and interim director of the Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research and Environmental Stewardship at the University of Louisville, about the Argonne project. Dr. Sunkara said that "The Conn Center will be working very closely with Dr. Ralph Brodd in building the Kentucky-Argonne Battery Manufacturing R&D Center. Energy storage and battery technologies are also primary themes within the Conn Center. Distributed storage technologies are essential for enabling integration of renewable energy sources. The Conn Center will become an important partner with the Kentucky-Argonne Center in developing new types of manufacturing strategies for large format batteries for distributed, grid and utility scale storage and other mobile applications."

Dr. Sunkara is the Principle Investigator for the KREC-funded research project, *Large Size Lithium Ion Batteries for HEV Applications*. Read the [abstract](#) of Dr. Sunkara's battery research project on KREC's website.

Upcoming Renewable Energy Events

Murray State University to Host Regional Agri-Energy Field Day

Murray State University will host a Regional Agri-Energy Field Day at the MSU Pullen Farm and Arboretum Pavilion on Thursday, August 5, 2010. Registration will begin at noon, followed by a luncheon. This event is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, through the combined efforts of the following organizations: Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence, U.S. Department of Energy, Governors Office of Agricultural Policy and Murray State University.

Agri-Energy Field Day speakers will address the current state of Agri-Energy and the future possibilities, including availability of funding for on-farm energy efficiency upgrades and new crop possibilities. Attendees will get the opportunity to see demonstration plots of potential Agri-Energy crops.

The event is free and open to the public. Farmers, agriculturalists and community members are especially invited to attend. Reservations are not required, but encouraged. Please RSVP to 270-809-3556. For more information about the event, contact rhea.wright@murraystate.edu or visit the School of Agriculture [website](#).

The Kentucky Solar Energy Society (KYES) 2010 Annual Meeting

The KYSES annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 21, 2010 at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. The meeting is open to members and non-members and begins at 9:00 a.m. Central (10:00 a.m. Eastern) time. There is a \$10.00 charge (includes lunch). After August 13, the charge is \$15.

The meeting will include a discussion of TVA incentives and "what-ups", a tour of the LEED Platinum Service One Credit Union building and a tour of a net-zero public school (Richardsville Elementary) with architect Kenny Stanfield. A [registration form](#) is available from the KYSES website.



We Need Your Help

KREC needs just a few more friends (we have 75; we need 100) to have its own web address, so please visit and give us a "like" for the page. You can join KREC members and friends of renewable energy on KREC's [Facebook page](#). The page offers visitors the opportunity to share information, discuss ideas, ask questions or post items of interest to the renewable energy community. To view the page, log onto your Facebook account (required) and type "KREC Kentucky" in the search field. Facebook, in conjunction with the [KREC website](#), will help get the word out about what's happening in renewable energy and energy efficiency in Kentucky. KREC and [KEEPS](#) - Kentucky Energy Efficiency Program for Schools - are KPPC's new members of the Facebook community.

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. KPPC provides technical information and assistance that is free, confidential and non-regulatory.



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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