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KREC Participates in 25x'25 Bioenergy Network Survey

KREC recently completed the 25x'25 Bioenergy Network Survey. [25x'25](#) launched the survey because each Southern state has a network of agriculture and forestry stakeholders that are seeking to promote and support the development of the bio-economy – including power, fuels and consumer products. These networks have informed state and federal public policy discussions on the opportunities and challenges of the bio-economy across the region through workshops, conferences, field days and research. The purpose of the survey was to learn about the activities, challenges and organizational structure of these networks in order for the [Southern Agriculture and Forestry Energy Resources](#) (SAFER) and 25x'25 to better support their efforts in the development of the Southern bio-economy.



The survey yielded over 30 responses that represent over 4,700 paying members and a communications reach of over 42,000 people. In addition, 25x'25 learned about the networks' outreach strategies, staffing and funding sources, and plans for 2012. [View a full summary](#) of the survey results.

Sixty-three percent of respondents indicated that the best way for SAFER and 25x'25 to support their network was through improved information and connectivity. With this in mind, the alliance's next step will be to convene a meeting that will bring together the South's state and regional bioenergy networks with the purpose of:

1. Identifying tools and other mechanisms to grow membership, strengthen the organization and stimulate action.
2. Sharing experiences and lessons learned in regards to federal and state policy initiatives, education & outreach and commercialization initiatives.
3. Identifying and leveraging network resources used to inform public policy issues at the state, regional and federal level.
4. Further informing SAFER and 25x'25 on how they can best



Visit KREC members and friends on **facebook** 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.

support state and regional activities.

The meeting will take place Thursday, December 8, 2011 in Atlanta. Contact [Charity Pennock](#), with the Southern Growth Policies Board, or [Brent Bailey](#) with 25x25, with any questions about the survey or 25x25 initiatives.

Contribute an Article to RNews!

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.

2011 KY Agricultural Summit & Pre-Summit Symposium on Bioenergy



Make plans now to attend the 2011 Kentucky Agricultural Summit on November 18, 2011. The goal of the summit is to paint the broad landscape of issues the agricultural community as a whole is facing nationally and internationally. The Kentucky Ag Council is bringing together expert speakers from around the country who will document the paradigm shift that is taking place in agriculture and around the world. The summit will use this day of learning and thinking to launch a strategic planning process that will give Kentucky agriculture and its rural communities a roadmap for the next five years.

Please visit the [summit website](#) for more information and to register for the event.

A very important **Pre-Summit Symposium on Bioenergy** is also scheduled. Bioenergy is a field that holds important opportunities for all parts of Kentucky and sectors of agriculture — from forestry to row crops to many new forms of biomass being developed and for which commercial markets are emerging. "Early Bird" registration has been extended to November 8.

Visit the [online agenda](#) for more information about the Pre-Summit Symposium on Bioenergy on November 17, 2011.

A FRIGHT Full Year in Bioenergy

Commentary by Tim Hughes, SAFER Advisory Council Member and Director, Division of Biofuels, Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence.

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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Posted on [Southern Agriculture and Forestry Energy Resources \(SAFER\)](#).

Halloween is one of the few instances when both parties of the "Trick or Treat" exchange feel jovial about the interaction. Many families stock up on candy to enthusiastically reward the "scariest" ghosts, goblins and other spooks that innocently visit with anticipation of getting some good loot to fill their bags. To the contrary, the bioenergy industry has not reaped the same joy from the **FRIGHT** that has filled the air in 2011. Diminishing **Funding** at both the federal and state level, uncertainty in federal **Regulatory** definitions and implementation, **Instability** in a number of foreign governments, **Gyrating** fuel prices, **Hideous** global weather events and **Timidity** in the financial markets have made for a long season of anxiety.

[Read the entire commentary](#)

25x'25 Makes the Case for Continued Research Funding for Food and Fuel Production

The 25x'25 Alliance has published an op-ed in the Agri-Pulse Newsletter that makes the case for continued government funding of research into biofuel production even in these difficult economic times.

Read the [25x'25 op-ed](#) in the Agri-Pulse e-newsletter.

Kentucky Ranks 37th in National Energy Efficiency Report

The [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy \(ACEEE\)](#) released its 2011 energy efficiency scorecard on October 20. The ACEEE scorecard ranks the energy-efficiency of all 50 U.S. states. Top states have advanced energy-efficiency policies and programs that help lower customers' energy use and boost the state economy. "States can earn up to 50 possible points in these six policy areas combined, with the maximum possible points in each area weighted by the magnitude of its potential energy savings impact," ACEEE reports. **Kentucky ranked 37th** on the scorecard with a point total of 12 out of a possible 50.

The scorecard evaluates each state's performance in six topic areas: utility and public benefits programs and policies; transportation policies; building energy codes; combined heat and power; state government initiatives and appliance efficiency standards.

The top 10 states are:

Massachusetts
California
New York State
Oregon
Vermont
Washington State
Rhode Island
Minnesota
Connecticut
Maryland

And the 10 states “most in need of improvement”:

North Dakota
Wyoming
Mississippi
Kansas
Oklahoma
South Carolina
West Virginia
Missouri
Alabama
South Dakota

Other than the rankings, the following are some of the energy efficiency scorecard’s key findings:



Total budgets for electricity efficiency programs increased to \$4.5 billion in 2010, up from \$3.4 billion in 2009. Combined with natural gas program budgets of about \$1 billion, total energy efficiency budgets in 2010 equal about \$5.5 billion. Given the increasing regulatory commitments to energy efficiency, this growth will likely continue over the next decade.



Twenty-nine states have either adopted or have made significant progress toward the adoption of the latest energy-saving building codes for homes and commercial properties – up from twenty in 2010 and ten in 2009. Twenty-four states have adopted an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS), which sets long-term energy savings targets and drives utility-sector investments in energy efficiency programs.

States continue to improve policies to reduce financial, technical and regulatory barriers to adoption and deployment of combined heat and power (CHP) systems, which generate electricity and thermal energy in an integrated system. Tremendous potential remains for CHP, particularly in states with heavy industrial and manufacturing bases.

For more information, look at the online [2011 ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#) -- (may require registration to view the scorecard).