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Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center

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New Format for this Newsletter

This issue of the *Sustainable Solutions Post* introduces a new format to help make articles easier to access. The newsletter is now fully accessible on the KPPC website, with easy access to the Center's other web-based resources. Let us know what you think of the new format! info@kppc.org.

KPPC Works with UofL to Offer Continuing Education for Professional Engineers



KPPC Executive Director Cam Metcalf was the featured presenter at a December 2 continuing education workshop for professional engineers. Organized by the Speed Alumni Council in collaboration with the J.B. Speed School of Engineering and the UofL Alumni Association, the "Up to Speed" series of workshops enables professional engineers to obtain required professional development hours.

In his presentation, "Pollution Prevention (P2) for the PE: From Grass Roots to Suits," Metcalf related his experiences and vision in pollution prevention and sustainability, providing practical advice and tools for connecting to the customer and thoughtfully employing the tools in the tool kit. He described the evolution of local pollution prevention programs of waste minimization, source reduction and efficiency practices to global concepts like sustainability, eco-efficiency and cleaner production.

The one hour PDH workshops meet Indiana & Kentucky standards, and about 88 percent of the more than two dozen workshop attendees were Speed School graduates.

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Holiday Schedule

Due to the University of Louisville's administrative holiday shutdown, KPPC offices will close at noon on December 23 and will reopen on January 3, 2012.

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Alternative Refrigerants Approved to Replace Hydrofluorocarbons in Commercial and Household Freezers

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has added three hydrocarbons as acceptable alternatives in household and small commercial refrigerators and freezers, signifying the first time that hydrocarbon substitutes will be widely used in the U.S. EPA took action after requests from Ben and Jerry's and General Electric, as well as A.S. Trust & Holdings, and True Manufacturing, a family-owned small business. These businesses are helping to clear the way for U.S. companies to use ozone layer-protective hydrocarbon refrigerants. The three approved substitutes (with use conditions) are propane, isobutane and a chemical known as R-441A. They refrigerants can be used to replace ozone-

depleting chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-12 and hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-22 in household refrigerators, freezers, combination refrigerator-freezers and commercial stand-alone units.

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Newsbits

■ **PSC Approves LG&E, KU Rate Increases for Cleaner Air**

From the Courier-Journal. The Kentucky Public Service Commission accepted a settlement Thursday [December 15] that allows LG&E to raise electric bills by about 18 percent by 2016 to pay for environmental upgrades. The commission ruled that the settlement, reached last month between LG&E and consumer and business groups, represents “the most reasonable and cost-effective course of action” for the utility and its sister company, Kentucky Utilities, to comply with stricter federal clean-air regulations.

Before the settlement was reached with Attorney General Jack Conway and other parties, LG&E’s rates would have risen even more — 19 percent by 2016. Under the settlement, the utilities agreed to shave \$225 million from their original list of \$2.5 billion in projects. In its order Thursday, the commission said it realized the result would be “very significant annual increases in customer rates,” but that state law makes it clear utilities have the right to cover their reasonable costs of complying with the federal Clean Air Act.

■ **Why the Future Holds More Clouds and Better Visibility for Buildings**

From GreeBiz.com. How can you have more clouds and greater visibility? It’s easy, when the clouds are internet data centers hosting the next generation of energy and sustainability management software. Cloud computing, and the software as a service (SaaS) commercial model, have become the next big thing in technology and offer a number of advantages to organizations seeking to update their energy and sustainability information management platform (which is often a spreadsheet). A number of large and small companies have introduced new software (actually, services) in the last year that target industry needs for data management, visualization and analysis.

The cloud/SaaS model is popular because it is paid for as a monthly service, instead of a large capital investment. If you aren’t getting the value you expect from the service, stop paying and it stops working. There are other advantages, such as automated updates, online support and online user communities. You can also access cloud-based applications from any internet-enabled device.

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Upcoming Training, Events and Conferences

■ **Air Permit Reporting Compliance Webinar** **January 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m. ET**



The Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance (DCA) and the Division for Air Quality (DAQ) are presenting educational opportunities to offer guidance on annual compliance certifications and semiannual monitoring reports. This training will feature presentations about how to read permits and offer an explanation of annual compliance certifications, semiannual monitoring reports and their purpose. Cost is \$20 General Admission or \$10 for KY EXCEL Members. Register online.

- **Energy Star Webinar - Scoring Energy Performance with EPA's Portfolio Manager**
January 25, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET



This training is meant for energy efficiency program sponsors—regulated utilities, publicly owned utilities, energy delivery companies, national, regional, state or local government entities, or organizations that administer energy efficiency programs promoting Energy Star—interested in using EPA's Portfolio Manager. The training provides a high-level, introductory overview of Portfolio Manager enabling program sponsors to assist customers in using the tool. The training will provide an online demonstration of the benchmarking process, including creating a user account, identifying data requirements, managing and sharing information, and establishing an energy performance score. It will also provide an introduction to additional Energy Star tools and resources that support program implementation in the C&I market. Register online.

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