



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and Republic Conduit Receive Energy Leadership Awards *Awards presented at Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment*

Frankfort, Ky. (Sept. 18, 2013) – The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and Republic Conduit Corp. today were presented Energy Leadership Awards during the Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment at the Lexington Convention Center.

Energy Leadership Awards recognize leaders in the Kentucky energy field who have made significant contributions by promoting and utilizing energy efficiency and alternative energy sources as a way to achieve their sustainability goals and cut costs.

"Agriculture and manufacturing are the backbone of our economy. The leaders honored today are the success stories shaping Kentucky's energy future," said Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters. "They have demonstrated their commitment to protecting the environment and how to be responsive to the demands of their communities. Their successful initiatives are core to our strategy to achieve the Governor's energy goals."

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy

The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP) provides a direct link between the Governor and one of the state's most important industries, Kentucky agriculture.

In an effort to assist farmers to become more energy efficient, GOAP launched the On-Farm Efficiency program, initially funded by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Under this program, funding supported 164 on-farm energy efficiency projects throughout the state and saved approximately \$2 million in energy costs through early 2012. Energy efficiency projects were implemented in the poultry industry, dairy operations, grain production and greenhouse operations and included a small number of solar energy projects.

The success of the ARRA program prompted the Agricultural Development Board to support additional energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. GOAP secured funding for the continuation of the program from state resources and funds through an environmental mitigation grant program. Today, over 200 additional projects including 119 solar energy projects are underway on farms throughout Kentucky.

“Kentucky’s farmers possess the resources and spirit to forge new opportunities to conserve energy and produce clean renewable energy,” said Secretary Peters. “And the GOAP has provided the resources for Kentucky farmers to transform practical ideas to save or produce energy into a reality. GOAP’s investment in rural Kentucky unlocks new potential for our energy resources.”

Republic Conduit

Republic Conduit, a Louisville manufacturing facility, has made waste and energy reduction projects a priority, and has demonstrated its environmental leadership with more than 60 percent of the corporate capital budget dedicated to environmental projects. Republic Conduit, a division of the Tenaris Group, manufactures and distributes electrical conduit –steel tubing used to encase wires in commercial or industrial construction.

In 2011, the company demonstrated its commitment by being recognized with Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center’s (KPPC) Environmental Sustainability Award for significant advances in environmental sustainability.

“Over the past several years, Republic Conduit’s energy initiatives have spanned the social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainability by minimizing the environmental impact of its operations, making the most efficient use of natural resources and energy, and integrating environmental management in all business processes,” Secretary Peters noted.

Energy reduction projects included improvements to the wastewater treatment system; recycling; installing mechanical upgrades and controls; and implementing shut-down procedures. These changes contributed to nearly a 10 percent reduction in annual electric usage, even with higher production volumes.

Republic Conduit partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy’s “Better Buildings, Better Plants” national program and Kentucky’s “Save Energy Now” initiative, to demonstrate its commitment to reducing energy over a 10-year period. DOE reports by 2012 the company achieved a 10 percent overall improvement in energy intensity and a cumulative improvement of 14.2 percent against its baseline year.

As testimony to its success, Republic Conduit served as a training facility for the U.S. DOE’s Advanced Manufacturing Office and U. S. Council for Energy-Efficient Manufacturing, and presented its energy management strategies to achieve ambitious energy performance goals at the 2013 Kentucky Association of Manufacturers Energy Conference.

Republic Conduit was nominated for the award by the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center, and the University of Louisville’s J.B. Speed School of Engineering.

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