

Office of Energy Policy Monthly Newsletter

For the Commonwealth

September 2026, Vol. 1

Inside: New cost and energy efficient housing, electric cost and winter electric use data, 50th Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment, and more!



GRANT HIGHLIGHT

A New Type of Housing Unveiled in Kentucky

On August 27, 2026, the Kentucky Office of Energy Policy, in partnership with the Kentucky Manufactured Housing Institute and Next Step, unveiled a net-zero manufactured home equipped with integrated solar shingles in Bremen,

Kentucky. The home is part of a larger initiative spearheaded by the Office of Energy Policy to promote modern, energy-efficient manufactured housing as an affordable solution to the state's housing needs. The Office of Energy Policy and its partners plan to install an additional net-zero manufactured home model in an urban context in the near future.

The unveiling comes shortly after Kentucky's new manufactured housing law took full effect. House Bill 160, introduced during the 2025 Regular Session and signed by Governor Andy Beshear in April 2025, prohibits local governments from enforcing zoning regulations that discriminate against manufactured homes compared to site-built single-family homes. The law took effect on July 1, 2026, and will support prospective homeowners in attaining homeownership through purchase of affordable manufactured homes, including net-zero options like that featured at the Bremen ribbon-cutting event.

The initiative is funded through the U.S. State Energy Program (SEP) funding made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

[Full article written by Alannah Bell.](#)

Watch the video [here](#).

NEWS OF THE MONTH

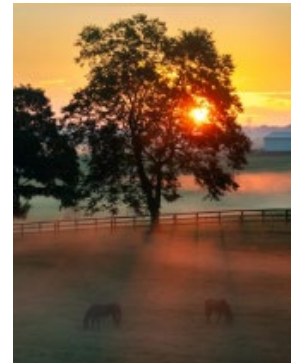
Woodford County Permanently Bans Data Centers

Woodford County Fiscal Court passed an ordinance on September 8, banning the construction of landfills, data centers, and large battery storage systems (hyperscale data centers), permanently.

Woodford County is the first Kentucky county to place a permanent ban on data center construction. Other county and local governments in Kentucky have passed moratoriums, but for much shorter lengths of time. The Data Center Coalition has criticized these bans for cutting off potential economic development opportunities.

However, Woodford County Judge-Executive James Kay stated that his concerns lie primarily with land usage damaging the local economy. Kay stated during the meeting: "Our rolling pastures, our historic farms, our agriculture, are not just scenic views. This isn't about closing doors or technology. It's about holding the line on the heritage we treasure."

Kay also stated that if data center technology were to become more sustainable, the ordinance may be reconsidered. Read the full article [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

What's on OEP's calendar for October?

OCT 19 - GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE



The **Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment** turns 50! This year's event will be an exciting look at where we have been, where we are, and where we are going in Kentucky's energy and environment fronts. Join public and private industry partners, local and state government leaders, higher education professionals, attorneys, students, and interested members of the public for a variety of informative panel sessions, keynote speaker addresses, exhibits, and more. Register [here](#).

OCT 20 - WOMEN IN ENERGY BRUNCH

The **Kentucky Women in Energy Breakfast** celebrates the leadership and contributions of women in the energy sector. The event includes breakfast, networking opportunities, and an inspiring keynote speaker. Register [here](#).

COMING SOON - COMMUNITY ENERGY FORUMS

"Bluegrass Greensource is excited to begin hosting **Energy Forums** across Central Kentucky communities. Join us for an upcoming Regional Energy Forum where you'll gain insights into Kentucky's current energy landscape, hear from experts about up-and-coming energy technologies, and learn strategies to help you lower your energy consumption and reduce the cost of utilities." For more information, please click [this link](#).



To see other Energy and Environment Cabinet events, please click [this link](#).

DATA REPORTING

Energy Data Sets of the Month

Take a look at the energy numbers OEP is watching.

33% Electric Price Increase

According to a report by Berkely Lab, residential consumers saw a 33% average price increase in retail electric costs from 2019-2025, in comparison to 26% for commercial and 27% for industrial. Read the [full report](#).

12 of 25 Top Natural Gas Demand Days were in 2026



12 of the top 25 natural gas demand days from recent winters occurred in the Winter 2026 Arctic Cold Period. [Full report here](#).

\$6.29 Average Price of Diesel in Kentucky

As of September 29, 2026. To check daily energy prices, including average gas prices by state, visit the OEP's [Kentucky Energy Situation Report](#).

IN THE NEWS

What are we reading?

- [Indiana to get its first power-producing nuclear reactor](#)
 - A commercially owned and operated micromodular reactor (MMR) is to be installed at Naval Weapons Station Crane in Crane, Indiana, becoming the US Navy's first shore-based advanced MMR, as well as the state of Indiana's first power-producing reactor. The MMR is set to be installed by the end of September 2030.
- [Federal court rejects Trump administration order keeping Michigan coal plant open](#)
- [As coal declines in KY and across US, Trump's EPA drops CO2 emissions limits for power plants](#)
- [Saudi oil pipeline hit by drones will be out of service for weeks. Here's what that could mean](#)
- [In unprecedented case, chemical co. sues to block Rhodia redevelopment](#)
- [Elevated crack spreads and crude oil prices contribute to higher prices at the pump](#)
 - Crack spreads are indicators of the profitability of refining crude oil into petroleum products. Gasoline crack spreads are elevated due to slim global gasoline supplies. An increased demand in fuel exports is elevated from disruptions in global refining activities in Russia, China, and the Middle East.
- [America Chose Its Nuclear Waste Site on a Guess About Cost, not Safety](#)
- [Louisville Metro Council begins debate on data center regulations](#)
- [Proposed Kentucky law would ensure AI isn't considered a 'person'](#)
- [Coast Guard Launches Office to Advance Maritime Cyber Policy](#)
- [Court reinstates \\$7B 'Solar for All' program axed by Trump](#)

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