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**KySES Quarterly News**

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2015 General Assemble, Solar Jobs Growth, Call for Nominations

## Newsletter

First Quarter 2015

### 2015 KY General Assemble Begins

During the first week of 2015, the Kentucky General Assembly began with its election of leadership and the appointment of committee chairs. But then as usual for the odd-numbered, shorter sessions, the legislature adjourned and will next be returning to Frankfort on February 3rd. During this year's session, if a bill is to be passed into law, it must do so in both the house and senate prior to March 9th, in order to be sent to the governor. The legislators will return to consider overrides of the governor's vetos, if any, on March 28 and 29th. And that is the entirety of the 2015 regular session. So there is very little time to make an impact in KY this year.

The following are what KySES and our allies (see [KySEA.org](http://KySEA.org)) are tracking for sustainable energy and solar policy bills that we know of so far:

1. We understand from his staff that Rep. Rocky Adkins will file a follow-on to his signature bill from 2008 to extend, and possibly expand, the current \$500/\$1000 state income tax credits for energy efficiency or renewable energy projects for homeowners/businesses that will otherwise expire at the end of 2015. This was deemed KySES's highest priority legislative action for this session. We don't want to step backwards.
2. Rep. James Kay has again filed a PACE bill (called ePAD, or *Energy Project Assessment Districts*, here) as [HB100](#), which passed the house last session, but did not get a vote in the senate. To learn more about this excellent method of financing commercial energy improvement projects see [this overview](#).
3. Also in the house Rep. Mary Lou Marzian is planning to re-file our comprehensive *Clean Energy Opportunity Act*, for which we hope to have a committee hearing again this session. To learn more, visit [KySEA.org](http://KySEA.org).

4. Lastly we are actively working with Sen. Morgan McGarvey to expand KY's Net-Metering statute beyond the current 30kW limit. Since the last session Sen. McGarvey has hosted several round table meetings with us, utilities, and other stakeholders. He expects to file a bill in the senate before the end of this month!

We will provide more details about these and any other interesting bills that may arise in email alerts, and to all the attendees at our upcoming *Clean Energy Lobby Day* on February 5th, 8:30 to 3pm at the Capitol Annex building in Frankfort. Please plan to join for this important chance to educate our elected representatives on renewable and solar energy. The day will start with an orientation session in Room 125, then we head to appointments with various legislators. Lunch is available in the cafeteria, and we will end with a wrap-up discussion. Bring your family, friends and co-workers, as this is the only way to make key improvements in KY's solar energy policies.



## US Solar Jobs Nearly Double Coal

This month, *The Solar Foundation* (TSF), an independent research and education non-profit, released its fifth annual [National Solar Jobs Census](#). TSF found that the US solar industry employed 173,807 Americans in 2014, and grew 20 times faster than the national average. The solar installation sector alone is larger than all US coal mining (93,185) jobs. So over the past 4 years, while KY's Dept for Energy Development and Independence reports that KY coal mining employment had declined by over 35%, US solar employment has increased by 86%.

For the fifth consecutive year, the solar industry in attracting highly-skilled, well-paid professionals. That growth is putting people back to work and strengthening our nation's economy. Solar employers are so optimistic that they expect to add another 36,000 jobs in 2015.

With the General Assembly in session, KySES wants all Kentuckians to contact their elected representatives to ask them to pass legislation that promotes energy efficiency, and supports homeowners and businesses that choose to install solar, thus **creating high-quality jobs in Kentucky** to replace those being lost.

## Solar Works in Kentucky!

The [Plowshares Farm Center for Education and](#)

## Call for Board Nominations

We need your help! If you are interested in solar energy and efficiency in Kentucky, please consider nominating yourself for our Board of Directors! This year we have 2 board openings, each for a two-year term, and we need excited and motivated individuals to move our organization to new levels and help move Kentucky in that direction too. The only qualifications are to be a member in good standing of KySES, and be willing to contribute to our mission of promoting efficiency, conservation and renewables in Kentucky!

Send your name, contact info, and a brief 100-150 word description of your credentials (to be included on the ballot) to [robert.chatham@gmail.com](mailto:robert.chatham@gmail.com), no later than March 31st. Alternatively, convince a friend to run, and then nominate her or him! The board election will be held at our annual meeting on May 9th in Louisville. The newly elected board will be effective on July 1st, 2015.

## Welcome New Members!

Since our previous newsletter, the following folks

**Spirituality** in Buffalo, Kentucky, installed a 9.3 kW solar system in December 2014. The array, installed by family-owned Avery and Sun of Louisville, is comprised of thirty 310-watt Canadian Solar panels and a Sunny Boy inverter. Co-founder Bob Ernst said their motivation to go solar is, "Like a lot of people, we were looking to save some money." But he added, "We wanted to get away from coal and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels." Their house was designed as a passive solar house and was built fourteen years ago.



The solar installation was just another step in their process to become fossil-fuel free.

have newly joined our organization:

- Bill Rihn
- Amy Waters
- Carl Hall
- Berry Lane
- Jarred Ford, Student Member
- John Bertram, Student Member

Thanks so much to these fine folks and to our renewing members as well! Our membership is very inexpensive and important to help educate and promote for solar energy in Kentucky!

You can join both KySES and ASES, including a subscription to *Solar Today magazine*, for just \$60 annually. [Click here](#) for this special offer, and pick Kentucky as your chapter in the check-out process.

### Important KySES Information to Remember

#### Upcoming Events:

Feb 5 8:30-3pm - Clean Energy Lobby Day in Frankfort. See the article above.  
 Feb 17 7est - KySES Board Meeting via conference call; contact any board member at least one day in advance to join us!  
 Feb 25 9am - KY chapter of US Green Building Council Lobby Day - [More info](#).  
 Mar 17 - KySES Board conference call  
 Apr 20 - KySES Board conference call  
 May 9 1-4pm - KySES Annual Membership Meeting and Board Elections, University of Louisville; details TBA  
 Jul 28-30 - ASES's Solar 2015 conference in State College PA - [Solar2015.ases.org](http://Solar2015.ases.org)

[Find us on Facebook](#)

Contact email: [kystreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:kystreasurer@gmail.com)

#### Your KySES Board of Directors

- Jack Barnett, Chair
- Robert Chatham, Vice-chair
- Amy Waters, Treasurer
- Josh Bills
- Nancy Givens, Director-at-large

As of Dec 31st, Norb Baunach and Steve Ricketts separately had to resign due to other workloads. At the December Board meeting, prior board member Nancy Givens was named to a one year term as "director-at-large"; and in January Amy Waters was named to fill the remainder of Steve's term (thru June '16) and to the role of Treasurer. Thanks for stepping up to help!

KySES Memberships are very affordable!

\$20 for individuals or \$10 for students.

Business memberships vary from \$100 to \$500.

Visit [www.kyses.org](http://www.kyses.org) for details!

**Thanks to our Sustaining Partner Members at:**

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*KySES is a chapter of the American Solar Energy Society ([www.ases.org](http://www.ases.org)) promoting efficiency, conservation and renewables in Kentucky.*

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