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**KySES Quarterly News**

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Sun, May 10, 2015 at 1:32 PM

2015 Annual Meeting, Utility Rate Cases, Legislative Wrap-up



## Newsletter

First Quarter 2015

### 2015 KySES Annual Membership Meeting

The Kentucky Solar Energy Society is holding its annual general membership meeting and board elections on Saturday May 9th, at the University of Louisville at 1-4pm. The meeting agenda includes a discussion of UofL's solar and sustainable energy programs, a visual tour of dual-axis tracking array on campus, a presentation by Kenya Stump, the Assistant Director for Renewable Energy at the KY Dept. of Energy Development and Independence, about the recently assembled inventory of known solar interconnections, and a brief business meeting.

The meeting will be in rooms 311/314 of Vogt Hall, 100 Eastern Parkway, Louisville, KY 40208. The meeting is free to everyone, so invite your friends and neighbors. Registration is desirable, but not required at [KySES.org/events](http://KySES.org/events). If you are a paid-up member you have recently received your ballot in the mail. Please bring it with you, or mail it back promptly as instructed. Anyone can also join our society or renew at the meeting and receive a ballot there.



## Legislative Update

The 2015 KY General Assembly legislative session ended with some losses for clean energy but one significant bipartisan win. The state energy efficiency and renewable energy tax credits were not extended, so will nominally end as of December 31st, 2015. We can hope that the 2016 session will reconsider and back date it to Jan 1st. Also KY's net-metering statute was not expanded, and no Renewable Portfolio Standard or feed-in tariff was set. However, [HB100](#) for financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water projects passed with bi-partisan support, and was signed by the governor. This bill establishes Energy Project Assessment Districts (EPAD). It applies only to commercial properties and only in cities or counties that approve it. EPADs can make energy efficiency and water investments and the payment over time will be through additional property taxes; if the property is sold the outstanding debt transfers with the property.

Your voice on solar is important in efforts to create more favorable legislation to expand energy efficiency and renewable energy in Kentucky. If you are not already a member, please consider joining KySES, or our legislative allies at Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance ([KySEA.org](http://KySEA.org)).

## Solar Works in Kentucky!

## LG&E and KU Rate Cases

Kentucky's largest electric utilities have requested to raise their monthly fixed charge in a way that will unfairly hurt low and fixed income customers and those making clean energy investments. These rate cases, which are currently being considered by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC), are part of a national strategy by the utility industry to make it less attractive for customers to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient or install renewable energy.

The utilities, including LG&E, Kentucky Utilities, Kentucky Power and Bluegrass Energy, are seeking to expand their revenue by sharply increasing the flat monthly fee all customers must pay regardless of their energy use. With LG&E, the kwh rate will also be decreased slightly, and this will further discourage efficiency and investing in renewable energy. This is the wrong direction and its result will be for customers to have less ability to control their energy costs by conserving energy. Instead, customers who do take steps to use less energy will subsidize customers who are heavy users.

Let the PSC know that if utilities truly need additional revenue, the PSC should direct them to increase the per-kilowatt-hour charge, while leaving the flat monthly fee low. That would leave customers with options to lower bills by using less electricity. For sample letters and more info, visit <http://repowerky.wordpress.com/about/>.

## Welcome New Members!

Rich and Sylvia Griendling, in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, installed a 20 kW grid-intertied solar energy system to save energy and money, and also because of their shared belief in the importance of individuals taking personal action to cut carbon emissions to address the crisis of climate change. The Griendling's stunning home/studio was designed by Rich, who is a visual artist, and the roof was designed for solar, with a good angle on a south-facing surface. The 19.1 kW grid-interconnected system is comprised of sixty-four 310 watt panels from Canadian Solar that will produce approximately 2000 kWh per month, their average usage. The system complements existing passive solar and geothermal heating systems so that the house will use virtually no fossil fuel energy. The main array of panels are installed on the central roof, with a smaller array over the garage. The system involves three inverters and a separate meter to track production.



The Griendling's system is one of the larger residential installations in the area. The sky-blue color of the panels highlights the unique architecture of the building and the rural setting. The system was engineered and installed by Avery and Sun ([www.averyandsun.com](http://www.averyandsun.com)), from Hart Co. Kentucky.

Since our previous newsletter, the following folks have newly joined our organization:

- Roy Crawford
- Shawn Hayth
- Steve Hegge
- Theresa Martin
- Wallace McMullen
- David Wrede

Thanks so much to these fine folks and to our renewing members as well! Our membership is very inexpensive and important to helping to educate and promote 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.

## Featured New Resource

WKU-PBS, in collaboration with Kenya Stump, Assistant Director of Renewable Energy with the Kentucky Department of Energy Development and Independence (DEDI), has released a new video: Main Street with Barbara Deeb, on [Going Green](#) with solar in Kentucky. It shows three very different model solar installations, including two farm installations and Richardsville Elementary school, the first net-zero energy school in the U.S. The video is 25 mins. and well worth the time to watch it!

## Important KySES Information to Remember

### Upcoming Events:

Apr 15 - KY Distributed Energy Resources Workshop, sponsored by DEDI  
 Apr 16 - Earthfest 2015: Sustaining our Earth, Our Home, sponsored by ECTCS  
 Apr 18 - Family-centered Earthfest 2015 First Presbyterian Church, Elizabethtown  
 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

### Your KySES Board of Directors

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

During the February Board meeting, Theresa Martin was appointed as Secretary, and will finish out Norb Baunach's term as a Director

in State College PA - [Solar2015.ases.org](http://Solar2015.ases.org)

through June 30, 2015.



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

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:**



# Solar Energy Solutions

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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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