Welcome

Forum Sponsors are Kentucky Renewable Energy Consortium (KREC) and Energizing Kentucky.

KREC is part of UofL’s Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center at J.B. Speed School of Engineering.

• KREC – 60 partner organizations and 200 members including universities, industry and government.

• Goal of KREC – fund innovative research on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

• KREC began two years ago with $1.14 million grant for seven research projects at UofL and UK

• 2009 - $850,000 in grants

Energizing Kentucky members are Berea College President Larry Shinn, Centre College President John Roush, UK President Lee Todd and myself.
UofL has expertise to address the use of wind, solar, geothermal, biomass resources, energy storage and the logistics and distribution challenges for new energy sources.

UofL’s commitment to research on renewable energy rewarded:

- UofL alumnus Henry Conn and wife Rebecca pledged $20 million to fund the center, now called the Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research and Environmental Stewardship.
- Conn Center Mission – Promote partnerships, recruit talented researchers, pursue research funds

Goal of today’s forum: Begin conversation about what a “reduced carbon economy” might mean for Kentucky. We’re a rural state with lots of forests and farmland that could help reduce our carbon emissions and provide new sources of revenue for communities.
Through KREC and Energizing Kentucky, UofL is leading the research, discussion and education on these issues.

Two important questions today:

- Are there economic opportunities?
- What are the risks and challenges?

Keep those questions in mind as you listen to impressive list of speakers who can help us understand how agriculture and forestry-based technologies that capture, convert and sequester carbon might benefit Kentucky.

- Partners at UK’s College of Agriculture will tell us about Miscanthus and Switchgrass test plots.
- Algae research and landfill methane gas capture
- Kentuckians who own farms and forests putting their carbon offsets on the market and how others can do the same
- Response panel – folks from across state. Farmers, business owners and forest owners will share their experiences on changing the way they operate and
how they can afford to be more environmentally friendly and energy efficient.

It’s a new age of energy. At UofL, we’re doing the research to move Kentuckians into that new age. We need your help. Kentucky needs your help.

So thanks again for coming today.

Be engaged. Ask the tough questions. Share bold ideas.

The future of our state depends on it.

open discussion we envisioned when establishing Energizing Kentucky.