

# **Kentucky Forum on Carbon Sequestration Through Agriculture and Forestry Management**

**September 10, 2009**

## **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:**

- Gov. Beshear chooses UofL for Center for Renewable Energy Research and Environmental Stewardship.**
- 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.**