



Energy Intern Program

The Appalachian Regional Commission recently awarded the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) a grant for a new economic development program in eastern Kentucky. With the help of several partners, MACED's Economic Transition for Eastern Kentucky (ETEK) Initiative will support new business start-ups, and help existing businesses expand and become more profitable. MACED will provide technical assistance and training, as well as capital investments that can be structured creatively to meet the needs of the business.

One key element of ETEK is an internship program in partnership with East Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP). Former coal miners and coal industry workers will be re-trained to work in the growing clean energy job sector. They will perform energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits that can generate significant savings for homes and businesses. The new energy intern program will help expand MACED's outreach to businesses, and help business owners understand how they can access utility incentives implement energy-saving measures.

Contact us if you'd like to hear more.

SmartFact:

"According to a new report from Navigant Research, global government and utility energy efficiency spending is expected to grow from \$25.6 billion in 2017 to \$56.1 billion in 2026."



\$martNews

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HowSmartKY™ Landlord and Tenant Success Story

Mark and Melinda Thomas live on a farm in Flemingsburg, Ky. and have participated in three HowSmart retrofits for their rental homes. The retrofits were spread out over several years.

Most of the buildings had baseboard electric heating and little to no insulation, and Mark said the "bills could be astronomical" during the heating season. One of the homes had a bill of \$700 for one month. Many of these buildings also have historical value: two of the houses were more than 100 years old, and one is a Victorian-style house that was Mark's family home.

The Thomas' found that taking this kind of initiative with their rental homes improved the tenant-landlord relationship. The tenants are happier, healthier and more comfortable in their living spaces, while the Thomas' are able to turn their older homes into higher quality, efficient housing in the area. As long as the houses remain occupied, the tenants will pay for the upgrades to the home. This allows the Thomas' to upgrade the homes significantly at little to no cost to themselves, while still providing a huge benefit to their tenants.



One of the rental homes that Mark and Melinda Thomas have enrolled in the HowSmartKY program.

New Energy Advisor at Fleming Mason, Michael Parker

Changes are happening! Our friend at Fleming Mason Energy, Mary Beth Nance, retired this past February from the post of energy advisor. We are excited to work with a new member of the HowSmart community, Michael Parker.

Michael began as a meter reader for Fleming Mason via contract work in 1998. He joined Fleming Mason's staff through an apprenticeship as a meter technician in 2011, where he also became BPI certified and began to work closely with residential energy efficiency. Michael still participates in continuing education for both metering and residential energy efficiency. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Amy, and son, Trey, attending University of Kentucky football games, and fishing.



Welcome to the HowSmart family, Michael!

