

News

Missouri Division of Energy, State Parks Officially Open Energy Display in Missouri State Museum

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JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — In recognition of National Energy Action Month, the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Division of Energy, in partnership with Missouri State Parks, a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, today officially opened "Experience Energy in Missouri," an interactive energy display in the Missouri State Museum.

The exhibit, located in the Natural Resources Hall of the museum in the State Capitol, includes interactive displays featuring three of the state's diverse energy resources – coal, solar and wind. The display was made possible through funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program grant.

"We wanted to educate visitors, specifically children and school-aged groups, about Missouri's main source of energy – coal – while also educating them on alternative sources of energy – solar and wind," said Lewis Mills, director of the Missouri Division of Energy. "Children are our

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greatest energy ambassadors. If we can educate them on where their energy comes from and how to use it efficiently, they will take that message home and apply it to day-to-day life.”

On average, 40,000-60,000 school children visit the Missouri State Museum each year. The Missouri State Museum, which is operated by Missouri State Parks, is located on the first floor of the Missouri State Capitol.

“The Missouri State Museum provides the opportunity for students from throughout our state to learn more about the history and natural wonders they can find in their own community,” said Bill Bryan, director of Missouri State Parks. “This exhibit will be a great addition to the collections and exhibits on display for our guests to experience at the museum.”

The energy exhibit opens the same week the public meetings for the Comprehensive State Energy Plan Steering Committee come to a close. In June, the Governor signed an executive order to formally launch the development of a Comprehensive State Energy Plan, a strategic path towards a prosperous, secure, and sustainable energy future for the state. Launched on Oct. 1 in St. Louis, the initiative through public meetings across the state has solicited input from stakeholders on various energy topics including energy storage and security, energy prices and rate-setting, and fuels and resource extraction, among others. The meetings, led by a steering committee comprised of 50 community leaders, business owners, and residents, have thus far taken place in Fort Leonard Wood, Joplin, Kansas City, and Maryville and will wrap up this week in Sikeston and Kirksville.

The Missouri State Museum, which is operated by Missouri State Parks, is located on the first floor of the Missouri State Capitol. For more information, contact the Museum at 573-751-2854. For information on state parks and historic sites, visit mostateparks.com. Missouri State Parks is a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

For more information about energy, visit energy.mo.gov. For more information about the Comprehensive State Energy Plan, visit <http://energy.mo.gov/energy/about/comprehensive-state-energy-plan> or sign up to receive texts messages by texting “DED ENERGY” to 468311.

Energy Display Ribbon cutting ceremony images

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