

# The (Essential) Clean Energy Economy

One thing is crystal clear—our world, and therefore our Bluegrass, is facing not just one crisis, but two epic, monumental challenges these days. Our *economic* climate is cooling at depressing rates and our *environmental* temperatures are teetering near disaster. Our financial world is crying for fundamental, wholesale change and our environment is desperately needing renovation. Two enormous problems, indeed. And big problems require immense imagination—and transformative leadership.

Our city, state, nation and world need the best, most solution-oriented leaders of our lives. The status quo is seriously broken and imagination and innovation are in high demand. And at this moment, Kentucky needs the best decisions ever from our elected officials, to help spur on the lone answer to our dilemma—the purposeful creation of the Clean Energy Economy.

In American history, good government has always been in the unique position of being able to synergize our greatest challenges with our greatest resources. And not since the Great Depression and World War II have we needed such dedication and prioritization. In days past, when the economy was in shambles, government would purposefully invest in public infrastructure to immediately create good jobs and build the economy from the bottom-up. We would build bridges, roads and schools—jobs that helped people pay for their homes, health-care and college education, *while also building a brighter tomorrow*. In these days, we need government to follow the same model by investing into the new Green Infrastructure.

Our local, state and federal governments must help our people now with proactive, prioritized investments into The Clean Energy Economy, specifically in Research and Development jobs.

We need more public investments into great R&D firms like Alltech, Kentucky Science & Technology Center (KSTC), UK and Toyota, the leaders of innovation in our state. Talking with Kris Kimel, President of KSTC, it's clear that our scientists and innovators are still very much "in the emerging stages of determining our future energy platform. "As the founder of ideaFestival puts it, "investment must be made into imagination, innovation, and invention." This means even our greatest minds are still grappling for solutions.

Lexington's elected officials can help by reconsidering parts of the STEM Scholarship idea, investing now into our future scientists, engineers and creators. Perhaps Kentucky's state government can create TIF-like tax incentives for "Imagination Developers," alongside our real estate developers. Maybe our U.S. Senators can push for part of that \$700B bailout bill to go toward making Kentucky's agricultural base the next Middle East or Silicon Valley—of profitable biofuels. We have one of the

largest agronomies east of the Mississippi River, and Lexington continually produces great intellectual capital—we just have to synergize our resources to create world-changing solutions.

If the U.S. decides to move toward the Hydrogen Economy, then those pipelines will need to be built now. Our automotive companies then need tax incentives to totally transform their expensive manufacturing plants—also creating

## Guest Essay by Eric Partick Marr

those great new jobs. Toyota is certainly able to lead the way, and Kentucky has not one, but two major Toyota facilities within our borders. Kentucky needs to work with them.

The University of Kentucky can be the largest change agent our state has ever seen—if the public recognizes its potential. Silicon Valley was built largely from Stanford University's desire and initiatives—also in dire economic conditions, after WWII. With the right prioritization and leadership, UK could become the Stanford of this region.

The bottom line—we DO have all the resources. We have the intellectual capital, the agricultural capital and the financial capital. We have the two major dilemmas staring us in the face. We have the abilities.

We just need the synergy. The public-private partnerships. Alltech, for instance, has their newly created Margin of Excellence Fellowship, which, "is designed to make businesses more profitable (or create new businesses) through scientific research." This is exactly what Kentucky and Lexington must support—creating more profitable businesses, even new businesses, in the fields of biotechnology and scientific, energy-related research. Alltech is granting thought-leaders up to \$200,000 to help reinvent our society (literally in their case) from the ground up.

Our economic crisis can be summarily solved by seeing the whole picture. We need a new economy, built from the bottom-up, which means new, green jobs and new, green businesses. Specifically in Clean Energy R&D.

Purposefully and proactively building our Essential, Clean Energy Economy is our best, and arguably *only* way. It solves our immediate financial crisis and can restore our planet to pristine condition. It's the ultimate win-win opportunity, born out of two life-altering challenges.

Our Lexington, and our Kentucky, should lead the way. ■

Lexington native Eric Patrick Marr can be reached at [EPM@EricPatrickMarr.com](mailto:EPM@EricPatrickMarr.com) and at [TransformLexington.blogspot.com](http://TransformLexington.blogspot.com)




# ACE readers VOTE!

Ace's Bluegrass Bachelor Issue  
will be on stands October 30, pre-Election!  
Call today to place your October 30 Ads!

Call today for  
Fall 2008 rates

859.225.4889 ext. 235





**For Experience, Independence and Compassion**  
*Elect* **JOHN TACKETT** ★★★★★★  
**— for —**  
**FAYETTE DISTRICT JUDGE**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Practiced Civil, Criminal, Appellate, Family, Probate, Juvenile and Traffic Law in the District and Circuit Courts of the Commonwealth
- Appointed Administrative Hearing Officer for Lexington Fayette Urban County Government Adjudicating Housing Appeals
- Appointed by the United States Federal Court as a Federal Public Defender
- Staff Attorney for Judge Roger Crittenden, drafted Criminal, Civil and State Administrative Appellate Decisions
- Admitted to practice before the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Federal Court of the Eastern District of Kentucky
- Currently practices law with Ward, Hooper & Thornton, PLLC.

**SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

Makenna Foundation Board Member benefitting the UK Children's Hospital  
Lexington Public Library Foundation, Young Professionals Board Member  
Lexington Children's Theater, Board Member  
Lexington Fair Housing Council, Board Member  
National Conference of Community and Justice  
West End Community Empowerment Project at Black and Williams Center  
Lifetime Member University of Kentucky Ag and HES Alumni Association  
Lexington Network  
Past Rotarian (Oldham County)

**EDUCATION**

University of Kentucky College of Law, Juris Doctorate, Constitutional Law; Received Award for Top Student  
University of Chicago; Graduated with Honors; Bachelor of Arts Degree  
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Graduate

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Member, Kentucky Academy of Trial Attorneys/ Kentucky Justice Association
- Member, UK College of Law Alumni Association
- Member, Fayette County Bar Association

**OTHER**

John is a Former Employee of Lexmark International  
John is a Member of Central Christian Church and a Native of Lexington

**I believe Judicial Independence is very important and the basis of Judicial Integrity**  
Paid for by Bluegrass Committee to Elect John Tackett District Court Judge. Samantha Morris Treasurer.

Honoring your trust and upholding the law for the safety of Lexington will be my top priorities. I would appreciate your vote. Look for me, #8.

Sincerely,  
*John Tackett*  
John L. Tackett

**THE CITIZENS GROUP FOR JOHN TACKETT**  
... IS ENDORSING HIM BECAUSE:

- 1) of his professional and educational experience;
- 2) because of his even temperament, his patience to listen, and compassion to care about people who come before the court;
- 3) and because he knows the law and will apply it fairly. We ask for your vote for John Tackett November 4th for Fayette District Judge.

**TOM MILLS, Vice Chair Bluegrass Committee**  
Former Ky. High School Athletics Assoc. Commissioner

# What Can Green Do For You?

## And what does it mean for Lexington?

In his new book, *Hot, Flat & Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution*, NYT writer William Friedman makes it clear that the U.S. economic future depends on new, green, alternatives. When we sit on the sidelines of the Green Revolution, he suggests it's akin to someone sitting on the cusp of the IT revolution and investing in IBM selectric typewriters. "What we need is more carbon paper!!!"

How does Lexington fit into that map? Are we clinging to our carbon paper or investing in intellect? Ideas? New and better?

What are the candidates saying on this issue? (Ask them.)

Asked how the future of Lexington's economy depends on Green Technology, Ben Perry (of Bluegrass Greenworks) says, "I don't claim to be an economist [but] Green tech is simply where the economy is going, just as computer technology is where the economy has been going the past few decades. If atmospheric CO2 keeps rising 3 percent per year as it did this past year, there will be unbelievable pressure to curb emissions, so federal funding and private capital will be pouring into anything that looks promising."

He adds, "The trouble for Kentucky is that it is too late to position ourselves to be more than a secondary destination for much of that capital, especially in the high-tech arena, so Kentucky will likely see no more than a few ripples from the huge waves of economic activity that will crest in states like California, Colorado and Michigan where they have been positioning themselves for high tech energy innovation for decades."

As for our assets, he says, "What we do have that they don't have is close proximity to huge stores of energy, albeit fossil fuel energy. For better or worse, our best shot at the 'big time' as the transition to a renewable energy future hits its stride, is the promise of cleaner coal as a bridge to this cleaner future. This, of course has all the makings of yet another black eye for our fair state, especially if the usual power brokers have their way with the process and subvert attempts at a real dialogue about what is and is not feasible and responsible in developing what is left of our coal resources."

"There is also the possibility that we could seize this opportunity and become a committed partner in the worldwide effort to transition to a clean, sustainable future. This would involve a commitment to extensive and transparent regulation of all

ture for Lexington, Perry says, "The Expo represents the possibility of a different kind of economic development—from the ground up. Most of the businesses that participate in the Expo are small to medium sized businesses and organizations, and they represent the leading edge of a more localized effort to develop a 'green economy.'

The Expo, along with our just released Bluegrass



**"Our coal reserves make us an important player in about the most important game in the world, so we'd better get used to the glare of the international spotlight and decide whether we are going to be the heroes or the goats in this great drama."**

**—Ben Perry**

aspects of coal extraction, production, hauling and burning, subject to national and international oversight under Kyoto and whatever international agreement(s) follow on its heels.

"If we do this right, we will dedicate a portion of our coal revenues to the development of renewable energy resources and infrastructure, so that we will be better positioned for a carbon-constrained future when the coal industry begins its final decline. This should include investment in solar, hydro, wind, and cellulosic ethanol, with a strong emphasis on energy efficiency and conservation.

"We should also be investing in green job creation by supporting promising local entrepreneurs and business mod-

els, building on existing high tech industries such as the automotive industry, and educating our students to fill the jobs that this investment will create.

"Like it or not, our coal reserves make us an important player in about the most important game in the world, so we'd better get used to the glare of the international spotlight and decide whether we are going to be the heroes or the goats in this great drama."

### It's All Local

Asked how this weekend's GreenExpo fits into the pic-

GreenGuide, connects these businesses and organizations with the public and each other, helping to create a web of relationships that serve as the foundation for a growing economy focused on creating a more healthy, sustainable and prosperous community. This economy will not be as dependent on the whims of big-time politics and international financial markets, and over time, can become more robust and create more real prosperity than the current macro-economy.

"A green economy also offers the promise of re-building our sense of community as we develop these relationships and become more interdependent. I think many Americans ache for this greater sense of community and an economy that connects us rather than

