



Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education

March 11, 2014, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Department of Environmental Protection, Fair Oaks, Room 301D

Frankfort, KY

In attendance: Tresine Logsdon, Fayette County Public School District; Mary Duncan, Kentucky Educational Television; Elizabeth McNulty, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; John Eisiminger, Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance; Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar, Kentucky Division of Water; Billie Hardin, Kentucky Community and Technical College System; Roberta Burnes, Kentucky Division for Air Quality; Rae McEntyre, Kentucky Department of Education; Steve Meredith, Finance and Administration Cabinet/Governor's Garden Initiative; Arnita Gadson, Environmental Quality Commission; Elizabeth Schmitz, staff, KEEC.

The meeting opened at 9:00 AM with introductions.

Presentations:

**Roberta Burnes, Kentucky Division for Air Quality (DAQ)**, highlighted some of the agency's environmental education efforts, particularly those involving education and awareness about illegal open burning. DAQ has partnered with the State Parks system to produce a poster for campgrounds. The poster identifies what should and what should not be burned in campground campfire rings. The poster includes information about the hazardous materials that are released when illegal items are burned, and how such burning can have a negative impact on the health of children and adults.

Ms. Burnes also invited meeting attendees outside to see the Department for Environmental Protection's new Plug-In Hybrid, a Chevy Volt. The Commonwealth of Kentucky purchased multiple Volts for use in its fleet through a grant. The Commonwealth is also launching an idle-reduction campaign and stickers that remind individual not to idle their engine unnecessarily are being placed on every vehicle in the state fleet. All of these efforts are part of the Commonwealth's participation in the Kentucky Clean Fuel Coalition's Green Fleet Initiative.

**John Eisiminger, Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance**, presented about the Kentucky EXCEL program. The program is designed to encourage businesses and non-profits to become environmental stewards. The program is free and voluntary. Participants are recognized for their efforts and are invited

to participate at an annual meeting held in conjunction with the Governor's Conference on the Environment each fall. Mr. Eisiminger encouraged all members of the Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education to consider joining, if they have not already done so. (See linked presentation.)

**Billie Hardin, Kentucky Community and Technical College System,** highlighted the KCTCS GREEN+ Initiative. KCTCS has several environmental education and sustainability efforts underway, while more have been completed at campuses across the Commonwealth. These include wetlands development, outdoor classrooms, recycling initiatives, energy savings initiatives, LEED buildings, Earth Day events, and more. Ms. Hardin also shared that KCTCS established a KCTCS Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education and Workforce Solutions in Fall 2013. (See linked presentation.)

**Rae McEntyre, Kentucky Department of Education,** discussed the ongoing implementation of the new Science Kentucky Core Academic Standards and challenges to the implementation currently underway in the legislature.

**Elizabeth Schmitz, Kentucky Environmental Education Council,** announced upcoming events, including the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education's March 2014 Climate Change Symposium in Bowling Green, Kentucky, upcoming environmental education webinars, and a Bluegrass Greensource Workshop.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.