



**KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COUNCIL**

Report to the General Assembly

Fiscal Year 2019

In its 2018 session, the General Assembly passed a budget to maintain funding for the Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC). Since 1994, KEEC’s funding has come not from the general fund, but from \$150,000 in environmental fines and penalties, plus interest on the Pride Fund (KRS 224.43-505). This funding is amplified by federal and private grants to support our wide range of programs:

The Role of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council

- Environmental education encourages critical thinking skills that are in high demand in business and industry.
- As an honest broker in a world of competing environmental interests, KEEC brings order and consistency to environmental education by encouraging environmental literacy instead of environmental advocacy.

Professional Environmental Educator Certification

- In 2017, Certified Professional Environmental Educators reached over 200,000 Kentuckians
- \$9,500 annual grant from Toyota of Kentucky
- 212 certified from state/local agencies, non-profits, schools, colleges, universities, and private sector



Our Mission

To promote learning and skills for a sustainable and economically healthy environment

Legislative Mandates

- 5-year master plan and survey for coordination of all Kentucky environmental education programs
- Coordinate university env. ed. centers
- Assist in integrating environmental education into school curricula

Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools

- Student-driven, project-based learning to develop 21st-century skills and improve the school environment
- \$91,000 in federal funds for 2016-18
- 300 participant schools since 2007



Environmental Education Leadership Corps

- \$241,000 in federal funds for 2018-19 program
- 16 AmeriCorps members serving at host sites throughout Kentucky
- Creating quality environmental education programs and developing workforce skills

96%

of Kentuckians believe environmental education should be taught in schools.