



**GREEN AND HEALTHY
SCHOOLS**

KGHS Update

Fall 2011

Madisonville North Hopkins High Begins New School Year with KGHS

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Students, staff and parents at Madisonville North Hopkins High kicked off the 2011 school year by joining KGHS. They are getting started in the program by planning and implementing projects in the Solid Waste, Green Spaces, Water and Instructional Leadership categories. The high school became a Candidate School in August after Robyn Warren (teacher) and Sue Love (parent) completed the program training with their KGHS coordinator. Maria Bailey, an advanced placement environmental science teacher, will also serve as a team leader for their student group, which is called Students for a Sustainable Future.

The school joins KGHS having already begun a recycling project that will be counted in the Solid Waste category, but Warren and the rest of her team hope to expand the project. "Last year, we began with recycling mixed paper, cardboard and bottles. We just received a Habitat for Humanity trailer that we will be using for can collection in partnership with Browning Springs Elementary. We hope to collect enough to pay for construction of a home for a family in need," said Warren.

By bringing on more team leaders and involving more students, the school will also offer recycling at special events such as football games and festivals.



Students pose with their Recycle For Habitat can collection trailer.

"For a green spaces project, we have talked about potentially renovating an old garden area with new plant beds and benches. We would like to start with some flowers and move onto vegetables that we could give to our students and families," said Warren.

The students and team leaders also plan to explore the possibility of planting species that are native to Kentucky and can serve as habitat for native wildlife such as butterflies and birds.

The school agricultural department planted shrubs and other landscaping plants, but many of the plants did not do well during the heat of the past summer. "We are looking into constructing and installing rain barrels for a water project so that we can water the landscaping

without adding to the school's water bill," said Warren.

Because the Instructional Leadership category must be one of the first three to be completed by schools in the KGHS program, Warren is currently working on her Rank 1 teacher certificate at Murray State University and she will have an emphasis in environmental education.

"My vision is to use what I learn through my Rank 1 and environmental education emphasis to teach other teachers and the higher grade students, and then those teachers and older students can work with the younger students as mentors to get them outdoors and learning about their environment. We think our team is off to a great start," said Warren.

New School Profile System Launched

The new KGHS online school profile system launched on Sept. 1, 2011, ending a submission blackout period that began in April. Team leaders participating in the program are now able to submit inventories, SMART forms, and project reports by logging in to their unique school profile. Now that the system is up and running, emailed and paper submissions will no longer be accepted.

The new system will allow team leaders and students to view their progress, submissions and school status as they move through the program. Leaders will also have the ability to upload a photo to personalize their profile. Multiple team leaders can be granted access to a school's profile, allowing leaders to work on different KGHS categories simultaneously. After making a submission in the new system, team leaders will be

automatically notified of their submission status by the KGHS coordinator. When submissions are approved, the system will automatically prompt the team leader to begin the next step in the KGHS process.

The online system will streamline the school submission, project approval and awards process. Team leaders will be able to view a full history of submissions made since the system was launched. The system will also track the school's award status which will appear on the profile page.

School form submissions that were made prior to May 2011 will not be viewable in the new system. However, the system will prompt team leaders to begin in the new system based on forms they had submitted by paper or email prior to May, 2011.

In other words, school statuses and submissions will be up to date in the system, but forms submitted prior to May 2011 will not be viewable.

The link to sign in to the new system is located on the KGHS website at the top of the page. The KGHS coordinator will send team leaders their usernames and passwords upon request. To receive your username and password, identify your school and request your login information in the contact form [found here](#).

All team leaders are strongly encouraged to log in to the new system to make sure that their profile displays their correct school status and that the system has started them on the correct step for each KGHS category.

Example of a School Profile

The screenshot shows a web page titled "Exploring Your School Environment". It includes a school photo, a status message "KGHSTest is a School Under Development. 8/8/2011", and a table of progress categories. Callout boxes provide context for these elements.

Category	Current Step	Status	Worked By
Energy	Improvement Project Reports	Step Completed	You Select
Instructional Leadership	Improvement Project Reports	Started	You Select
Health And Safety	Improvement Project Reports	Started	You Select
Solid Waste	Improvement Project Reports	Started	You Select
Green Spaces	Improvement Project Reports	Started	You Select
Indoor Air Quality	Improvement Project Reports	Step Completed	You Select
Transportation	Improvement Project Reports	Step Completed	You Select
Hazardous Chemicals	Inventories	Started	You Select
Water	Inventories	Started	You Select

Callout Boxes:

- School photo.** Points to the school logo at the top left.
- School status and date status was achieved.** Points to the "KGHSTest is a School Under Development. 8/8/2011" message.
- List of the nine KGHS categories.** Points to the table header.
- List of school documents uploaded by team leaders or the KGHS coordinator available for download.** Points to the "School Forms" section at the bottom.
- Display of the current step a school is on within each category.** Points to the "Current Step" column.
- Display of the current step within each category.** Points to the "Status" column.
- Identification of team leaders who last worked on a form.** Points to the "Worked By" column.

New and Continued Resources Available to Schools

The Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC) maintains several resources that are available free of charge to schools participating in the KGHS program. Team leaders are encouraged to [contact the KGHS coordinator](#) if they need assistance finding materials or activities that can help move their school through the KGHS program and awards process.

Energy Exploration Kits

Available upon request, these kits include several items that can help students explore energy use and conservation issues at their schools. Materials in the kits include a light meter, hygrometer, Kill-A-Watt meter, lamp, thermometers and various types of light bulbs. Schools may borrow the kits free of charge, but are responsible

for return shipping costs to the KEEC office.

Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Kits

Available upon request, these kits help students identify, prevent and correct indoor air quality problems. Indoor air quality affects student concentration, attendance and performance. Kits can be shipped free of charge to schools participating in KGHS.

Kentucky's Wonderful Commonwealth of Water*

Available online, this publication includes activities that help primary through high school level students understand Kentucky's water resources.

Be A Solid Waste Survivor*

Available online, this publication includes activities for primary through middle school level students. The activities in these units are designed to help students understand all aspects of solid waste management. Topics covered by the units include consumer choices and sources of waste, and the reuse, recycling and disposal of solid waste.

Guide to Teaching Biodiversity in Middle School Science*

Available online, this guide includes background information and activities that can assist teachers in teaching about biodiversity.

*Publications aligned to Kentucky Core Content.

Announcements & Events

Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan Published for Public Comment

The Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Environmental Education Council are seeking public feedback on a draft of the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP). The goal of the KELP is to provide students and educators with the tools and resources vital to building environmental literacy in the Commonwealth. It also will provide a framework for our school systems to expand and improve their existing environmental education programs. To view the plan and provide feedback before Sept. 30, [click here](#).

Upcoming Fall Conferences

Have questions about KGHS or KEEC? Stop by our booth or sessions at the following conferences.

Kentucky Association for Environmental Education,
Sept. 16 – 17
Louisville, KY
Exhibitor Booth
Legislative Update on Sept. 17, 5 pm

Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment
Sept. 26 – 27
Lexington, KY
Exhibitor Booth

North American Association for Environmental Education
Oct. 12 – 15
Raleigh, NC
Session on Oct. 14, 4:00 pm

KEEC YouTube Channel and Energy Star Video Challenge

The Kentucky Environmental Education Council has launched a [YouTube channel](#). The first video posting highlights students at the 2011 KGHS Summit presenting their energy conservation projects. The video has also been entered in the "Be an Energy Star Video Challenge". Voting on the videos will end Sept. 30. To view and vote for the KGHS video, [click here](#). To vote, click on the KGHS video and then vote by hovering over the stars in the lower left corner of the video player. Give us 5 stars if you like the video!

Refresher Trainings for KGHS School Profile System

If you would like a walk-through of the new online school user system, [contact the KGHS coordinator](#).



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Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools (KGHS) is a service learning and student-centered program that empowers students and staff to move their school toward becoming safer, healthier and more environmentally sustainable. This inquiry-based program uses the entire school grounds as a learning laboratory for students. All grade levels of all existing schools (and even schools in the process of being built) are invited to join KGHS! To participate, [click here](#).



KGHS is a joint program of the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Environmental Education Council.

[Click here](#) to sign up for this seasonal newsletter.

Would you like to see your school featured in the KGHS Update? Contact the KGHS coordinator by [clicking here](#).



KGHS is the recipient of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds distributed through the Kentucky Department of Energy Development and Independence.