



KGHS Update

Spring 2011

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Tichenor Students Conserve Water and Energy

Teacher Jennifer Davis and students at Tichenor Middle School in Erlanger, Ky., are on track to receive the School in Progress Award from KGHS. Students started their KGHS work two years ago by completing the Energy Inventory and working with the [National Energy Education Development Project \(KY NEED\)](#) on an energy audit. After analyzing the inventory and audit findings, students chose to launch a campaign to change the energy use behavior of students and staff at their school.

As part of the campaign, students met with the principal and custodial staff. They then created posters and used stickers to remind teachers to turn lights off when leaving a room.

"By using creative ways to get answers to inventory questions



Tichenor Middle School students installing a rain barrel.

and interacting with their community, students are learning valuable research skills and gaining awareness of how their actions affect the community and environment," said Davis.

Last year, students worked on the water category. The school had a guest speaker show students where their water

comes from, how it is treated and how it ends up at their school. The students had already begun work on a native wildlife garden and are making plans for a salsa garden (for the practical living classes), so they decided to install rain barrels to collect water to use in their gardens. By harvesting and using untreated rainwater, the students will be saving energy and money at their school. Davis and her students applied for a [KGHS Energy Saving Grant](#) and were awarded two rain barrels for their project.

The students' next goal is to complete the transportation category. They plan on using the inventory to survey students about how they get to school each day and then design an improvement project based on the data they collect.

Cane Run Students Focus on Gardening and Solid Waste



Cane Run Elementary students explore insects in the school gardens.

Darleen Horton, Environmental Education Coordinator and Resource Teacher, and students at Cane Run Elementary School in Louisville, Ky., have focused on the Solid Waste and Green Spaces Categories for the past two years.

Students and teachers already utilize a single-stream recycling program. To enhance the program, students are auditing waste at the classroom level.

When the student auditors find that classrooms could be recycling more of their waste, they contact

the student representatives for that classroom to ask them to be "recycling encouragers" to their teachers and peers.

Horton and the students also hope to begin recycling in the cafeteria. They plan to hold an assembly where students and staff can role-play the process of cafeteria recycling to engage their peers and show cafeteria staff that recycling can actually make their jobs easier in the long run.

(Continued on next page)

Continued: Cane Run Elementary School



Cane Run Elementary students care for their tomato plants.

For the green spaces category, students and teachers have established several vegetable gardens. One of the students' favorites was a pizza garden (a raised bed in the shape of a pizza). Heirloom tomatoes and several herbs were grown in each "slice" of the pizza bed.

Other gardens included sweet potatoes, squash, watermelons and carrots. "Many of the teachers were planting for the first time along with the students, and they jumped with just as much excitement as their

students when the watermelons sprouted," said Horton.

The gardens also offered a lesson within a lesson when students observed the life cycle of a butterfly, thanks to the carrot plants. The caterpillars ate the green parts of the plants and then crawled up an outer school wall to form chrysalises.

The students are looking forward to working in the gardens again in the spring and plan to soon complete enough projects to have their

school designated as an Official Kentucky Green & Healthy School.



Cane Run Elementary students engaged with work in a vegetable garden.

KGHS Awards \$7,000 in Grants for School Projects



Kit Carson Middle School students distribute CFL bulbs to school staff and families in their community.

KGHS has awarded over \$7,000 in grant materials to schools implementing energy saving projects.

Successful projects have included the installation of vending machine misers, compact fluorescent light bulb exchanges, and the implementation of recycling, water conservation, and composting programs.

To apply for a grant, schools must be registered in the KGHS program and then submit a grant application, which

must include a KGHS inventory and SMART form.

Applications that include an estimate of energy conserved by the proposed project will receive processing priority.



KGHS Energy Saving Grants are available through an ARRA stimulus funding grant awarded to the Kentucky Department of Energy Development and Independence.

Energy Saving Projects Completed To Date

(Grant limits have increased from \$200 to \$800 per project)

School / County	Grant Materials	Amount
North Pointe ES / Boone Co.	Recycling containers	339.50
Old Mill ES / Bullitt Co.	Recycling containers & supplies	69.00
Farnsley MS / Jefferson Co.	Recycling can program	211.24
Tichenor MS / Kenton Co.	Rain barrel	274.98
Jessie Clark MS / Fayette Co.	CFL light bulbs	215.69
East Carter MS / Carter Co.	Can recycling containers	214.63
East Carter MS / Carter Co.	Vending machine misers	382.99
Kit Carson ES / Madison Co.	CFL Light bulb exchange	379.96
Jessie Clark MS / Fayette Co.	Composters for food scraps	396.00
Tichenor MS / Kenton Co.	Rain barrel	75.93
Portland ES / Jefferson Co.	Bike racks	699.98
Livingston MS / Livingston Co.	Vending misers	735.84
Austin Tracy ES / Barren Co.	Recycling containers	757.18
North Pointe ES / Boone Co.	Vending Misers, light sensors	725.77
Kit Carson ES / Madison Co.	Rain barrels	712.90
Ashland ES / Fayette Co.	Power strips	403.10
Jessie Clark MS / Fayette Co.	Smart power strips	798.49

KGHS Summit & NEED Awards Luncheon



Students from North Middle School (Hardin Co.) pose with their awards at the 2010 KGHS Summit.

The 2011 KGHS Summit is held in conjunction with the [National Energy Education Development Project \(KY NEED\) Awards Luncheon](#). Schools are encouraged to participate in both programs.

Invitations & RSVP Forms

Invitations for the 2011 KGHS Summit were sent to program participants via email in January. If you did not receive an invitation and RSVP form, you can download one on the [Summit webpage](#). The RSVP

deadline is **April 15**. Space will be reserved for schools based on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority will be given to schools that have completed projects in the 2010-2011 school year.

2011 Awards

The deadline for project submissions to be counted for 2011 awards is **April 8**.

Student Displays

KGHS is excited to announce that we will be videotaping student display presentations at this year's Summit. To reserve space for a student

display, return the [Summit RSVP form](#).

Summit Reimbursements

A limited number of Summit reimbursements (bus mileage, personal travel mileage, substitute expense) in the amount of \$100 are available. Schools must be located 50 or more miles from the Frankfort Convention Center to be eligible for reimbursements.

To reserve your reimbursement, return the [Summit RSVP Form](#).

Announcements & Events

School User System Update

KGHS is one step closer to offering an online school user system to program participants. **In order to convert to the new system, there will be a submission blackout period from April 8 – June 15, 2011.** During this time, school submissions will not be accepted through email or online unless they are part of a grant application. If you have questions about the conversion, contact the [KGHS Coordinator](#).

\$800 Grants for Energy Saving Projects

Non-competitive grants will be available until Spring of 2012. Act

now to fund your school's project! For more information, [click here](#). Eligible projects are not limited to the Energy Category, but must result in some kind of energy savings. To date, KGHS has funded materials such as CFL bulbs, bike racks, composters, and rain barrels.



Take the Energy Star Pledge with KGHS!

KGHS is now an Energy Star pledge driver. If you would like to sign

the pledge, visit [KGHS Energy Star Pledge](#). If you would like free resources to help you hold a pledge event at your school, [click here](#).

Through our Energy Saving Grant program, KGHS can provide you with materials to support your efforts.

CNN Natural Teacher Network

The Children and Nature Network (CNN) is offering a new resource to

teachers. By joining the Natural Teacher Network, teachers will gain access to tools, activities and research that can help them get their students outside and learning. You can [join here](#).



Follow KGHS on Facebook!

Teachers and students are encouraged to click the icon to the left and "like" the new KGHS page. We post news, events, and photos of student work which will be listed in your newsfeed.

KEEC Welcomes New Board

New board members representing a variety of stakeholders have been gubernatorially appointed to the [Kentucky Environmental Education Council](#) (parent agency of KGHS). See our back page for a list of the new council members.

For an updated list of announcements, visit the [KGHS website](#).



In 2011, Governor Steven Beshear appointed nine Kentucky Environmental Education Council board members representing a variety of stakeholders from education, industry, and environmental sectors as mandated in KAR 157.910. The staff of KEEC looks forward to the next four years of the board's term of service and the guidance the new members will offer the agency.

Mr. William Horace Brown, **Council Chair**, representing the environment (reappointment)

Mr. Tom Fitzgerald, representing the environment (reappointment)

Ms. Shannon Sherman Graves, representing industry (new appointment)

Mr. Charles Gregory Higdon, representing industry (reappointment)

Mrs. Cheryl Lynn Messenger, representing education (reappointment)

Mrs. Evelyn Morgan, **Vice Council Chair**, representing the environment (reappointment)

Mr. Marcus H. Norton, representing industry (reappointment)

Ms. Karen P. Reagor, representing education (new appointment)

Ms. Amelia Stenger, representing education (new appointment)



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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](#).