

Executive Summary



Land, Legacy, and Learning IV
**Kentucky's 2015-2020
Environmental Education Master Plan**

Kentucky Environmental Education Council



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES

“There is meaningful evidence that environmentally-based education, using best educational practices, can increase academic achievement across curriculum subjects” (Norman, et al., 2006).

“Young people exposed to environmental education tended to improve their overall GPA, stay in school longer, receive higher than average scholarship awards, and display more responsible behavior in their school and community. Schools with as little as 20% of the teaching staff involved with EE showed statistically higher standardized test scores and more students who met state standards” (Bartosh, O., 2004).

This EE Master Plan was developed with input from more than 175 Kentuckians in 12 town hall forums.



Environmental education (EE) is not environmental advocacy. Environmental education teaches skills essential to a strong workforce while building stronger, healthier communities that appreciate and enjoy Kentucky’s natural heritage.

Environmental education programs promote academic, behavioral, health, developmental (cognitive, social, and emotional) benefit to students, promoting development of the whole child. In addition, environmental education promotes:

- 21st-century learning skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, team work, and strong learning outcomes, and
- A healthy lifestyle for children - encouraging them to get outside, eat fresh foods, conserve natural resources, and engage in their local community.

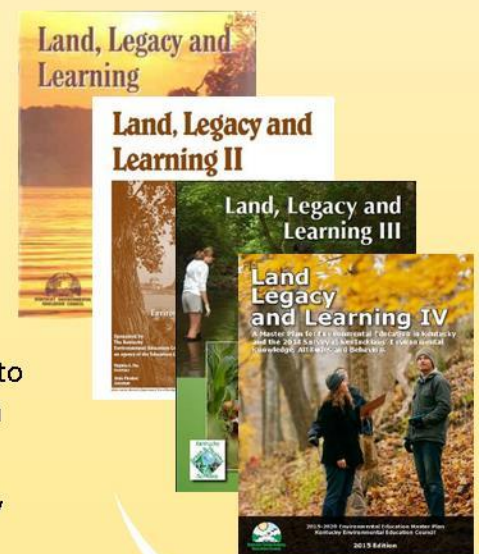
The EE Master Plan is a collaborative effort between KEEC, the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education, and the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education.

2015-2020 EE Master Plan Goals

1. Integrate EE into the lifelong learning of Kentuckians.
2. Expand Kentucky’s cohesive and diverse network of EE providers.
3. Increase Kentuckians’ awareness of and support for EE.
4. Verify the success of EE in Kentucky through research, development, and evaluation of EE efforts.

States look to Kentucky for model policies and programs, including:

- The Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan
- The internationally-accredited Professional Environmental Educator Certification course— certified environmental educators abide by a code of ethics that requires them to clearly differentiate between education and advocacy
- The award-winning Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program



KEEC's Statement of Legislative Purpose:

"The General Assembly hereby declares that maintaining a clean and healthy environment is a state priority and is the individual and collective responsibility of all citizens of Kentucky. It is therefore in the public interest that a comprehensive environmental education initiative be undertaken to promote an informed and knowledgeable citizenry with the skills and attributes necessary to effectively and constructively solve existing environmental problems, prevent new ones, and maintain a balanced and economically healthy environment for future generations." (KRS 157.900)

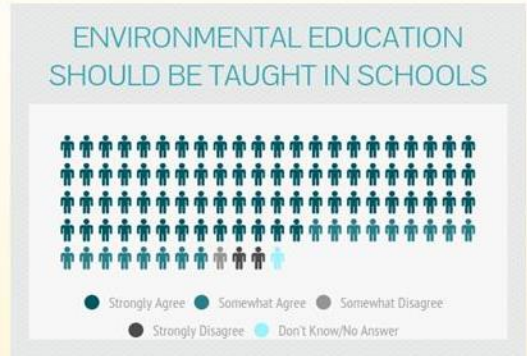
The full report, "*Land, Legacy and Learning IV*" (online at keec.ky.gov/Publications) includes the 2015-2020 Master Plan for Environmental Education in Kentucky and the 2014 Survey of Kentuckians' Environmental Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors.



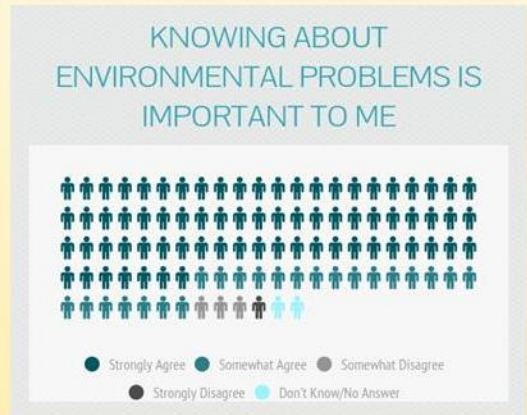
Did You Know? Kentuckians Support Environmental Education and Environmental Literacy

Highlights from the 2014 Survey of Kentuckians' Environmental Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors

96% of Kentuckians believe that...



95% of Kentuckians agree that...



93% of Kentuckians think that...



