

Fall 2015

# KEEC Legacy

A newsletter of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council

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## Complete a Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools project at your school using the new, simplified form that aligns with NGSS

Teachers, we hope you will work on a KGHS project this year. We have made some changes that should make it easier:

- Inventories are no longer required. Instead, students will complete their own investigation with no set questions to answer.
- If you need help prompting the student investigation, all of the old inventory questions are available in a teacher guide for each category along with resources and project ideas. You can find the teacher guides at [greenschools.ky.gov/Pages/Program-Overview.aspx](http://greenschools.ky.gov/Pages/Program-Overview.aspx).
- You no longer need approval for your project. You can just fill out the project form once and turn it in when you are finished.
- The new format supports the Kentucky academic standards for science (NGSS).

You can find the new project form and teacher guides at [greenschools.ky.gov/Pages/Program-Overview.aspx](http://greenschools.ky.gov/Pages/Program-Overview.aspx).

## **Submit your letter of intent for US Green Ribbon Schools recognition by October 15**

Kentucky public K-12 schools are once again invited to apply for U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools recognition. This award honors schools that are exemplary in the three pillars of reducing environmental impact and cost; improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education, which incorporates STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

Participation in Kentucky's Green Ribbon Schools Program is a three-step process:

- By October 15, 2015, complete and submit a "Letter of Intent" to KDE to indicate your school's desire to submit an application.
- By December 1, 2015, complete and submit the KY 2015 GRS application to KDE to demonstrate your school's progress towards the goals of each of the three GRS Pillars.
- By January 22, 2016, KDE will work with schools to submit a nomination package to the US Department of Education.

For more information regarding the program, see [education.ky.gov/districts/fac/pages/green-ribbon-schools-application-process.aspx](http://education.ky.gov/districts/fac/pages/green-ribbon-schools-application-process.aspx) or contact Calleen Yett with KDE at (502) 564-4326 Ext. 4431.

## **Certified Professional Environmental Educators – Attend the renewal webinar on December 9, submit CE Reports by January 30**

Certified Professional Environmental Educators, this is a reminder to save the date for this year's Renewal Course on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 p.m. The course will be a webinar that you can attend live from your computer, or watch as a recording later. We moved it a little earlier this year based on feedback that you would like to use it as a forum for help with your Continuing Education Reports, which will be due again on January 30.

We made some changes to the renewal forms:

- We added a few questions to the Annual Continuing Education Report Form in order to help with grant applications;
- We updated the Self-Assessment to reduce the number of categories to rate; and
- We no longer require you to turn in the Self-Assessment.

The renewal forms are available at [keec.ky.gov/EECertification/Pages/CER.aspx](http://keec.ky.gov/EECertification/Pages/CER.aspx).

## **If your certification has lapsed, get certified again through the new Reinstatement Course**

If you graduated from the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course, but missed the deadline for renewing your certification in 2014 or 2015, you may now apply for reinstatement of your certification. KEEC is rolling out a Reinstatement Course that was developed with input from our Certification Advisory Committee. The goal is to engage our highly qualified community of graduates in contributing to the needs in the field of environmental education. In addition to completing your regular renewal requirements, you will spend 20 hours working on evaluating and EE program or implementing Kentucky's 5-year EE master plan. The application is available under the "Lapsed Certification" heading at [keec.ky.gov/EECertification/Pages/CER.aspx](http://keec.ky.gov/EECertification/Pages/CER.aspx).

We will pilot this reinstatement process in 2015 and 2016, during which time all graduates of the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course are eligible for reinstatement, and the Reinstatement Course fee is \$25. In 2017 and beyond, only graduates whose certification has been lapsed for 3 years or fewer will be eligible for reinstatement, and the Reinstatement Course fee will be \$25 for those whose certification has been lapsed for one year, \$50 for two years, and \$75 for three years.

If you are interested in regaining your certification, now is the time! Contact Wesley Bullock at [wesley.bullock@ky.gov](mailto:wesley.bullock@ky.gov) or 502-564-5937 for further information.

## **Pre order your "Let's Go Outside" specialty license plate today and support environmental education in Kentucky**

Thank you to everyone who has already applied for the “Let’s Go Outside” license plate! If you have not already done so, show your support for the outdoors and environmental education in Kentucky by sending in your application. The applications are available at [keec.ky.gov/LetsGoOutside](http://keec.ky.gov/LetsGoOutside), and can be submitted to KEEC with a \$25 check that will be credited toward your future registration for the plate. We have a good start toward our goal of 900 applications!

Not only will the plates provide financial support to KEEC, they will be mobile advertisements for EE in Kentucky. We hope that each of you, in addition to applying for yourselves, will share this plate with your friends and family and encourage them to apply.

### **Congratulations to our “Let’s Go Outside” application contest winner**

Congratulations to Tonia Spille of Boone County! She won our drawing for a free night at a Kentucky State Resort Park. All those who applied for the “Let’s Go Outside” license plate between August 15 and September 15 were eligible, including those who stopped by our booths at the Kentucky State Fair and the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education Conference.

Thank you to all who applied! Thank you also to Lisa Deavers and LaDonna Miller from Kentucky Department of Parks for donating the prize!

### **Join us at the KSTA Conference November 5-7**

Attend the session “Graph Interpretation Boxes: A step by step approach to exploring real scientific data” presented by KEEC Executive Director Elizabeth Schmitz and Roberta Burnes of the Division for Air Quality at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, November 6, and a “Make and Take” version at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 7. During the rest of the conference, stop by the KEEC booth in the exhibit hall. For an agenda and registration information, visit [ksta.org/confmatrix770.cfm](http://ksta.org/confmatrix770.cfm).

### **Join us at the 2015 Sustainability Summit in Louisville November 6**

Learn about connections between sustainability and human health through the lens of air quality. Attend the 1:00 p.m. breakout session “Community Engagement” to hear KEEC Executive Director Elizabeth Schmitz and a panel of other experts discuss the importance of civic participation in improving our local environment. For an agenda and registration information, visit [louisvillesustainabilitycouncil.org/sustainability-summit/](http://louisvillesustainabilitycouncil.org/sustainability-summit/).

### **EE opportunities from state agencies**

On November 4, environmental educators are invited to join Science Specialists from the Kentucky Department of Education for “Marketing Your Wares: Ways to Show how you support the Next Generation Science Standards.” The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary. For registration information, visit [lifeadventurecenter.org](http://lifeadventurecenter.org).

The Kentucky Department of Education seeks submissions for its Science Connections newsletter. Submissions are due to [Christine.Duke@education.ky.gov](mailto:Christine.Duke@education.ky.gov) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. See the last page of the Science Connections newsletter at [education.ky.gov/comm/pages/kde-newsletters.aspx](http://education.ky.gov/comm/pages/kde-newsletters.aspx) for a list of upcoming topics. If you have content, but are not sure how to connect it to the science standards, please contact Christine, and she can help.

### **Post your environmental education events and resources on EEinKentucky.org**

[EEinKentucky.org](http://EEinKentucky.org) is the place to go for environmental education events and resources in Kentucky. Post your upcoming events, grant opportunities, and job openings, and search what others have posted. Events are listed on the homepage calendar. Use the “News” menu to find other resources. For help with using the site, contact [Elizabeth.Schmitz@ky.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Schmitz@ky.gov).

### **Follow KEEC and KAEE on Facebook and Twitter**

The Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC) is an agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Keep up with the latest news from KEEC—follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/kyeecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/kyeecouncil)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/kyeecouncil](https://twitter.com/kyeecouncil)).

The Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE) is Kentucky's statewide nonprofit organization for environmental education. Learn more about KAEE at [facebook.com/KY4EnvEd](https://www.facebook.com/KY4EnvEd) and [twitter.com/KY4EnvEd](https://twitter.com/KY4EnvEd).

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