

The Division of Compliance Assistance

SIMPLIFYING COMPLIANCE • LIVING GREENER • CERTIFYING PROFESSIONALS

Looking Forward

Leading Ahead



ANNUAL REPORT FY17



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The Director's Note:

It doesn't seem possible that it has been a whole year since I wrote the letter for last year's annual report. There have been so many changes for DCA since our 10th anniversary! We have moved buildings, changed leadership and had turnover in many critical staff positions. But we hold firm to the belief that DCA can assist the citizens and businesses of the Commonwealth by simplifying compliance, certifying professionals and promoting greener and stronger ideas.

Last year we reflected on the future of the division and put our Excellence in Motion. We increased our outreach efforts and the number of training events. We continue those efforts while we focus on doing things in more efficient and innovative ways. We learn from our KY EXCEL members and the ways they demonstrate stewardship every day. We look toward the future and try to prepare new operators to take over for the workforce we see retiring in the next few years. We are excited to see the ways communities are redeveloping their brownfield areas and utilizing our grants and loan program to revitalize neighborhoods. We continue to work with our sister agencies to develop trainings that help businesses train their new staff and bring a greater number of facilities into compliance.

As I thought about the theme of Looking Forward Leading Ahead, I was reminded of a quote by Walt Disney.

“Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.”

I hope you are curious about what DCA has been able to do in the past year. I am very proud of the information we are able to present this year and I hope we will have opened new doors next year and we will have a new story to tell as we keep moving forward.



Paulette Akers

Director, Division of Compliance Assistance



Mission

The Division of Compliance Assistance exists to provide services that increase environmental knowledge and change behaviors. We do this to improve regulatory compliance, achieve exceptional performance and enhance the quality of Kentucky's environment and communities.



Vision

The Division of Compliance Assistance will influence environmental stewardship throughout Kentucky. Kentucky's citizens will routinely trust the Division as an important source of accurate and timely environmental information. Our proactive and innovative efforts will inspire others to take positive actions that improve the health of our citizens and enhance the quality of our environment.



Objectives

Certify qualified environmental professionals

We will certify select environmental professionals to maximize appropriate actions and effective operations at regulated locations.

Help entities comply with Kentucky's environmental requirements

We will assist and educate regulated entities so they understand and comply with their environmental obligations.

Facilitate environmental stewardship

We will assist, educate and encourage Kentucky's citizens so they make informed choices that value Kentucky's environment and create healthier, stronger communities.



Certifying Professionals

Having access to safe drinking water is something that most of us take for granted. In other parts of the world, safe drinking water is rare. Wastewater treatment is not a daily concern in our busy lives. A few centuries ago, disease was rampant because little was known about the correct way to handle wastewater. The Operator Certification Program provides certification training, continuing education and licensing for the operators of drinking water, wastewater and solid waste facilities in Kentucky. The services of the Certification and Licensing Branch ensure operators have the skills and knowledge needed to perform the duties of their positions and protect Kentucky's environment and the public.



Administration

In order to ensure that an operator has the qualifications necessary to perform all of the tasks required of an operator, the staff of the Certification and Licensing Branch spend thousands of hours processing and reviewing applications submitted from drinking water, wastewater and solid waste operators. Through a thorough administrative review, each application is assessed to ensure that the individual meets the minimum education and experience requirements for the level of certification requested. During FY17, the branch received and processed 1,107 applications from operators seeking to take a certification exam.

Board Support

Serving in an advisory capacity, the Kentucky Board of Certification of Water Treatment and Distribution System Operators and the Kentucky Board of Certification of Wastewater System Operators assist the agency in the implementation of the operator certification program. The board reviews applications, reciprocity requests, proposed regulation revisions, third-party training submittals and operator disciplinary action requests. During FY17, the boards reviewed 84 Class IV certification examination requests and received three referrals for potential operator disciplinary action.

Involvement

With the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972 and the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 came the hiring of thousands of water and wastewater operators across the country. The retirement of that initial wave of operators is looming.

It is estimated that over half of the nation's drinking water and wastewater operators will retire over the next few years, leaving a huge service gap in the profession.

It is vital to raise awareness of the opportunities in this profession. Our Operator Certification Program continues to actively promote the importance of operator certification in Kentucky, as well as nationwide. Staff participate in various conferences throughout Kentucky, high school and college career fairs, as well as the annual Association of Boards of Certification Conference to discuss the importance of properly treated water and effective waste management.



Above: John Durbin and Doug Kimbler at the Bowling Green Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Certifying Professionals

Renewal

All operators are periodically required to renew their licenses. The wastewater renewal cycle took place during the past fiscal year. The division sent postcards to more than 2,000 certified wastewater operators reminding them of the renewal cycle. The division also issued 1,838 wallet cards for wastewater certification and drinking water renewals submitted to the program. Electronic submittal continues to be popular and effective for operators and our staff. Ninety-nine percent of the renewals were submitted electronically, saving over 40 days of administrative processing time.

Certification

During FY17, the Operator Certification Program administered 840 exams that resulted in the issuance of 280 new or upgraded wastewater licenses, 288 new drinking water licenses and 107 new solid waste licenses. The drinking water program had a pass rate of 65%, the wastewater program had a pass rate of 71% and the solid waste program had a pass rate of 89%.

Training

The Certification and Licensing Branch provides training for the Commonwealth's drinking water, wastewater and solid waste operators. Both certification classes and continuing education classes are offered across the state.

Training (Cont.)

Topics range from new technologies, permits, regulatory requirements and issues related to drinking water and wastewater treatment, water distribution and collection and solid waste management. In FY17, the program conducted 39 training events worth more than 456 credit hours and had 1,157 participants. The boards reviewed 448 submittals from third-party training providers and approved over 3,051 education hours.

Operation Matters Blog

In February 2012, the Operator Certification and Licensing Branch created the Operation Matters Blog to help distribute timely information and tools to the operators who serve the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Since that time, the blog has reached beyond Kentucky's borders to over 169 countries. Last year, the blog received 32,086 views and had 22,642 visitors. The blog has 141 active followers and received over 197,900 views since its inception.





5th Annual Steve Crosman Award

Alan Todd, Superintendent at Madisonville Wastewater Treatment Plant, has been honored with the fifth annual Steve Crosman Award for Outstanding Environmental Professionalism. Alan, holds a Class IV Wastewater Treatment, Class II Wastewater Collection and Class II Bottled Water licenses, was nominated by Laurie Berry.

DCA presents this annual award in memory of Steve Crosman, a trainer with the Certification and Licensing Branch of DCA, who passed away in December 2011. Crosman devoted himself to ensuring safe water for Kentucky by doing his best to assist and train operators. Alan started as a laborer in Elizabethtown in 1985 and has worked his way up to becoming superintendent in 1994. He holds the title of Western Wastewater representative for the Western Chapter of KWWOA and is the Western Wastewater representative for KWWOA's State Board. Additionally, he held a position on the State Wastewater Board for almost four years.

Under Alan's direction and supervision, Madisonville WWTP has won numerous awards for operations and safety, including an EPA Region 4 Wastewater Treatment Plant Excellence Award. Alan himself has been awarded the Hatfield award and Chamber award.



The Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance (DCA) presents this annual award in memory of Steve Crosman, a trainer with the Certification and Licensing Branch of DCA, who passed away in December 2011.

Alan has used his knowledge to actively recruit and mentor many operators in the profession. With his time on the State Wastewater Board he has impacted the general public by serving to protect the waters of the Commonwealth through oversight of operator's certifications and trainings.

Alan developed and manages his own company that offers contract wastewater operator services to smaller rural communities making it more economically feasible for communities to comply with their discharge permits. These communities are able to provide higher quality protection of their receiving streams and watersheds through the use of quality operators. Under Alan's professional services to these communities, he helps communities make an un-manageable situation manageable.



Simplifying Compliance

Understanding and complying with complicated environmental regulations can be difficult, especially for someone who is unfamiliar with federal or state requirements. Often, small businesses do not have the financial means to have an environmental specialist available to interpret these laws. The Environmental Compliance Assistance Program (ECAP) realizes that small businesses sometimes need assistance, and it has the tools and services necessary to provide that assistance to businesses and specific industries across Kentucky. There is no charge for ECAP's services, only the desire to help small businesses in the Commonwealth comply with their environmental obligations and be successful.

Assistance

The Environmental Compliance Assistance Program (ECAP) helps facilities from assisting with simple phone calls concerning environmental regulations to in-depth assistance requests.

The program is comprised of two technical assistance providers, who on a daily basis, provide assistance for a broad range of multimedia topics to the public, regulated entities, and state agencies.

During FY17, ECAP provided responses to 1,158 requests. The majority of these assistance requests, 558 responses, were related to air quality. One of ECAP's primary responsibilities is to provide assistance to small businesses. Small business requests comprised of 179 responses over the course of the year.

Despite major personnel changes, the program averaged approximately 97 assistance requests per month and continued to fulfill a vital service for the public and regulated entities across the state.

Regulations

ECAP helps facilities understand and comply with regulations in a variety of multimedia areas. The program focuses on assisting these entities in understanding Kentucky's regulations and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's rules.

A large part of the program focuses assistance on air quality related topics including the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS) and New Source Performance Standards (NSPS).

Regulations (Cont.)

Throughout the year, ECAP provides a number of compliance education related services to assist in creating a better understanding of regulatory requirements.



Incentives

One of the many incentives of the program is the ability to work with facilities and help troubleshoot problems. Free compliance site visits, small business air quality permit application assistance and development of tools and resources to enhance facility operations, are all part of the program. ECAP encourages facilities to take action beyond the regulatory minimum.

Another positive aspect of the program is the ability to use enforcement discretion and work proactively with clients to identify and correct compliance issues. Often times, there can exist a hesitancy by the regulated community to come forward with knowledge of environmental compliance issues. This hesitancy is brought on by the fear of civil enforcement action. However, through ECAP's enforcement discretion policy allows clients to utilize the self-audit privilege to self-disclose environmental violations. The correction of these issues may assist the facility in avoiding violations and costly penalties.



Emily Ohde and Derek Bozzell (far right) pictured with SBEAP regional members at the 2016 SBEAP Conference in Georgia.

Outreach to Organizations and Industry

Throughout the year, ECAP strives to develop relationships and provide opportunities and resources to address the needs of the regulated community. Outreach to the public occurs in the form of educational opportunities, development of compliance tools, compliance site visits and attending conferences. During FY17 ECAP has been involved in numerous activities to provide the public and regulated community with updates based on changes in regulations or further explain compliance requirements. When regulations are developed or changed, questions arise from industries who are often confused by current or upcoming environmental issues. The potential for compliance issues has a greater likelihood of occurring when a regulated entity is confused about a compliance requirement. The key to helping them stay in compliance is through outreach.

Beginning in 1994, through a partnership with the University of Kentucky, ECAP became members of the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP), which was established to assist small businesses with environmental compliance and emissions reduction. This program provides a valuable resource to the regulated community by providing free air quality permit services and assistance. In FY17 ECAP staff conducted ten compliance site visits for regulated entities; like the multimedia compliance site visit with Crist Propane Services conducted in July 2016. DCA staff were able to work with the facility to develop an air quality permit application for their propane tank refurbishing business. This is just one of many instances throughout the year the program assists the community.

Outreach (Cont.)

In 2016 members of ECAP participated in the 2016 SBEAP conference in Atlanta, Georgia (see photo on page 12). This conference provided a great opportunity for program staff to learn about other tools and resources available to assist small business and the regulated community. The benefit of ECAP's relationship with both the regulated community, external associations and other DEP Divisions allows the program to serve as an efficient intermediary and understand the needs of different groups. This relationship helps determine the types of training and tools developed on a yearly basis.

This year, the Environmental Compliance Assistance Program provided assistance to multiple organizations and facilities on a variety of topics. In FY17, nine trainings were conducted with a satisfaction rate of 98%. By providing effective training and using a proactive approach ECAP's outreach helps increase an entity's awareness and knowledge of environmental obligations, resulting in changes to increase the rate of compliance.

Tool Development

The goal of ECAP is to ensure awareness and understanding of environmental requirements, including permitting requirements. Environmental permits may be required by federal, state and sometimes local governments to minimize the impacts that businesses and construction have on human health and the environment. The specific regulations and permits that could apply to a facility may vary depending on location, types of activities the facility conducts.

To help facilities in the auto salvage industry better understand their compliance requirements, ECAP developed and published the *Kentucky Auto Salvage Environmental Compliance Guide*. This 83 page document provides multimedia compliance information, including how to handle Freon removal from motor vehicle air conditioning systems, how to handle spills of automotive fluids, and how to properly dispose of many hazardous wastes auto facilities may generate.



Above: Kentucky Division for Air Quality field employees assist with questions at a DCA workshop.

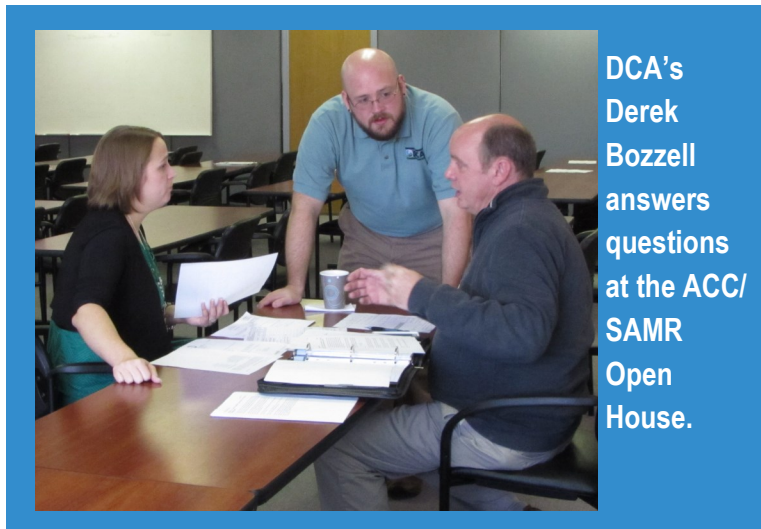
Tool Development (Cont.)

The compliance guide also covers proper recordkeeping and reporting techniques and how to create plans for potential emergencies.

ECAP updated several documents throughout the fiscal year to ensure that industries had access to the most up-to-date information possible. The *Compliance Guide for 40 CFR 60, Subpart OOOO, Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production, Transmission and Distribution* was updated to include the Subpart OOOOa amendments passed in June of 2016. The *Kentucky Dry Cleaning Environmental Compliance Workbook* was redone, with updated information for new and changed regulations as well as being reorganized for easier use.

ECAP developed new factsheets during the fiscal year, covering a variety of environmental topics. The *Wastewater and Drinking Water Treatment Plant Air Quality Factsheet* continues ECAP's outreach concerning the Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine (or RICE) Rule, outlining how wastewater and drinking water treatment plants can ensure compliance with requirements relating to generators.

The *Household Sharps Disposal Factsheet*, developed for the general public in cooperation with the Department for Public Health, covers how to appropriately dispose of household sharps such as needles and syringes used by diabetics.



DCA's Derek Bozell answers questions at the ACC/SAMR Open House.

Training Events

Environmental Assistance Workshop

In partnership with the Division of Water, Division of Air Quality and the Division of Waste Management, ECAP hosted a multimedia training workshop designed to educate facilities common environmental requirements and issues. Attendees learned about complying with the requirements relating to air permits, industrial storm water permits, and hazardous wastes, among other topics. Inspectors covered common violations they see in the field and informed attendees how to avoid them.

ACC/SAMR Open House

Throughout the course of a year, entities with air permits are required to submit an Annual Compliance Certification and Semi-Annual Monitoring reports. In an effort to help those unfamiliar with the process, DCA teamed up with the Division of Air Quality - Field Operations Branch, to host the fourth annual permit-required reporting workshop and open house. Over thirty entities made their way to Frankfort to attend the morning workshop and receive one-on-one assistance for these reports during the afternoon open house.

Training Events (cont.)

Distillers Grains on the Farm and at the Distillery

The distillery industry has been expanding rapidly over the past few years, which has resulted in an increase in the amount of spent distillers grains leftover from the distillation process. Historically, distilleries have worked with farmers to use the distillers grains as a livestock feed or soil amendment, but now there is too much of the distillers grains byproduct for farmers to go through before it spoils. Throughout February and April, ECAP hosted three workshops across Kentucky where speakers from the University of Kentucky, Division of Waste Management, and Division of Water educated farmers about proper cattle feeding regimes, other beneficial reuses for the grains, and how to appropriately handle any leftover grains they may have. ECAP also hosted a workshop aimed at the distillery community, focusing not only on how to handle distillers grains, but also on how to build relationships with the local agricultural community to ensure the grains do not go to waste.

Floodplains, Streams and Wetlands Workshops

During the FY17, DCA collaborated with the Kentucky Division of Water, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Northern Kentucky University to host two Floodplains, Streams and Wetlands Workshop. During the workshops, more than 100 attendees were provided information and guidance pertaining to the Section 404 permit program, In-

Attendees learn about construction project steps at the Floodplains, Streams and Wetlands Workshop.



Air Permitting and Compliance Workshop

In February, ECAP held the Air Permitting and Compliance Workshop, which was designed to educate regulated facilities about their air permits so they understand and can comply with their environmental regulations. Speakers from ECAP and the Division for Air Quality explained how to obtain an air quality permit and follow the requirements of the permit, including how to calculate potential emissions, recordkeeping and reporting.



Attendees learned about beneficial reuse and how to handle leftover distillers grains.



Living Greener

The Division of Compliance Assistance has created programs that go beyond operator certification and environmental compliance assistance. The Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program has helped to educate the public about cleaning contaminated properties and putting them back to reuse. Sites that were eyesores have been given new life, providing jobs, tax revenues and conserving greenfields. The program offers services to the public and private sectors in all stages of contaminated property redevelopment. KY EXCEL is Kentucky's voluntary environmental leadership program, which recognizes those who do more than is required to protect and conserve the Commonwealth's land, air and water resources. Both programs promote living and working sustainably.

Brownfields- Introduction

Brownfield sites are the evidence of our industrial and commercial past. Now vacant and abandoned, they are a testament of what we have achieved and often a stark reminder that economies and communities are always evolving. Along with the history lesson, these sites bring with them another type of legacy, potential contamination. Communities across the Commonwealth live with their superfund and brownfields every day. Even if you don't live right next door, you likely feel their impacts. They contribute to the economic, social and environmental decline in the places we live, work and play. However, the redevelopment of contaminated properties is a powerful tool that has far-reaching implications for both urban and rural communities. Contaminated property redevelopment sparks job creation and private investment, encourages infrastructure reuse, increases property values and the tax base and facilitates community revitalization. The Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program continues to help communities, nonprofits and private entities address these properties and get them back into productive reuse. This past year, the program readied its first Cleaner Commonwealth Fund Loan, it continued its tradition in assisting with EPA brownfield grants and worked to communicate the importance of the program in uncertain funding times.



Amanda LeFevre was part of an expert brownfields panel that provided testimony regarding brownfield redevelopment to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.



Program Highlights

Congressional Testimony

During the first session of the 115th Congress, both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate proposed similar bills that would reauthorize the brownfield program as well as enhance the program for its grantees. Both bills would create new grant packages to facilitate easier redevelopment, create pockets of funds for rural redevelopment projects, address liability concerns for local governments and other improvements. As part of her work with the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO), Amanda LeFevre was asked to represent the organization and its member states and provide testimony to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee regarding the importance of brownfield redevelopment in enhancing our infrastructure and rehabilitating our communities. Amanda appeared before the committee on March 28, 2017 as part of an expert panel.

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Providers hold Kentucky Workshops-

Two U.S. EPA Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) providers assisted the Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program and Louisville Metro with outreach and education activities in the spring of 2017. The Center for Creative Land Recycling and the New Jersey Institute of Technology participated in the state's Brownfield Open House on April 7, 2017, during which communities could come in and discuss their projects and discuss ideas regarding funding, cleanup and redevelopment. The following day, Louisville Metro City Government sponsored a Land Reuse for Building Better Communities Workshop. This workshop highlighted tools that could assist community members affect change in their communities.



Attendees of the Land Reuse for Building Better Communities learn about new technologies that help people visualize new uses for blighted properties.



Kenya Stump of the Dept. for Energy Development and Independence presents at the RE-Powering workshop in Washington, DC.

ASTSWMO

Amanda LeFevre continues to serve as the vice-chair for the Associations of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) National Brownfield Focus Group. ASTSWMO works to improve communications between state waste program peers and with federal partners. This year, the focus group produced fact sheets states could utilize to provide information to community members. Topics included community involvement, Phase I Assessments, Phase II Assessments, risk-based cleanups and demolition of abandoned structures. The focus group was also part of a joint ASTSWMO/EPA RE-Powering America's Land meeting in Washington, DC. Amanda LeFevre, along with Kenya Stump of the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence, spoke at the event geared toward using brownfield and superfund sites for energy production.

Redevelopment of Downtown Historic Districts Workshop

The city of Frankfort, utilizing assessment grant funding, held a downtown redevelopment workshop at Buffalo Trace Distillery on April 12, 2017. The event brought together downtown business leaders, city and state government representatives and developers to discuss issues facing the redevelopment of historic districts in Kentucky. Program staff took part in a "Packaging the Deal" panel that educated attendees on incentives and support for redevelopment of properties.



Attendees network at the Redevelopment of Downtown Districts event in Frankfort.

Inaugural Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit and Central Appalachian Brownfield Innovation Network

Herb Petitjean and program staff worked with West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers and other regional partners to hold the first ever Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit on Sept. 8, 2016, and form the Central Appalachian Brownfield Innovation Network (CABIN). The Summit was held in conjunction with West Virginia's annual brownfield conference and featured sessions on innovative redevelopment in the region. CABIN helps assist communities to identify and connect with mentors that can help provide guidance and ideas to help make redevelopment happen. The event was successful and there are plans to hold a second summit in the Fall of 2017.



Cleaner Commonwealth Fund

The Cleaner Commonwealth Fund (CCF) accepted its first loan application in FY17. Botanica, Inc. is receiving a \$390,000 loan for the redevelopment of a landfill site which will be the home of the Louisville Waterfront Botanical Gardens. The first phase of the project will begin construction in the Fall of 2016. The CCF also awarded two grants:

- **Louisville Metro Government will receive a grant of \$75,000.** The city will utilize the grant to clean up PCB-contaminated oil that had leaked from four elevators in the Louisville Gardens. Once the building is remediated, it will return to use as an entertainment center as part of the revitalization of the Russell neighborhood.
- **The City of Frankfort will received a grant of \$25,000.** With this funding, the city will remediate an abandoned rail bed, which will form a portion of the Pinsky Trail. This walking trail will connect downtown Frankfort and Kentucky State University.



Above Left: This landfill site will be the future home of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. The education center, part of the first phase of construction, is illustrated in the picture on the right.



Assessments and Grants

Assessments and grant writing services are a pivotal part of the brownfield program. The program provided twelve Phase I assessments and one Phase II assessment during FY17. These assessments help clear the way for property acquisition and cleanup grant applications. Botanica Inc., which took advantage of the free assessment service is the first recipient of a Cleaner Commonwealth Fund loan. Several other properties, like the Siloam Property in South Shore, KY have been pegged for redevelopment. It will be home to a \$1.3 billion aluminum plant that will provide products for the automotive and aerospace industries.

Each year, the program works with applicants by providing grant writing workshops and grant review events and services to applicants. The EPA awarded four brownfield grants to Kentucky this year:

Bowling Green — \$300,000 in communitywide assessment grants

The EPA has selected the city of Bowling Green for two brownfields assessment grants. Communitywide hazardous substances and petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments.

Estill County 21st Century, Inc. — a \$200,000 cleanup grant

The EPA has selected Estill County 21st Century Inc. for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the Mack Theater at 114 Main Street in Irvine.

Kentucky River Foothills Development Council Inc. — a \$200,000 cleanup grant

The EPA has selected the Kentucky River Foothills Development Council Inc. for a brownfields cleanup grant. The hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the former Parker Seal Rubber Plant at 103 Lewis Street in Berea.

Discover Downtown Middlesboro — a \$200,000 cleanup grant

The EPA has selected Discover Downtown Middlesboro for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Home property at 2022 Cumberland Avenue.



The Parker Seal Rubber Plant in Berea sits awaiting remediation using a US EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant.



Christoph Uhlenbruch of DEP's Superfund Branch observes a contractor doing vapor intrusion testing as part of assessment activities.



KY EXCEL – Introduction

KY EXCEL is the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection’s free environmental leadership program, whose members complete voluntary projects to improve the environment. In 2005, groundwork for KY EXCEL was laid by cabinet staff meeting with citizens and companies and reviewing other environmental leadership programs. With the foundation set, KY EXCEL launched on Jan. 17, 2006 with four different membership levels.

KY EXCEL has a couple of unique features. First, there are levels for regulated and nonregulated members. Regulated members are entities who have an air, water or waste permit from the Department for Environmental Protection (DEP). Through discussion with companies, it was determined that even though a company may not have a 100 percent compliance history, the company may still be taking positive steps to protect Kentucky’s environment. There was a desire to have a place for these companies in the program. Based on this, a tiered system was created for members which are regulated by DEP; Master, Leader, Partner. The Master level is open to DEP regulated members who have a sustained history of environmental compliance. The Partner and Leader levels are available to DEP regulated entities who might have some environmental compliance concerns, but who have a desire to protect the environment while working to improve their compliance.

Realizing entities and individuals which are not regulated by DEP may wish to be members of KY EXCEL, the Advocate level was developed. Advocate level members can be anyone. Current advocate members include households, communities, local governments, non-DEP regulated businesses, schools and advocacy groups. In 2016 KY EXCEL’s fifth membership level was developed, KY EXCEL Farm. The Farm level is open to all individuals and entities that own at least five acres of land and farm crops or livestock or are an advocacy group for farmers/agriculture.

In addition to the multiple membership levels, another unique feature of KY EXCEL are the members’ voluntary projects. Each voluntary project is required to benefit the environment in some manner. KY EXCEL members choose a project or projects that fit their work plans or lifestyles. Farm, Advocate and Partner members are asked to proposal at least one project per year while Leaders propose at least three projects and Masters propose five projects.



The 2017 “Clean Up the Salt” event coordinated by Four Roses Distillery, is an example of one of the many projects KY EXCEL Members complete in their local communities.



KY EXCEL Member Spotlights

To encourage others and promote our members, previously the program developed “case studies” to highlight projects our members are implementing and that can be transferred to other members. This year we redeveloped our “case studies” into “spotlights”. The spotlights go beyond just highlighting one project, but tells each member’s story as an environmental leader. The spotlights are showcased on our Facebook page and several have been published in national media outlets, such as *Environmental News Network* and *Renewal & Redevelopment*. During this past fiscal year, we developed eight spotlights. Below are highlights from two of our FY17 Spotlights.

Diggin’ It Farms

As far as farms go, Diggin’ It Farms is a “new kid on the block”. This five acre KY EXCEL Farm recently started providing fresh produce to local farmers markets within central Kentucky. Facing the challenges of planning sustainable growth and achieving organic certification for their crops, Diggin’ It Farms is an inspiration for old, new, small and even large crop farms.



Jenny Howard Owen of Diggin’ It Farms poses with her new KY EXCEL Farm sign.



The Bednarskis’ pose with some of the many award signs signifying their efforts in making Sherwood Acres a leading example of environmental stewardship.

Sherwood Acres

Since 2005, Sherwood Acres Farm has been providing the Commonwealth with fresh beef from their Belted Galloway Cattle raised in Oldham County. Along with being a KY EXCEL Farm, Sherwood Acres Farm has received the Oldham County Master Conservationist Award. In 2013, the farm received the Leopold Conservation Award. Recognized for its extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation, Sherwood Acres Farm inspires other by example and helps the public understand the vital role private landowners play in conservation success.



KY EXCEL FY17 - Member Project Excellence

Through the years, DCA has strived to recognize the environmental leadership of our members in various ways. Below are yearly highlights from FY17 where DCA's KY EXCEL members showed excellence in environmental leadership.

1. American Synthetic Rubber took a closed landfill in an industrial area of Louisville and transformed it into a natural area for wildlife, providing habitat for deer, fox, coyotes, turkeys, pollinators and more.
2. Capstone Farms, the first member of the KY EXCEL Farm program, has no need for pesticides to control invasive and toxic plants. Instead, goats have been the answer.
3. Saint Agnes Parish goes to great lengths to recycle the cans, bottles, cups and cardboard that are left behind when several thousand people attend the annual Saint Agnes Parish carnival.
4. Thompson Ag Exchange owner Vincent Thompson incorporates best management practices in his farming, making him an environmental leader and giving him profitable operations at the same time.
5. Hampton Inn & Suites – Waterfront is an example of thoughtful planning and concern for the environment. It was the first LEED-certified hotel in Kentucky.
6. Ky. Beef Network/Eden Shale Farm has provided Kentucky beef cattle producers with a wonderful resource to show them best management practices for their farm.
7. Sherwood Acres Farm raises cattle using best management practices for caring for the cattle and the land.
8. West Sixth Brewing Company is a wonderful example of a brownfield that was transformed into a popular entertainment and business center, reviving the surrounding area.



Above: Leggett & Platt employees show off their “Eco Initiative” board that highlights projects happening around the facility.

Leggett & Platt – Winchester Spring Branch

Over the years Leggett & Platt Inc., Branch 0002 – Winchester Spring Branch has won three KY Department for Environmental Protection Environmental Excellence Awards: 2012 KY EXCEL Champion, 2015 Environmental Pacesetter for a Medium to Large Business, and 2016 KY EXCEL Champion. This KY EXCEL Partner’s, soon to be KY EXCEL Master, green culture and environmental enthusiasm cannot be contained by its walls and is spreading amongst its community.

Training and Education

KY EXCEL staff offered educational opportunities and outreach services at a variety of events held by KY EXCEL members and other partner organizations. KY EXCEL staff participated in events held by Kentucky American Water Works, Four Roses Distillery, Sherwood Acres Farm, Sekisui S-Lec, America, LLC, Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association, and Kentucky State University’s Third Thursday Thing. As part of a pollution prevention grant, KY EXCEL partnered with the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center to coordinate two workshops; Carbon Footprint and Creating a Green Footprint. Both workshops were hosted by KY EXCEL members. The Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, a KY EXCEL Leader, hosted the Creating a Green Footprint Workshop, and 3M- Cynthiana, a KY EXCEL Master, hosted the Carbon Footprint Workshop. Over the past year, KY EXCEL staff also provided one-on-one pollution prevention assistance by completing more than ten site visits.

Below: Participants learn about high tunnel farming at Kentucky State University’s Third Thursday Thing.





KY EXCEL Farm Pollution Risk Assessment

Kentucky has a wide and varied agricultural history. Farmers depend on land, air and water resources to make their operations a success. To help farmers in their efforts to protect their farms, DCA created the KY EXCEL Farm Pollution Risk Assessment. Over the past year, five farms have utilized this newly created assessment tool. The assessment was originally designed for farms with both crop and livestock, or livestock only farms. DCA is currently working on a similar assessment for crop only farms.

2017 Member Celebration

Hosted by Locust Trace AgriScience Center, a KY EXCEL Advocate member since 2013, this year's annual members meeting celebrated all of our members' accomplishments during the 2016 calendar year through a collection of displays. We also recognized each inaugural member in attendance; roughly a third of the attendees. More than thirty members joined us on the evening of January 25 to network with and support their fellow KY EXCEL members.



Above: KY EXCEL Members attending the 2017 Member Celebration.

Sustainable Spirits Summit 2016

KY EXCEL staff in collaboration with the Kentucky Distillers' Association coordinated the sixth annual Sustainable Spirits Summit (S3). The 2016 Summit was hosted by Brown-Forman Distillers, in Louisville, on September 20. Over thirty participants listened to presentations covering a range of topics including sustainability for distilleries, air permitting, pollinators and the KY EXCEL program. They were also received tools to figure out the true cost of water in the distilling industry.



Spreading the Word



Spreading the Word

Citizens, businesses and organizations in Kentucky all benefit from the services and knowledge that DCA has to offer. The Division's job is to be sure that anyone who needs DCA's services is aware that help is available. To do this, DCA uses a variety of methods to publicize our Division and provide accurate and up-to-date information to the public.

One way DCA spreads the word is by contributing posts to Naturally Connected and DEP's blog. DCA announces upcoming training events and the latest state and federal regulations to help others stay in compliance with environmental regulations. In FY17, this popular blog had 53,278 views, 22,441 visitors, nearly 4,800 subscribers and 167 posts, which makes it an important informational resource for the people of Kentucky.

Readers can also turn to DCA's Facebook page for news on upcoming events and workshops sponsored, announcements highlighting new KY EXCEL members, and tips on sustainable living and working.

As part of spreading the word and encouraging citizens to be more environmentally aware, DCA staff members make site visits, engage in meetings and communication thru partnerships with trade associations, KY EXCEL members and other organizations. These groups benefit from DCA's compliance tools and resources, while DCA has the opportunity to discover the clients' issues and needs to best serve them.

Print and online publications also assist DCA in reaching the public through articles, press releases and announcements of training opportunities.

Media Outlets



Spreading the Word

Environmental Leaders Recognized for Achievements

The DEP Environmental Excellence Awards Program recognizes the strong commitment to environmental stewardship that is shown through the efforts and activities of individuals, businesses and organizations in Kentucky. Presentations were made to six recipients during the awards luncheon at the 2016 Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment, at the Lexington Convention Center in September.

KY EXCEL Champion Award: Leggett & Platt Inc.

Community Environmental Luminary Award: City of Radcliff

Resource Caretaker Award: Nucor Steel Gallatin

Environmental Pacesetter Award for an Individual/Organization: Rick Palmer

Environmental Pacesetter Award for a Small Business: Klausing Group

Environmental Pacesetter Award for a Medium to Large Business: Smithfield Middlesboro



Left: Leggett & Platt Inc. were honored at the 2016 Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment.

Spreading the Word

EcoART Contest

For the past 10 years, DCA as invited Kentucky high school students to express their feelings about the environment through their artwork. The annual EcoART Contest encourages student artists to blend the creative arts with environmental messages in order to educate and inspire others to care for and protect the world around us.

Artwork was submitted in the categories of air, water and land habitats. Students were instructed to use the media types of drawing/painting/print work, mixed media, sculpture/pottery, digital artwork and photographs.

The winners of the 2017 EcoART Contest are Kaylee Thornsby from Morgan County High School in West Liberty; Yedarm Lee from Somerset Christian School in Somerset; Savannah Wilder from Pleasure Ridge Park High School in Louisville; and Heather Bensinger from Mercer County High School in Harrodsburg.



Kaylee Thornsby "Flow of Life"



DCA Division Director, Paulette Akers, presents awards to winners Savannah Wilder, Pleasure Ridge High School. (Right) and Heather Bensinger, Mercer Co High School. (Left).





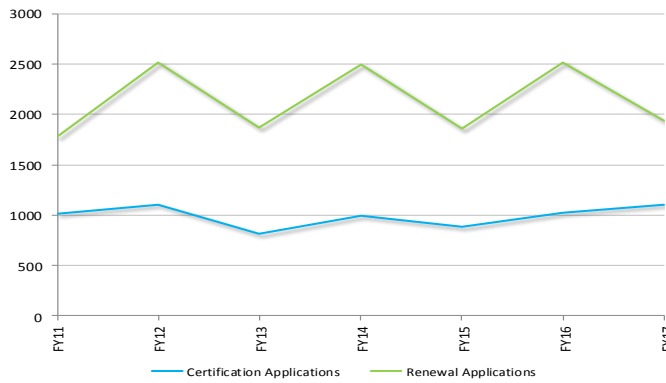
Division Dashboards



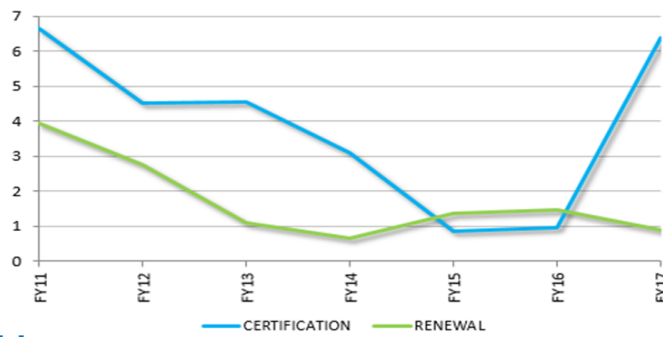
Operator Certification and Licensing 2017 Dashboard Report

Administration

Applications Received

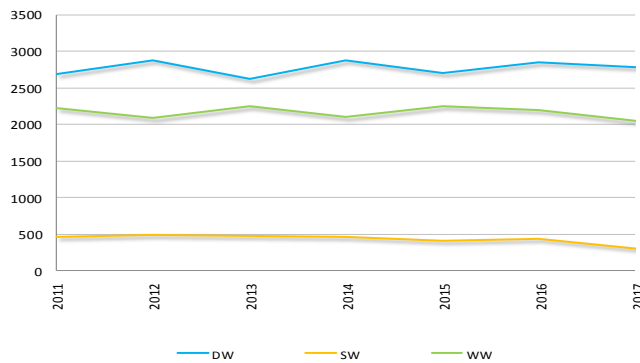


Application Processing Time

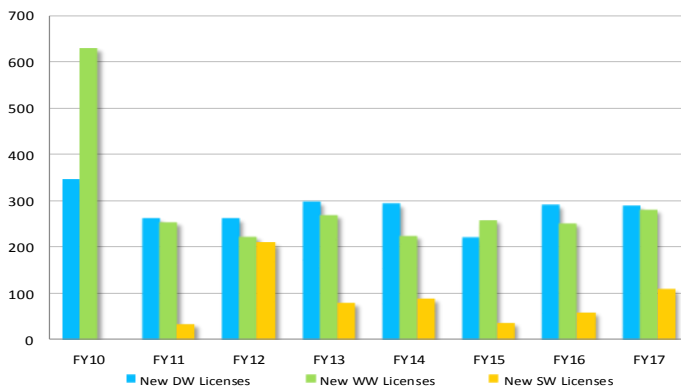


Licenses

Active Licenses

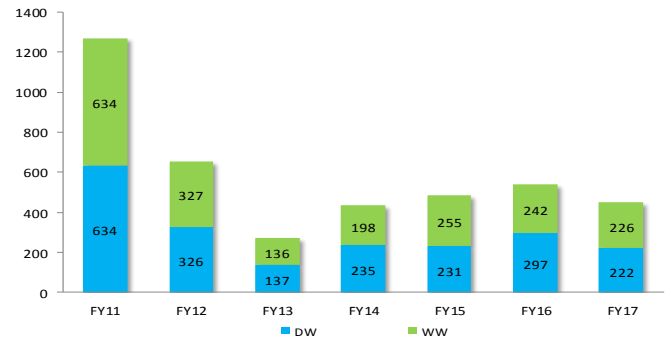


New and Upgraded Licenses

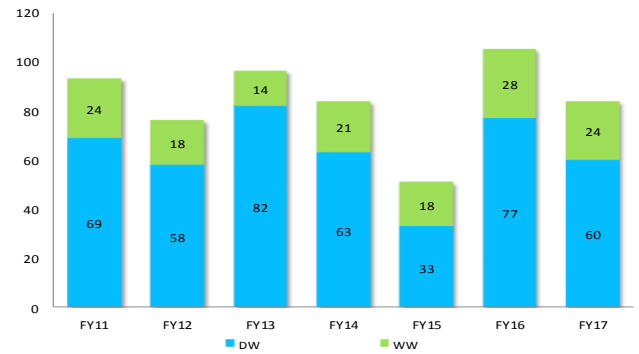


Certification Board

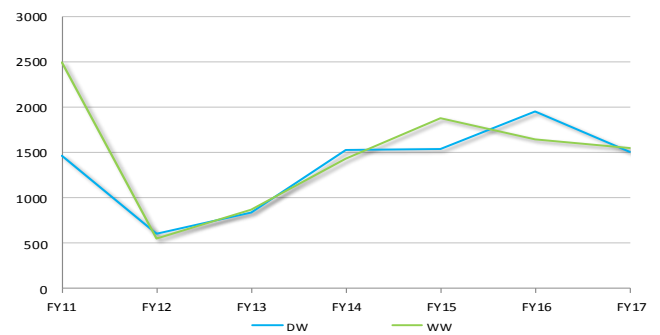
Training Requests Reviewed by the Certification Boards



Board Review - Class 4 Applications

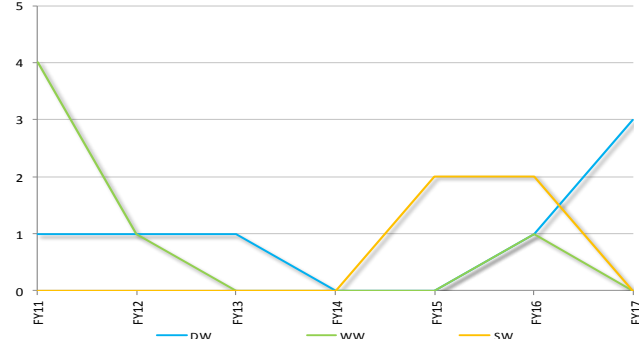


Training Hours Approved by the Certification Boards



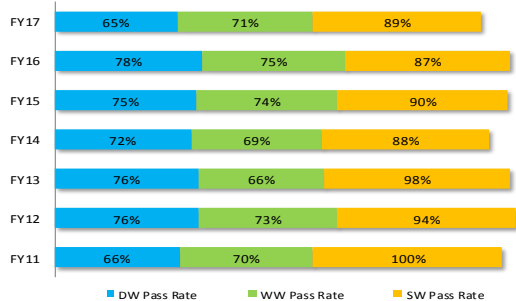
Disciplinary Actions

Operator Disciplinary Action Reviews

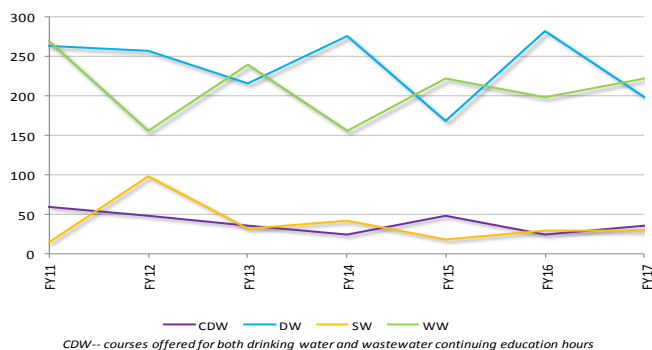


Testing

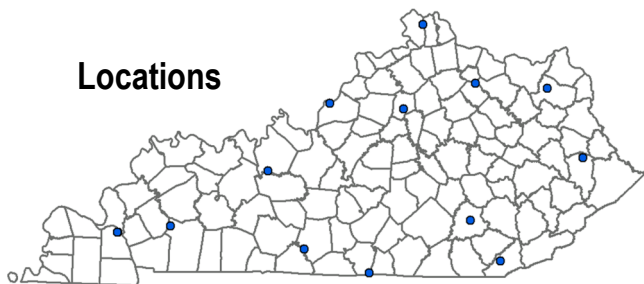
Examination Pass Rates



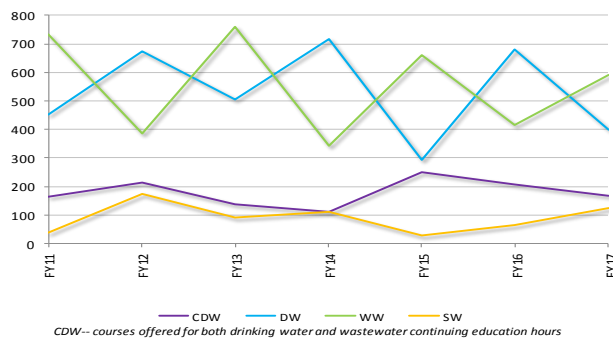
Number of Training Hours Provided



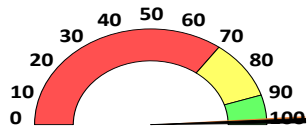
Locations



Number of Attendees

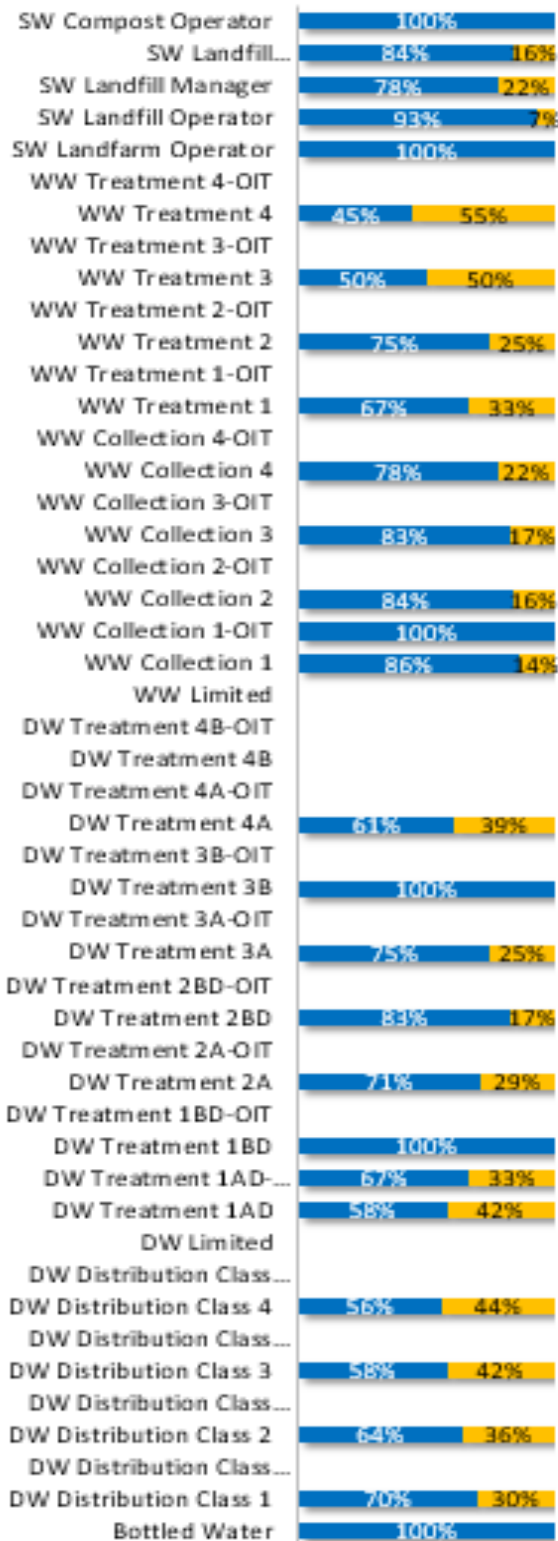


Attendee Training Satisfaction



FY17 Pass-Fail Rates

■ Pass Rate ■ Fail Rate

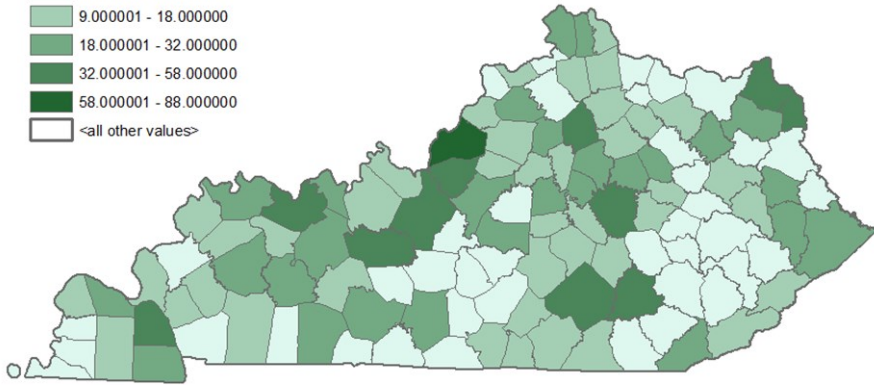
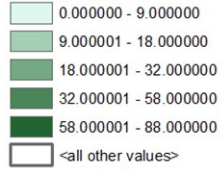


Operator Availability

Wastewater Operators

County Boundary Polygons

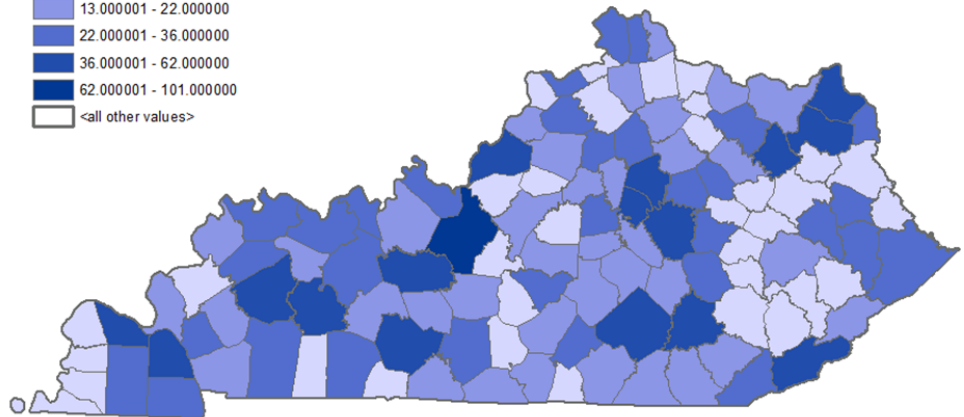
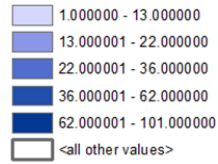
Number



Drinking Water Operators

County Boundary Polygons

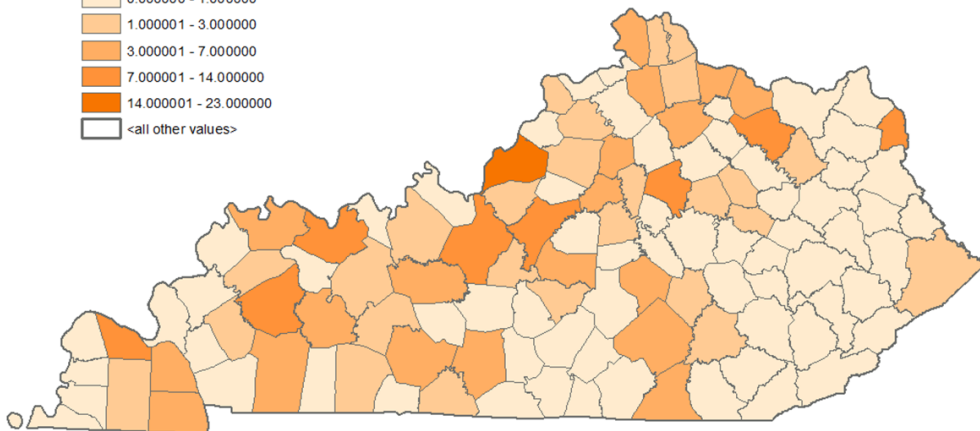
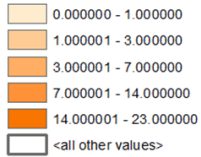
Number



Solid Waste Operators

County Boundary Polygons

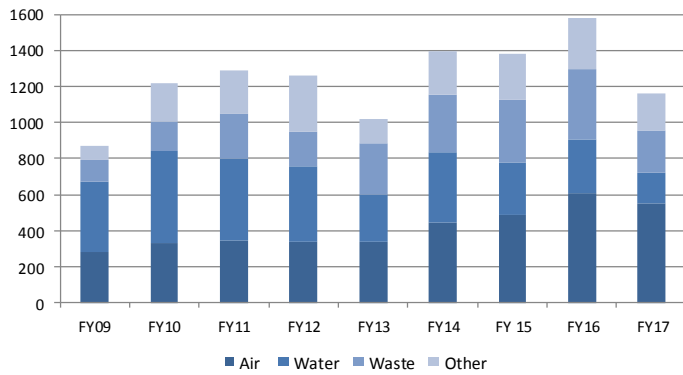
Number



Environmental Compliance Assistance 2017 Dashboard Report

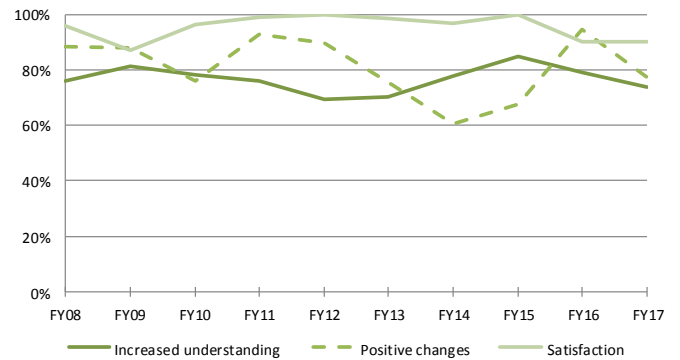
Assistance Requests

Assistance Requests by Media

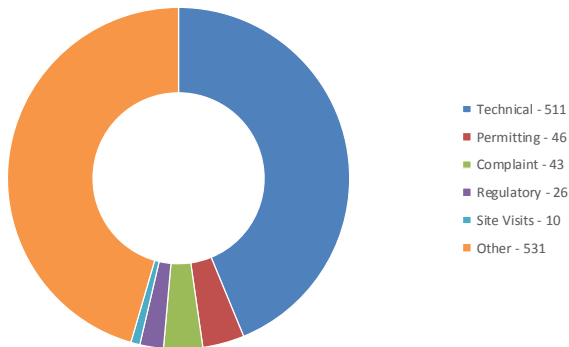


Program Outcomes

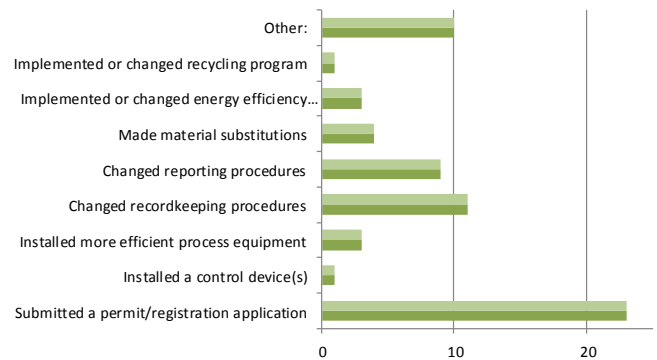
Client Outcome Measures



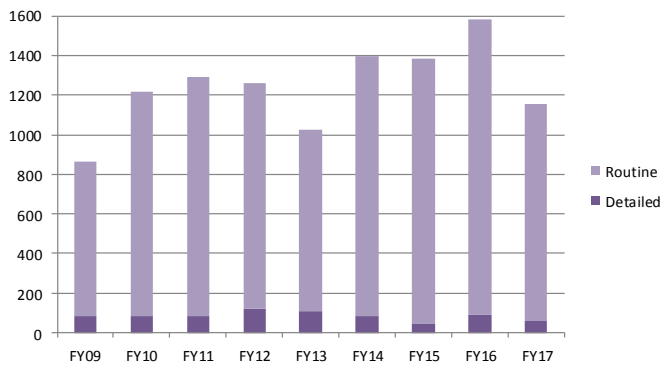
Type of Assistance Requests



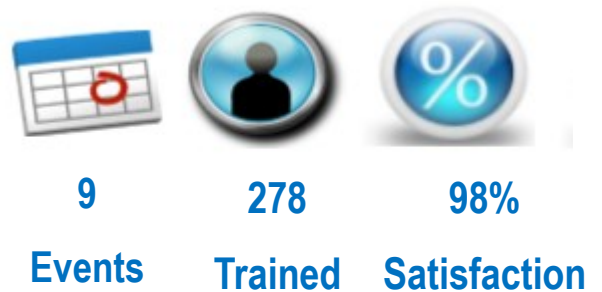
Client Behavior Changes (FY17)



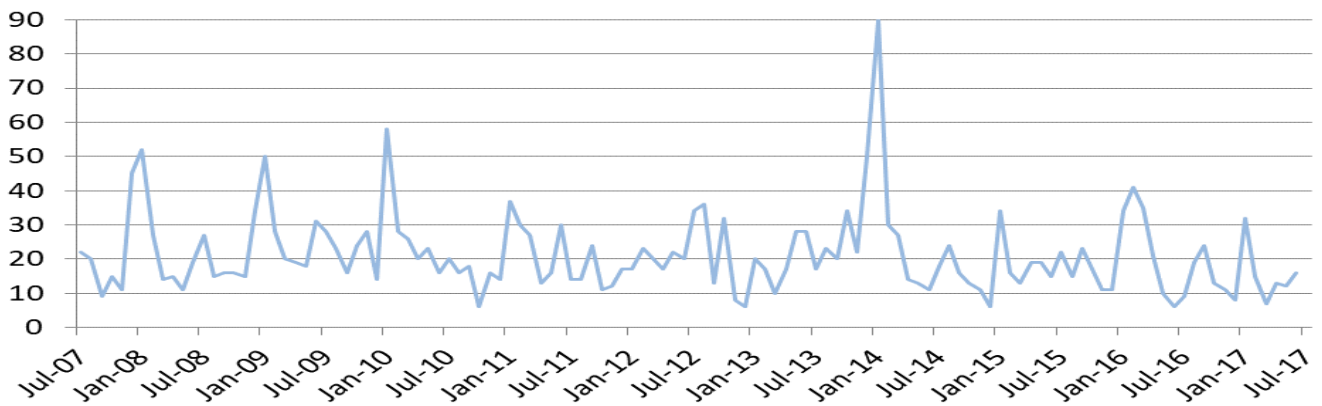
Detailed versus Routine Requests



Training Outcomes

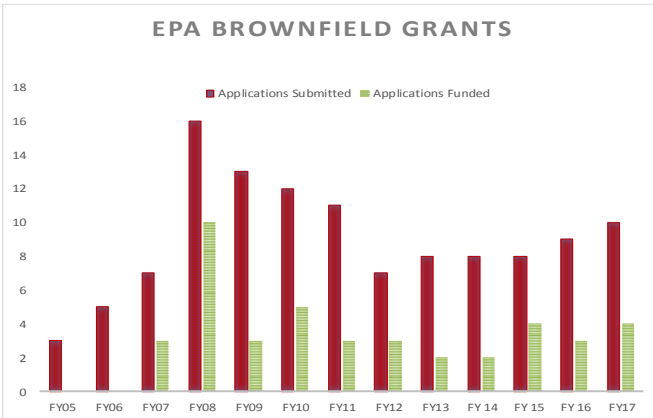


Small Business Requests

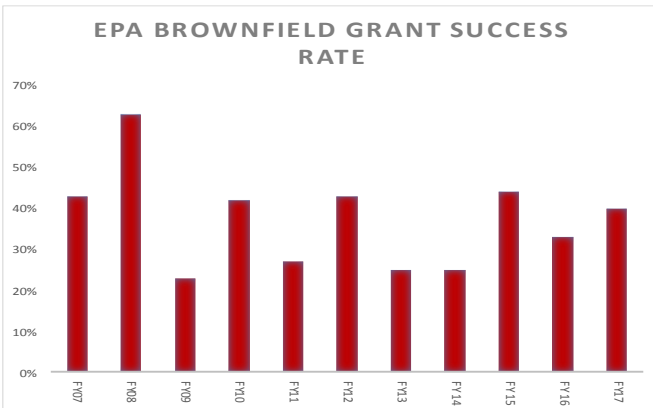


U.S. EPA Brownfield and Cleaner Commonwealth Fund Grants

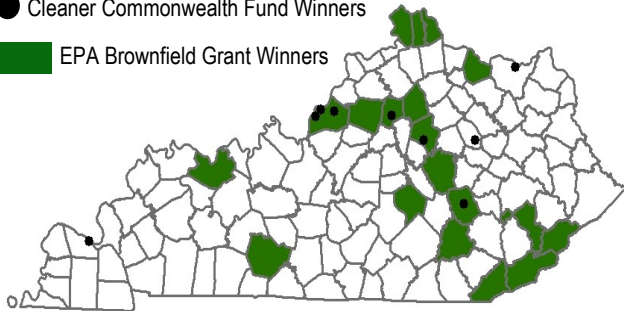
EPA BROWNFIELD GRANTS



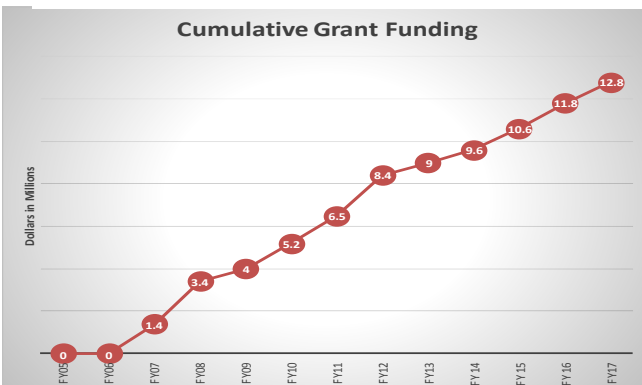
EPA BROWNFIELD GRANT SUCCESS RATE



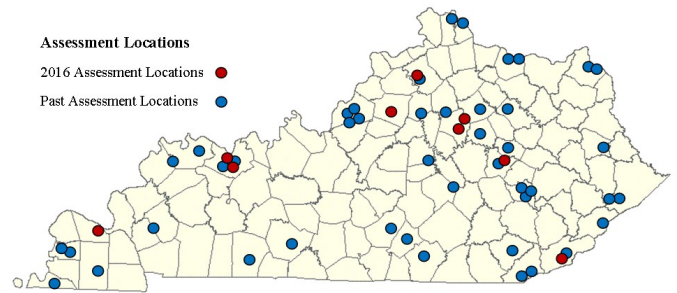
- Cleaner Commonwealth Fund Winners
- EPA Brownfield Grant Winners



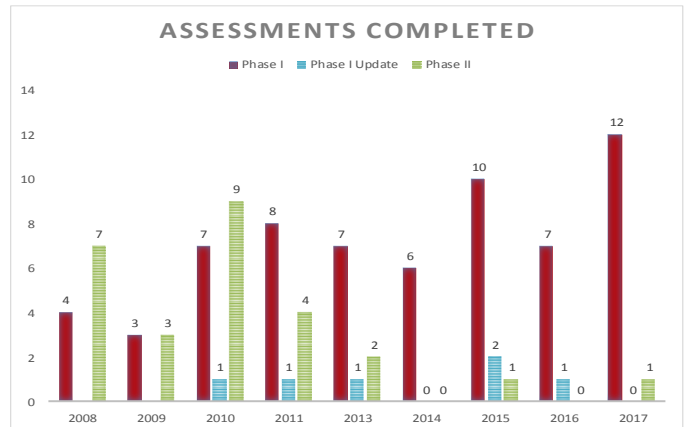
Cumulative Grant Funding



Targeted Brownfield



ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED



Brownfield Help Desk

Help Desk Requests



Training Outcomes



7

Events



204

Trained



100%

Satisfaction



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EMAIL: ENVHELP@KY.GOV