



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Fayette County Schools Participate in the 10.10.10 Challenge**

*Commonwealth's Schools Encouraged to Participate*

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (March 10, 2011) -- Stepping out as a state leader in sustainability efforts, Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) has signed on as the first school district in the state to participate in the 10-10-10 Challenge.

The 10-10-10 Challenge, a program from the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet's Division of Compliance Assistance (DCA), encourages individuals and businesses across the state to reduce their waste disposal and conserve both energy and water by 10 percent over the next three years.

"I commend Fayette County Public Schools for participating in the 10-10-10 challenge," said First Lady Jane Beshear. "By implementing energy-friendly practices and reducing waste, FCPS is demonstrating its commitment to conservation and setting an example for our children. This is an ideal way for students to learn about being responsible environmental stewards. Additionally, the more the school district is able to save on energy costs, the more that funding can be used directly for students."

Aaron Keatley, director of DCA, is pleased that Fayette County Public Schools has chosen to be the first school system to accept the 10-10-10 Challenge. "It is our hope that all businesses, individuals and schools consider accepting the Challenge and begin making smart choices—choices that are not only good for our environment, but are also good for our wallets."

Recently, FCPS received Recovery Act funding through the School Energy Managers Project (SEMP) to hire two energy managers who coordinate all energy efficiency and environmental functions in the district. SEMP is a collaboration between the Kentucky School Boards Association and the cabinet's Department for Energy Development and Independence.

“Our goal is to help FCPS become a national leader in sustainability, energy efficiency and environmental education through visionary capital investments, grassroots energy-efficiency awareness campaigns, student-driven core content-based sustainability school improvement projects and collaborative, robust partnerships,” says Tresine Logsdon, one of the district’s two energy and sustainability managers.

FCPS’s participation in the 10-10-10 Challenge supports this overall goal by furthering the awareness campaign and offering resources through partnership opportunities. The 10-10-10 Challenge has been incorporated into school-level efforts through the E=USE<sup>2</sup> (Education leads to Understanding Sustainability, Energy and the Environment) program, which guides schools through the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools and Kentucky National Energy Education Development (NEED) programs.

“The E=USE<sup>2</sup> program asks schools to conduct four energy assessments, raise awareness about energy consumption in their building and design and implement energy efficiency projects around their campus,” Logsdon says.

As part of the E=USE<sup>2</sup> program, students register their school to join FCPS’s 10-10-10 Challenge team and utilize provided resources to fulfill the 10-10-10 Challenge. To date, 32 Fayette County public schools are participating in the E=USE<sup>2</sup> program and will use tools from the 10-10-10 Challenge to begin working toward major reductions in energy use, water consumption and waste disposal.

For more information on the 10-10-10 Challenge, visit the Facebook page at <http://www.101010Challenge.com> or the Division of Compliance Assistance’s website at <http://dca.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

For more information on Fayette County Public School’s sustainability initiatives, visit <http://www.sustainability.fcps.net>.

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