

# The Division of Compliance Assistance

SIMPLIFYING COMPLIANCE • LIVING GREENER • CERTIFYING PROFESSIONALS

# *Excellence in Motion*



ANNUAL REPORT FY16





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# The Director's Note

Thank you for taking a moment to read the Division of Compliance Assistance's (DCA) Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report. This report provides an overview of the efforts of the division over the past year to simplify compliance, certify professionals and promote a greener and stronger Commonwealth. Assisting compliance is not just an idea; it is a practice that we do every day.

Last year we celebrated the Decade of Difference, the 10th anniversary of DCA. We reflected over the accomplishments and considered the future of the division. This year, we are putting that reflection into motion. Our Excellence in Motion shows how our actions reflect our mission.

Over the past year, we have increased the number of compliance assistance trainings conducted. In Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015, we conducted five and seven trainings, respectively. In Fiscal Year 2016, more than 19 trainings were conducted to meet the needs of the regulated community. The Operator Certification program has also increased the frequency of continuing education classes from nine classes last year to 16 classes this fiscal year, in response to needs of the certified operators. With the move of the Energy and Environment Cabinet to the new 300 Sower Building, we are excited to hold trainings in the state-of-the-art training rooms.

The KY EXCEL program celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. We received a proclamation from Governor Bevin declaring the week of June 5-11 as KY EXCEL Member Week. This anniversary was celebrated with the release of an inaugural document to showcase the member successes and benefits to the community. In addition, this year we have put in motion the new KY EXCEL Farm program.

In partnership with the Division of Waste Management, the Brownfield Redevelopment Program continued awarding grants through the Cleaner Commonwealth Fund and hopes to award the first loan in the coming year. With these funds and our partnerships, we are looking forward to serving more communities and nonprofit organizations.

Excellence in motion is only possible when all of the parts work together. Each gear is important. The team here at DCA works diligently to develop new partnerships and stay up to date on the latest resources, so we can provide the highest quality service to the businesses and citizens of the Commonwealth.

*E Paulette Akers*

Paulette Akers  
Acting 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 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.



## 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 educational and experience requirements for the level of certification requested. During FY 2016, the branch received and processed 949 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 FY 16, the boards reviewed 105 Class IV certification examination requests and received two 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. 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, as well as the annual Association of Boards of Certification Conference.

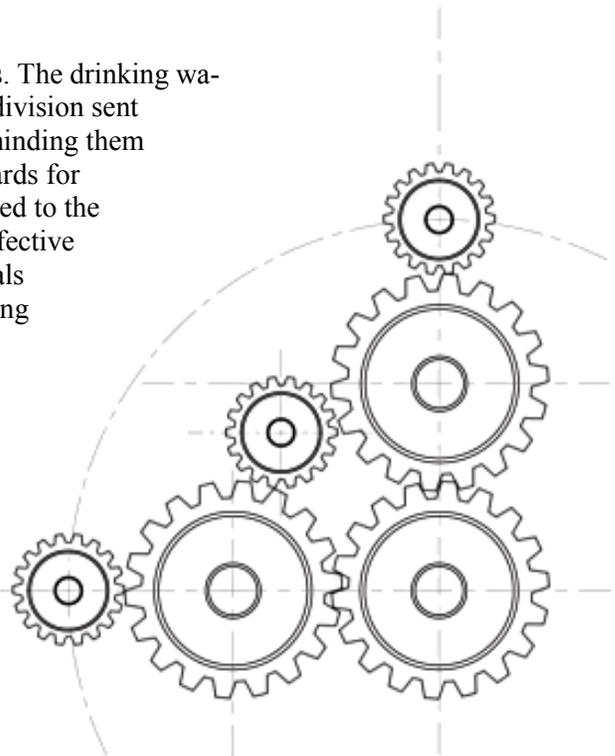
Staff members participated in high school, technical and college career fairs to discuss the importance of properly treated water and effective waste management. It is vital to raise the awareness of opportunity in this profession.

## Renewal

All operators are periodically required to renew their licenses. The drinking water renewal cycle took place during the past fiscal year. The division sent postcards to more than 2,700 certified drinking operators reminding them of the renewal cycle. The division also issued 2,421 wallet cards for drinking water and wastewater certification 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 administrative processing time.

## Certification

During FY 2016, the Operator Certification Program administered 842 exams that resulted in the issuance of 250 new or upgraded wastewater licenses, 289 new drinking water licenses and 57 new solid waste licenses. The drinking water program had a pass rate of 78 percent, the wastewater program had a pass rate of 75 percent and the solid waste program had a pass rate of 87 percent.



## 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. Topics range from new technologies, permits, regulatory requirements and issues related to water and wastewater treatment and distribution and solid waste management. In FY 16, the program conducted 38 training events worth more than 534 credit hours and had 1,331 participants. The boards reviewed 539 submittals from third-party training providers and approved over 3,598 education hours.



**Dennis Minch, Operator Certification Program trainer, at Kentucky Water and Wastewater Operators Association.**

## Operation Matters Blog

The Operator Certification and Licensing Branch created the *Operation Matters* blog in 2012 to distribute information and tools to the operators in Kentucky. Since its inception, the blog has had 545 posts and received 154,429 views. The blog has 134 followers and has had 72,823 visitors.



## Fourth Annual Steve Crosman Award



**David Hawes**

David Hawes, who recently retired from the Regional Water Resource Agency (RWRA)—Max Rhoads Wastewater Treatment Plant and East Wastewater Treatment Plant, has been honored with the fourth annual Steve Crosman Award for Outstanding Environmental Professionalism. David was nominated by Dean Behnke, RWRA. David holds a Class IV Wastewater Treatment license.

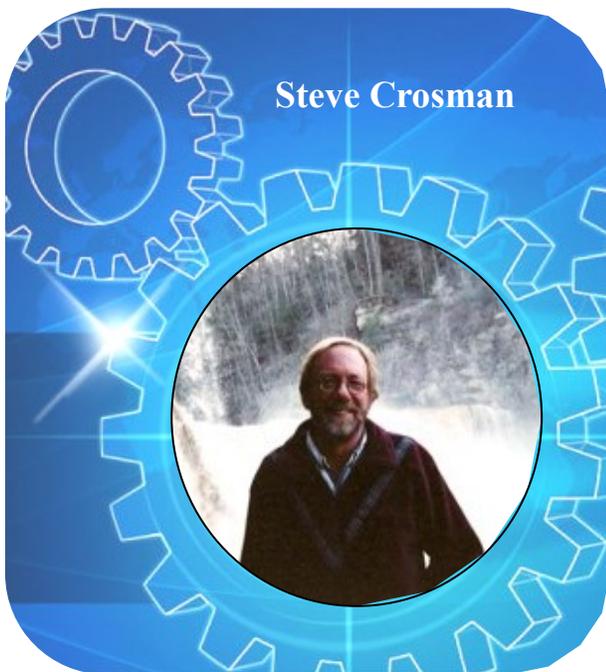
The Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance (DCA) presents this annual award in memory of Steve Crosman, a trainer with the Certification and Licensing Branch of DCA, who passed away in December 2011. Steve devoted himself to ensuring safe water for Kentucky by doing his best to assist and train operators.

David led the effort to form a new city/county joint sewer agency to succeed the Owensboro Sewer Commission, which had fallen under sanctions from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and

## Fourth Annual Steve Crosman Award, continued

Kentucky Division of Water. The commission was the subject of an Agreed Order for the Owensboro-Daviess community that restricted growth without annexation of regional sewer service.

Under David's direction, the Regional Water Resource Agency has seen the renovation and upgrade of its old treatment facility of several large pumping stations and the extension of sewer service to approximately 4,500 customers. The estimated cost of community water quality capital improvements during his tenure is \$136 million.



David led the agency to pursue a unique approach in complying with the EPA's mandated Combined Sewer Overflow Policy (CSO) by invoking the presumption approach in its Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP). David utilized this approach in an effort to ultimately save the community millions of dollars and implement projects that satisfied CSO control objectives, as well as maximization of an immediate benefit to the community. The LTCP approach has also demonstrated David's ongoing efforts to cooperate with the City of Owensboro, who managed the community's stormwater program and included many projects in the LTCP that have dual benefits for the community in both improving the wastewater

collection system and the region's stormwater collection system.

David tackled several adversities during his tenure, such as facing fierce opposition in the formation of the joint city/county sewer agency, organizing and implementing a permitted and managed transported waste program in Daviess County and overseeing the formation of a comprehensive grease trap permitting and management program for the agency's service area, minimizing grease-related sewer overflows. He also worked extensively to balance an aging combined sewer system with large-volume industrial waste streams, while improving Ohio River water quality and implementing economical sewer ordinances and rate structures.

David always valued the betterment of his 70+ employees beyond just their professional relationships. He implemented an agency-sponsored Financial Peace workshop for employees and their families, held periodic learning workshops dedicated to employee familiarities with the Kentucky Retirement System and instituted professional and financial incentives for RWRA's wastewater treatment plant operators to obtain the highest level of education and certification available for the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet.

David served as a member of several regional committees, including the Green River Area Development District's Water Management Council, GO-EDC (an economic development agency for Owensboro and Daviess County), Owensboro Chamber of Commerce and Daviess County Drainage Commission.

In honor of his excellent and lengthy service to the sewer agency and local community, the City of Owensboro and Daviess County appointed public officials recently announced that RWRA's East Treatment Plant was renamed the "David Hawes Treatment Plant."

Through his endeavors, David had been a pivotal leader in the community, sparking partnerships and cooperatives aimed at environmental improvement projects and improving the region's overall water quality.



# *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

From simple calls concerning environmental regulations to in-depth assistance requests, the Environmental Assistance Branch covers a broad range of topics on any given day. Over the last fiscal year, ECAP

provided detailed responses to 56 small business air-quality requests and assisted in the submission of more than 15 air-quality applications. On a monthly basis, the program averages 119 calls for assistance, and 76 percent of them deal with air and waste issues. Overall, the branch responded to assistance requests from callers in 86 counties.

## Regulations

The Environmental Compliance Assistance Program (ECAP) helps facilities understand and comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's rules, including National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants

(NESHAPS) and New Source Performance Standards (NSPS). During the past year, ECAP has provided services, including compliance education and permitting assistance, in regards to proposed amendments to the Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine (RICE) Rule, NESHAP ZZZZ. Education and outreach efforts have also been conducted for the proposed amendments to NSPS OOOO for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production, Transmission, and Distribution. ECAP provided educational opportunities during presentations and workshops regarding the Division of Waste Management's decision to grant exemption variances from hazardous waste regulations for facilities that use solvent-contaminated wipes.

## Incentives

Many times, entities can avoid environmental penalties by being proactive. But some are afraid to approach the department for assistance. Others are skeptical of an assistance program housed within DEP. The ECAP program has the ability to use enforcement discretion and work proactively with clients who wish to identify and correct issues. The program can also help customers who want to utilize the self-audit privilege to self-disclose environmental violations.

## *Outreach to Organizations and Industry*

When regulations are developed or changed and questions arise from industries that are confused by current or upcoming environmental issues, outreach is the key to help them stay in compliance. This year, the Environmental Compliance Assistance Program provided assistance to multiple organizations and facilities on a variety of topics.

Throughout the year, ECAP maintained close relationships with many industrial organizations, offering assistance. ECAP maintained its partnership with the Statewide Wood Energy Team. ECAP also worked closely with the Kentucky Poultry Federation, even developing a fact sheet to assist poultry farms after an outbreak of disease.

In October 2015, staff from ECAP presented an interactive booth at the Paint Technology Workshop, an event designed to develop painting technologies in industry. ECAP provided a virtual paint training that taught participants methods to reduce waste and emissions during spray coating application. The same month, ECAP staff attended National Bioenergy Day, where presentations were given by facilities that ECAP had previously assisted.

The Environmental Compliance Assistance Program provided outreach and education to other divisions in the DEP, with staff travelling to each regional office and giving presentations on the assistance and services that ECAP can offer. This opportunity was used to learn the needs of industries throughout the state so that appropriate compliance documents and assistance could be provided to them.

## ***Tool Development***

The Environmental Compliance Assistance Program's goal 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 and the facility's potential-to-emit air pollutants.

To help facilities understand if they require an air quality permit or registration and, if so, what kind, ECAP developed and published the 24-page *Air Quality Potential-to-Emit Compliance Guide*. This guide focuses on guiding readers through identifying a facility's potential-to-emit (PTE), which is the core of any air quality application. This document was designed to provide a step-by-step walkthrough on how to conduct compliance evaluations, complete emission assessments and perform PTE calculations. It also contains information regarding air quality compliance measures, common air contaminant sources and how to apply for air permits.

During the fiscal year, ECAP developed several fact sheets focusing on a wide variety of environmental topics. The *Emergency Stream Bank Stabilization and Restoration* fact sheet informs citizens and communities of potential environmental responsibilities relating to work in and around streams following severe weather events. The *Evaluating Pharmaceutical Waste* fact sheet was developed to assist healthcare facilities properly identify, evaluate, manage and dispose of pharmaceutical wastes. The *Stormwater Educational Resources* fact sheet provides a collection of information sources for many aspects of dealing with stormwater runoff, including how to prevent stormwater-related problems, how to utilize stormwater and general educational resources. The *Poultry Disposal Guidance* fact sheet, through collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, outlines requirements and recommendations for the poultry industry on carcass disposal in the presence of infectious diseases.

## ***Training Events***

### **ACC/SAMR Open House**

Throughout the course of a year, entities with air permits are required to submit Annual Compliance Certification and Semi-Annual Monitoring reports. In an effort to help those who were unfamiliar with the process, the Division of Compliance Assistance teamed up with the Division for Air Quality, Field Operations Branch, to host the fourth annual permit-required reporting workshop and open house. Over 30 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.



**Mary Jo Harrod assists with registration.**

## Training Events, continued

### Floodplains, Streams and Wetlands Workshop

In April, the Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance 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 a Floodplains, Streams and Wetlands Workshop. During the workshop, the 76 attendees were provided information and guidance pertaining to the Section 404 permit program, In-Lieu Fees, Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Floodplain and Stream programs.



Attendees listen intently at a workshop.

### Hazardous Waste Workshop

Twenty-five individuals participated in the Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance's Hazardous Waste Workshop in May. DCA partnered with the Kentucky Division of Waste Management to provide the attendees with an inspector's in-depth knowledge and experience with "Hot Topics" pertaining to Hazardous Waste compliance and regulations, such as hazardous waste determination, hazardous regulations and compliance and universal waste.

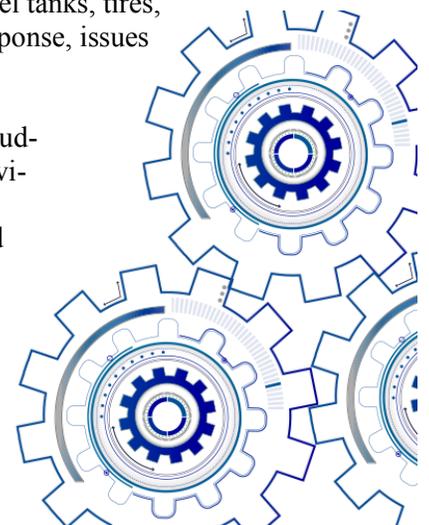
### Ag Boot Camp

For the second year in a row, the Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance, in partnership with the University of Kentucky and KY DEP's Divisions of Waste Management, Water and Air Quality, developed and conducted the Agriculture Environmental Boot Camp trainings for agricultural service providers across the state in four locations, Bath County, London, Princeton and Radcliff. More than 70 individuals, double the number of attendees from 2015, were present for this full-day training event to receive an overview of the environmental regulations that are common sources of confusion or compliance issues for producers.

Attendees learned about Kentucky's Agriculture Water Quality Act and the top 10 best management practices for producers with livestock from Dr. Steve Higgins of the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Brian Osterman and John Rogers from the Kentucky Division of Waste Management reviewed information on solid and hazardous waste concerns on the farm, including fuel tanks, tires, open dumping, land farming and animal disposal. John also covered emergency response, issues that might occur and the requirements for a landowner to report spills.

In the afternoon, attendees received information about common air complaints, including fugitive emissions, odor and open burning from Jarrod Bell of the Kentucky Division for Air Quality. Following Air Quality, Brian Crump from the Kentucky Division of Water reviewed inspections of Kentucky No Discharge Operation-permitted facilities and other concerns, including groundwater protection and Clean Water Act violations.

Attendees included technical service providers, certified crop consultants and commodity group staff, as well as staff from the National Resource Conservation Service offices, Kentucky Division of Conservation, Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Cooperative Extension Service.





# *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 re-use. 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***

Kentucky’s landscape is dotted with abandoned and blighted properties that once housed factories, hospitals, service stations, coal operations, dry cleaners and other industries that potentially impact the environment. The Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program works with communities to help them assess, remediate and redevelop these properties with an environmental past. The program, a collaborative effort between the Division of Compliance Assistance and the Division of Waste Management, has continued to grow its services over the past 11 years. Once only offering assessments and guidance, it now offers a grant-and-loan fund, redevelopment-and-reuse program to manage risk and grant writing and review services. There is something available for every stage of brownfield assessments and cleanup right up to the property redevelopment stage. This past year saw the launch of the Cleaner Commonwealth Fund Loan Program, the property enrollment century mark for the redevelopment and reuse program and \$1.2 million in federal U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Grants for the assessment of properties in Kentucky.

## ***Program Highlights***

### **Finding, Purchasing and Redeveloping Brownfields in Kentucky**

In 2016, the Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program released a guide to “Finding, Purchasing and Redeveloping Brownfields in Kentucky.” While many may shy away from brownfield properties, the properties often have good existing infrastructure, are close to transportation outlets and can have reduced asking prices due to perception issues. The document is a good starting point to identify programs and resources that can help level the playing field and make redeveloping these properties more attractive to those looking to locate businesses, housing and public use areas on brownfields.

### **Brownfields for Bankers**

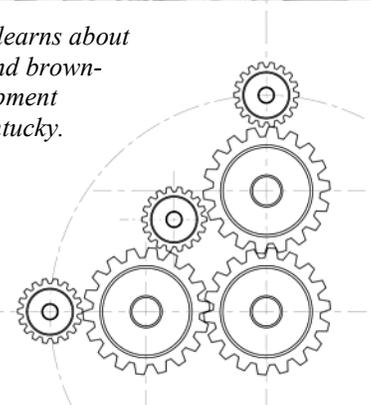
On Feb. 3, 2016, the Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program, in cooperation with the Louisville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and EPA Region 4, hosted a Brownfields for Bankers Workshop in Louisville, Ky. This free, one-day workshop attracted over 60 participants and introduced attendees to brownfield redevelopment, federal environmental liability laws and exemptions for lenders, Kentucky’s brownfield law, incentives for redevelopment and case studies of successful redevelopment projects. Jim Kirby, of the Superfund Branch, highlighted the Redevelopment and Reuse Program that was passed by legislation in 2012. The Redevelopment and Reuse Program reached 100 participants during the fiscal year.



*The audience learns about brownfields and brownfield redevelopment options in Kentucky.*



*Attendees of the Brownfields for Bankers Workshop received an overview of brownfield redevelopment in Kentucky from Herb Petitjean.*





*Amanda LeFevre (center) was on the Brownfields to Breweries: Putting Redevelopment on Tap Panel, which highlighted brewery projects springing from brownfield redevelopment.*

## **Brownfields 2015**

The National Brownfield Conference was held Sept. 2-4, 2015, in Chicago Ill. Several staff were asked to present on special topics at the conference. Amanda LeFevre presented at the Brownfields to Breweries session where she highlighted the success of West Sixth Brewing in Lexington, Ky. Sheri Adkins gave an overview of the urban background study project being conducted by KY DEP and EPA Region 4.

## **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 completed its Toolkit for Redevelopment for Small and Rural Communities. The group has also been planning its Superfund and Brownfield Symposium to be held in Detroit in August 2016.

## **EJ Conference**

EPA Region 4 and its partner organizations including the KY Dept. for Environmental Protection held an Environmental Justice Conference in Louisville in October 2015. Speakers from government organizations, nonprofits and community groups discussed how they can better work together to address the needs of communities disproportionately impacted by environmental issues.



*Attendees of the Environmental Justice Workshop in Louisville listened to federal, state and local representatives explain their roles in assisting communities deal with environmental justice issues.*

## **KLC Conference**

In October 2015, the Kentucky League of Cities held its annual conference in Owensboro Ky. Jim Kirby and Amanda LeFevre presented a session about brownfield redevelopment for community leaders. The pair also hosted a table at one of the League's Cracker Barrel Sessions where attendees rotate to tables in order to gain information on a variety of subjects that impact communities.

## **Planning for Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit and Central Appalachian Brownfield Innovation Network**

Herb Petitjean and program staff have worked with West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers and other regional partners to hold the first ever Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit in Sept. 2016, and form the Central Appalachian Brownfield Innovation Network. The Summit will be held in conjunction with West Virginia's annual brownfield conference and feature sessions on innovative redevelopment in the region. The Innovation Network will help assist communities to identify and connect with mentors that can help provide guidance and ideas to help make redevelopment happen.



*City official from Vanceburg and the city's consulting team kickoff their federal and state cleanup grants to remediate the old shoe factory in order to turn it into community housing.*

## **Cleaner Commonwealth Fund**

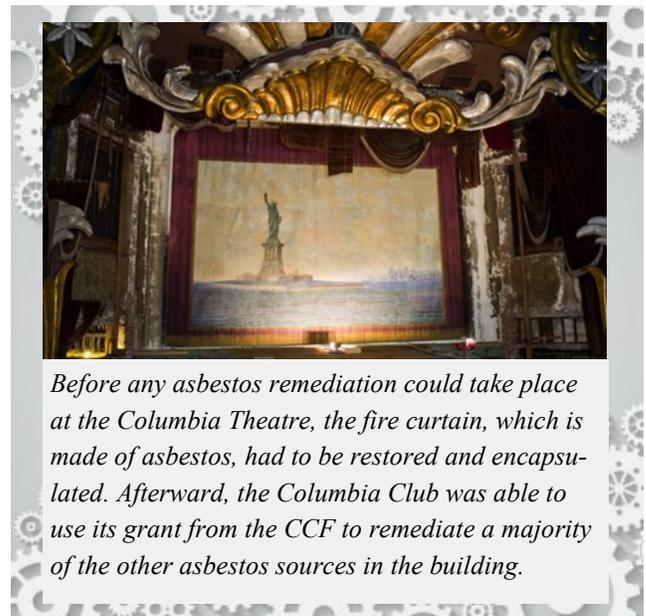
At the end of FY16, the program launched the loan portion of the Cleaner Commonwealth Fund. It will now be accepting loan applications from public entities wishing to receive no- or low-interest loans for brownfield cleanups. The program also worked with its grantees to complete two cleanup projects at the Columbia Theatre and Annville Institute and start cleanup projects at Louisville's Rhodia Chemical site, the Lexington Courthouse and Vanceburg Shoe Factory.



## **Assessments and Grants**

Assessments and grant writing services are a pivotal part of the brownfield program. The program provided seven Phase I assessments and one Phase II assessment during FY16. These assessments help clear the way for property acquisition and cleanup grant applications.

The EPA awarded three brownfield assessment grants to Kentucky this year. The Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program, Kentucky River Area Development District and City of Shelbyville all received \$400,000 for both hazardous waste and petroleum assessments.



*Before any asbestos remediation could take place at the Columbia Theatre, the fire curtain, which is made of asbestos, had to be restored and encapsulated. Afterward, the Columbia Club was able to use its grant from the CCF to remediate a majority of the other asbestos sources in the building.*



*Herb Petitjean and attendees of the "Grant Review Party" settle in for a slice of pizza while they talk about ways to improve their grant applications.*

The \$1.2 million will be used to inventory sites, assess the presence of contamination at sites and determine the best path forward to remediate and reuse the property based on its future use. Each year, the program works with applicants by providing grant writing workshop and grant review services to applicants. In total, entities across the state submitted a total of nine applications, and three were funded for a success rate of 33 percent, which is above the national average of 25 percent.



## KY EXCEL—Introduction

In 2005, the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet decided it needed to create an environmental leadership program in Kentucky. After meeting with citizens and companies and reviewing other environmental leadership programs, cabinet staff laid the groundwork for KY EXCEL. 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. Through discussion with companies, it was determined that even though a company may not have a 100 percent compliance history, the company might 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.

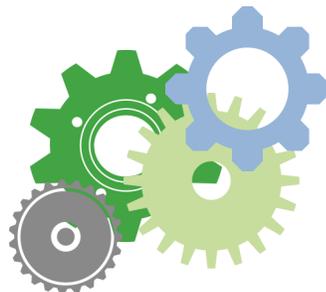
The Master level is open to members who have a sustained history of environmental compliance. The Partner and Leader levels are available to anyone, but also to companies who might have some environmental concerns and have a desire to protect the environment while working to improve their compliance.

## 10 Years of Excellence

With the foundation set, KY EXCEL was launched on Jan. 17, 2006. This year, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of KY EXCEL. During May, we visited several of our inaugural members to review the projects they have completed during their membership. After the visits, we created a document to highlight some of the amazing results our members achieved through their projects.



Document created to highlight 10 years of members protecting Kentucky’s environment



## KY EXCEL Proclamation

The goal of KY EXCEL is to help entities go above and beyond what is required of them by regulations and promote sustainability among Kentucky’s businesses, industries, communities and individual households. Based on KY EXCEL members working to improve their energy efficiency and practice pollution prevention, Governor Matthew G. Bevin declared June 5-12, 2016, as KY EXCEL Member Week.



## ***Member Case Studies***

To encourage others and promote our members, we have been developing case studies. The case studies are used to highlight projects our members are implementing and that can be transferred to other members. The case studies are showcased on our Facebook page and several have been published in national media outlets, such as *Environmental News Network*. We developed four case studies during the past fiscal year.

1. The Kentucky Community and Technical College System Office has worked on several projects to reduce its carbon footprint and encourage its regional campuses to seek ways to reduce their energy and water usage and to recycle.
2. Locust Trace AgriScience Center is a school where students get hands-on experience learning about sustainability in the arena, automated greenhouse and a livestock barn.
3. GleanKY was created to distribute excess produce to needy families, providing healthier nutrition for them and keeping the produce from going to landfills.
4. The American Cave Conservation Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of caves, karstlands and groundwater.



*David Neville (left), owner of Capstone Farms, is presented with a KY EXCEL Farm sign from John Eisiminger (right).*



## ***KY EXCEL Farm***

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 level of membership this past year. Two farms have already joined. KY EXCEL Farm 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. Our first KY EXCEL Farm member, Capstone Farms, has already participated in a case study that can be found on our website under Program: KY EXCEL Farm.

## ***Sustainable Spirits Summit***

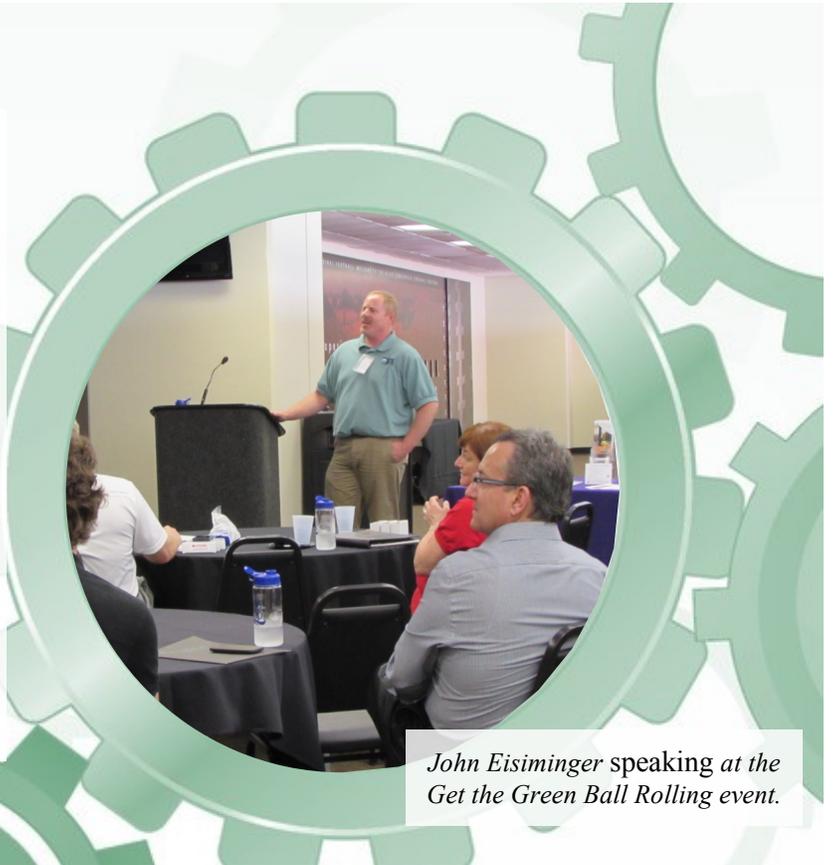
KY EXCEL staff, along with Wild Turkey, hosted the fifth annual Sustainable Spirits Summit on July 14, 2015. During the summit, the printed Sustainable Spirits manual was handed out to the distilleries who participated in the manual to be displayed in their visitors' centers. This year's summit included sessions on alternative energy options in Kentucky, glass recycling and green practice promotion, followed by an open discussion.



*Wild Turkey, host of the 2015 Sustainable Spirits Summit*

## ***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 attended meetings held by Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP; Bluegrass Green-source; Kentucky American Water and the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers' energy conference. As a part of a pollution prevention grant, KY EXCEL partnered with the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center to co-host a Get the Green Ball Rolling event. The event was held at the University of Louisville's Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. Presentations were given detailing ideas that could help green sporting events.



*John Eisiminger speaking at the Get the Green Ball Rolling event.*

## ***Member Meeting at Fort Knox***

For the first time, the annual KY EXCEL members' meeting was not held in conjunction with the Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment. The event was held at Master Member U.S. Army Garrison – Fort Knox, on Oct. 14, 2015. Representatives from Fort Knox discussed the fort's projects of energy-efficiency, creating a bat habitat and a pilot composting project. After the presentation, a bus tour was given of the projects on the base.



*Above: Building automation room at Fort Knox*

*Right: The attendees at the members' meeting receive an explanation of how energy can be supplied from different sources across the base.*





# *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.

## Spreading the Word

One way that we spread the word is by contributing posts to Naturally Connected, the Energy and Environment Cabinet's blog. DCA announces upcoming training events and the latest state and federal regulations to help others stay in compliance with environmental regulations. In FY 2016, 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 also turn to DCA's Facebook page for news of events and workshops sponsored by DCA, KY EXCEL members and environmental organizations. Announcements are made to highlight new KY EXCEL members. Readers find tips on sustainable living and working, enabling citizens to be more environmentally aware.



DCA staff members make site visits, engage in meetings and stay in communication by telephone, email and 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



## ***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 the six recipients of the 2015 awards during an awards luncheon at the Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment, at the Lexington Convention Center in September.

KY EXCEL Champion Award: Central Motor Wheel of America--Paris

Community Environmental Luminary Award: Highland Cemetery--Fort Mitchell

Resource Caretaker Award: American Cave Conservation Association--Horse Cave

Environmental Pacesetter Award for an Individual/Organization: GleanKY

Environmental Pacesetter Award for a Small Business: YKK (U.S.A.) Inc.--Lawrenceburg

Environmental Pacesetter Award for a Medium to Large Business: Leggett & Platt Inc., Branch 0002--Winchester



## ***EcoART Contest***

Division of Compliance Assistance has been highlighting the work of high school artists who are inspired by the environment around them. The annual EcoART Contest is a chance to blend the creative arts with environmental messages in order to educate and inspire others to be mind-

ful of the world around us . The annual contest is open to Kentucky high school students who create artwork in the categories of air, water, land and habitat. They were instructed to use media types of drawing, painting, print work, mixed media, sculpture, pottery and photographs.

The winners of the 2016 EcoART Contest are:



Sophie Cozzolino—  
*To Kill a World  
Worth Living*



Shelby Cook—  
*Foxy Kentucky*



Katelyn Reagan—  
*Cascades*



Jessie Grissom—  
*Mushroom*



Maggie O'Leary—  
*Tree of Life*



Sandra England—  
*Mystic Tree*



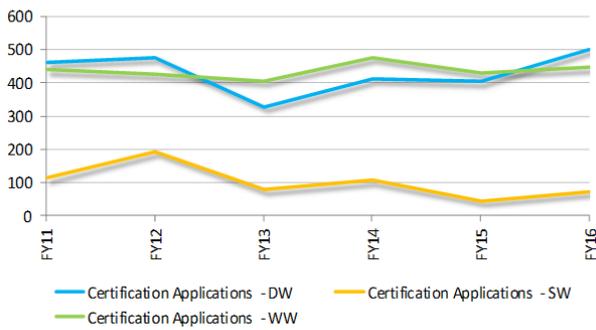
# *Division Dashboards*



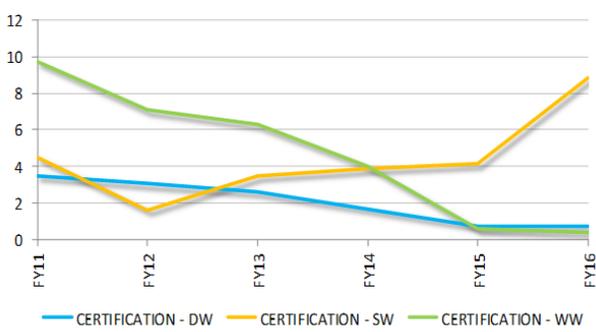
# Operator Certification and Licensing 2016 Dashboard Report

## Administration

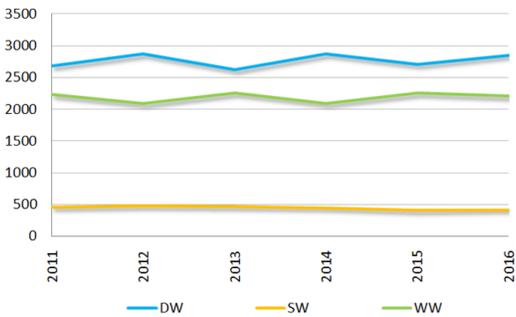
Certification Applications Received by Program



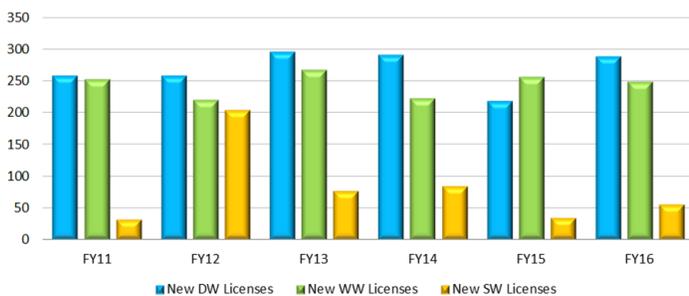
Certification Application Processing Time



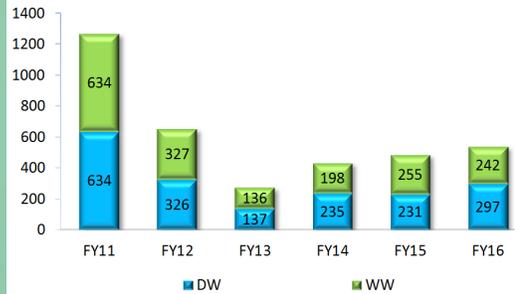
Active Licenses



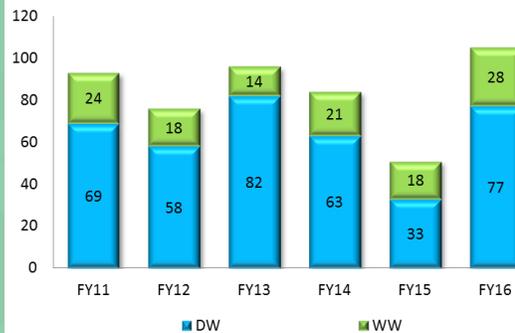
New and Upgraded Licenses



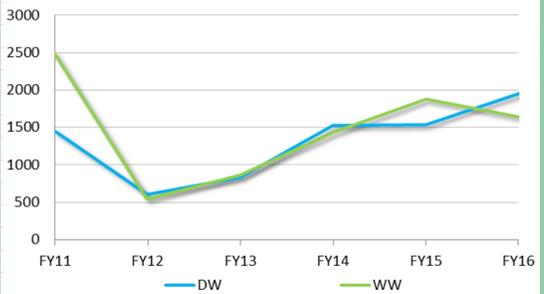
Training Requests Reviewed by the Certification Boards



Board Review - Class 4 Applications



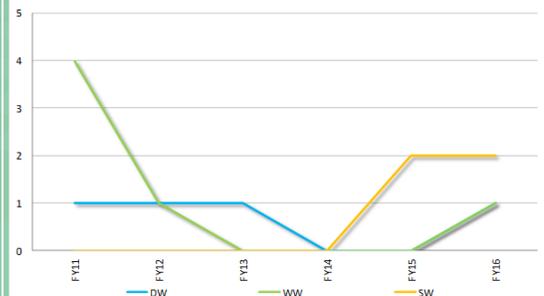
Training Hours Approved by the Certification Boards



During FY11, third-party training providers were required to resubmit their training courses for approval to comply with new regulation requirements.

## Disciplinary Actions

Operator Disciplinary Action Reviews



Certification Board

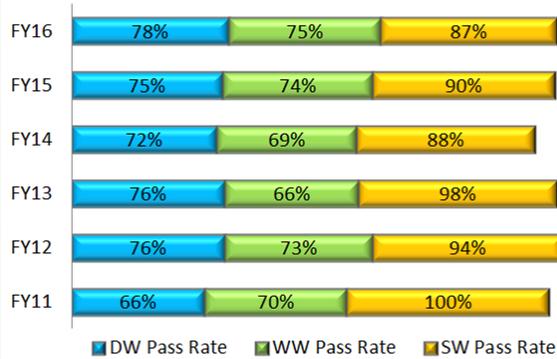
Licenses



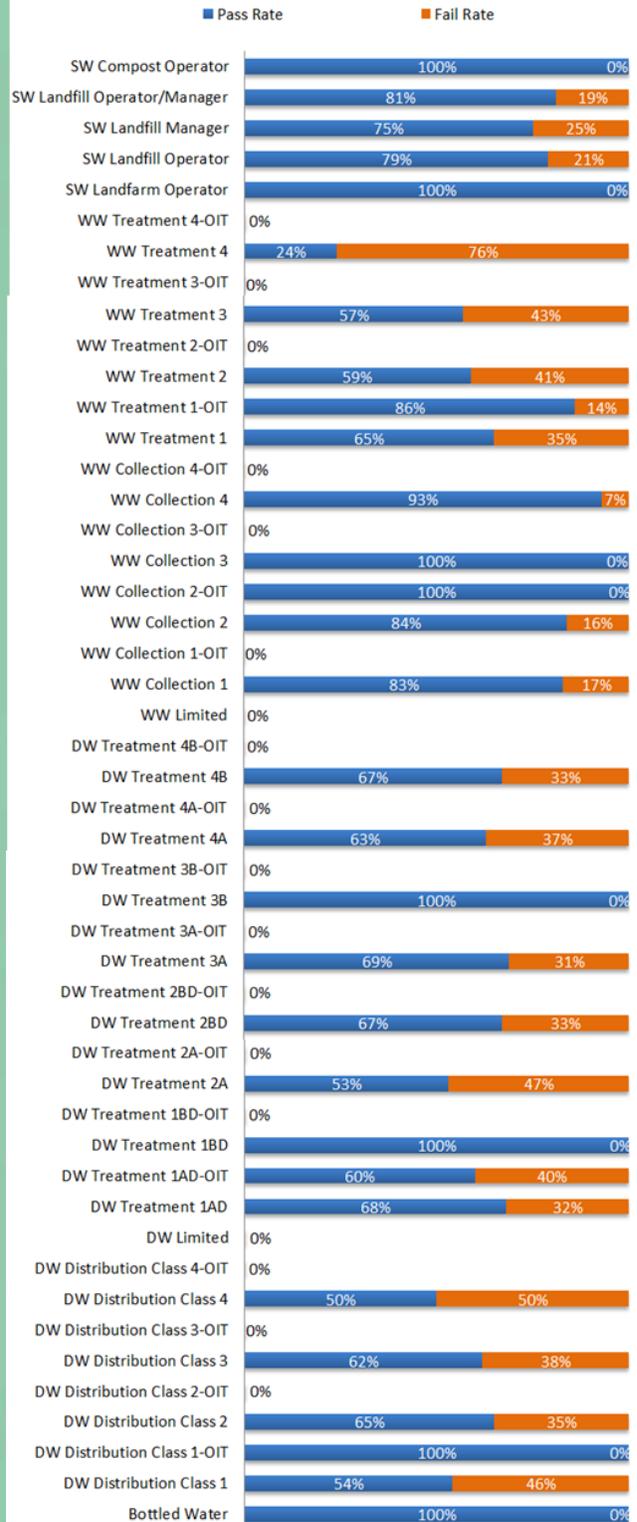
# Operator Certification and Licensing 2016 Dashboard Report

## Testing

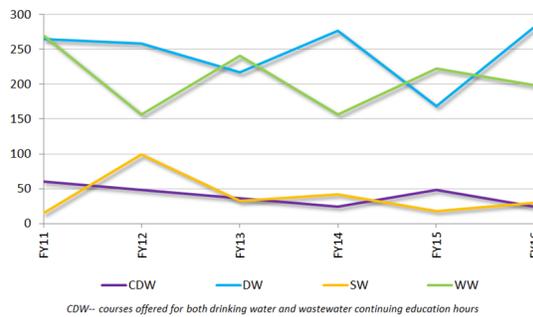
**Examination Pass Rates**



**Pass - Fail Rate**



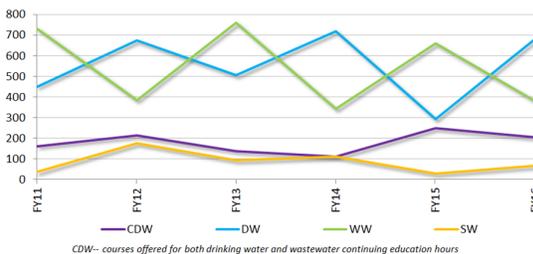
**Number of Training Hours Provided**



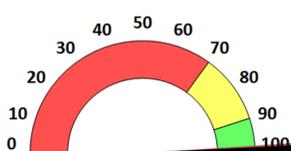
**Locations**



**Number of Attendees**



**Attendee Training Satisfaction**



Training



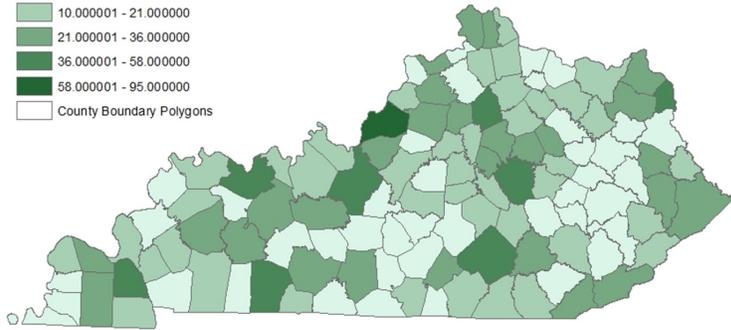
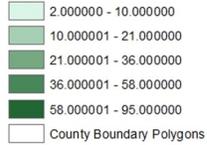
# Operator Certification and Licensing 2016 Dashboard Report

## Operator Availability

### Wastewater Operators

#### County Boundary Polygons

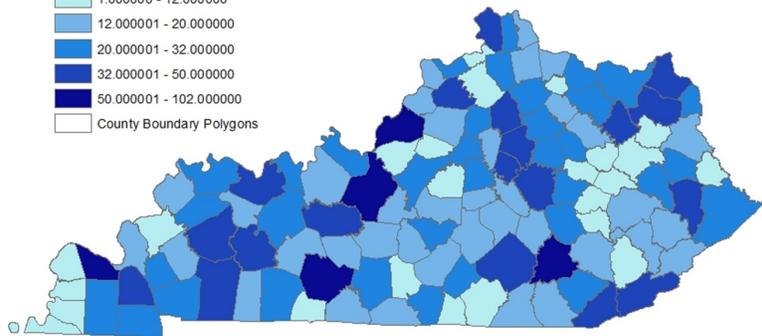
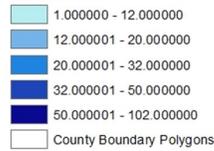
##### Grand Total



### Drinking Water Operators

#### County Boundary Polygons

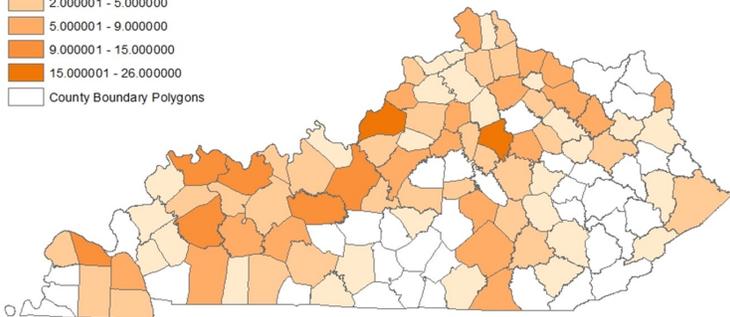
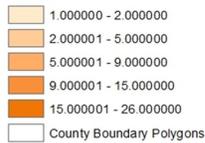
##### Grand Total



### Solid Waste Operators

#### County Boundary Polygons

##### Grand Total

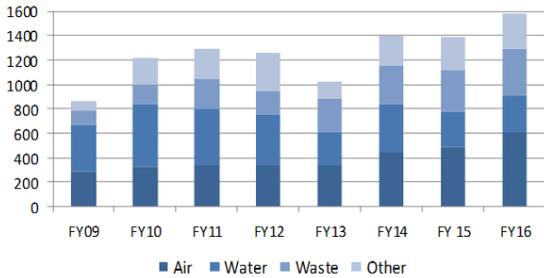




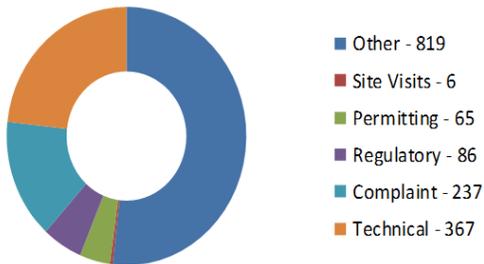
# Environmental Compliance Assistance 2016 Dashboard Report

## Assistance Requests

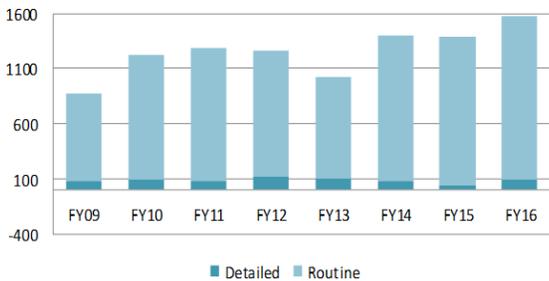
Assistance Requests by Media



Type of Assistance Requests

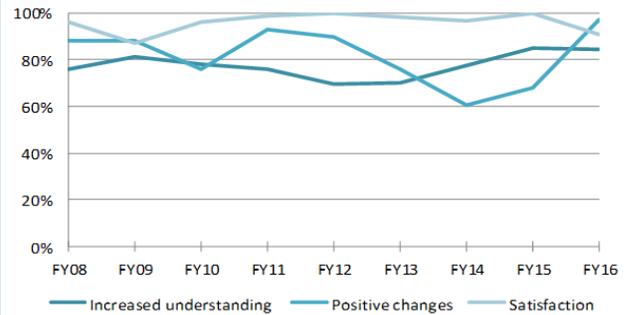


Detailed versus Routine Requests

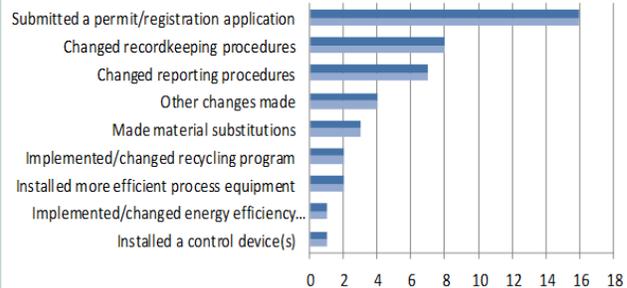


## Program Outcomes

Client Outcome Measures



Client Behavior Changes



## Training Outcomes



13  
Events



459  
Trained

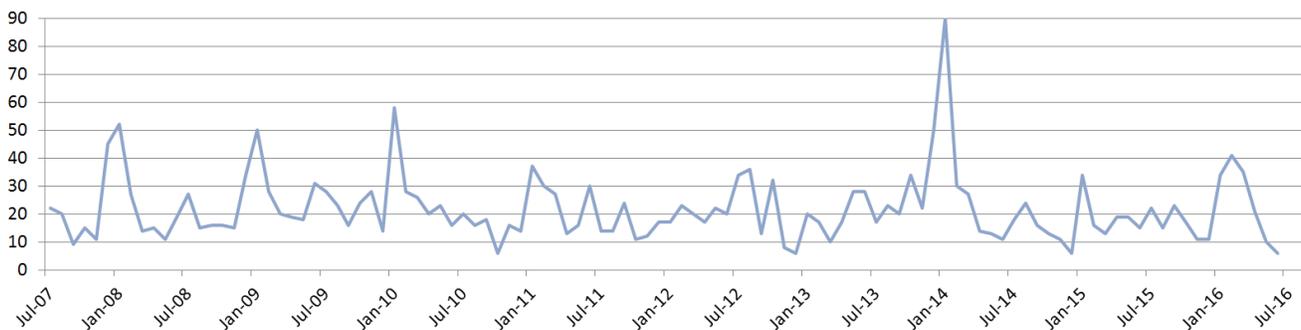


63.75  
Class Hours



97%  
Satisfaction

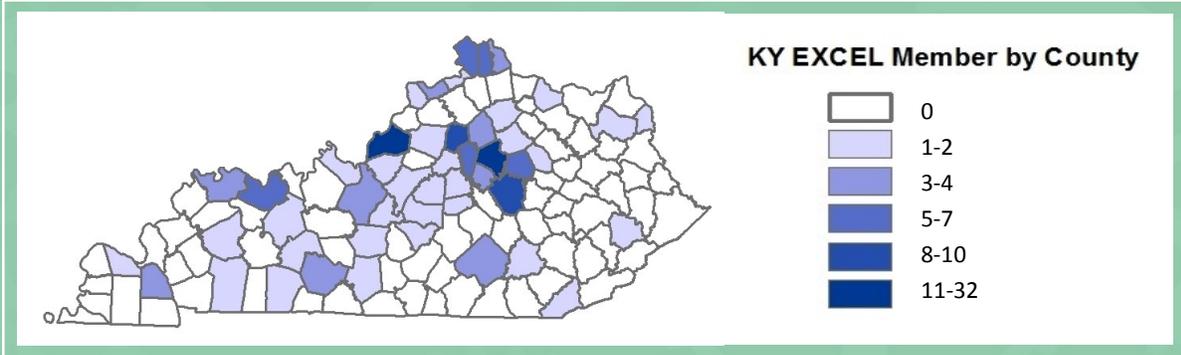
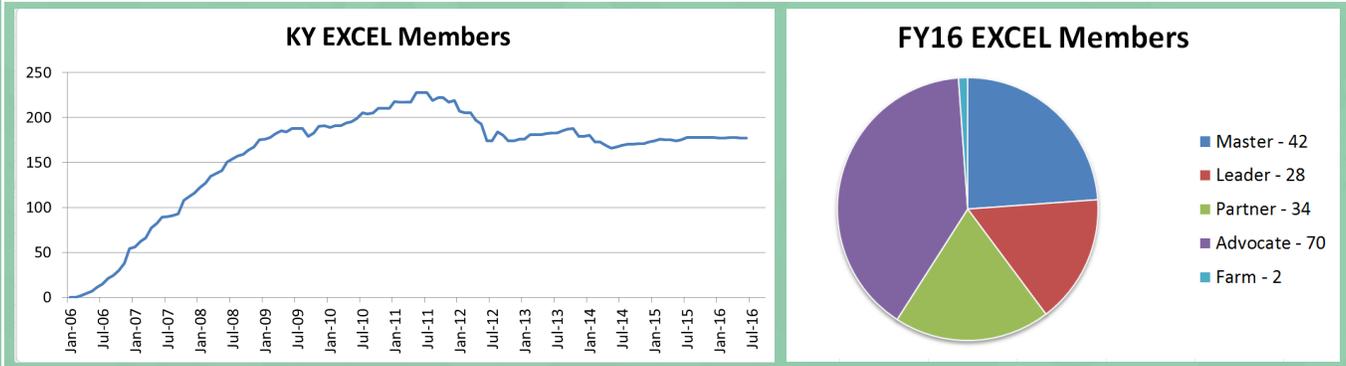
Small Business Requests



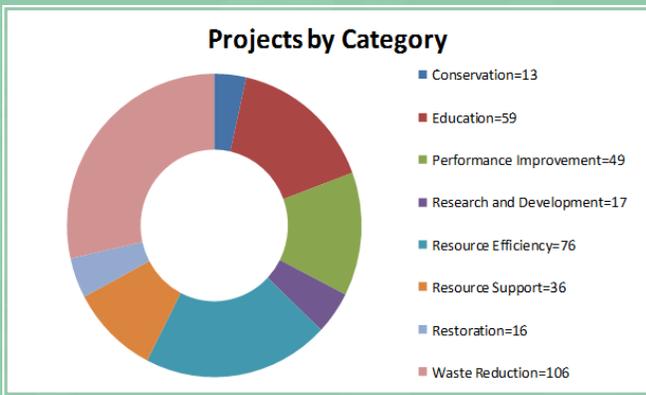


# KY EXCEL Program 2016 Dashboard Report

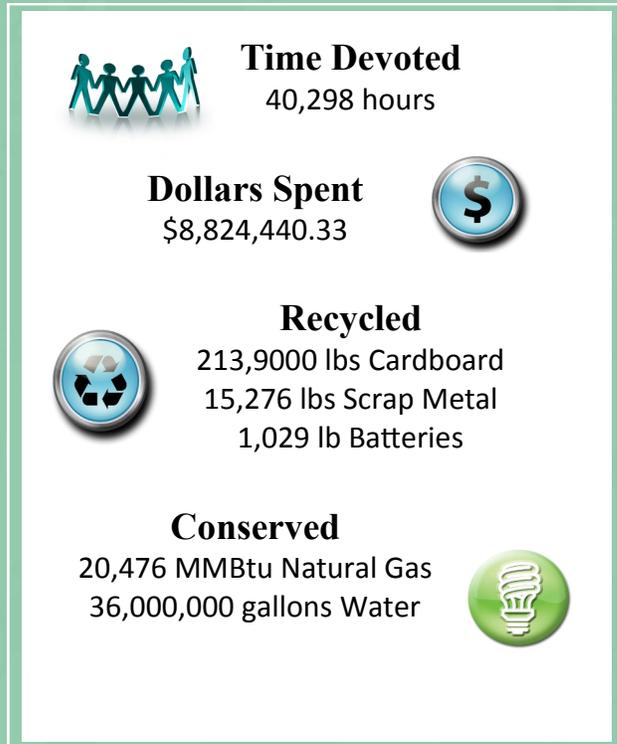
## KY EXCEL Members



## Member Projects



## Program Outcomes



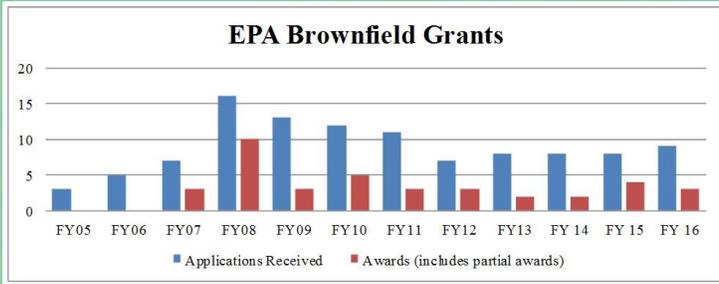
## Training Outcomes



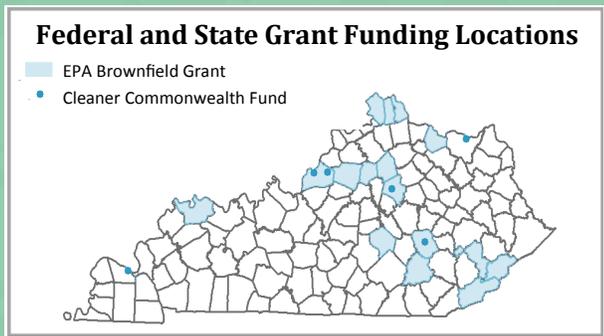
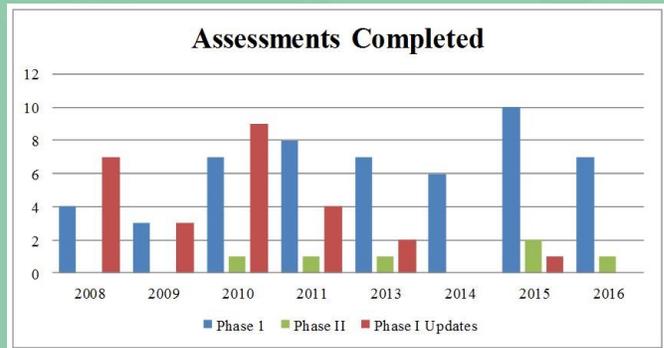
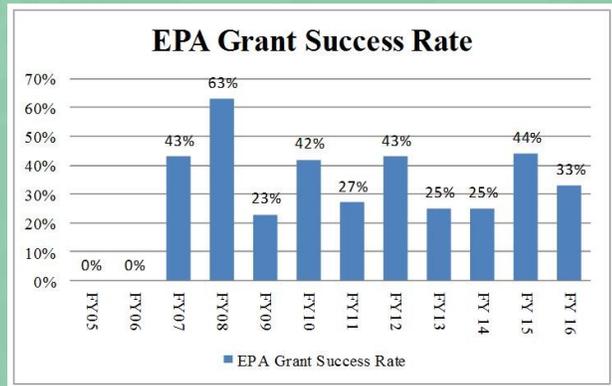
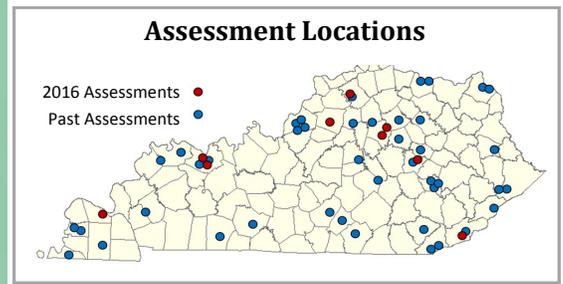


# KY Brownfield Redevelopment Program 2016 Dashboard Report

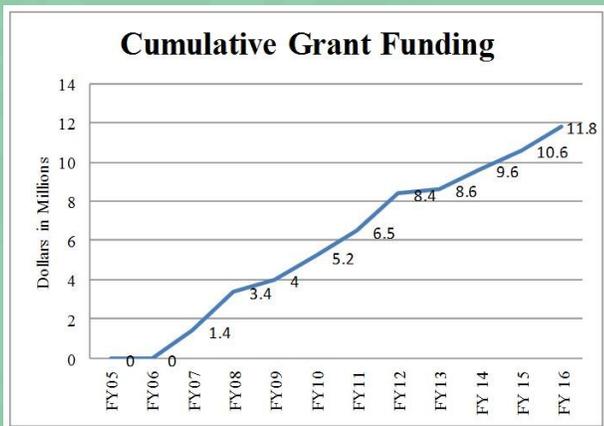
## U.S. EPA Brownfield and Cleaner Commonwealth Fund Grants



## Targeted Brownfield



## Brownfield Help Desk



## Training Outcomes





CONTACT INFORMATION:

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EMAIL: [ENVHELP@KY.GOV](mailto:ENVHELP@KY.GOV)

