

**KY Department for Environmental Protection
Environmental Excellence Awards
2010**

The awards recipients are as follows:

The **Resource Caretaker Award** recognizes efforts that conserve Kentucky's natural resources through actions such as recycling, pollution prevention, water conservation, and energy efficiency.

This year's recipient is **National Office Furniture of Fordsville**. Their diverse efforts to reduce the facility's environmental impacts have included changing to water-based finish coatings, installation of high efficiency heating systems, reducing water and sewer use, eliminating chemicals and diverting solid waste.

The **Community Luminary Award** recognizes achievements in community-based environmental education and outreach.

This year's recipient is the **Kentucky NEED Project**. For the last three years, the Kentucky NEED (National Energy Education Development) Project has conducted a community-based environmental education program called Change the World—Start with ENERGY STAR. This program has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 80 million pounds and has educated more than 135,000 Kentucky residents about the connection between energy efficiency and protecting our environment.

The **KY EXCEL Champion Award** is given to a KY EXCEL member that has shown outstanding leadership in promoting the goals of the KY EXCEL program. KY EXCEL is the Energy and Environment Cabinet's environmental leadership program that recognizes environmental stewards for their voluntary efforts that protect and enhance Kentucky's environment.

This year's recipient is **Russellville Mayor Gene Zick**. Mayor Zick's leadership has resulted in the implementation of a rain harvesting system using rain barrels and rain gardens; the construction of a green fire station complete with a green roof, solar panels and wind energy; the construction of a community park on land that had previously been contaminated; and the conversion of storm debris into mulch that was later used in community gardens.

The **Environmental Pacesetter Award** recognizes exemplary efforts to protect the environment, conserve resources, and set an example of environmental stewardship for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This year, there are three recipients:

Louisville Gas & Electric and Kentucky Utilities created a program to motivate its employees to save energy and reduce waste at their homes and in the office. This program, called Environmental Champions, has provided the company's employees with the knowledge, tools, and empowerment to make positive environmental changes. Monthly green themes within the program have included energy efficiency, Earth Day, volunteerism, greening your backyard, recycling, and green holidays.

Shoffner and Mars LLC voluntarily remediated a historic landfill located on their property in Middlesboro. The 14-acre site had been leaching contaminants into the environment and was threatening nearby Yellow Creek. By taking this voluntary action, Shoffner and Mars was able to convert this brownfield into a property that now supports commercial activities and is an asset to the community.

Calvary Elementary is a 245-student school staffed with only 19 teachers that initiated a school-wide recycling effort. In addition to setting an excellent example for the students and their families about the value of being an environmental steward, the school was also able to reduce the amount of waste it sent to the landfill by 85 percent. Calvary Elementary is in Marion County.