

50th Annual Governor's Energy & Environment Conference

October 19, 2026

Lexington, KY

Embassy Suites Newtown Pike

Monday, October 19

7:30 – 9:00 am	Registration & The Damage Prevention Exhibit Hall Open
9:00 – 9:30 am (30 min)	Conference Welcome Governor Andy Beshear <i>invited</i> John Lyons , Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary
9:30 - 10:30 am (1 hour)	50 Years Later: What Kentucky Got Right, What We Got Wrong and What Comes Next Reflecting on five decades of environmental progress, this session brings together longtime environmental leaders to explore how challenges have evolved, where solutions have succeeded, and what issues remain. Through lessons learned and experiences from the field, the discussion will highlight Kentucky's environmental journey and the opportunities ahead for the next 50 years. <i>Moderator:</i> Kari Johnson , Environmental Scientist Consultant II, DEP <i>Panelists:</i> John Lyons , Secretary, Energy and Environment Jim Cable , Commissioner, Department for Natural Resources Tom "Fitz" Fitzgerald , OF Counsel, KY Resources Council Talina Mathews , Chief Financial Officer, Big Rivers Energy Bruce Scott , Former DEP Secretary
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 - 11:15 am (30 min)	Learning from the Past: Lessons in Environmental History This session explores how past environmental policies, events, and stewardship efforts have shaped today's environmental landscape. By looking at lessons from history, the discussion highlights how a deeper understanding of the past can inform future policy, conservation, and environmental decision-making. R. Paolo D'Amato , Georgetown College
11:15 am –12:00 pm (30 min)	Million Cans Recycling Contest The Million Cans Recycling Contest, an initiative of the nonprofit The Recycling Society , brings students, schools, and scrapyards together to make recycling fun and easy . Students compete to recycle aluminum cans, while schools earn money from the cans they collect and students learn how their actions can make a real difference. In just three years, participants have recycled more than 6

	million cans nationwide, including more than 1 million cans in Kentucky. Through friendly competition, hands-on learning, and community partnerships, the Million Cans Recycling Contest is inspiring the next generation of recyclers and showing students that small actions can create big transformations for our world. Metals Innovation Initiative-MI2 Kentucky is home to one of the nation’s strongest metals ecosystems—and recycling is at the core. MI2 is a nonprofit that works with industry, educators, and partners to expand sustainable practices, strengthen supply chains, and ensure recycled metals power the next generation of innovation. Jessica Alexanderson, Founder, Recycling is Magic Laura Haury, Chair, The Recycling Society
12:00 –12:15 pm (15 min)	811- Call Before You Dig Before breaking ground, make the call that prevents costly and dangerous accidents. In this session, Executive Director, Justin McNeil, will provide an overview of the 811 Call Before You Dig program, its mission, and the vital role it plays in protecting underground utilities, public safety, and critical infrastructure. Justin McNeil, Executive Director, Kentucky Public Service Commission
12:15 – 1:15pm	Lunch EEC Shark Bites Discover innovative tools and technologies from across the cabinet in this interactive, <i>Shark Tank</i>-style session. Representatives from divisions within EEC will each pitch a solution they've developed or implemented, and attendees will vote to crown their favorite innovation. Leave with new ideas and practical tools you can bring back to your own work. <i>Sharks:</i> <i>TBD</i> <i>Presenters:</i> <i>KY Division of Water</i> <i>Office of Energy Policy</i> <i>Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves</i>
1:15 - 2:15 pm (1 hour)	Redevelopment is “Super Fun(d)” Discover how environmental cleanup is transforming once contaminated properties into valuable community assets. This session highlights successful redevelopment projects, including the legacy of the Valley of the Drums, while exploring the evolution of cleanup programs and the future of brownfield and Superfund redevelopment. Learn how environmental restoration can drive economic growth, protect public health, and create new opportunities for communities. Tony Hatton, Deputy Secretary, Energy and Environment Cabinet Dr. Kelly Pennell, Director, UK Superfund Research Center Kiersten O’Leary, KY Brownfield Program Coordinator

2:15 - 2:45 pm (30 min)	Concrete Solutions 2.0: 3D Printing Now and in the Future Following last year’s conversation on building stronger, more resilient homes, we welcome back Eric Wooldridge to explore how 3D-printed concrete can help shape a more sustainable future. This session will provide 12-month update to attendees with the latest results and new breakthroughs as well as highlighting how additive manufacturing can reduce material waste, improve construction efficiency, address workforce challenges, and support more resilient, energy-efficient buildings. As communities work toward their energy and environmental goals, 3D printing offers an innovative new way to rethink how and what we build. Resulting in economic and generational spanning benefits. Eric Woolridge, PE/RA, Somerset Community College
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 – 4:00 pm (60 min)	Outdoor Recreation as a Catalyst for Economic Development and Environmental Improvements Environmental improvement projects can restore natural resources while creating opportunities for outdoor recreation and economic growth. This session explores how communities are leveraging environmental investments to enhance natural assets, attract visitors, support local businesses, and strengthen quality of life across the Commonwealth. <i>Moderator:</i> Samantha Voegler, Environmental Control Manager, KY Division of Water <i>Panelists:</i> Forest Clevenger - Executive Director, Ohio River Way Tami Vater – Director, Pendleton Co Economic & Tourism Development Terry Gray – Chair, 1 Clay County Ben Collier – Director, Lewis County Tourism Pamela Jordan- Federal Program Specialist, Kentucky Department for Local Government
4:00 - 4:45 pm (60 min)	Nuclear: Then & Now How has the conversation around nuclear energy evolved? This panel examines the changing perceptions of nuclear power, its role in today's energy mix, and its potential to shape the future of reliable, low-carbon energy. <i>Moderator:</i> Kenya Stump, Director, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy <i>Panelists:</i> Sean Schaub, Executive Director, Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority Danny Carroll, Kentucky Senator
4:45 - 5:00 pm	Conference Wrap Up/Closing Video
5:00 pm	Join the Kentucky Solar Industries Association for drinks and light snacks directly after the conference wrap up.

The Damage Prevention Exhibit Hall is hosted by

