AGENDA

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
ON ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

OCTOBER 19, 2026

EMBASSY SUITES COLDSTREAM
LEXINGTON, KY

7:30 **Registration & The Damage Prevention Exhibit Hall Open**

Breakfast sponsored by Nucor Corporation

9:00 **Welcome**

Governor Andy Beshear
John Lyons, Secretary, Energy and Environment Cabinet

9:20 **50 Years Later: What KY Got Right, What We Got Wrong, & What Comes Next**

Kari Johnson, Environmental Scientist Consultant II, Dept for Environmental Protection
Panelists: **John Hornback,** Former Director, Division for Air Quality
Jim Cable, Commissioner, Department for Natural Resources
Tom "Fitz" FitzGerald, OF Counsel, KY Resources Council
Talina Mathews, Chief Financial Officer, Big River Electric Corporation
R. Bruce Scott, Consultant, Former Deputy Secretary, Energy and Environment Cabinet

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.

10:30 **Morning Break**

Sponsored by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

10:45 **Learning from the Past: Lessons in Environmental History**

R. Paolo D'Amato, Georgetown College

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.

11:15

50 Years of Kentucky Nature Preserves

Zack Couch, Executive Director, Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves

For 50 years, Kentucky Nature Preserves has worked to protect the Commonwealth's most remarkable natural areas and rare species. Join Executive Director Zack Couch as he reflects on five decades of conservation, the people and partnerships that made it possible, and the important work ahead. Together, we'll celebrate Kentucky's conservation legacy and look toward the next 50 years of protecting our natural heritage.

11:30

Engage to Empower: Shaping the Future of Kentucky Communities

Tyler McDaniel, Blueprint Kentucky

Listening to and working with the varied interests of communities can create long-term buy-in on projects by giving residents or constituent groups a voice in things that directly impact them. This session discusses the benefits and strategies of community engagement with a focus on how the partnership between Blueprint Kentucky and the Kentucky Brownfield Program uses these tools to help Kentucky towns envision a vibrant future. Tyler McDaniel will share engagement strategies that foster civic engagement and connection that can lead to revitalization.

12:00

811- Call Before You Dig

Justin McNeil, Executive Director, Kentucky Public Service Commission

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.

12:15

Networking Lunch - EEC Shark Bites

Zack Couch, Executive Director, Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves
Hailey Mullins, Federal Program Specialist, Office of Energy Policy
Joanna Ashford, Assistant Director, Dept for Environmental Protection

1:15

Redevelopment is "Super Fun(d)"

Tony Hatton, Deputy Secretary, Energy and Environment Cabinet
Dr. Kelly Pennell, Director, UK Superfund Research Center
Kiersten O'Leary, KY Brownfield Program Coordinator

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.

2:15

Concrete Solutions 2.0: 3D Printing Now and in the Future

Eric Wooldridge, PE/RA, Somerset Community College

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.

2:45

Afternoon Break

3:00

Outdoor Recreation as a Catalyst for Economic Development and Environmental Improvements

Samantha Vogeler, Watershed Management Branch, Manager

Panelists: **Christy Noll,** Vice Chair for Kentucky, Ohio River Way
Tami Vater, Director, Pendleton Co. Economic & Tourism Development
Terry Gray, Chair, 1 Clay County
Ben Collier, Tourism Advisor and Designee to KORRRA and KMRRRA, Lewis Co.
Pamela Jordan, Federal Program Specialist, KY Dept. for Local Government

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.

4:00

Nuclear: Then & Now

Kenya Stump, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy

Panelists
- **Sean Schaub,** Executive Director, KY Nuclear Energy Development Authority
- **Danny Carroll,** Kentucky Senator
- **Scott Roecker**, Lead Adviser, Nuclear Scaling Initiative

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.

5:00

POST CONFERENCE

Join the Kentucky Solar Energy Industries for drinks and light snacks directly after the conference wrap up.

WOMEN IN ENERGY *brunch*

Celebrating Women. Powering Change.

50th ANNIVERSARY

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
ON ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Colette Honorable
Chief Legal Officer, Compliance and Corporate Secretary, Exelon, Inc.

CONNECT

Build relationships with women across the energy sector.

BE INSPIRED

Engage in conversations and stories from industry leaders.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Support, uplift & empower the next generation of women in energy.

OCT 20, 2026
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

EMBASSY SUITES
UK COLDSTREAM
LEXINGTON, KY

WOMEN IN ENERGY
STRONGER TOGETHER