

# Kentucky Division for Air Quality

## *Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report*

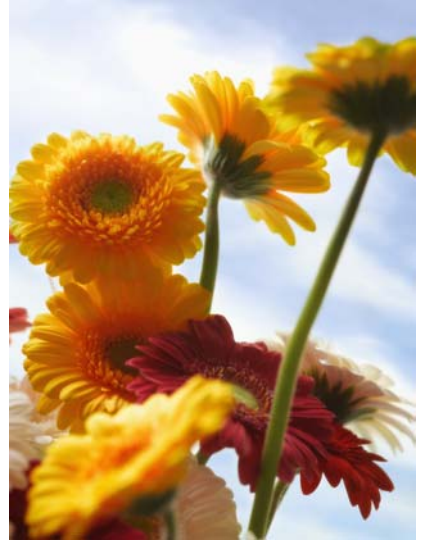


Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Energy and Environment Cabinet  
Department for Environmental Protection  
**Division for Air Quality**  
[www.air.ky.gov](http://www.air.ky.gov)



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to share with you the Kentucky Division for Air Quality's annual report for fiscal year 2009. This report highlights the goals and achievements of the Division for Air Quality and summarizes the current state of Kentucky's air quality, along with recognizing future challenges and areas for further improvement.



Kentucky has made great progress in improving air quality across the commonwealth since the signing of the Clean Air Act by Congress in 1963. Air pollution has decreased significantly, providing safer air quality for the commonwealth's citizens. This is in large part due to curbing emissions from large fossil fuel burning facilities such as power plants and cutting emissions from vehicles. Half the nation's electricity consumption comes from coal-burning power plants. In Kentucky, that percentage jumps to 95%. Further, there are more automobiles on the nation's highways than ever before.

Although our air quality is better than ever, there is always more work to be done. Every five years, the United States Environmental Protection Agency reviews and revises the National Ambient Air Quality Standards as necessary to reflect increased scientific understanding about the impacts of air quality on human health and the environment. Simply put, the standards are often made more stringent. This means counties that currently meet national air quality standards should still strive to reduce air pollution, in order to continue to meet those standards.

Air quality is an economic issue as well as a health concern. Economic development can be seriously curtailed if an area does not meet federal air quality standards. Progressive companies not only want to avoid these areas due to stricter permitting requirements, they also want to locate in an area that is attractive to their employees and customers. Further, efforts of many citizens to conserve energy have a direct relationship to improved air quality. Turning off lights, purchasing ENERGY STAR products, and insulating homes, for example, reduces the amount of energy that needs to be produced by coal-burning power plants.

Air is a fascinating media that literally knows no boundaries. Every Kentuckian has the ability to help keep Kentucky's air clean, and there are many ways to be involved:

- Check the Air Quality Index at [www.air.ky.gov](http://www.air.ky.gov);
- Learn about air quality and the simple ways that you can make a difference;
- Start by making one small change that reduces air pollution;
- Spread the word about what you are doing;
- Organize locally to reduce air pollution;
- Report suspected air pollution concerns to your local regional office.

We all have a valuable role to play in protecting our resources for future generations. Remember, it all adds up to cleaner air!

Sincerely,

John S. Lyons, Director

# Kentucky Division for Air Quality

## *Annual Report*

### Fiscal Year 2009

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