



DCA

Kentucky Division of
Compliance Assistance

Certifying Professionals | Simplifying Compliance | Living Greener, Growing Stronger



ANNUAL REPORT FY 19-20

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DCA

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The Director's Note

Every year we directors at DEP pen letters reflecting on the challenges and successes of our respective divisions from the previous year. While each turn of the calendar brings its own set of obstacles, triumphs and failures, 2019-2020 will definitely be unique to say the least.

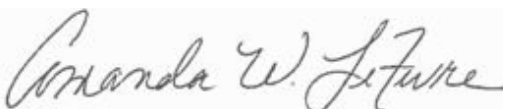
Last year, the Certification and Licensing branch worked closely with the Division of Water to update the regulations pertaining to the certification of drinking water and wastewater operators. This is in response to the growing operator shortage that we see in Kentucky and nationwide. While factors leading to this shortage are largely outside the realm of control of the department, it is still a good measure to review what is in place to determine if it is realistic given the situation, resources and technologies available. So, changes were made that will more fully take into account the range of skills needed to operate in the industry. The staff has been busy with implementation ever since.

In the brownfield program, we said goodbye to Herb Petitjean, who had been with the program since its inception. Herb, who I was honored to work with for over 13 years, retired in July 2019. While we said goodbye to Herb, we said hello to new staff who are busy bringing their own skills and points of view to the program. We are excited to see how things evolve and change. The program did have a great year when it came to community grant success. The Cleaner Commonwealth also got a boost of additional funding.

The KY EXCEL program had another successful year with its Sustainable Spirits Summit. The 2019 event was hosted by Old Forrester Distillery in Louisville. This year also marked a new collaborative effort on sustainable spirits with the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center. Along with that signature event, the program also spent time working on materials to help take its educational offerings online, recognized its members through the annual Beacon Awards and helped coordinate the department's environmental awards at the annual Governor's Conference on the Environment.

The Environmental Compliance Assistance program continues its services to small businesses and those that have questions about environmental rules and regulations. The program has continued to offer permitting assistance and training opportunities. Like all of our other programs, they have started the process of taking classes online.

So, all of this happened and then March came along and with it came COVID-19. I won't go into details as there is a full section on this in the annual report. The plans that we had for 2-3 years down the road became plans for the now. We are still working through those, but hope that all of our programs will rise to occasion, innovate and find new ways to help the communities, businesses and citizens of the commonwealth. While there are many questions still remaining in terms of how we continue to do work, the staff of the division have been resilient and continue to pivot as needed to adjust to the changing circumstances.



Amanda LeFevre
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.

DCA and COVID-19



The Division of Compliance Assistance, just like everyone else providing public services, has had to deal with the Coronavirus and how to go about providing services during a global pandemic. Below is a rundown of how the division adapted and is continuing to adapt to get services back up and running.

Operator Certification-

Of all of our programs, operator certification poses the biggest challenges for the division as the services provided are mostly in-person and in large groups. A certification school can have upwards of 80 people who gather for three days of class followed by an exam day. Since group events are higher risk and finding adequate space and time to hold schools and classes is difficult at best, the division decided to take class material online. These classes will be on demand so operators can take them whenever they want.



At the end of the fiscal year, the staff was working on creating online content for all of our certification schools. Testing events will still be in person, however there will be strict spacing requirements which means that testing events will be held over multiple days. While we have had a defined class schedule in the past, if processes prove successful, class participants will be able to take a class whenever they want and test when convenient. Thus, a formal training schedule will not be needed. This means operators will not be waiting for a certification school to roll around.



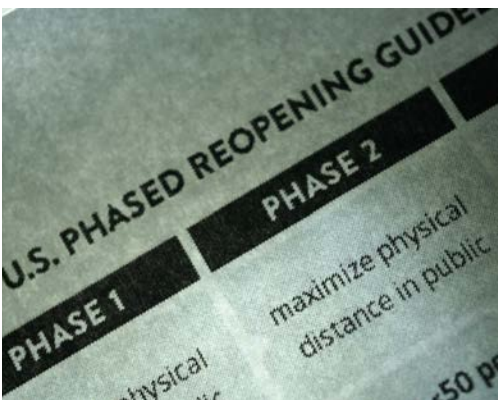
Brownfields-

In terms of site assessments, the brownfield program was still able to do site visits as most of those involved abandoned properties where there is little COVID danger as long as those on-site follow masking and social distancing guidelines. However, the public outreach and education portions of the program are going online for the moment. Each year, the program typically holds in-person grant writing workshops and review events. Those will all be online this year and staff will offer "online office hours" to help people with questions.



KY EXCEL-

KY EXCEL had to cancel all of its typical outreach and award events. Program staff are working on offering online versions of awards events. For educational events, staff have made short videos in lieu of their in-person training events. The videos are matched with Best Management Practice Guides on various topics. The division is looking at alternative methods of provision for the Sustainable Spirits Summit and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Environmental Excellence Awards which typically occur in the fall.



ECAP-

The Environmental Compliance Assistance Program continued to provide its services throughout the pandemic. Like all of the other programs in the division that offer training, ECAP has been working on scripting PowerPoints in order to create on-demand, online learning opportunities.

Sustainable Spirits Summit



Sustainable Spirits Summit

(Left) KDA's Ali Edelstein and DCA's Robyn Whitted ask the crowd questions. (Top Right) Participants take notes. (Bottom Right) The summit was followed by a tour of Copper & Kings.

Formed in 2011, the Sustainable Spirits Initiative grew out of a growing demand from the industry experts to get together and share their experiences on environmental issues. Since then, DCA has collaborated with the Kentucky Distiller's Association (KDA) to coordinate an annual Sustainable Spirits Summit thus enabling industry members to discuss issues and share their efforts in environment stewardship and sustainability. The 2019 Sustainable Spirits Summit was hosted by Old Forester Distillery in Louisville on October 22. With the theme of "A Toast to Sustainability", more than fifty participants listened to presentations covering a range of topics from identifying opportunities for pollution prevention, protecting watersheds and environmental compliance during this full-day event.

In 2019 DCA and KDA expanded the Sustainable Spirits Initiative by partnering with the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center. This new partnership enabled the Initiative to also offer introductory level Pollution Prevention themed workshops and webinars for the sector for the first time since the Sustainable Spirits Initiative began. In the spring of 2020, a Sustainable Spirits webinar educated 19 individuals on identifying pollution prevention and water reduction opportunities through value stream mapping. An additional Sustainable Spirits Workshop was also coordinated for the spring of 2020, but was canceled due COVID19.



2019 Environmental Excellence Awards



(Top Left) General Motors, Bowling Green receives the 2019 KY EXCEL Champion Award, (Top Right) Letcher County receives the 2019 Luminary Award. (Bottom Left) Eden Shale Farm receives the 2019 Pacesetter Award. (Bottom Right) Leggett & Platt Winchester Spring receive the 2019 Resource Caretaker Award.

The mission at the Department for Environmental Protection (DEP) is to protect and enhance Kentucky's environment. In support of this mission, DEP is proud to recognize and encourage environmental excellence in the Commonwealth through its Environmental Excellence Awards program.

- **General Motors' Bowling Green Assembly Plant** was honored with the KY EXCEL Champion Award for demonstrating outstanding stewardship of Kentucky's environment. Its state-of-the-art paint shop has decreased paint usage, and reduced sludge waste and VOC emissions. A total of 7,000 light fixtures have been updated with low energy LED lights, and the plant has committed to renewable energy through its onsite solar array that generated more than 700 megawatts of electricity in 2018.
- **The Letcher County Conservation District** was honored with the Community Luminary Award for demonstrating an outstanding record of educating, engaging and inspiring communities and employee partners through environmental outreach.
- **Eden Shale Farm** was honored with the Environmental Pacesetter Award for its exemplary and innovative efforts to protect the environment and set an example of environmental stewardship for the Commonwealth. Through the farm's website, blog, demonstrational videos, onsite farm tours and virtual tour, it has provided numerous resources for farmers to implement environmentally friendly practices, and receive the corresponding savings and improved herd health, on their own farms.
- **Leggett & Platt, Inc.**, Winchester Spring was honored with the Resource Caretaker Award for its conservation of Kentucky's natural resources. Through its parts rebuild and pallet recycling programs, Leggett & Platt reduced the amount of waste sent to landfills by 740,000 pounds over the past year. The firm also partnered with two elementary schools to spread the message of environmental awareness.





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 drinking 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 and the public.

Operator Certification Program



Distribution School

Trainer, Dennis Minch, presents to a full class.



Operator Certification Branch Staff

ADMINISTRATION, TRAINING AND COVID-19

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 to ensure they meet the educational and experience standards required for their level of certification. The training staff spend weeks at a time on the road providing certification and CEU training's. The program was on pace to meet its typical service numbers this year. However, with the pandemic the program had to cease training and testing events. In an effort to not create a backlog, the program also stopped processing new applications until new methods of service provision could be put in place. By late June, the program was scheduling people to take socially distanced exams starting in July.

Manager

Jessica Wilhoite

Administration

Veronica Roland
Katie Mauer
Chelsey Jenkins
Lyndsi Hersch

Trainers

Dennis Minch
John Walker

CERTIFICATION

During FY20, the Operator Certification Program received and processed 845 applications from operators seeking to take a certification exam. The program administered 756 exams that resulted in the issuance of 250 new or upgraded wastewater licenses, 245 new or upgraded drinking water licenses and 16 new solid waste licenses. The drinking water program had a pass rate of 69%, the wastewater program had a pass rate of 71% and the solid waste program had a pass rate of 77%.

RENEWAL

All operators are required to renew their licenses every two years. The drinking water renewal cycle took place during the past fiscal year. The operator certification program administrative staff sent postcards to more than 1,750 certified operators reminding them of the renewal cycle. The program issued 1,601 wallet cards for wastewater and drinking water certification.

The renewal season for drinking water operators was extended to September 30th this year to allow operators extra time to find online sources for CEU credits as conferences and trainings were cancelled in the spring.

TRAINING

The Operator 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 include new technologies, permits, regulatory requirements and issues related to water and wastewater treatment and distribution and solid waste management.

In FY19, the program conducted 18 training events providing more than 282 credit hours and had 824 participants. The Certification and Licensing boards reviewed 357 submittals from third-party training providers and approved over 456 education hours.

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.

Beginning in the Summer of 2019, the Division of Compliance Assistance started a manual revision project with the Kentucky Water Resource Research Institute housed at the University of Kentucky (UK). The goal of the partnership is to evaluate and revise the program's drinking water and wastewater manuals. The manuals have been updated in the past, however a major overhaul was due. The Boards of Certification work with the division and UK in determining appropriate content for the manuals. The first manual to be revised is Wastewater Treatment.





Top: Director Amanda LeFevre speaks with PSC Commissioners about operator certification and regulation changes. Middle: Veronica Roland Speaks with Jason Pennell of Kentucky Rural Water Association at their Annual Management Conference. Bottom Picture: John Walker helps operators with math problems.

REGULATION CHANGES

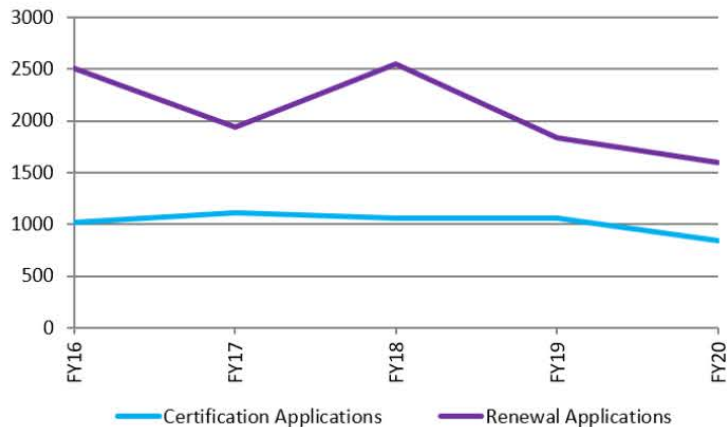
As of Nov. 1 2019, new regulations governing drinking water and wastewater operator certification took effect and are being implemented by the cabinet. While the framework formerly in place worked for many years, the challenges facing the industry made it necessary for the Division of Water and the Division of Compliance Assistance to review and analyze regulations to determine if changes were needed and warranted. The package developed, and reviewed by stakeholders, helps address the operator shortage while maintaining high expectations for operators in Kentucky. Changes were made to KAR 401 Chapters 5, 8 and 11. Changes made include:

- Expansion of Education and Experience substitutions to include a wider variety of applicable education and skills.
- Acknowledgement and acceptance of apprenticeship programs in substitutions.
- Expansion of the Operator-In-Training to help with alternate staffing plans.
- A rework of Class IV Wastewater Operator qualifications to keep a solid baseline of experience but not require experience in excess of what is needed to successfully operator a facility.
- Wastewater CEUs will now be accrued in the same system used in Drinking Water to better help operators manage licenses.
- When processing reciprocity applications, the program will now take into account both the qualifications met when an operator was licensed as well as his/her experience in the field. No operator will be licensed at a higher level than they have previously tested.
- Fees for testing and renewal were adjusted after 10 years of remaining steady.

While these changes will aid in the recruitment and development of operators, the Department for Environmental Protection is committed to working with partner organizations, facilities and other government agencies to help address the coming operator shortages.

operator certification and licensing

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED



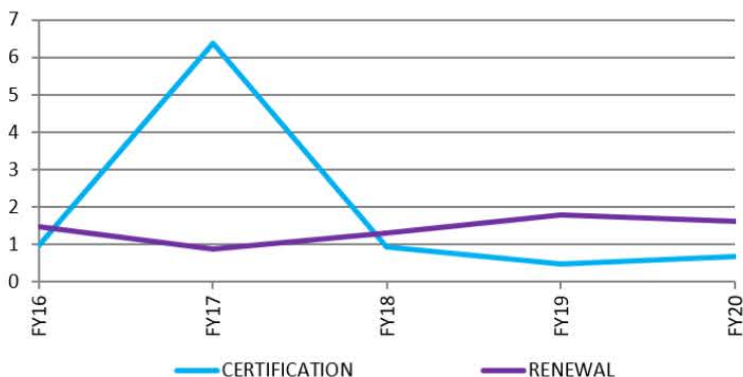
TRAINING EVENTS



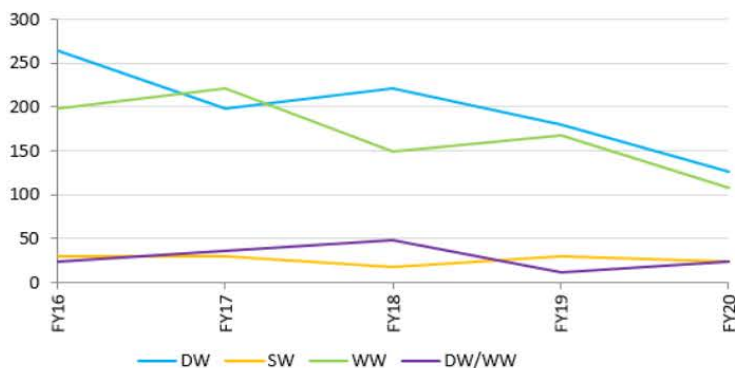
ATTENDEES TRAINED



APPLICATION PROCESSING TIME

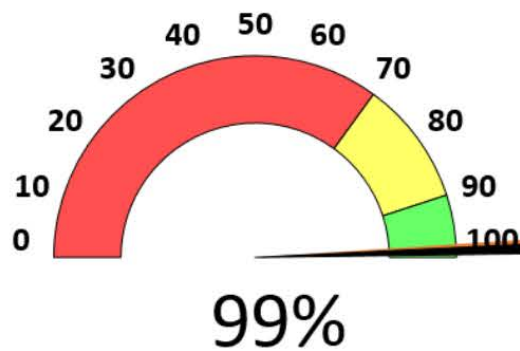


TRAINING HOURS PROVIDED



DW/WW-- courses offered for both drinking water and wastewater continuing education hours

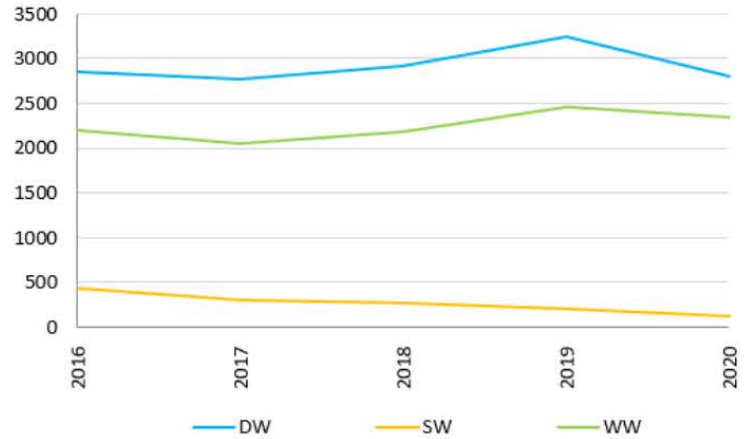
ATTENDEE TRAINING SATISFACTION



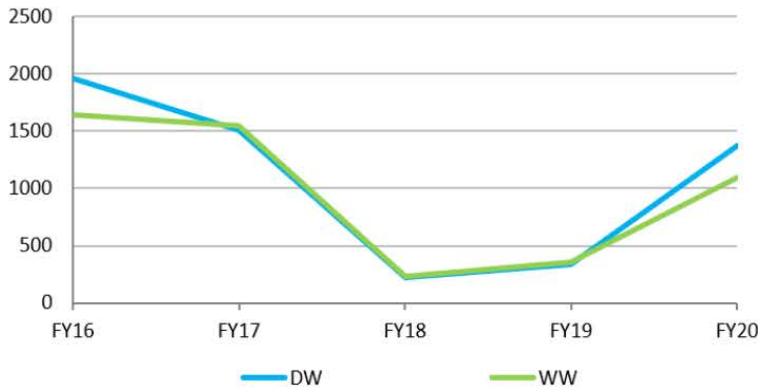
BOARD REVIEW - CLASS 4 APPLICATIONS



ACTIVE LICENSES



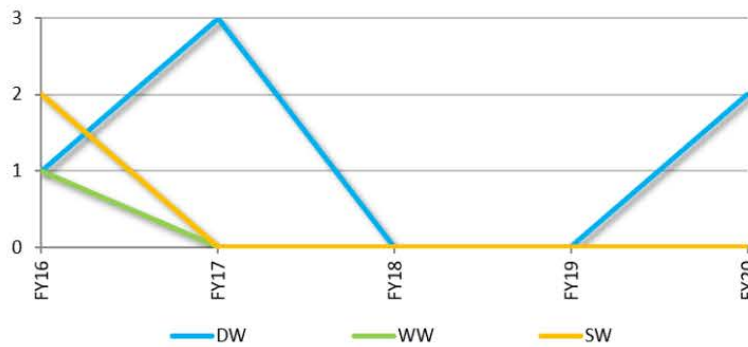
TRAINING HOURS APPROVED BY THE CERTIFICATION BOARDS



NEW & UPGRADED LICENSES



OPERATOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION REVIEWS



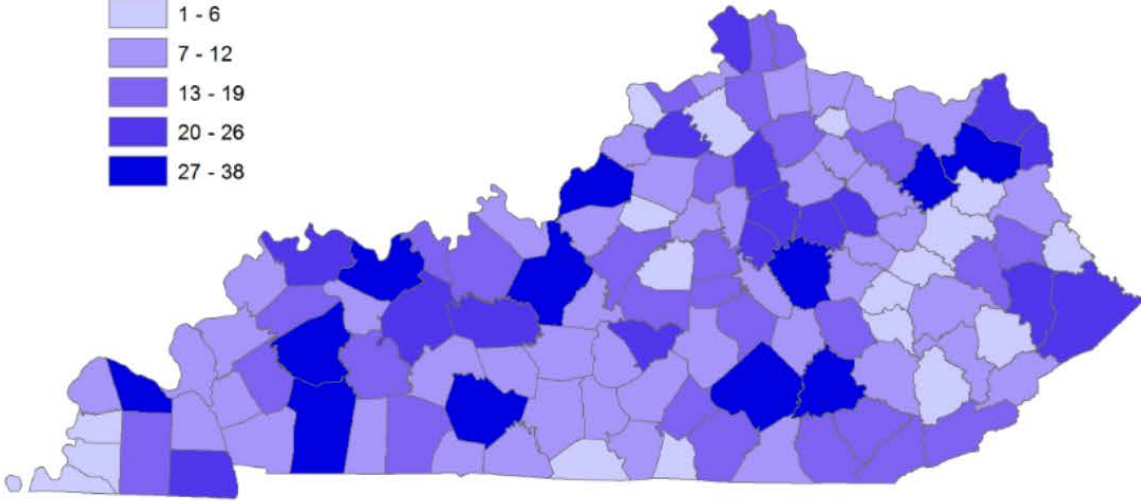
EXAM PASS RATES





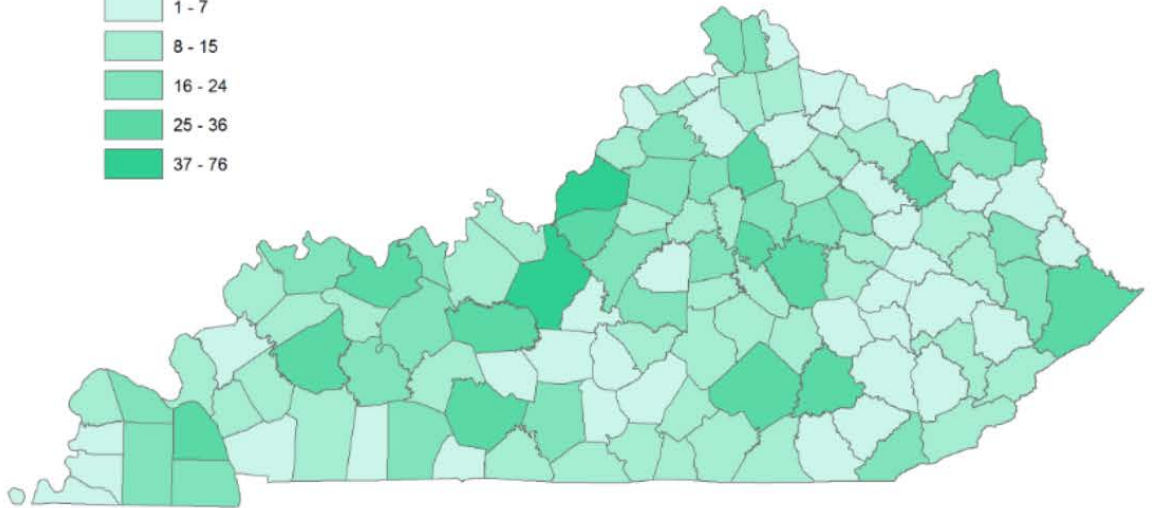
**Drinking Water Operators
by County**

- 1 - 6
- 7 - 12
- 13 - 19
- 20 - 26
- 27 - 38



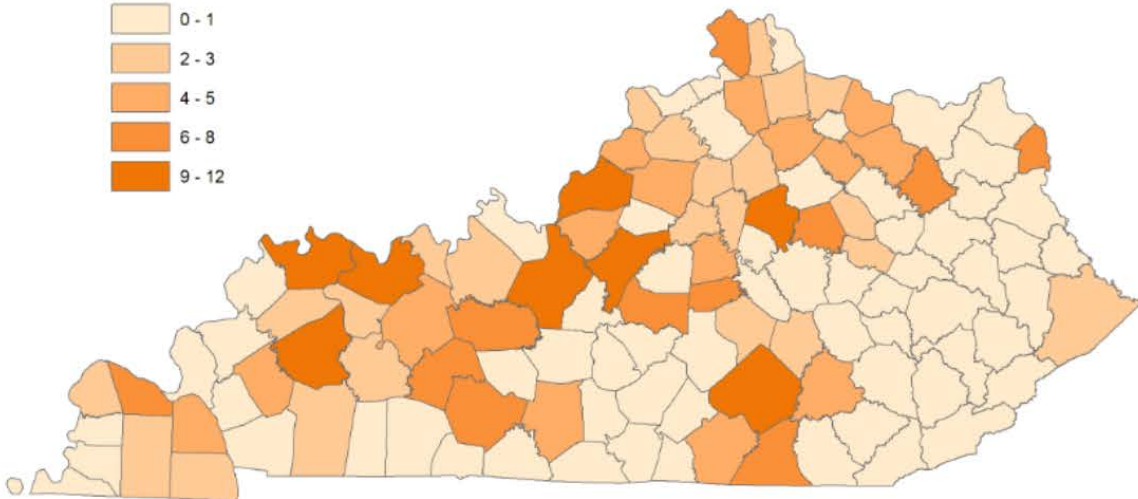
**Wastewater Operators
by County**

- 1 - 7
- 8 - 15
- 16 - 24
- 25 - 36
- 37 - 76



**Solid Waste Operators
by County**

- 0 - 1
- 2 - 3
- 4 - 5
- 6 - 8
- 9 - 12





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. The driver for the program is the desire to help small businesses in the Commonwealth comply with their environmental obligations and be successful.

Environmental Compliance Assistance Program



Environmental Assistance Training Workshops

ECAP provides opportunities to stay up to date on regulations and requirements.

ASSISTANCE

The Environmental Compliance Assistance Program (ECAP) helps regulated entities from assisting with simple phone calls concerning environmental regulations to in-depth assistance requests. The program is comprised of technical assistance specialists who, on a daily basis, provide technical information on a broad range of environmental topics to the public, regulated entities, and state agencies.

During FY20, ECAP responded to 1,103 requests. The majority of these assistance requests, 459 responses, were related to air quality. One of ECAP's primary responsibilities is to provide assistance to small businesses. Of the requests received in FY20, 63 responses were to small businesses of 100 employees or less.



Environmental Assistance Branch Staff

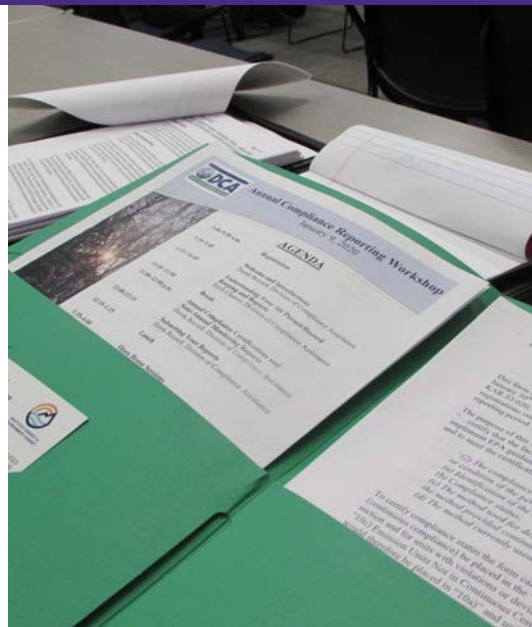
Manager

Derek Bozzell

Environmental Scientists

Erich Cleaver
Lynn True





Annual ACC-SAMR Open House Workshop for Air Quality Reporting

(Left) Air Quality Frankfort Regional Office Supervisor, Natasha Parker helps a participant with reporting needs. (Middle) A copy of the ACC-SAMR Workshop Materials. (Right) Bill Blacketer, from the Bowling Green Regional Office, assists a participant during the 2020 ACC-SAMR workshop.

ASSISTANCE (CONT.)

Despite major personnel changes, the program averaged approximately 91 assistance requests per month and continued to fulfill a vital service for the public and regulated entities across the state.

REGULATIONS

ECAP helps entities understand and comply with environmental regulations in a variety of multimedia areas. The program focuses on assisting these entities in understanding Kentucky's and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regulations and requirements.

Throughout the year, ECAP provides a number of compliance education related services to assist in creating a better understanding of regulatory requirements. A large part of this assistance focuses on air quality related topics as part of the Clean Air Act's Title V requirement to assist small businesses.

INCENTIVES

One of the many incentives of the program is the ability to work with facilities and help troubleshoot problems.

Some of the types of assistance provided include: free compliance site visits, small business air quality permit application assistance, and development of tools and resources to enhance facility operations.

Another positive aspect of the program is the ability to use enforcement discretion and work proactively with clients to identify and correct compliance issues. Often times, there can be a hesitancy by the regulated community to come forward with knowledge of environmental compliance issues. This hesitancy is brought on by the fear of civil enforcement action. However, ECAP's enforcement discretion policy allows clients to utilize the self-audit privilege to self-disclose environmental violations. The correction of these issues may assist the facility in avoiding violations and costly penalties.

TRAINING EVENTS

Introductory Environmental Assistance Series

ECAP has partnered with the other divisions of the Energy and Environment Cabinet to develop a series of introductory workshops designed to educate attendees on environmental regulations, common permits and responsibilities, and the inspection process. These workshops are divided into three days, each focusing on a different environmental media: air quality, water quality, and waste management.

Early in the fiscal year, ECAP wrapped up the 2019 introductory workshop series with events focusing on air quality permitting, water quality permits, and waste management regulations.

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 fifth annual permit-required reporting workshop and open house. Over 25 facilities made their way to Frankfort in January to attend the workshop and receive one-on-one assistance for these reports during the afternoon open house.



TOOL DEVELOPMENT

The goal of the Environmental Compliance Assistance Program (ECAP) 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 better understand their compliance requirements, ECAP regularly develops and publishes fact sheets and guidance documents.

During Fiscal Year 2020, ECAP continued to develop and update website resources. This included recording an updated video covering the Annual Compliance Certification, a report required by all air permit holders. During the latter part of the fiscal year, the program began developing online versions of their introductory environmental assistance workshops. These will go live in the following fiscal year. ECAP staff are also working to ensure that all documents are updated to reflect the most current regulatory changes. This process began with the manual for discharge monitoring reports along with several waste related documents, including factsheets on pharmaceutical waste and universal waste. A new compliance guidance documents is in development for hazardous waste generators.

One on One Assistance

(Left) DCA Environmental Scientist, Erich Cleaver, answers permit questions at the ACC/SAMR Open House.

environmental compliance assistance program

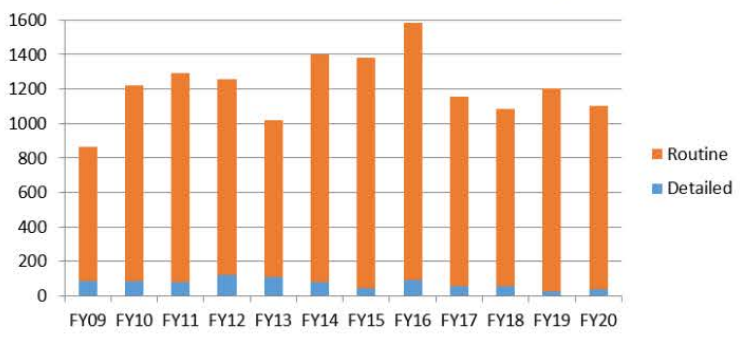
TRAINING EVENTS

04

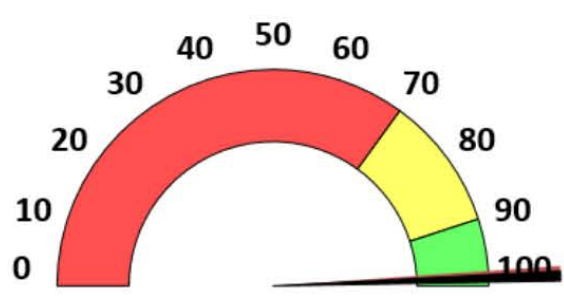
ATTENDEES TRAINED

104

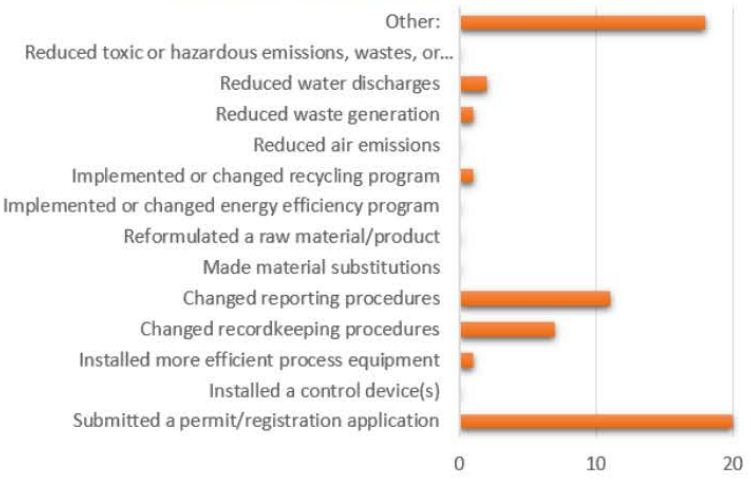
DETAILED VERSUS ROUTINE REQUESTS



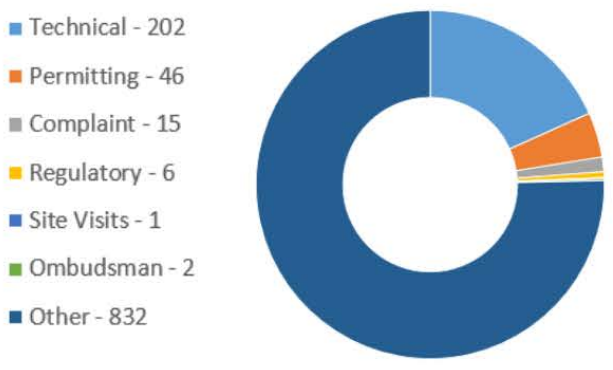
ATTENDEE TRAINING SATISFACTION



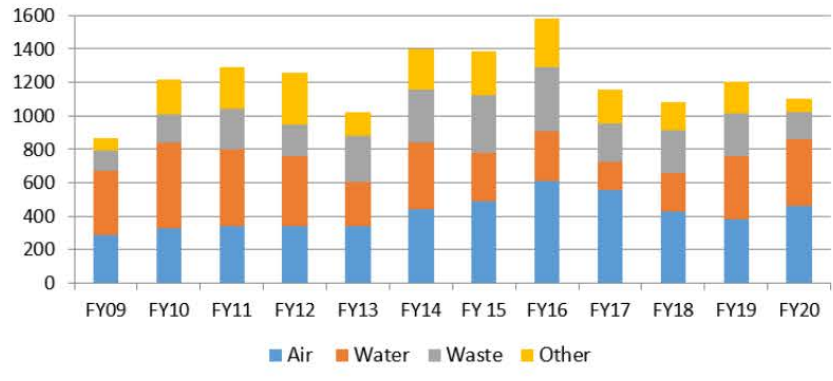
CLIENT BEHAVIOR CHANGES



TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTS



ASSISTANCE REQUESTS BY MEDIA





LIVING GREENER, GROWING STRONGER

DCA has created programs that go beyond operator certification and environmental compliance assistance. 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. The Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program helps to educate the public about cleaning up contaminated properties and putting them back to reuse. Sites that were eyesores have been given new life, providing jobs, tax revenues and conserving greenfields. These programs offer free services to the public and private sectors while promoting sustainable living and working.

Kentucky Environmental Leadership Program



KY EXCEL Solar Workshop

KY EXCEL partnered with the KY Office of Energy Policy to host a solar energy workshop for members. Kenya Stump, Director of the Office of Energy Policy, presents to attendees.

KY EXCEL

KY EXCEL is the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection's (DEP) free environmental leadership program, whose members complete voluntary projects to improve the environment. In 2005, groundwork for KY EXCEL was laid by cabinet staff meeting with citizens and companies and reviewing other state environmental leadership programs.

With the foundation set, KY EXCEL launched on Jan. 17, 2006 with four different membership levels. The KY EXCEL membership levels are divided between regulated and non-regulated members. Regulated members are entities who have an air, water or waste permit from the DEP. Non-regulated members are entities and individuals not regulated by DEP, but looking to help their community.



Environmental Assistance
Branch Staff

Manager

Derek Bozzell

Program Coordinator

Robyn Whitted



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

In FY 20, 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 participated in events held by KY Children's Garden, and Clean Water Professionals of KY and TN (Formerly KY-TN Water Environment Association). KY EXCEL partnered with the KY Office of Energy Policy to coordinate a Solar Energy Workshop. KY EXCEL staff also coordinated additional events, workshops and field trips, but these were canceled due to COVID-19. Through such endeavors, KY EXCEL worked with more than 200-individuals and had more than 150 people attend events coordinated by the KY EXCEL staff.

KY EXCEL OPEN HOUSE

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

KY EXCELEBRATION

Cancelled due to COVID-19.



KY EXCEL Outreach Events

(Left) An ant activity for children at the Kentucky Children's Garden "Celebrate the Season" event. (Right) DCA Staff interact with guests at the Clean Water Professionals of KY and TN's "Water for Life" event in Louisville, KY.

KY EXCEL MEMBER PROJECT EXCELLENCE

A unique feature of KY EXCEL are the members' voluntary projects. Each voluntary project is required to benefit the environment in some manner. KY EXCEL members annually choose a project or projects that fit their work plans or lifestyles. One year after submitting a project or multiple project proposals, KY EXCEL members submit a project report for each project the member proposed. Below a sample of a few of the accomplishments completed by the KY EXCEL community from project reports submitted during FY20.



KY EXCEL Member Projects

(Left) An electric vehicle charging station at Maker's Mark Distillery. (Middle) Eden Shale Farm uses "Shade Balls" to keep water clean, reduce evaporation and prevent freezing of this important resource for herd health. (Right) Next Round Brewing participates at the "Water for Life" event in Louisville, KY.

KY EXCEL BEACON AWARDS

Through the KY EXCEL Beacon Awards, DCA recognizes exemplary member efforts and activities which were provided in the KY EXCEL Project Reports submitted in during the 2019 calendar year. Awards were to be given for each project category during the annual KY EXCELebration. Unfortunately, the 2020 KY EXCELebration was canceled due to COVID-19. The 2019 Beacon Awards will be presented during a virtual event in FY21.

2020 KY EXCEL Beacon Awards			
PROJECT CATEGORY	PROJECT TITLE	KY EXCEL MEMBER	MEMBER TYPE
Conservation	Butterfly Garden	Kentucky Community & Technical College System	Advocate
Education	Rain Barrels	The Family Care Center	Advocate
Performance Improvement	Winter Feeding Area	Sherwood Acres	Farm
Pollution Prevention	Solar Array	Sekisui S-Lec America LLC	Master
Restoration	Panhandler Litter Pickup	Lexington-Fayette County Urban Government	Leader
Waste Reduction	Waste Reduction	3M	Master



KY EXCEL HIGHLIGHTS

- Over the past year, KY EXCEL members have...
 - Conserved more than 1.5 million gallons of water
 - Planted more than 4,000 trees
 - Recycled more than 20,000 tons of material
 - Prevented more than 1,400 tons of pollution
 - Educated more than 17,000 students and adults
 - Participated in more than 140 river sweeps and litter pickups.
- Awarded six KY EXCEL Beacon Awards. The awards ceremony will take place virtually in FY 21.



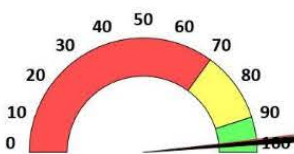
kentucky's environmental leadership program, KY EXCEL

ATTENDEES TRAINED



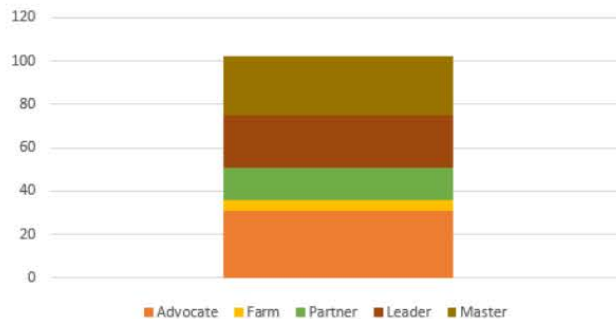
198

ATTENDEE SATISFACTION



97%

FY20 KY EXCEL MEMBERS

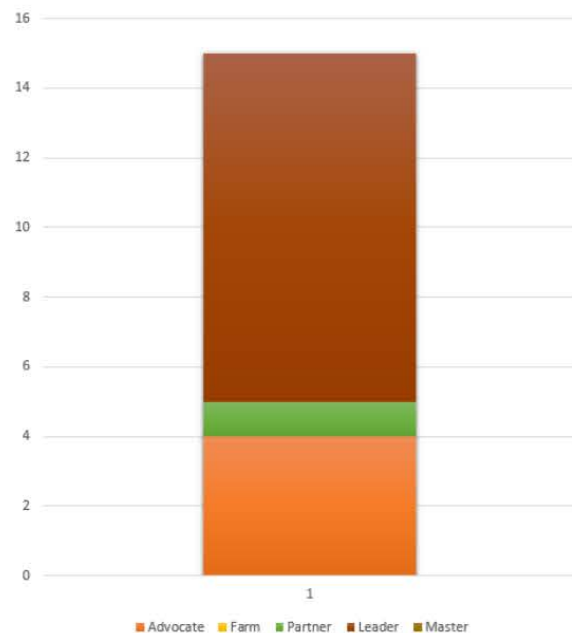


PROJECTS BY CATEGORY



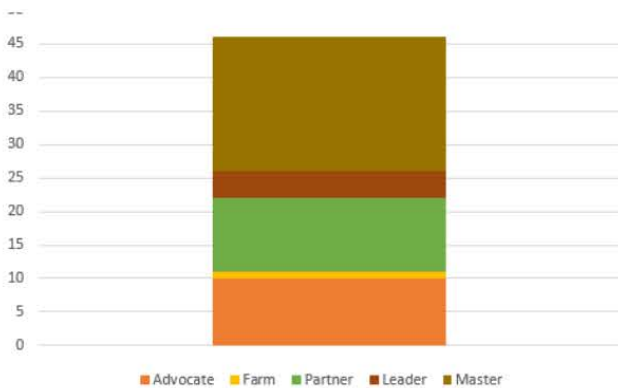
Conservation Environmental Education Performance Improvement Pollution Prevention Restoration Waste Reduction

NEW MEMBERS FY20



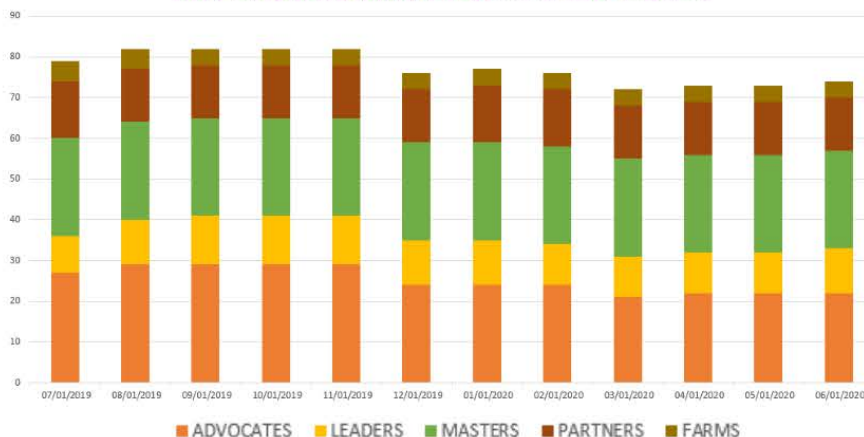
Advocate Farm Partner Leader Master

FY20 MEMBER RENEWALS



Advocate Farm Partner Leader Master

KY EXCEL MEMBER CATEGORIES



ADVOCATES LEADERS MASTERS PARTNERS FARMS



Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program



Intro to Grant Writing and Community Revitalization Workshop

Camilla Warren and Derek Street, Federal EPA Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR) present grant application tips at the workshop.



Environmental Assistance
Branch Staff

BROWNFIELDS IN KENTUCKY

Brownfield sites are the evidence of our industrial and commercial past. Now vacant and abandoned, they are a testament of what we have achieved and often a stark reminder that economies and communities are always evolving. Along with history, these sites bring with them another type of legacy, potential contamination.

Communities across the Commonwealth live with their superfund and brownfields everyday. Even if you don't live right next door, you likely feel their impacts. They contribute to the economic, social and environmental decline in the places we live, work and play. However, the redevelopment of contaminated properties is a powerful tool that has far-reaching implications for both urban and rural communities. Contaminated property redevelopment sparks job creation and private investment, encourages infrastructure reuse, increases property values and the tax base and facilitates community revitalization.

Manager

Derek Bozzell

Program Coordinators

Eric Eisiminger
Elizabeth McNulty



BROWNFIELDS (CONT.)

The Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program continues to help communities, nonprofits and private entities address these properties and get them back into productive reuse. This past year, the program continued its tradition in assisting with EPA brownfield grants and worked to communicate the importance of the program in uncertain funding times.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Education and Outreach

DCA staff partnered with the Federal EPA Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR) Staff and the New Jersey Institute of Technology Technical Assistance to Brownfields (NJIT) to hold a "Intro to Grant Writing and Revitalization" workshop on August 16, 2019 at the Energy and Environment Cabinet in Frankfort, KY. Speakers talked about the EPA Brownfield grant application process and highlighted ways to make proposals stronger. Participants signed up for one-on-one grant assistance in the afternoon of the workshop.

Partners stuck around for a second day of internal staff training which helped prepare new internal staff members for working with the Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program.

The *Kentucky Brownfield Bits* newsletter debuted with a new look and distribution format late March. During the COVID-19 lock-down, it has become a great way to engage communities with the latest in brownfield news. Many of the Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program documents and fact sheets have been updated as well as website page creation for specific program initiatives.



Intro to Grant Writing and Community Revitalization Workshop

Derek Street, EPA OBLR Staff Member helps Alison Smith with the City of Louisville review her grant application.

ASTSWMO

Amanda LeFevre continues to serve as the Chairperson of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO), Brownfield Focus Group, which is comprised of state brownfield program representatives from all 10 EPA regions. This group works to improve communication between state waste program peers and with federal program partners. This year the focus group worked on a survey of state programs to help understand the variety of approaches taken in different aspects of brownfield redevelopment. The results will be available in the fall of 2020. The Focus Group also held two educational sessions at the National Brownfield Conference.

In May, DCA staff member and Kentucky Brownfield Outreach and Education Coordinator, Elizabeth McNulty, presented in the ASTSWMO CERCLA and Brownfields Subcommittee Meeting in a webinar titled: "Using Technology in the Field".

Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit

DCA staff worked with West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers and the Central Appalachian Brownfield Innovation Network (CABIN) to hold the Third Annual Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit on March 21, 2019 in Kingsport, Tennessee. This year, CABIN partnered with the TN Environmental Conference offering a brownfield track that featured sessions on innovative redevelopment in the region. Herb Petitjean, presented a talk giving highlights of his career as the Kentucky Brownfield Coordinator as part of those CABIN sessions. CABIN helps assist communities to identify and connect with mentors that can help provide guidance and ideas to make redevelopment happen.



CABIN Summit

(Above) Herb Petitjean presents "I Know a Thing or Two Because I have Seen a Thing or Two" at the CABIN Summit. (Below) CABIN Summit state representatives.



Assessments and Grants

Assessments and grant writing services are a pivotal part of the brownfield program. These assessments help clear the way for property acquisition and cleanup grant applications. Last year's grant awardee, Lake Cumberland Area Development District, continues to assess properties thanks to funding from an EPA federal brownfield assessment grant award. Five more communities received EPA grants FY 20 to assess properties totaling a state award of \$1.7 million for Kentucky communities.

Cleaner Commonwealth Fund

Kentucky's Cleaner Commonwealth Fund (CCF), which was established through a US EPA Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund grant, continues to be successful. The Louisville Waterfront Botanical Garden Project, spearheaded by Botanica, Inc. and CCF's first loan recipient, recently finished the first phase of their project. Due to the program success, EPA awarded an additional \$375,000 to the state program and \$375,000 to Louisville Metro's Revolving Loan Fund to help more sites across the state. New guidelines to apply for the additional state funding will go out in the beginning of 2021.



Phase I Assessments

These initial assessments are pivotal to the Brownfield Program. Above, Eric Eisiminger, Kentucky Brownfield Program Coordinator, conducts an inspection.



kentucky brownfield redevelopment program



ATTENDEES TRAINED



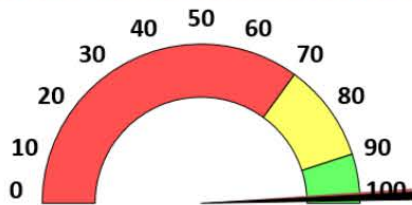
37

TOTAL PROGRAM GRANTS
\$15,200,000.00

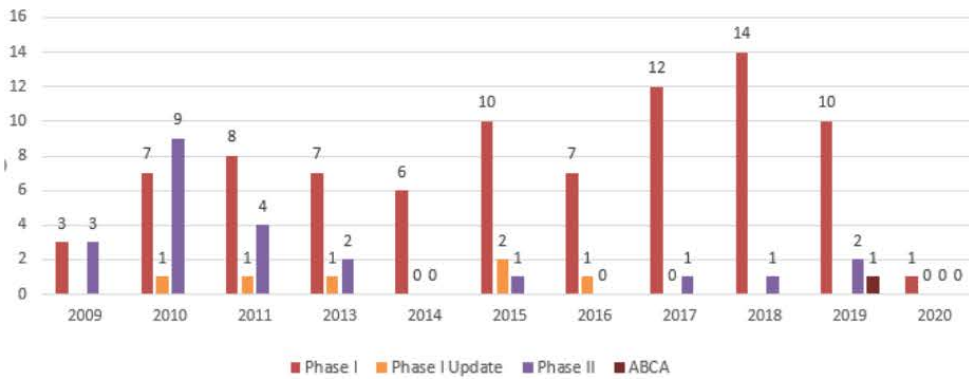
GRANT SUCCESS RATES



ATTENDEES SATISFACTION



ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED

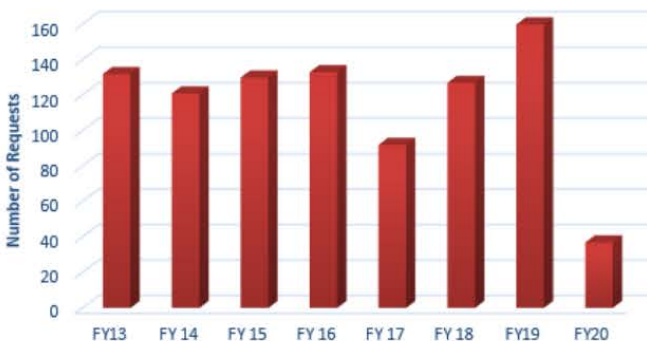


TRAINING EVENTS



03

HELP DESK REQUESTS



EPA GRANT FUNDING BY YEAR



