

ANNUAL REPORT FY 20-21

DCA

**Kentucky Division of
Compliance Assistance**

**CERTIFYING PROFESSIONALS | SIMPLIFYING COMPLIANCE
LIVING GREENER, GROWING STRONGER**

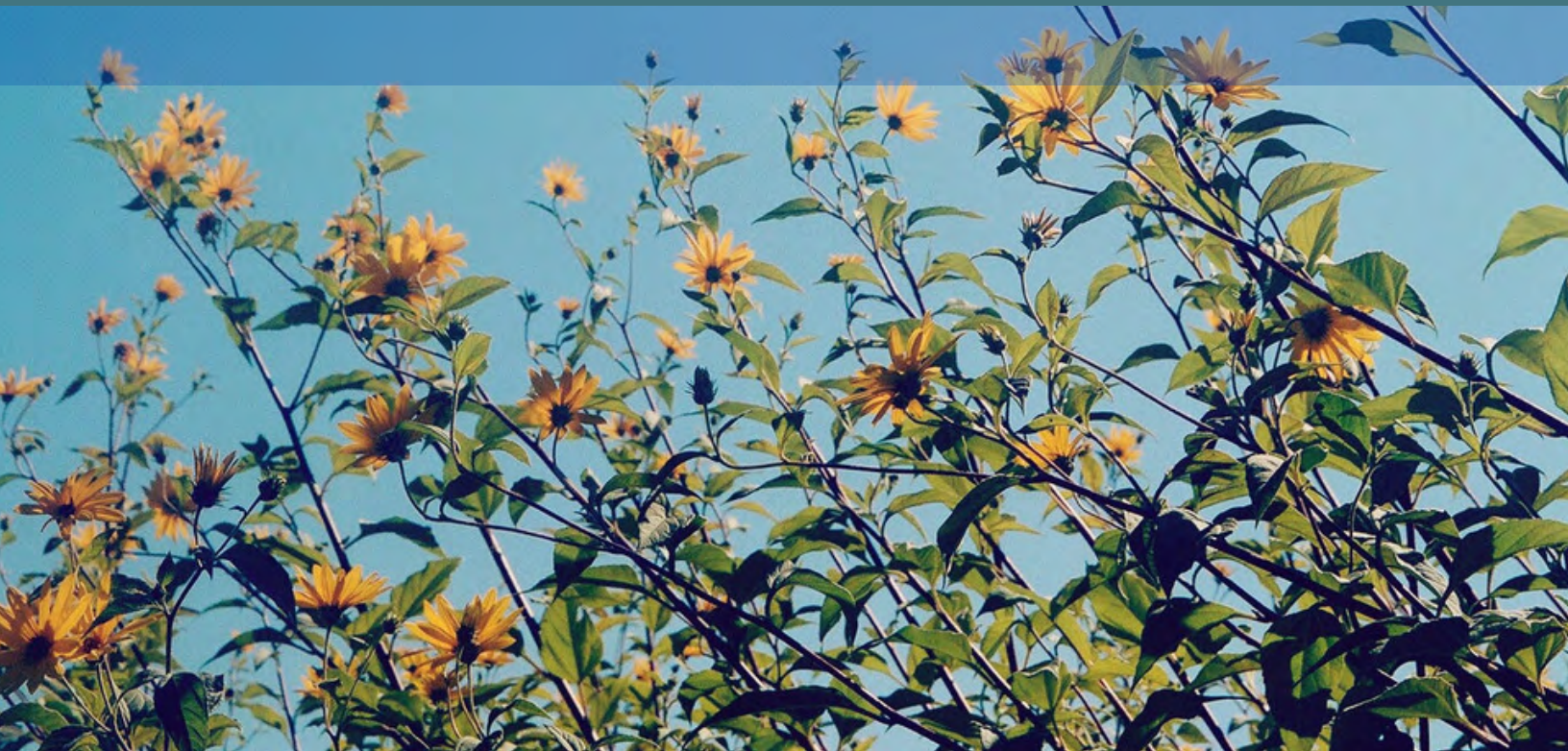


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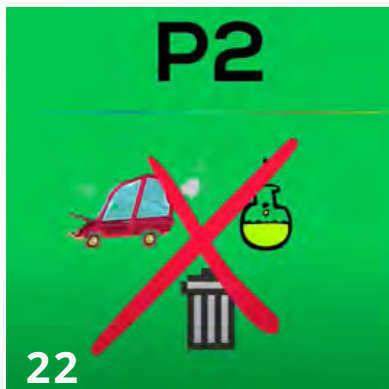
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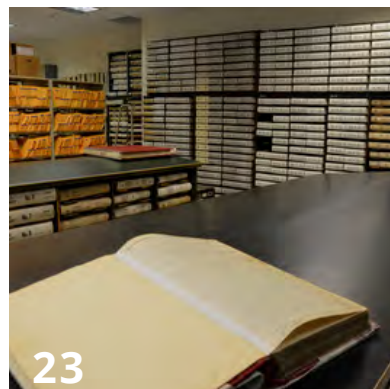
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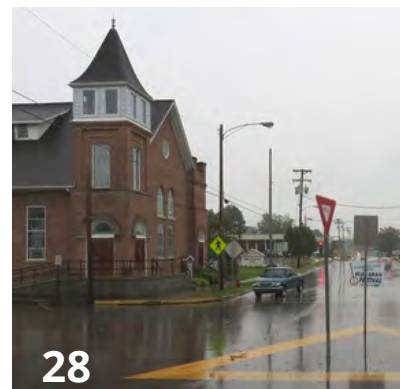
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DCA

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The Director's Note

This past year posed many challenges for everyone. It was just plain hard. However, as an optimist in a division that works to be proactive, I want to highlight some of the good things that materialized out of a very bad situation. While we are still dealing with COVID, and will for the foreseeable future, the division will continue to look for ways to do our jobs in new and more effective ways.

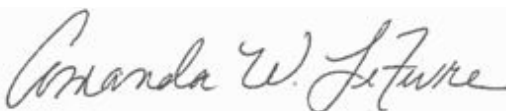
The Certification and Licensing Branch saw its typical training and testing schedule halted while dealing with COVID. We couldn't safely and effectively pull off training events with 40-50 people in a room for three days straight followed by an exam, but we could still find a way to provide training to folks. We could also bring in a small number of operators to test in rooms arranged for social distancing. Using webinar platforms and an online learning management system, we were able to record all of our regular class materials and offer them free to operators preparing for the test. As we move forward, DCA will look at how it offers training. While we will bring in-person events back into the rotation, staff will work to record more polished versions of our classes and develop more for continuing education units (CEUs) for renewal. Online options will be a permanent part of our lineup.

The Brownfield program saw additional funds in the state to help assess and remediate brownfield properties. Not only did some of our individual communities receive grant funds for cleanup, the program itself received additional funding for the Cleaner Commonwealth Fund from EPA. This will be used to make additional grants and low-to-no interest loans to qualified entities wishing to tackle brownfield cleanup projects. The program also moved forward with its BAD Buildings project which aims to help citizens in small communities make redevelopment decisions and prioritize community projects.

The KY EXCEL program turned its Sustainable Spirits Summit programming into online resources and trainings. Members continued to perform environmental improvement projects despite shutdowns. While some had to focus elsewhere, members continue to make Kentucky's environment an important part of their overall operations.

Finally, the Environmental Compliance Assistance Program continued to provide assistance to small businesses and other regulated communities. While there was a drop in assistance requests, staff made use of that time to develop online training modules, develop new resource materials and update older materials that required a refresh. These are activities that are hard to fit in under normal circumstances but this last year offered an opportunity to catch up on those items frequently tossed to the back burner.

While we had to switch focus this past year, staff were able to make the most of the situation, adopt and learn new technologies and work to deliver content in new ways. We continue to look for ways to stay proactive and innovative.



Amanda LeFevre
Acting 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.

Sustainable Spirits Summit



Sustainable Spirits Initiative Goes Virtual

Above: Due to public health concerns, resources supporting the initiative were created and shared online to members to access in Fiscal Year 20-21.

Formed in 2011, the Sustainable Spirits Initiative grew out of a growing demand from the spirit industry experts to get together and share their experiences on environmental issues. Since then, DCA has collaborated with the Kentucky Distiller's Association to coordinate an annual Sustainable Spirits Summit enabling industry members to discuss issues and share successful ideas and knowledge concerning environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Due to public health concerns, a Summit was not held in 2020. Instead, the Initiative developed multiple online videos and resource guides to share best management practices and keep the interaction going virtually. In lieu of a summit, a webinar titled, "Lean Approaches for Water Efficiency for Distilleries, Breweries and Wineries" was presented in the fall of 2020. A recording of the webinar, additional videos, and best management practice guides are available online at: <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Compliance-Assistance/Pages/sustainable-spirits.aspx>



2020 Environmental Excellence Awards

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. We know that individuals, communities, businesses and organizations are committed to protecting and improving Kentucky's environment, and through this program, we would like to recognize those efforts and activities.



Photo Credit: Louisville Water

The **Resource Caretaker Award**, given for the conservation or improvement of Kentucky's natural resources through land management, preservation or revitalization of contaminated land, as well as for habitat restoration, recycling programs, pollution prevention or water-use reductions, was awarded to Next Round Brewing.

The KY/TN section of American Water Works Association and the Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky and Tennessee collaborated to create Next Round Brewing, a capstone project for U of L chemical engineering seniors. During the project, the students worked with four local microbrewers to produce high quality micro-brews using recycled water from the Floyds Fork Water Quality Treatment Center in Louisville. Next Round brews were ultimately crafted with treated, recycled water and brewers served the special-edition beers for a limited time in their taprooms, and also during the Water for Life (WFL) event.



The **Community Environmental Luminary Award**, given in recognition for achievements in community-based environmental education and outreach, was awarded to the Power and Energy Institute of Kentucky (PEIK).

The institute, located at the University of Kentucky, was established 10 years ago with support from the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop the workforce for the power and energy industry. Engineering students at the Kentucky Industrial Assessment Center (KIAC), which is affiliated with PEIK, receive hands-on training and real world experience in energy engineering, systems and management. KIAC has saved more than 50 businesses almost \$20 million, while providing significant reductions in energy use and contributing to environmental improvements and conservation.

Environmental Excellence Awards (Cont.)



The **Environmental Pacesetter Award**, given for innovative efforts in protecting the environment and setting an example of environmental stewardship, was awarded to Mountain Association (formerly known as MACED), of Berea. Over the last five years, the Mountain Association, working in the Appalachian region, assisted with more than 150 energy efficiency or renewable energy projects with an estimated energy savings of \$430,000.

Mountain Association's energy team collaborated with commercial companies and non-profits to identify energy saving opportunities through energy audits and follow-up work that included insulated roofs, HVAC modernization, LED lighting and strategies to reduce electrical demand. The Mountain Association finance program also offered commercial businesses and nonprofits loans up to \$500,000 for solar installations.



The **KY EXCEL Champion Award**, given to a Kentucky Excellence in Environmental Leadership (EXCEL) member that demonstrates outstanding stewardship of Kentucky's environment through energy conservation, improving air quality, minimizing waste or helping Kentuckians participate in environmental stewardship behaviors, was awarded to Swift & Staley Inc., of Kevil, KY.

During 2019, the Swift & Staley team participated in five community outreach projects, teaching environmental awareness and the benefits of pollution prevention through hands-on projects and employee participation events. These included a plastic recycling project with the McCracken Youth Development Group, Morgan Elementary School and the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club. They also included recycling and cleanup efforts with the city of Paducah and removal of 1,100 pounds of trash from shorelines and scenic drives at the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area with Friends of the Land Between the Lakes.

Congratulations to all Awards Winners!



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



Socially Distanced Testing

The Operator Certification Branch adjusted testing protocols to keep operator certification current while also keeping them safe.



Operator Certification Branch Staff

Manager

Jessica Wilhoite

Administration

Veronica Roland
Katie Mauer
Chelsey Jenkins
Lyndsi Hersch

Trainers

Dennis Minch
John Walker

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 education and experience standards required for their level of certification. The training staff typically spend weeks at a time on the road providing certification and CEU trainings. However, with the pandemic, the program had to cease training and testing events. Staff quickly pivoted to create training presentations from each of the current courses providing content that is now accessible online. The program also devised a safe and socially distanced testing protocol to work through the backlog of people needing to test for certification.

CERTIFICATION

During FY21, the Operator Certification Program received and processed 740 applications from operators seeking to take a certification exam. The program administered 695 exams that resulted in the issuance of 152 new or upgraded wastewater licenses, 204 new or upgraded drinking water licenses and 24 new solid waste licenses. The drinking water program had a pass rate of 53%, the wastewater program had a pass rate of 59% and the solid waste program had a pass rate of 71%.

RENEWAL

All operators are required to renew their licenses every two years. The wastewater renewal cycle took place during the past fiscal year. The operator certification program administrative staff sent postcards to more than 4,332 certified operators reminding them of the renewal cycle, training opportunities and testing events. The program issued 1,664 wallet cards for wastewater and drinking water certification.

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.

Due to the pandemic, in-person training came to a halt. The program worked diligently to record presentations and turn them into webinars. These webinars were then emailed to operators who signed up for training. The program completed 107 training videos with 6,148+ views.

Operators who signed up for the exam received links to the webinars through email at no additional cost. The training webinars were designed for operators -

to be able to start and stop them at anytime and to watch them as many times as needed. This also allowed facilities to take advantage of the webinars by gathering multiple operators to watch the videos for studying purposes or for continuing education hours.

The Operator Certification Program implemented Trainer Office Hours which take place the Monday before each testing event. This gives operators the opportunity to link up with instructors to ask questions from the training webinars.

In FY21, the program conducted 15 training events providing more than 220 credit hours and had 426 participants. The Certification and Licensing boards reviewed 182 submittals from third-party training providers and approved over 1,593 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 revised was Wastewater Treatment which is in its final review. The second manual revised is Wastewater Collection which is still in the process of being written.



Operator Certification

TRAINING EVENTS



15

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED



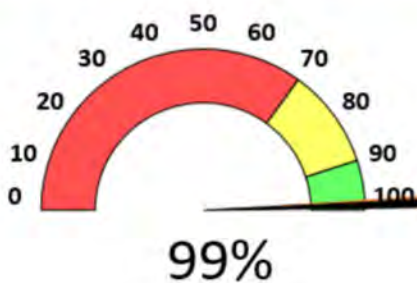
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ATTENDEES TRAINED



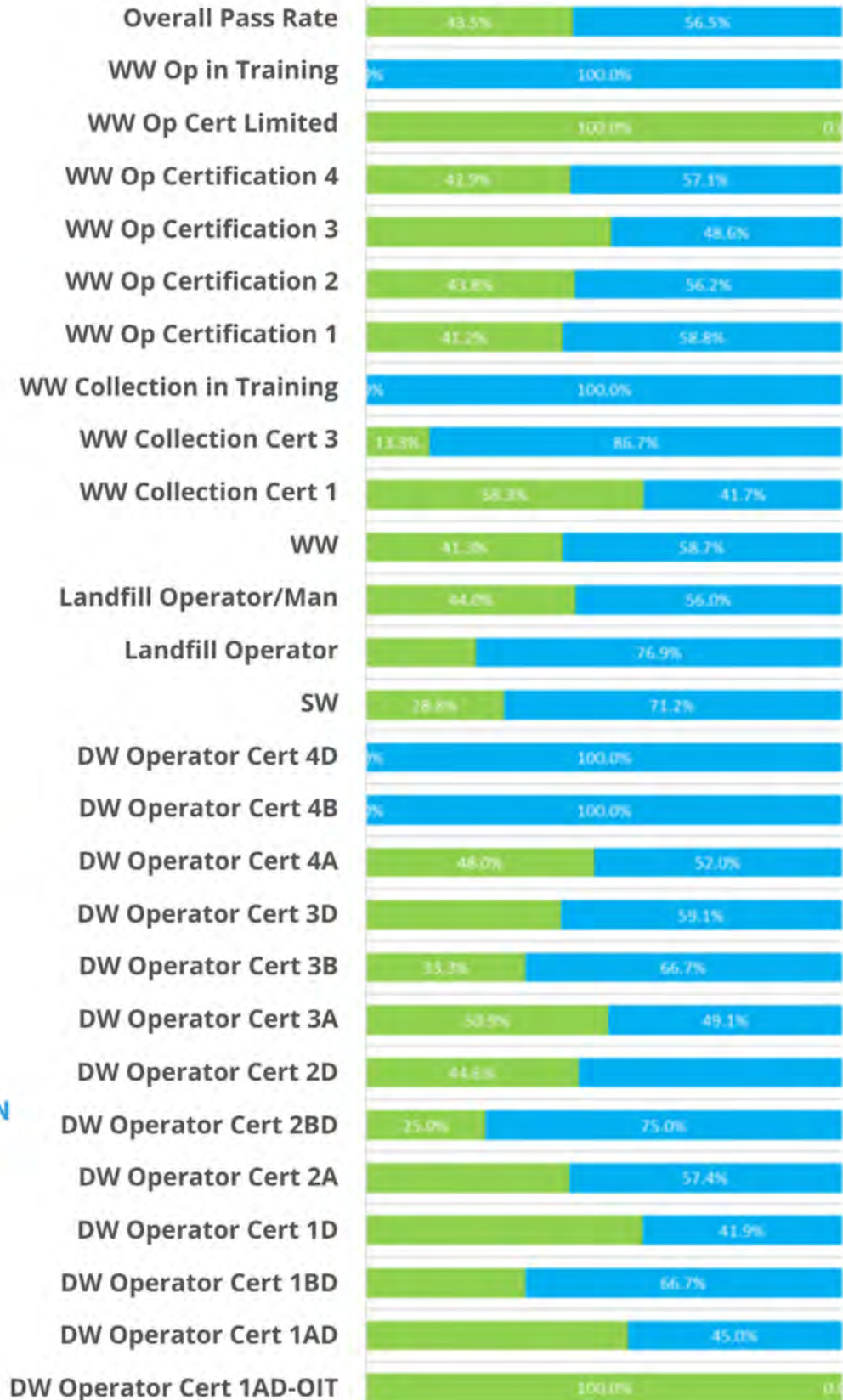
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ATTENDEE TRAINING SATISFACTION



EXAM PASS RATES

● FAIL ● PASS



BOARD REVIEW - CLASS 4 APPLICATIONS



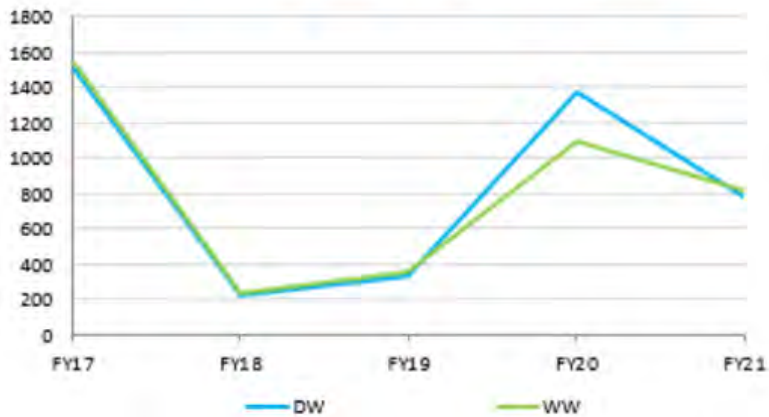
OPERATOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION REVIEWS



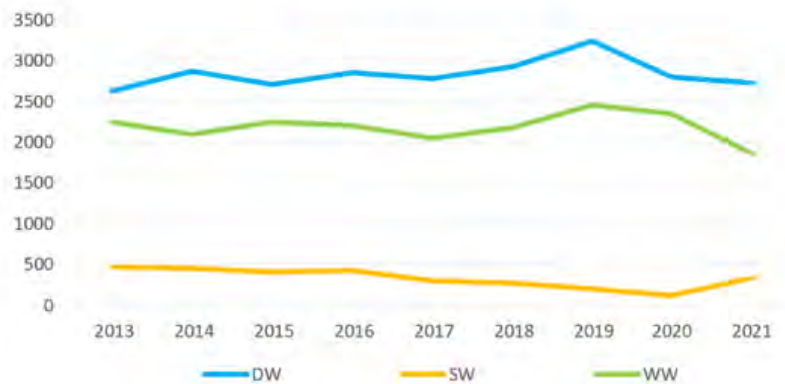
TRAINING REQUESTS REVIEWED BY THE CERTIFICATION BOARDS



APPROVED CERTIFICATION HOURS



ACTIVE LICENSES



NEW AND UPGRADED LICENSES



TRAINING VIDEOS PRODUCED



107

TRAINING VIDEO VIEWS

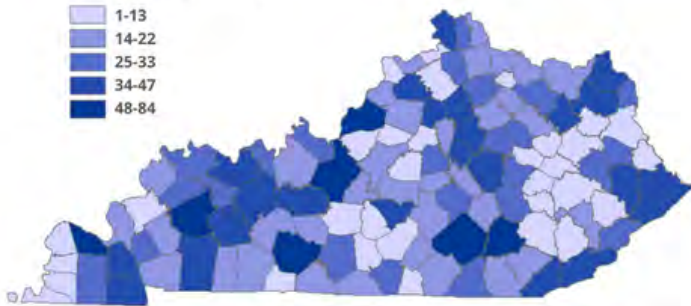


6,148+

KENTUCKY OPERATOR AVAILABILITY

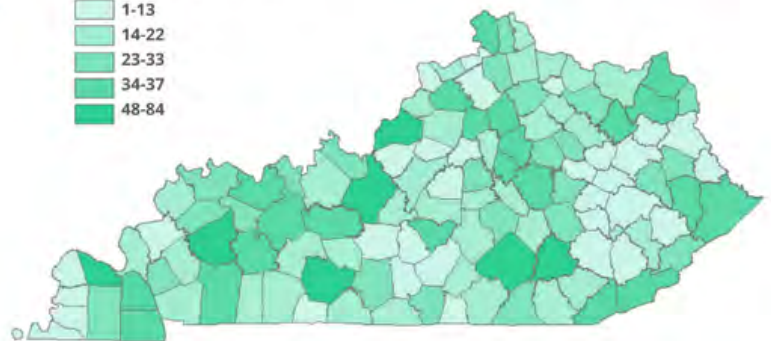
Drinking Water Operators by County

- 1-13
- 14-22
- 25-33
- 34-47
- 48-84



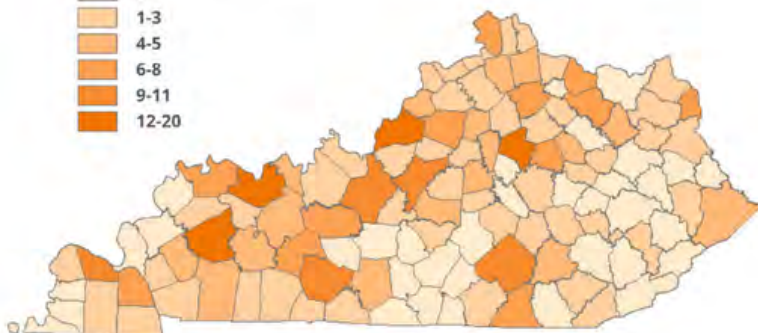
Waste Water Operators by County

- 1-13
- 14-22
- 23-33
- 34-37
- 48-84



Solid Waste Operators by County

- 0
- 1-3
- 4-5
- 6-8
- 9-11
- 12-20





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.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECAP)

Compliance with environmental regulations can often be overwhelming and complicated, especially for smaller businesses without dedicated environmental staff. The Environmental Compliance Assistance Program (ECAP) is available to assist with questions and issues regarding compliance with Kentucky air, water, and waste requirements. ECAP staff is available to assist any facility or individual, but specializes in providing assistance to small businesses. In addition to answering technical questions, ECAP provides detailed one-on-one assistance for small businesses through on-site assessments and air permit application assistance.

ECAP staff also provide trainings and tools to help improve compliance with KY's environmental requirements.



Manager
Derek Bozell

Environmental Scientist
Erich Cleaver

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 FY21, ECAP responded to 634 requests. One of ECAP's primary responsibilities is to provide assistance to small businesses. Of the requests received in FY21, 52 responses were to small businesses of 100 employees or less.

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.

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.

TRAINING EVENTS

Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to hold in-person training events, ECAP focused on building its online training options. All of the programs usual beginner-level presentations covering air quality, water quality, and waste management permits and topics are being converted into videos. The change to free online videos that are available at any time should make the information ECAP normally provides available to a broader audience. Currently, four videos are posted and available for the public to view at any time and 10 others are being finalized. The videos already available have more than doubled viewership when compared to the attendance of in-person trainings from previous years.

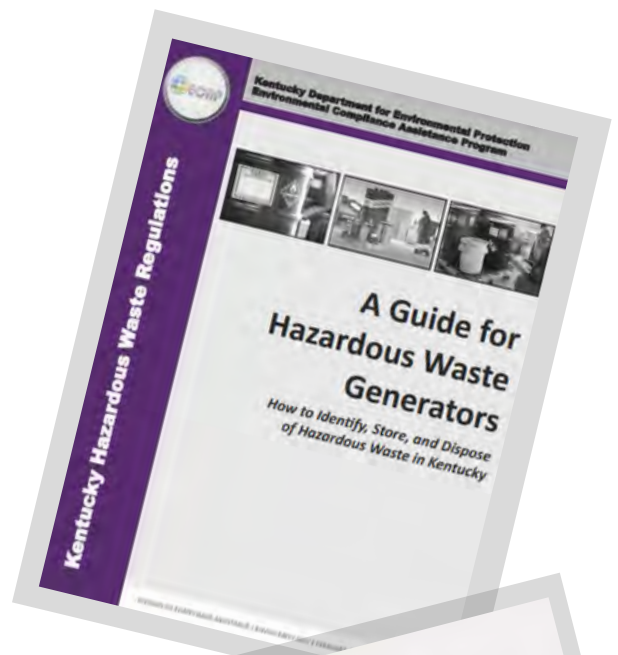


TOOL DEVELOPMENT

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 21 (FY21), ECAP continued to develop online resources and update traditional documents. Over the year, program staff developed two tutorial videos about the Kentucky Online Gateway, which is the way to submit all electronic forms to the Department for Environmental Protection. These videos cover how to make an account and how to navigate the system. During the latter part of the FY20, the program began developing online versions of its introductory environmental assistance workshops. Ten videos covering the basics of air quality, water quality, and waste management topics were developed throughout FY21. Staff are now in the process of making these available on the DEP website where they will be free for viewing at any time.

Also during the year, ECAP staff have reviewed many of our existing factsheets and documents to ensure they are up-to-date with regulations, including resources on biomass boilers, Agriculture Water Quality Plans, universal waste, aerosol can disposal, fugitive dust, proper handling of storm debris, and pharmaceutical disposal. Larger guidance documents have also been reviewed and updated, including the Hazardous Waste Generator's Handbook. Program staff also developed new documents on emerging issues, like hazardous wastes relating to vaping products.



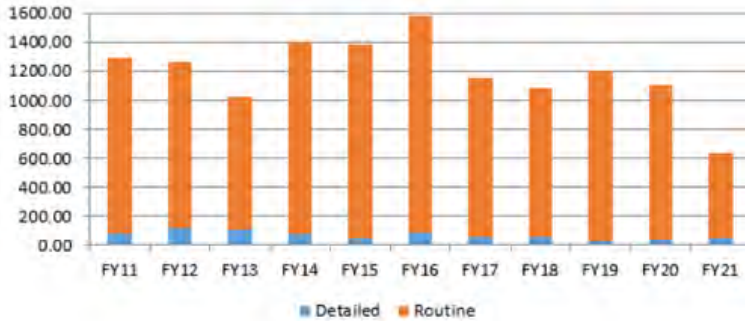
Environmental Compliance Resource Development

(Above) ECAP created and updated many online resources to assist citizens with environmental concerns and allow detailed assistance to small businesses navigating the Kentucky Online Gateway platform.

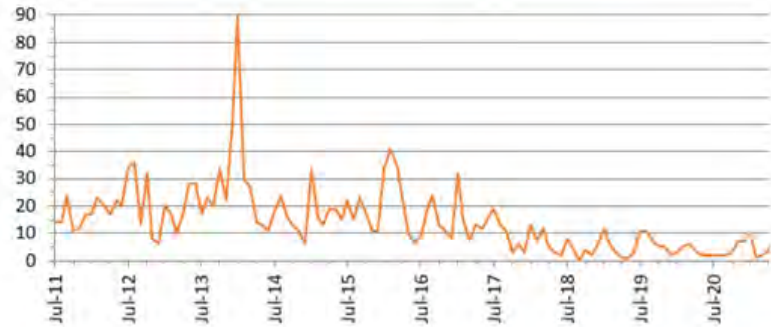


Environmental Compliance Assistance Program

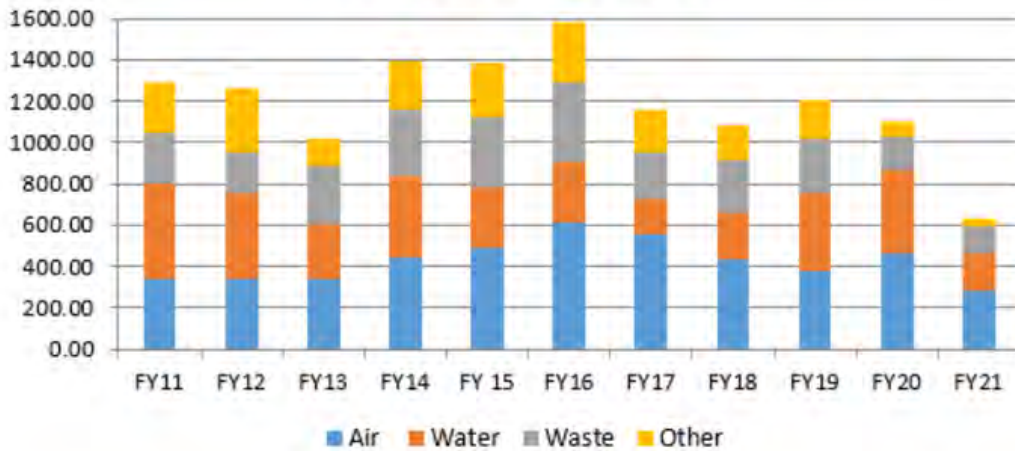
DETAILED VS ROUTINE REQUESTS



SMALL BUSINESS REQUESTS



ASSISTANCE BY MEDIA

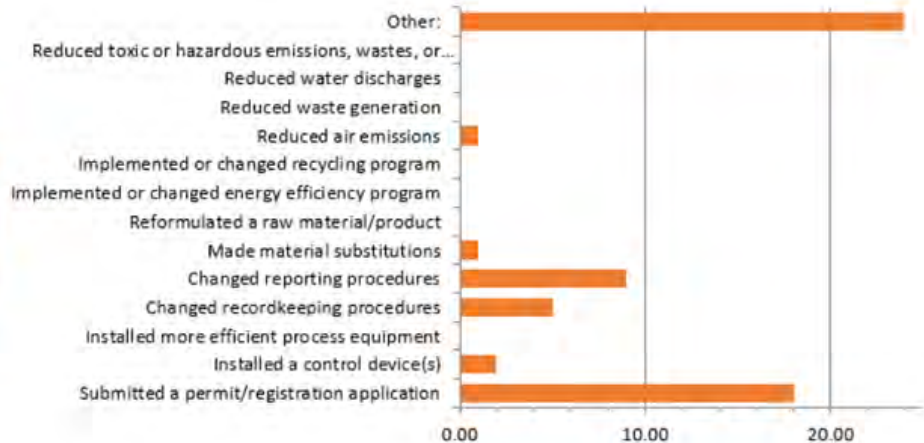


TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

- Technical - 127
- Permitting - 60
- Complaint - 13
- Regulatory - 16
- Site Visits - 2
- Ombudsman - 2
- Other - 423



CLIENT BEHAVIOR CHANGES





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 has 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 Excellence in Environmental Leadership (KY EXCEL)



KY EXCEL Projects Continue through Adversity

(Above): KY EXCEL Leader member Four Roses Distillery conducted a clean-up of approximately 250 pounds of trash from the Salt River in 2021.

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.



Manager
Derek Bozell

**Program
Coordinator**

Robyn Whitted

KY EXCEL Membership Types

Membership is annual. A new project proposal is required to renew each year..

KY EXCEL Membership categories

(Left) Those interested in joining KY EXCEL have different membership options to choose from.

Non-Regulated Membership Types	
FARM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must conduct production agriculture (5 acres +) or is an agriculture advocacy group • Submit at least 1 annual voluntary project proposal • Complete an annual project report for each proposed project the previous year
ADVOCATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit at least 1 annual voluntary project proposal • Complete an annual project report for each proposed project the previous year
Regulated Membership Types	
MASTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit at least 5 annual voluntary project proposals (1 of which must be environmental education or outreach in nature) • Complete an annual project report for each proposed project the previous year • Implement an environmental management plan • Conduct a third-party environmental assessment • Demonstrate past environmental compliance achievement
LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit at least 3 annual voluntary project proposals • Complete an annual project report for each proposed project the previous year • Implement an environmental management plan • Conduct a self-environmental assessment
PARTNER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit at least 1 annual voluntary project proposal • Complete an annual project report for each proposed project the previous year • Develop an environmental management plan • Conduct a self-environmental assessment

KY EXCEL (CONT.)

KY EXCEL provides a programmatic framework for companies, groups and individuals with the shared goal of taking on projects that help the environment and the people of the Commonwealth. The program was created with a tiered system to allow a variety of entities to participate. Members which are regulated by DEP include the Master, Leader, and Partner levels. The Master level is open to DEP regulated entities who have a sustained history of environmental compliance and perform 5 projects a year. The Leader, 3 projects a year, and Partner, 1 project a year, levels are available to DEP regulated entities who might have some environmental compliance concerns, but who have a desire to protect the environment while working to improve their compliance.

The Advocate level was developed for those not regulated by DEP but wish to take action. Advocate level members can be anyone. Current Advocate members include citizens, households, communities, local governments, non-DEP regulated businesses, schools and nonprofit groups.

In 2016, KY EXCEL's fifth membership level was developed, KY EXCEL Farm. The Farm level is open to all individuals and entities that own at least five acres of land and farm crops or livestock.

A unique part of the KY EXCEL program is all members conduct voluntary projects. Each project is designed to benefit Kentucky's environment in some manner. These projects can be tailored to fit the members work or lifestyle.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

KY EXCELEBRATION

This year's annual members meeting (known as the KY EXCELebration) virtually celebrated all of our members' accomplishments during the 2020 calendar year. We recognized four exemplary projects reported by members in 2020 by presenting them with a KY EXCEL Beacon Award. These awards were announced during during an online recognition ceremony. KY Staff created short videos about each of the 2021 and 2020 Beacon Award winning projects that were publicly released during the event.

Attendees were also treated to presentations from the awardees about their winning projects and environmental leadership efforts. Since the previous year's EXCELebration was canceled due to COVID-19, we also recognized the 6 Beacon Award winners from 2020. More than 30 members joined on the morning of March 31, 2021 to network with each other and support their fellow KY EXCEL members.

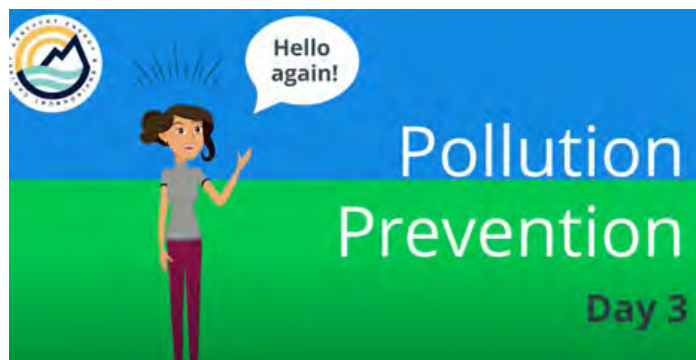
KY EXCEL MEMBER PROJECT EXCELLENCE

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.



KY EXCEL OPEN HOUSE

Environmental leadership was the theme as DCA hosted a virtual KY EXCEL Open House, on June 16, 2021. This event welcomed anyone interested in environmental leadership and innovation in the commonwealth. More than 50 people attended the day-long event comprised of presentations ranging from Kentucky American Water, KY EEC's Division of Compliance Assistance, Division of Water and Division of Waste Management on topics related to compliance, environmental leadership and voluntary project ideas.



KY EXCEL Pollution Prevention Series

(Above) Online trainings replaced traditional in-person workshops

KY EXCEL TRAINING

Due to COVID 19, no in person training or educational events were held. Instead, KY EXCEL staff developed multiple online pollution prevention educational resources which are accessible to KY EXCEL members and the general public at:

<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Compliance-Assistance/Pages/energy-efficiency-and-pollution-prevention-resources.aspx>

KY EXCEL BEACON AWARDS

Through the KY EXCEL Beacon Awards, DCA recognizes exemplary efforts and activities which were provided in the KY EXCEL Project Reports submitted in during the 2020 calendar year. One award was to be awarded for each project category during the annual KY EXCELebration. Unfortunately, the 2020 KY EXCELebration was canceled due to public health concerns. Both the 2020 and the 2021 Beacon Awards were presented during a virtual KY EXCELebration in March of 2021. All Beacon Award videos are available online at: <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Compliance-Assistance/Pages/membershipbenefits.aspx>

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 3 million gallons of water
- Planted more than 13,000 trees
- Recycled more than 400 tons of material
- Prevented more than 800 tons of pollution
- Educated more than 1,000 students and adults
- Participated in more than 80 river sweeps and litter pickups.



KY EXCEL Member Projects

(Left) Sherwood Acres, KY EXCEL Farm member, installed ground stabilization for a high traffic gate located on their farm. (Middle) In 2019, Kentucky American Water, KY EXCEL Master member, participated in the Bluegrass Greensource Sustainability Summit and (Left) a day of cleaning up invasive honey suckle in the Idle Hour neighborhood of Lexington, KY.



Kentucky Excellence in Environmental Leadership (KY EXCEL)

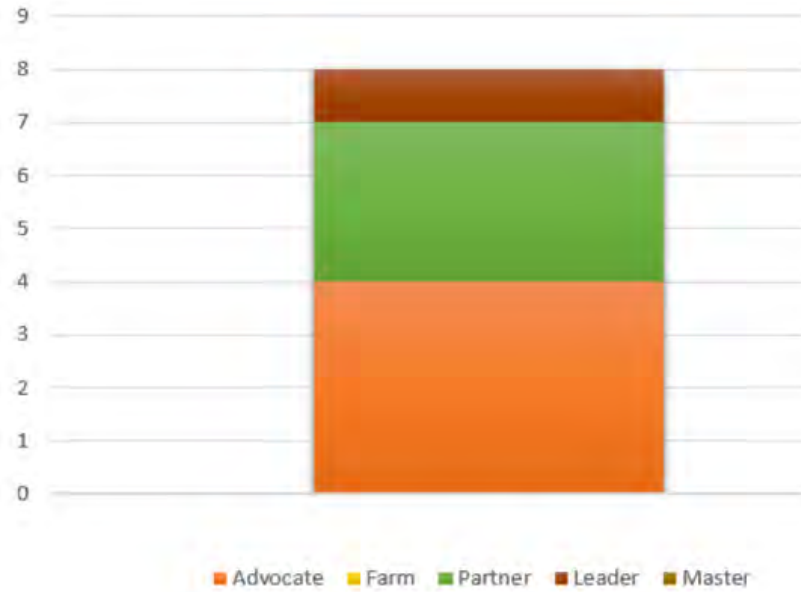


DOCUMENTS CREATED **21**

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

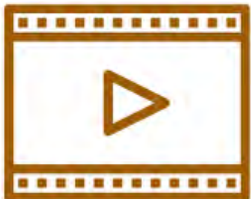


NEW MEMBERS FY21



VIDEOS CREATED

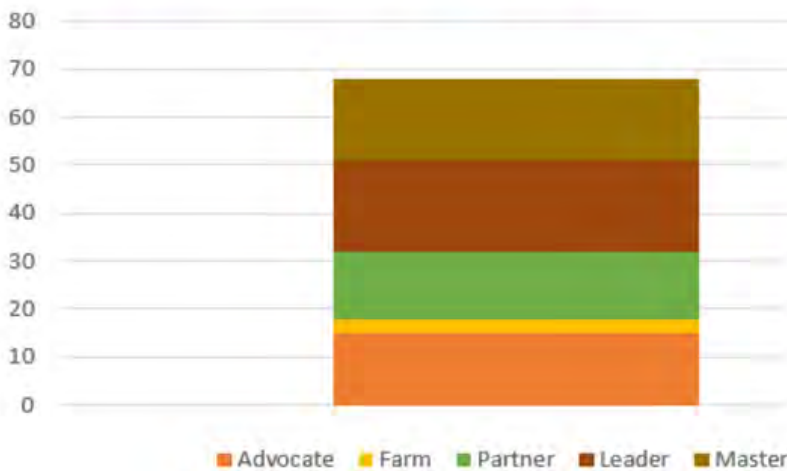
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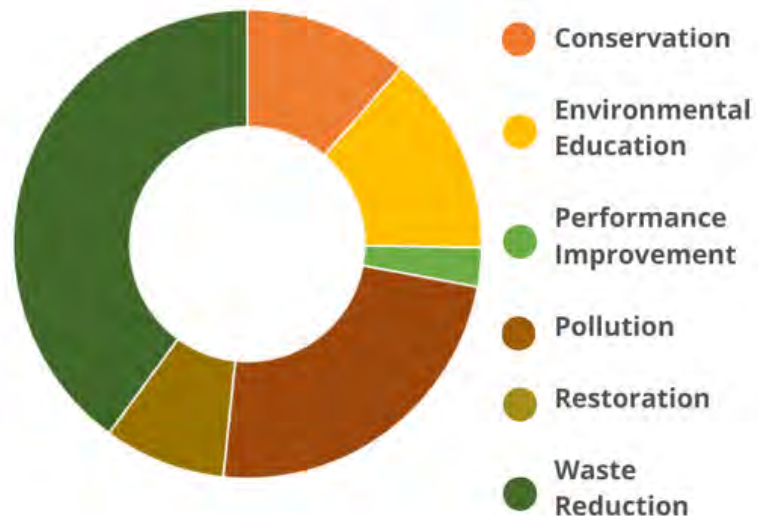
PROGRAM EVENTS

6

KY EXCEL MEMBER CATEGORIES



PROJECTS BY CATEGORY



Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program



Cleaning Up Brownfields One Site at a Time

(Above) Unlabeled barrels found at the site of a Phase 1 Assessment performed in 2020.



Environmental Assistance
Branch Staff

BROWNFIELDS IN KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program focuses on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment of contaminated or potentially contaminated properties. These properties, known as brownfields, are evidence of our industrial and commercial past. In addition to environmental concerns, brownfields can contribute to economic and social decline of a community.

Brownfields are found in neighborhoods and communities across the Commonwealth and are most common in underserved communities with housing and economic development needs. Redevelopment of a brownfield site, however, can bring new jobs, encourage private investment, provide for reuse of existing infrastructure, and increase the local tax base. To support redevelopment, Kentucky's brownfield program helps communities identify and mitigate these sites.

Manager
Derek Bozzell

**Program
Coordinators**

Eric Eisiminger
Lynn True

BROWNFIELDS (CONT.)

Despite the challenges of this past year, the program continued to build on its success. Through virtual workshops, online trainings, and strategic site assessments, staff continued to provide services to local governments, nonprofits and private entities. The program not only continued its tradition in assisting with EPA brownfield grants and Targeted Brownfield Assessments, it offered new opportunities for communities to learn how to navigate the barriers that impede redevelopment and economic growth.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Education and Outreach

In lieu of offering traditional grant writing workshops, staff prepared a webinar to be used as an online tool for learning about EPA Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) brownfield grants. The webinar offered helpful hints for writing proposals and submitting applications. Grant writing resources were also provided to help communities prepare successful grant applications.

To help facilitate brownfield redevelopment and promote environmental justice, presentations were provided to local governments, community groups, environmental professionals and other interested parties. A webinar developed for the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK), for example, focused on redeveloping and financing brownfields as part of downtown revitalization efforts. A webinar developed for KY EXCEL's Open House offered a different forum to explore how brownfield redevelopment promotes environmental justice by building strong communities

To keep communities engaged and aware of the latest brownfield news, the program's newsletter, Kentucky Brownfield Bits, was sent out monthly to nearly 400 subscribers. Likewise, many of the program's documents, fact sheets, and web pages were updated to ensure that communities had access to specific program initiatives.



Brownfield Grant Training Hosted Live Online

(Above) The traditional grant writing workshops were canceled and a live event was held. A recording of the training was posted online for participants to review or for those who could not attend.

Rebranding Initiative

In early fall of last year, Amanda LeFevre provided a presentation on the Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program at the Governor's Conference on the Environment. The information was well-received and the program caught the attention of Governor Beshear. Consequently, a rebranding initiative was suggested by the governor's office. While rebranding the program offers a fresh opportunity to launch a new look, refine the mission statement, and create a contemporary logo, it also opens the door to a broader audience.

ASTSWMO

Kentucky's brownfield staff continued to be involved with 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. In October of 2020, Amanda LeFevre finished her term as the ASTSWMO Brownfield Focus Group chairperson.

Assessments and Grants

Assessments and grant funding are a pivotal part of the brownfield program. Through the Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TAB) Program, Phase I Environmental Site Assessments continued to be offered as a free service to local governments, nonprofit organizations and other quasi-governmental agencies. Although site assessments had to be carefully planned due to travel restrictions, the state brownfield coordinator, Eric Eisiminger, successfully conducted assessments in Breckinridge County, Union County, and Jackson County.

Grant funding through EPA's Brownfield Program is provided each year to support underserved communities across the country. Although highly competitive, EPA selected four projects that were submitted by Kentucky last year. Collectively, the City of Danville, the Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation, the Lake Cumberland Area Development District, and the Owsley County Alliance for Recreation and Entertainment, received \$1,405,000 for brownfield assessment and cleanup.

Additionally, EPA selected the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet to receive \$500,000 in supplemental funding to clean up contaminated brownfield sites. The Cabinet will use the supplemental funding to support community projects through the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF).



Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation

The Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation project was one of four EPA Brownfield grant recipients. Pictured above are plans for the project. *Photo Credit: kentuckysteam.org*

Central Appalachian Brownfield Innovation Network

Program staff continued to collaborate with the Central Appalachian Brownfield Innovation Network (CABIN). As an ongoing regional effort, CABIN serves to educate stakeholders on complex redevelopment issues within Appalachia. CABIN also enables communities to work with peers, agency representatives, development professionals, and environmental experts.



Cumberland County Part of BAD Buildings Project

(Above) Cumberland County will participate in a project funded by an EPA Small technical Assistance Grant. *Photo Credit: (Top) Kentucky.gov and (Bottom) Flickr.com*

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, is in the process of completing their project and will soon begin the process of repayment. As repayment from loan recipients and supplemental funding from EPA provide continual funding for Kentucky communities, program staff will actively seek sites to evaluate for financial assistance in the coming year.

Brownfields, Abandoned and Dilapidated (BAD) Buildings Project

Late last year, program staff began renewing a contract with West Virginia's Northern Brownfield Assistance Center to conduct and demonstrate the BAD Buildings Program. After finalizing the contract, plans were made for implementing the project in Cumberland County. The project, made available through an EPA Small Technical Assistance Grant, will ultimately help Cumberland County create a Brownfields Redevelopment Plan.

The Plan will include an inventory of sites, a list of community priorities, a description of major infrastructure, and a descriptive analysis of each site. With the targeted completion date being October 2021, the Plan will complement an EPA Assessment Grant awarded to Cumberland County for FY2021. Ultimately, the BAD Buildings Project in Cumberland County will serve as a model for other Kentucky communities to learn how to address abandoned, dilapidated, and vacant properties.



Tracing a Brownfield's Past

(Above) Part of the Phase 1 Assessment process requires searching through old deeds to record the history of a site.



Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program



BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT & REUSE PROGRAM SITES (415)

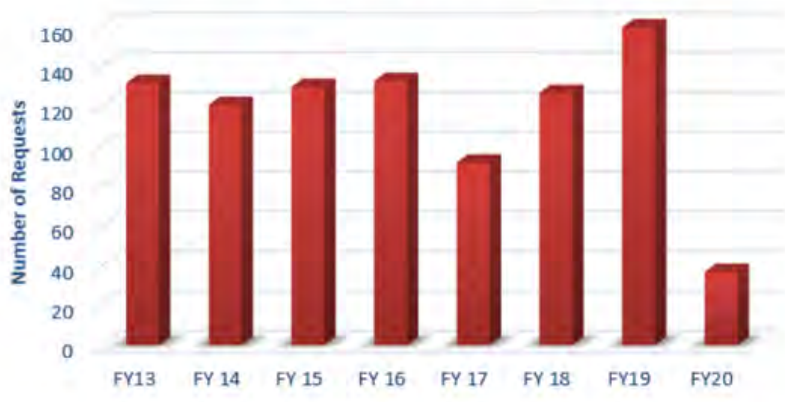
42



TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING

\$18,450,000.00

HELP DESK REQUESTS



GRANT SUCCESS RATES



ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED





DCA Annual Report | FY 20-21

