



# Case Study of Environmental Education Opportunities



Looking for something different to do? Want to have fun and learn in the process? Kentucky has a variety of opportunities to teach us ways to protect and enhance the environment. Organizations around the state are involved in environmental projects that are open to the public. Visit the sites listed and learn about the environmental and stewardship efforts being made by these environmental leaders, some of whom are KY EXCEL members. KY EXCEL (<http://dca.ky.gov/kyexcel/Pages/default.aspx>) is Kentucky's environmental leadership program, which is open to individuals, businesses, local governments and organizations.



dry goods store is a prime example of the potential to be sustainable that exists in older structures.

Deciding to go green when they began renovating the structure, owners Gil and Augusta Holland used regional materials, including low-emission paint and coatings; skylights, especially in surrounded spaces to allow natural light and reduce the need for electricity; recycled denim insulation; steel framing with 70 percent recycled content; drought-tolerant landscaping with rainwater recapture; recyclable content in all materials; the original stamped

“There are wonderful opportunities for people of all ages to learn about and appreciate Kentucky’s beautiful environment.”

tin ceiling; construction pollution prevention and waste management; water efficiency and recycled and reused materials. Visitors are encouraged to visit The Green Building, where a large number of public events are held each year.

**The Green Building** (<http://www.thegreenbuilding.net>), located in Metro Louisville, is that city’s first commercial building to achieve platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification and is Kentucky’s first Platinum Adaptive Reuse Project. The award-winning renovation of the 115-year-old former

**Sanitation District 1 (SD1)** [http://www.sd1.org/Education/Field\\_Trips\\_and\\_Tours.aspx](http://www.sd1.org/Education/Field_Trips_and_Tours.aspx), in northern

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Kentucky, has stormwater and wastewater field trips and tours at its Public Service Park, offering an outdoor environmental education center with interactive learning opportunities. Located on the banks of Banklick Creek, the Public Service Park is an innovative facility that features many educational tools and Best Management Practices. Structured field trips/tours are designed to enlighten visitors about the vital importance of protecting our waterways. The Public Service Park's Journey of a Drop of Water field trip is the winner of NACWA's (National Association for Clean Water Agencies) 2005 National Environmental Achievement Award. Tours of the Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Villa Hills and the Eastern Regional Water Reclamation Facility in Alexandria last about 60 minutes and are open to all middle/high



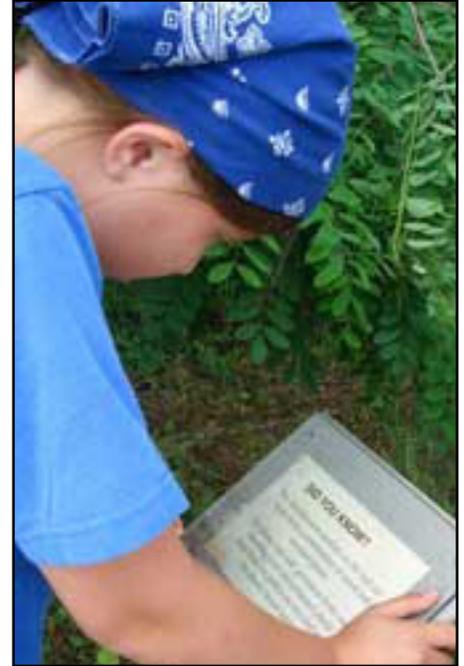
The Green Building demonstrates that older buildings can be sustainable.

school students and adults.

A major employer in Kentucky and manufacturer of the Toyota Camry, **Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc. (TMMK)** (<http://www.toyotageorgetown.com/enviro6.asp>), in Georgetown, is the site of the Toyota Environmental Education Center and Nature Trail. Located near 50 acres of wetlands, prairies and woodlands, TMMK has created a milelong nature trail that features native grasses, bluebird boxes and Kentucky cane and trail markers that identify Kentucky's history and natural treasures. Picnickers will enjoy the covered pavilion as they commune with nature.

**Lafarge Silver Grove** (<http://www.wildlifehc.org/registry/lafarge-67/>), in Campbell County, consists of 200 acres, with 100 acres reserved as a wildlife habitat. The company's environmental committee made a commitment to protect the wildlife habitat and diverse ecosystem by implementing a nesting structures program and a variety of other wildlife habitat projects.

Native species, including grasses and trees, were planted and labeled for identification and



Trail markers at TMMK identify Kentucky's history and natural treasures.

educational purposes, throughout the property. A nature trail highlights the wildlife habitat projects. An on-site classroom, built in part by the Silver Grove Wildlife Habitat Council, which is certified in Corporate Lands for Learning, is part laboratory, part bird blind, and part classroom with lab benches and educational materials on hand. The site staff, with several community partners, works to create high-quality educational programs. Some of the programs include "Life Cycle of a Bee", where students observe an active hive and may pull-out

**HELPFUL HINT:** Opportunities to learn about the environment and how to preserve and protect it are all around us. Check into all that your community has to offer.



The LFUCG Recycling Center processes an amazing amount of items daily.

educational combs with live bees; “Tree ID”; “Sustainability Tours”, which highlight the plant and how they work in cooperation with the environment; “Owl Pellet Discovery” and “Water-Quality Testing,” where students gather data about the two ponds on-site and assess the quality for wildlife health. All curricula used by the SGWHC are correlated to Kentucky State Standards, and written with the assistance of local teachers.

Horse Cave’s **American Cave Conservation Association** (<http://hiddenrivercave.com/Programs.html>) offers many programs for students and adults. The Caving Adventure Tour goes 150 feet into the depths of Hidden River Cave, off the beaten path, to allow participants an opportunity to view the fragile cave ecosystem, formations and little-seen cave wildlife. Other tours and programs examine fossils from an ancient ocean, the karst landscape of south central Kentucky, karst water cycle and Hidden River Cave.

The **Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) Recycling Center** (<http://>

[www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?recordid=2773&page=2698](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?recordid=2773&page=2698)) is a busy place. More than 100 tons of recyclable materials are brought to Lexington’s recycling center each day, where they are sorted into categories, bundled, and shipped off to various vendors where they are repurposed into new products. Old phone books become insulation, aluminum cans eventually become coils, plastic bottles are made into shipping carton straps, and cardboard is made into fiberboard and more cardboard.

Free tours of Lexington’s recycling center are given the first Thursday and Saturday of January, April, July and October. Register in advance by calling 859-367-4948 or via email at [emoberly@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:emoberly@lexingtonky.gov). Schools or large groups can be accommodated at other times, but arrangements must be made in advance.

Teachers are encouraged to bring students to the **Salato Wildlife Education Center** in Frankfort where they can enjoy a unique learning experience in a natural outdoor setting and bring a picnic lunch. Visit the Eastern Forest Diorama, see live snakes and giant turtles, learn about restored species through hands-on, interactive displays and

computer programs. Outdoors, the trails are paved and accessible to wheelchairs. Study eagles, bison, bears, elk and prairies in their large, natural habitats. Visit the Dragonfly Marsh or take a day hike on one of the many trails. Experience the Animal Tracks Wildlife Audio Tour and receive detailed information about the animals and habitats on display and what is needed to conserve them.

For more information or to schedule a school field trip, visit <http://fw.ky.gov/Navigation.aspx?cid=130>.



Children enjoy learning at the Salato Wildlife Education Center.

