



A Decade of Protecting
Kentucky's Environment



Created in 2006, KY EXCEL is a statewide program that encourages individuals, organizations and businesses to go above and beyond the requirements of environmental regulations. With members spread across the Commonwealth, there is probably one near you.

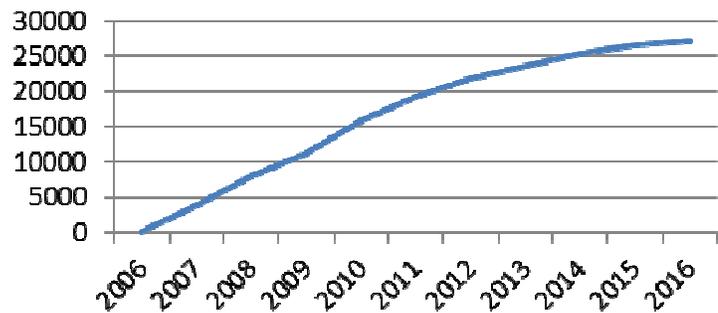
This year marks 10 years of KY EXCEL members working to improve Kentucky's environment!

In that time, our members have completed or are currently working on 2,996 projects. More than 27,000 individuals have contributed their time and efforts to make these projects a success. Member projects are at the heart of KY EXCEL, and our members have completed a wide variety of projects and used different approaches to similar projects. Many member projects are targeted at pollution prevention and energy efficiency. In this document, you will see several examples of how a few of the inaugural members have approached and completed projects as part of their commitment to the environment and membership in KY EXCEL.



A Young Lady Enjoys Bluegrass GreenSource's GreenFest 2016.

KY EXCEL Participants



Number of people working on KY EXCEL projects since 2006

Bluegrass GreenSource, a nonprofit organization, joined KY EXCEL on July 24, 2006, and provides environmental education in a 20-county area of central Kentucky.

During its time as a member, the group has completed many educational projects, such as educating homeowners on the proper care of their septic systems. Properly operated septic systems help reduce groundwater pollution.

Bluegrass GreenSource has partnered with different organizations to do storm drain stenciling. The stenciling reminds people that the water flows to a river and encourages them to not dump trash in the storm drains.

**Over 10 years, KY EXCEL members
have educated 222,422 employees,
students and adults!**



Education can be one of the first steps to instilling change. Lessons learned will provide benefits to Kentucky for many years to come!

Bluegrass Greensource had local artists paint rain barrels. These rain barrels are used to capture stormwater to use for watering landscaping instead of using treated water.



**J.M. Smucker Company
Stormwater Tanks**

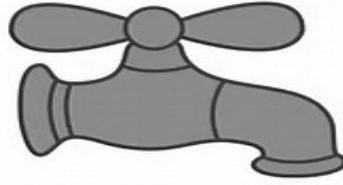
Kentucky has abundant water resources, which cannot be taken for granted. Water conservation is important due to the increased demand for clean water.

The J.M. Smucker Company, a leader member who joined on July 24, 2006, has taken water conservation seriously. The company has installed bioswales to reduce the chances of stormwater pollution. It has also installed brick pavers in areas of the facility. This pervious surface allows rainwater to recharge groundwater aquifers. Tanks were installed to capture stormwater, which is then used to water the landscape.

American Cave Conservation Association joined KY EXCEL as an advocate member on November 27, 2006. ACCA is dedicated to the protection of caves, karstlands and groundwater resources and educates individuals on a daily basis about the significance of our resources.



**KY EXCEL members
have saved 232 million
gallons of water.**



**This would fill 351
Olympic-sized pools
with that amount of
water!**



AP Science Student at
American Cave
Conservation
Association learning
about sinkhole modeling.



Conserving this water has saved our members nearly \$350,000, and also meant electricity was not needed to treat additional water for landscaping and other uses.

American Synthetic Rubber Company's Natural Area



Additionally, they have undertaken the task of increasing honeybee populations, with two hives on-site and a third hive planned for the future. The honey from the hives is harvested and given away at community events. Besides the honeybees, deer, foxes, turkeys, snakes, possums, raccoons and butterflies can all be found in the natural area.

Master member American Synthetic Rubber Company, who joined on March 24, 2006, has taken a former landfill and converted it to a natural area for wildlife habitats. Employees and volunteers have planted trees and native plants and created pollinator hotels, which provide a home for solitary pollinators, such as wasps.



A Pollinator Hotel

KY EXCEL members have planted 174,884 trees, removing 4,200 tons of carbon dioxide from the air!



Trees play an important role in nature by providing food, habitat, shade and oxygen. The amount of carbon dioxide removed from the air equates to removing 1,000 cars from Kentucky's roadways!



Kentucky enjoys a wide variety of landscapes from the mountains of eastern Kentucky to the Bluegrass Region of central Kentucky and the plains of western Kentucky. To help protect and preserve these areas, AGC Automotive, a master member who joined on Nov. 15, 2006, began recycling programs at its facility to recover white and colored paper and newsprint.



AGC Automotive has installed drinking fountains with built-in water bottle refilling stations to curb plastic waste. The water bottle refilling stations have been a huge success. At just one

of the stations, over 45,000 bottles have been refilled. AGC is just one of many KY EXCEL members who are battling pollution by recycling. As you can see, our members have recovered a tremendous amount of materials.



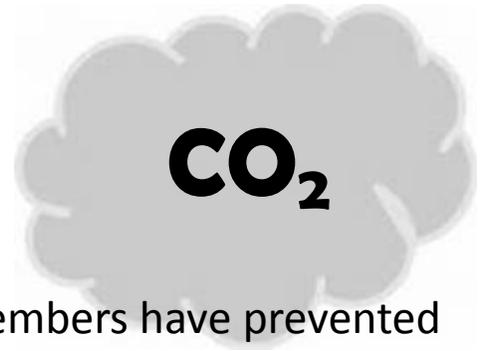
Recycling achievements of KY EXCEL members over the past 10 years

- Recycled 930.5 tons of aluminum**
- Recycled 6,686.7 tons of cardboard**
- Recycled 18,675 tons of paper**
- Recycled 1,941 tons of plastic**

The recycling projects our members initiate not only conserve large amounts of landfill space, but they have other benefits as well. There are hidden benefits to recycling, such as many companies in Kentucky depend on recycled materials as a part of their daily business. Another benefit is the use of fewer raw materials. When you recycle aluminum cans, it takes 95 percent less electricity than creating a can from virgin material. When creating bottles for water, using recycled plastic saves about 30 percent versus using new plastic. Our members are leading Kentucky into a more sustainable future through their recycling programs!

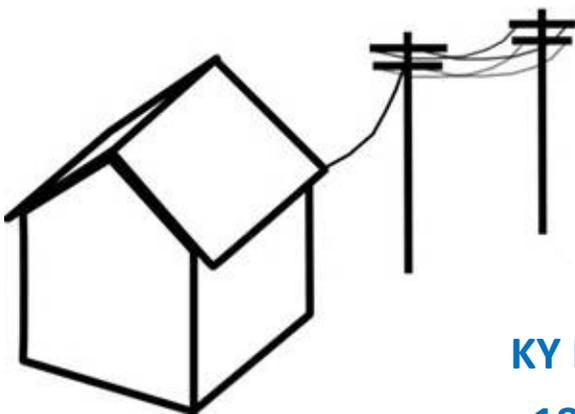


LED Lighting at a Member's Facility



KY EXCEL members have prevented the emission of 23,550 tons of carbon dioxide through energy efficiency!

Due to abundant and dependable electricity, Kentucky has become a manufacturing hub. But as with many resources, there is an increasing demand for electricity. Energy efficiency is an easy way to save money and reduce electrical demand. Several KY EXCEL members have conducted projects to improve their energy efficiency. Some project examples are installing occupancy sensors, replacing older lights with LEDs, improving the building envelope and installing building automation systems.



The amount of electricity conserved by KY EXCEL members is enough to supply electric power to 16,059 Kentucky homes for one year. Conserving electricity has monetary benefits, and it also reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in the air. Carbon dioxide is a by-product of generating electricity.

KY EXCEL members have conserved 188,000 megawatts of electricity.

KY EXCEL Inaugural Members



Kenya Stump



We would like to thank all of our members for supporting KY EXCEL. A special thank you goes out to our inaugural members who have participated for 10 years. Without your support and encouragement, we couldn't be where we are today.

It seems like yesterday we were trying to decide how the program should be set up. Thanks to you, our program has shown tremendous results and is one of the larger environmental excellence programs in the U.S. EPA's Region 4! With your help, we can continue this great work and celebrate again in another 10 years!