



Statewide Environmental Education Opportunities & Connections Abound

by Elizabeth Schmitz, Executive Director, Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)

Environmental education continues to build momentum all across the Commonwealth, thanks to statewide and local innovation, and teachers like those partnering with Eastern Kentucky PRIDE. Here are some opportunities for you to connect!

Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools (KGHS)

A program of KEEC, KGHS has over 275 schools enrolled statewide. Students and teachers in KGHS schools are developing research, team building and problem solving skills as they explore their school, document baseline conditions and design projects to improve the health and sustainability of their schools.

As in the past, KEEC/KGHS are partnering with the Kentucky National Energy Education Development (Ky. NEED) Project to host an annual Youth Summit and Awards Luncheon. This year, the event will take place Thursday, April 24, in Frankfort.

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5 Ways to Spend \$1,500 by 5/31

We want to give you \$1,500 for your environmental education program. Please apply by March 14 for a 2014 PRIDE Environmental Education Contract. Funds must be spent by May 31, 2014. Learn more on *Page 3* or at <http://kypride.org/?p=3555>.

Not sure how to spend \$1,500 so quickly? *Earth Day* activities are a great idea, and we have suggested a few on *Page 8*. Here are five other ways to use your contracts:

- 1. Books and multimedia (\$500):** Inspire new thinking about our world with a library of nature books, software, DVDs or CDs. Spend up to \$500 on multimedia and \$500 on books. Ask your librarian for ideas. For books, shop from this list: <http://kypride.org/educate/book-list/>.
- 2. Digital cameras (\$500):** A photo contest is a great way to open eyes to beauty in our own background. Spend up to \$500 to buy five cameras for students to explore the great outdoors.
- 3. Habitat (\$750):** Attract wildlife for your students to observe by creating or enlarging animal habitat at your school. For a local source of squirrel feeders, woodpecker boxes, barn owl box, bat houses, butterfly houses, blue bird houses, wood duck boxes, bird houses and feeders, contact GC&E Enterprises of Whitley City at 606.376.3477 or gcande@highland.net.
- 4. Outdoor upgrades (\$750):** Make your outdoor classroom space more functional by adding electricity, water or a tool shed. Spend up to \$750 on each item.
- 5. Recycling bins (\$1,250):** Are your hand-drawn recycling symbols wearing off the trash cans you turned into recycling bins? Invest up to \$1,250 in new recycling bins, stamped with logos that won't fade and fitted with sorting tops. Check your janitor's supply catalogs.

INSIDE

Resources for You

We gathered resources to support your good work as an environmental educator. We list three funding sources and a contest.

See Page 3

Your Stories & Pics

Thank you for sending us stories and photos of your environmental education activities. Good news should be shared, and we are honored to play that role for our region. Inside are items from Adair, Breathitt, Monroe and Perry Counties, as well as the stories of our PRIDE Environmental Education Project of the Month winners.

See Pages 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Earth Day, Etc.

Make your plans now to celebrate Earth Day, Global Youth Services Day and National Volunteer Week, all in April.

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Limited travel scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis (some restrictions apply). Schools are not required to submit KGHS projects in order to attend as long as they are registered in the KGHS program. However, Ky. NEED Project teams must submit a portfolio in order to attend.

The Summit is a great way to learn about projects that other schools have implemented, gaining ideas and momentum for next year! Between 10 and 15 school representatives may attend, depending on program involvement.

KGHS/NEED Project/Youth Summit Deadlines

- 3/18/14 Submit KGHS projects for recognition at the Summit
- 4/3/14 Schools register to attend
- 4/15/14 Submit NEED portfolios for recognition at the Summit

The registration form is available at <http://greenschools.ky.gov>.

EInKentucky.org

Did you know that Kentucky has a one-stop shop web site for environmental education? The web site, <http://www.einkentucky.org>, is a great way to find or share grant resources, programs, learning opportunities and more.

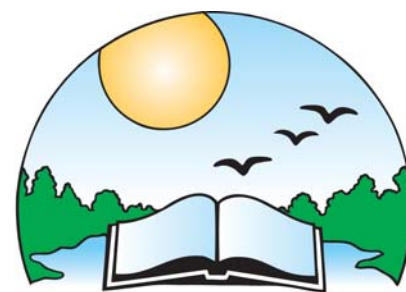
Schools can sign up to create their own page, where they highlight "green" student team projects implemented in classrooms, schools or communities! It is easy and free to sign up to get a user name and password. From there, you can create your school profile or publish local events, at your own pace. And anybody can search the web site for grants, professional development opportunities, presenters and more.

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

There has been a lot of buzz about the Next Generation Science Standards, here in Kentucky and across the country. The NGSS were formally written into Kentucky statute in June of 2013, which made them part of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS). While a legislative committee found the standards deficient when voting whether to adopt them into the KCAS, this finding of deficiency was overruled by Governor Beshear on the same day. Thus, for all intents and purposes, the NGSS have been adopted into the KCAS and are part of Kentucky's formal education standards. The Kentucky Department for Education (KDE) is working now on a plan for implementation of the standards. It is anticipated, but not yet confirmed, that the first year of testing on the new standards will take place during the 2015-2016 school year.

KEEC is partnering with KDE and a number of other education-based stakeholders to connect environmental education to the science standards. While these correlations are not yet available, we hope to have them ready for public viewing before the 2014-2015 school year.

The good news is that environmental education, with its experiential roots, is a great fit for teachers looking for new ways to implement the new science standards.



**KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COUNCIL**

"Capture the Earth" Photo Contest for Grades 6-8

The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet is holding its fourth-annual "Capture the Earth" digital photography contest for all Kentucky students in grades six to eight. Judges will look for originality and creativity, photo composition and a brief explanation of how well the photograph celebrates the beauty and diversity of Kentucky and encourages others to care about the state's environment through stewardship and conservation.

Encourage your students to enter the contest and allow them to use the digital cameras you purchased with PRIDE funds. Whether the photo is a native wildflower or wildlife, a landscape or waterscape, this contest is a chance to share their photography skills and help create a greater interest in the outdoors. The contest winner will receive two nights' lodging at any Kentucky State Resort Park with his or her family.

Entries will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 4, 2014. Middle school students may e-mail one photograph as an attachment to Kidsphotocontest@ky.gov. It doesn't matter when the photo was taken as long as the student is the photographer and the photograph was taken in Kentucky.

Official contest rules: <http://eec.ky.gov/Pages/earthday.aspx>

RESOURCES FOR YOU

2014 PRIDE Environmental Education Contracts

We are now accepting applications for the PRIDE Environmental Education Contract Program, thanks to an award from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The funds can be used for a variety of educational activities that promote awareness of the importance of a clean environment, personal responsibility and community pride. Projects focusing on energy efficiency and conservation, recycling and solid waste management will receive higher priority.

The contract amount will be up to \$1,500. Please note that PRIDE Club funding is an ineligible expense.

Eligible Applicants

The contract will be awarded to the school board or nonprofit organization that represents the eligible applicant. Eligible applicants include public and private schools, nonformal educators and nonprofit organizations from the following counties: Adair, Bath, Bell, Breathitt, Boyd, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Floyd, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley and Wolfe.

Recipients of 2013 PRIDE Environmental Education Contracts are eligible to apply. Your application can be an extension of work started with your 2013 contract.



Applications

The application is available online as a PDF at <http://kypride.org/?p=3555>. Please fill in the form and then print the completed application.

To submit the application, please mail, e-mail, fax or hand deliver it to PRIDE. The application must be received by PRIDE or postmarked by March 14, 2014. (The original deadline was

March 7, but it was postponed due to weather-related school closures.)

Schedule

Contract recipients will be announced in March 2014. The contract period will extend from March 2014 to June 30, 2014. All funds must be spent by May 31, 2014; no extensions will be granted.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the PRIDE office at PRIDE@centertech.com or 1.888.577.4339 (toll free).

ARC Funding

Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc., agrees and warrants that 66% of the program will be financed by federal funding with the remaining 34% financed by state and local resources. Total project cost is \$266,501, of which \$175,000 will be funded by ARC.

Other Grants

Whole Kids Foundation School Garden Grants

This program is for any stage of a school garden, from planning to continuing operation, with a maximum award of \$2,000. Schools or nonprofits supporting a garden at a school are eligible to apply. After filling out the brief questionnaire, you will get a response in 24 hours inviting you to make a full application based on your organization's eligibility. They have sponsored gardens in Kentucky, and it is not necessary to be located near a Whole Foods to be eligible. Applications are usually due in the fall, and grants are awarded in the spring. To apply, watch: <http://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/programs/school-garden-grant-program>

Farm Credit Mid-America Support for Rural America Program

This program supports agricultural programs and educational efforts, giving priority to youth and young farmers, in order to contribute to the long term success of agriculture. It supports agriculture in many ways, including FFA and 4-H. Amounts can vary from \$100 to \$10,000 or more, depending on the project. Applications are available at local Farm Credit Mid-America offices, and they are accepted year-round. Web: <http://services.e-farmcredit.com/newsroom/community/community-giving/>



PRIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONTRACTS: SNAPSHOTS

Adair Co. High: Reusing Glass as Illuminated Art

by **Shamarie Claiborne, Adair County Board of Education**

Sheila Willis (Environmental Science) in collaboration with Heather Spoon (Energy Academy) and Debra Wimmer (Advanced Art) have created a cross-subject unit that incorporates components from each of their areas of expertise. Students from all three classes are excited.

This unique group of students will be creating a work of art that will be displayed in the Adair County High School PRIDE Arboretum in May 2014. The art will be in the medium of light so it will be viewed at night. The inspiration for the project came from art work created by Bruce Munro. Personally, I predict people will be coming from all over the state to see what these children and teachers have created.

But they need the community's help. The major component in the project is recycling. The kids need these items from you: 24-ounce glass spaghetti sauce jars and 6-ounce baby food jars with the labels removed and jars washed (please).

You might be asking how many they need. The answer is as many as you can bring. The more the students have to work with, the larger the end product.

And not only will you be helping to create something beautiful that will allow our children to "shine." You will be keeping a few more items out of the landfill.

In closing I will just say the Claiborne household will be eating more spaghetti ... to try and do our part. And if you would like to see some of Bruce Munro's work and the inspiration for the project (so you can have a hint of what is coming) go to <http://www.brucemunro.co.uk>. Our students will be creating their own take on his idea. It should truly be a sight to see.

Ms. Willis, Ms. Spoon and Ms. Wimmer would like to say thank you to everyone in advance for their help with this project.

So get to eating! Spaghetti that is... to help make Adair County a little "brighter."

This article is excerpts from a message to the community by Shamarie Claiborne, District Migrant Recruiter/Homebound Teacher/Media Promotions/Technology, Adair County Board of Education. We thank her for the story and photo.



Shown working on the fiber optic component of the project from left are Emily Peck from Advanced Art, Elizabeth McGaha from the Energy Academy and Shane Adams from the Environmental Science class.

Breathitt Co. Conservation District: Class in Session

The Breathitt County Conservation District is using its \$1,750 PRIDE contract to lead lessons at local schools on recycling, reducing planet pollution, and conserving energy and water. Thanks to Linda Oaks, Secretary of the Breathitt County Conservation District, for submitting these photos taken at Highland-Turner Elementary School and Marie Roberts-Caney Elementary School.



Left: Highland-Turner Elementary School Principal Robert Stewart and third-grade students turned old CDs into art.



Right: Highland-Turner Elementary School third-grade students made artwork from reused items in Bonnie Cole's class.



Left: At Marie Roberts-Caney Elementary School, third and fourth-grade students showed off their PRIDE artwork in Tammy Keene's classroom.



Right: At Marie Roberts-Caney Elementary School, students in Chassidi Strong's fourth-grade class showed their artwork and bags from the conservation district.

Tompkinsville Elementary: New Recycling Bins

Monroe County's Tompkinsville Elementary School spent the majority of its \$1,750 contract on new recycling bins for the school's classrooms and hallways. We thank Dana Hammer, who teaches Science Lab and sponsors the PRIDE Club, for sharing these photos of PRIDE Club members with some new bins.



Leatherwood Elementary: License Plate Birdhouses

Perry County's Leatherwood Elementary School used its PRIDE contract to buy birdhouse kits, along with a several other environmental education resources. The birdhouses featured reused license plates.

We thank Principal Kenny Roark for sending us these pictures of a few birdhouses built by seventh-grade students.



PRIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECTS OF THE MONTH

We lift up these projects as creative, effective ways to promote environment awareness and stewardship. Learn more at <http://kypride.org/category/news/project-of-the-month/>. Nominate at <http://kypride.org/nominate>.

August: Lee Co. High's Bluebird Web Cam

The Lee County High School PRIDE Club used a web cam to give all students in the district a rare view inside a bluebird box. The bluebirds can be observed safely, without disturbing their normal activity. Students observed a pair of bluebirds as they built their nest, laid eggs and raised the hatchlings. PRIDE Club members used the web cam while mentoring elementary and middle school students.

The PRIDE Club originally installed the web cam for its own observations in 2011. In the 2012-2013 school year, they expanded the project by broadcasting the real-time video on the district's computer network. Leslie Cable and Jana Durbin, who co-sponsor the PRIDE Club, spearheaded the project. John Profitt, the District Technology Coordinator, assisted the PRIDE Club with the web cam and broadcast.

PHOTO: Congressman Hal Rogers, who co-founded PRIDE, presented the award to Lee County High School students and faculty.



November: Letcher Co. Central High's River Cleanup



The Letcher County Central High School PRIDE Club members volunteered on a Saturday to clean a stretch of the North Fork of the Kentucky River, which is important to their community's health and economy. The cleanup was organized by Headwaters, Inc., a community watershed group in Whitesburg.

The PRIDE Club members joined volunteers from Headwaters and AmeriCorps to remove trash and other debris that had been making it difficult for canoes to navigate the river. They collected a truckload of garbage in just a few hours.

Regina Donour is the LCCHS PRIDE Club sponsor, and she is active in the Headwaters organization.

PHOTO: LCCHS PRIDE Club members posed with some of the trash they pulled from the Kentucky River on Nov. 23.

September: Laurel Co. Extension's 4-H Eco EDventures

The Laurel County Extension Service held its 4-H Eco EDventures program over four days in late August and early September at the JM Feltner 4-H Camp in London. Eight local schools sent 610 students, who spent an entire day at the event. They learned about fuel-efficient vehicles, water pollution, forest fires, solar energy, recycling, bees, Kentucky wood products and Kentucky furbearers.

The lessons were presented by the Kentucky Department of Air Quality, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky NEED Project, PRIDE, Southeastern Kentucky Beekeepers Association, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture (Forestry), Bell County Extension Service and Laurel County Extension Service.

PHOTO: Laurel County 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent Kim Whitson accepted the award from PRIDE's Jennifer Johnson.



December: Hazel Green's Recycling Fundraiser



For two weeks in December, Laurel County's Hazel Green Elementary School encouraged students to save every piece of plastic used in their homes and bring it to school to be recycled. Fourth and fifth-grade math students calculated that the school collected the equivalent of 1,539 16-ounce plastic water bottles. The school was paid for the plastic through the London Regional Recycling Center's incentive program, which has paid \$27,432 to local schools since 2008.

Hazel Green held its own fundraiser during its two-week recycling project. Students sold reusable aluminum water bottles to raise money for the school's environmental education activities.

PHOTO: Fifth-grade math students from Tracie Hacker's class posed with some of the plastic bottles collected for recycling. Photo by Bianca Hawkins, the AmeriCorps/Operation UNITE tutor who organized the recycling project.

October: Tyner Elementary's Design Contest Entries

Jackson County's Tyner Elementary School submitted the most entries in PRIDE's region-wide contest for students to design a T-shirt related to Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment. All third, fourth and fifth graders entered the contest, for a total of 196 entries from Tyner Elementary. They used their own words and drawings to motivate people to keep Jackson County clean.

Carla Gabbard, the Jackson County PRIDE Environmental Education Liaison, used the contest as one of her hands-on lessons with third, fourth and fifth grade classes, which she instructs during their library class time at least once a month at all local schools. Gabbard thanked Tina Huff, the Tyner Elementary School librarian, and Tim Johnson, the principal, for allowing her time with the students.

PHOTO: Tyner Elementary School students and staff accepted the award from PRIDE's Jennifer Johnson.



January: Corbin Primary's Nature Photo Contest



In January, 175 kindergarten students at Corbin Primary School participated in a nature photo contest. Kindergarten teachers checked out the digital cameras, which were purchased with PRIDE funds, from the school's Family Resource Center. Teachers taught students how to use the cameras, and then the students photographed nature scenes. In each class, students voted to select two photos that would represent their class in the photo contest.

A committee of office personnel judged the contest and selected one winning photo. The winning class received with a butterfly habitat, which also was purchased with PRIDE funds. Megan Davenport, Family Resource Center Coordinator, organized the contest.

PHOTO: A snow-covered tree and tire swing were featured in the photo that won the nature photo contest.



2014 EARTH DAY, ETC.

April 22: Earth Day

Earth Day began in 1970 and is now celebrated in 192 countries. Earth Day has become so popular, you likely will find many ideas for activities with your students (for example, try <http://www.earthday.org>). Also, the public will be primed for your outreach efforts.

We have seen many successful Earth Day activities in our region's schools over the past 17 years. Below are a few examples that may help you plan your own project. Keep in mind the 2014 PRIDE Environmental Education Contracts to fund your Earth Day activities.

- **Cleanup:** Conduct a cleanup event on campus, along adjacent streets, in a nearby park, or at a local stream or lake. We'll provide your trash bags and gloves.
- **Trees:** Use your PRIDE contract to buy native trees and then plant them on your campus or in a local park.
- **Photo contest:** Sponsor a nature photo contest among your students or within your community.
- **Pledge drive:** Use your PRIDE contract to buy compact fluorescent light bulbs and give them to people who agree to sign

a pledge to replace at least one light in their home with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb.

- **Give aways:** Use your PRIDE contract to buy reusable shopping bags or recycling bins. Set up a booth at a local store or community event and give away the bags or bins with information about reusing and recycling.
- **Competition:** Organize an Earth Day contest among classrooms in your school or among schools in your district. They could compete to achieve a variety of environmental goals, such as bringing in recyclables, collecting anti-litter pledges, or conserving energy or water.
- **Earth Day celebration:** Plan a day outdoors for all students. Use your PRIDE contract to buy materials for activities that can be led by PRIDE Club members with other students rotating among the activities.

Somerset Community College will host its annual Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, April 27, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

April 6-12: National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is a great time to educate your students about community service. The event is a program of Points of Light sponsored by Advil® as a part of the Advil® Relief in Action campaign. It was established in 1974 and has grown each year, with thousands of volunteer projects and special events scheduled throughout the week. The week is "about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities." Share photos of your project through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram with hashtag [#ReliefInAction](#).



April 11-13: Global Youth Service Day

Celebrating 26 years, Global Youth Service Day, which is a campaign of Youth Service America, recognizes the positive impact that young people have in their communities year-round. Your students can join young people in more than 135 countries to address critical issues and change their communities. At the web site, download toolkits for students to plan their own service projects, register your event, explore other events and sign a pledge of support for young people who make a difference. No events are scheduled yet for Kentucky, according to the web site. Online: <http://www.GYSD.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/globalyouthserviceday>, @YouthService, #GYSD



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To be alerted when the newsletter is posted online, sign up for PRIDE e-mails at <http://www.kypride.org>.

