

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



ERNIE FLETCHER
GOVERNOR

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE
14 REILLY ROAD
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601-1190
www.kentucky.gov

TERESA J. HILL
SECRETARY

May 24, 2007

Ms. Betty Winter
US EPA Region IV
Grants Management Office
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Dear Ms. Winter:

Please find enclosed the Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance's third quarter report (January 1 – March 31, 2007) for the State Innovations Grant. This grant has a project period of June 15, 2006 – July 1, 2009.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 502-564-2225, extension 652.

Sincerely,

Julia A. Kays

Julia A. Kays
Internal Policy Analyst III

General Overview

The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protections' Division of Compliance Assistance (DCA) was awarded a State Innovations Grant to support the newly formed voluntary environmental leadership program, KY EXCEL. This program offers unique opportunities for public, private and corporate sectors to improve Kentucky's environment. The mission is to promote, reward and encourage superior environmental performance throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The goal of the program is to impact the quality of life for Kentuckians by encouraging continual improvement in environmental performance through commitment, partnerships, systemic management and thoughtful growth.

The program has four membership levels in which applicants are placed. The first level is advocate. Advocate members are required to commit to one voluntary project each year and prepare an annual report.

The second membership level is partner. Partner members are required to commit to one voluntary project each year; develop an environmental management plan; conduct a self-assessment; and prepare an annual report.

Leader is the third level of membership. This level requires that each member commit to three voluntary projects each year; implement and environmental management plan; conduct a self-assessment; and prepare an annual report.

The final membership level is master. The master level contains the most elite group. These members are required to commit to four voluntary projects each year; demonstrate past environmental achievement; implement an environmental management plan; conduct a third-party assessment; participate in at least one outreach or educational activity; agree to mentor another member; and to prepare an annual report.

Membership and Project Summary

During the third quarter of the project period, program staff participated in one (1) KY EXCEL public awareness event reaching an estimated audience of 75 persons. In addition, program staff was able to conduct outreach to additional people through referrals, follow-up conversations, email correspondence and the KY EXCEL newsletter. Staff were involved in five (5) site visits and presented membership certificates to Master Level members. Additionally, staff met in person with two (2) entities interested in becoming members. As of March 31, 2007, KY EXCEL had 77 approved members.

Current membership per level is as follows: 41 advocate members; 4 partner members; 13 leader members; and 19 master members. Collectively, these members have submitted two hundred eight (208) projects. DCA categorizes each project by focus. Currently, there are six (6) focus groups.

1. Waste Reduction
2. Energy Efficiency
3. Public Health
4. Education
5. Performance Improvement
6. Restoration

As the number of projects increase, it has become clear that projects could be fall under multiple categories. DCA is currently working with department staff to enhance our tracking database (TEMPO) so that projects may be listed under multiple categories however a primary category will be designated. DCA tested the enhancement during this reporting period; however they noted areas of concern that will need to be addressed. The appropriate department staff will continue to work on the enhancement.

Below you will find examples of just a few of the projects submitted during January through March 2007:

- Reduce production scrap from large and small parts lines by 50%,
- Mentor Delta operations in Lexington and Louisville,
- Sponsor and promote an annual neighborhood clean-up program, and
- Plant an ozone garden to detect detrimental levels of ozone

Summary of Activities

The Division of Compliance Assistance distributed the KY EXCEL newsletter in January. This newsletter is shared with Department for Environmental Protection staff, all KY EXCEL members; staff in the Governor's Office as well as other individuals interested in receiving the newsletter. This reporting period also contained the last call for inaugural members which produced a number of applications.

KY EXCEL staff continues to identify sector specific/regional partnership opportunities and provide administrative and technical support to candidates. We continue to monitor the usefulness of our website and will update as necessary. During the third quarter, there were 6,046 hits on the KY EXCEL website.

Project Schedule

<i>Start-up and Implementation Milestones</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>Target Completion</i>	<i>Target Date Met</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Design KY EXCEL program structure & educate DEP staff	5/05	1/06	YES	
Publish promotional materials	10/05	3/06	YES	
Plan and hold regional training events	11/05	5/06	YES	
Identify sector specific/regional partnership opportunities	11/05	6/06	YES	
Registration for Program Candidates	1/06	on-going	YES	
Provide support to candidates (complete entry requirements)	1/06	on-going	YES	
Announcements of Inaugural Membership	1/06	12/06	YES	
Develop KY EXCEL website and on-line application	3/06	6/06	YES	
Develop KY EXCEL on-line documents library	3/06	on-going		Continues to be a work in progress.
KY EXCEL alignment with NPT MOA option	3/06 3/06	9/06 10/07	YES	
Plan and Deliver KY EXCEL Networking event(s)	3/06	11/06	YES	
Plan incentives update based on member input	3/06	on-going	YES	
Review Initial Program for Improvement opportunities	6/06	12/06	YES	
Add budgeted personnel to KY EXCEL staff	7/06	9/06	YES	
Pre-work and Completion of First Annual Report	3/07	8/07	YES	The pre-work has begun and progress will continue through the next few months.
Review Reporting for Improvement Opportunities	4/07	10/07		
Plan and Deliver Program Networking event(s)	5/07	10/07		
Plan incentives update based on member input	6/06	on-going		
Review Program for Improvement Opportunities	6/07	10/07		
Document KY EXCEL Development Process for Reapplication	9/07	2/08		
Pre-work and completion of Second Annual Report	3/08	8/08		
Develop SOP's for annual renewal activities & execute	3/08	10/08		
Pre-work and completion of Third Annual Report	10/08	2/09		
Summarize results and issue final report to SIG	1/09	2/09		

Budget Summary

Financial Information removed by EPA as confidential business information.

Closing Remarks

During the next quarter, DCA will continue to market the program, continue the pre-work for the first annual report, provide support to potential and active members; and make progress on the KY EXCEL on-line documents library. The division will also be seeking to fill an additional position located in the KY EXCEL program. This will allow DCA to increase its marketing and streamline the administrative process. The increase in marketing should enhance our efforts in having 300 approved members by the end of this calendar year. DCA will be hosting another members meeting in early October; therefore pre-work will begin for this effort during the next quarter as well.

Should you have any questions regarding this quarterly report, please contact Julia Kays at 502-564-2225, extension 652.