

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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TERESA J. HILL  
SECRETARY

October 27, 2006

Ms. Stephanie Lankford  
US EPA Region IV  
Grants Management Office  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Lankford:

Please find enclosed the Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance's first quarterly report (June 15 – September 30, 2006) 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

c: Betty Winters  
**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**

Department and division staff has been marketing KY EXCEL since late 2005. Program staff has participated in twenty-nine (29) KY EXCEL public awareness events reaching an estimated audience of 1198 persons. These events have spanned all across the entire state. As of September 30, 2006, KY EXCEL had 30 approved members with an additional four (4) membership applications pending approval.

Current membership per level is as follows: 12 advocate members; 3 partner members; 4 leader members; and 11 master members. Collectively, these members have submitted eighty-three (83) projects. There has been a broad range of projects submitted such as increasing the recycling efforts in an individual neighborhood to larger scale projects included reducing hexavalent chromium in wastewater by 90%. DCA categorizes each project by focus. Currently, there are six (6) focus groups. The eighty-three (83) submitted and approved projects fall under the following focused categories:

1. Waste Reduction – 42 projects
2. Energy Efficiency – 8 projects
3. Public Health – 5 projects

4. Education – 15 projects
5. Performance Improvement – 11 projects
6. Restoration – 2 projects

### **Summary of Activities**

The grant work plan included start-up and implementation milestones as well as targeted completion dates. The division is proud to announce that these expectations are being met. Since the announcement of the KY EXCEL program, the division has hired its first full-time employee responsible solely for implementing the program. Her arrival has allowed the division to increase the application review process; expand its recruitment and mentoring activities and has enabled the program to promptly respond to member needs. We have been able to design the KY EXCEL program structure and educate department staff; publish promotional materials; plan and hold regional training events; identify sector specific/regional partnership opportunities; enlist inaugural members; and provide administrative and technical support to candidates. In addition, we have designed and developed a program web-site with on-line applications; began the initial planning stages for the first annual program conference to be held in conjunction with the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Conference on the Environment; and continue to update members on program incentives.

### **Budget Summary**

*Financial Information removed by EPA as confidential business information.*

### **Closing Remarks**

During the next quarter, DCA will continue to market the program, finalize preparations and hold the first annual KY EXCEL Membership Conference, provide support to potential and active members; and discuss possible incentives and future networking events.

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