



## Kentucky Environmental Education Council

**Steven L. Beshear**  
Governor

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**Thomas O. Zawacki**  
Secretary

May 1, 2015

Dear Mr. Hall,

Congratulations! You have been nominated to serve on Kentucky's Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP) Implementation Advisory Team. Our next KELP meeting is scheduled for **June 3, from 10 AM – 4 PM** Eastern Time, at the Capitol Education Center in Frankfort, KY. **Please RSVP to Elizabeth.Schmitz@ky.gov, no later than Tuesday, May 26, 2015**; additional details will follow. Lunch will be served; travel stipends are available for all meeting participants, and substitute reimbursements are available for K-12 teachers.

A national initiative is underway to develop state environmental literacy plans. According to the *State Environmental Literacy Plans: 2014 Status Report* (published by the North American Association of Environmental Education), 46 of the 50 states are in various stages of environmental literacy plan development, with 13 states already adopting and implementing such plans. Kentucky became one of the first states to adopt an environmental literacy plan when in 2011 the Board of Education voted to support the *Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan* in conjunction with the implementation of Kentucky's new science standards. In 2013 Kentucky officially adopted the Next Generation Science Standards into regulation as Kentucky's Core Academic Standards for science.

KELP implementation is statewide collaborative effort. The Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky Environmental Education Council are continuously teaming to raise awareness and support for the KELP initiative, which will be implemented at the local level by schools and school districts, with support from the two state agencies. Another partner in our effort, the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education, has recently received funding to help implement this plan.

We are pleased to invite you to serve on the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan Implementation Advisory Team. To ensure successful implementation of the plan, all K-12 education system stakeholders need to be involved, including:

- State curriculum specialists;
- State assessment experts;
- School district staff, including but not limited to administrators and non-teaching staff;
- Individual school personnel at all subjects and grade levels;
- Local School-Based Decision Making Councils;
- Postsecondary education institutions, especially teacher preparation universities and colleges;

- Community organizations, including non-profit, corporate, and government institutions;
- Non-formal environmental educators;
- Students and parents; and
- Education-related professional organizations.

As mentioned above, the next KELP IAT meeting is scheduled for June 3, from 10 AM – 4 PM Eastern Time, at the Capitol Education Center in Frankfort, KY. **If you cannot join us for the meeting but would like to be part of the team, please contact [Elizabeth.schmitz@ky.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.schmitz@ky.gov) as soon as possible** so that we can ensure you receive future communications about this work.

If you are interested in advancing environmental literacy and student engagement through implementation of the new Kentucky Core Academic Standards for science, this is a great opportunity.

Thank you,



Terry Holliday, Ph.D., Commissioner  
Kentucky Department of Education



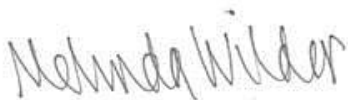
Elizabeth Schmitz, Executive Director  
Kentucky Environmental Education Council



Ashley Hoffman, Executive Director  
Kentucky Association for Environmental Education



Billy Bennett  
Chair, Kentucky University Partnership for  
Environmental Education



Melinda Wilder  
Director, ECU Division of Natural Areas