

ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING, & ENERGY

This educational focus area deals with the environment in which we live to include issues related to housing, energy and environmental concerns. When planning and preparing a new program of work, you can use the following for ideas.

- Promote and encourage the observance of special events and designated celebrations such as KY Water Awareness month (May), Arbor Day (1st Friday in April), Earth Day (April 22), Commonwealth Clean-up week (4th week in March), Indoor Air Quality Month (October), America Recycles Day (November 15), etc.
- Use current information and recommended techniques related to landscaping plants, gardening, and wise management and use of chemicals.
- Provide the latest research-based information on home construction or maintenance that addresses energy efficiency in structures, supplies, septic systems, heating and cooling systems, etc.
- Provide latest information on design trends (lighting, color, furniture) to best utilize space and maximize savings, both monetary and for our environment.
- Encourage the application of universal design principles for new and remodeled homes to include all clientele (physically and mentally challenged, various age groups, etc.)
- Promote activities and programs that protect our health as well as the environment such as recycling, water conservation, reduced use of household and gardening chemicals, energy conservation, etc.;
- Become more aware of our natural resources and how these can be maintained for future generations;
- Increase your knowledge of how environmental conditions, both indoors and outdoors, impact human health, especially the health of children and older persons. Learn steps you can take to reduce environmental health risks.
- Become more knowledgeable about your local, state, and federal laws that govern the environment in which you live. Some of these that impact you include: Safe Drinking Water Act, Burning Laws, Clean Air Act, Kentucky Agricultural Water Quality Act, and the Forest Conservation Act.

KEHA Environment, Housing and Energy Chairman – 2018-2020

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Environment, Housing and Energy

Program of Work for 2018 -2021

Theme: The Three B's of Home Landscaping: Bees, Butterflies and Birds

2018-2019 (Year One)

TITLE: The Buzz about Bees

Goal: KEHA members will learn why bees are important to our environment and ways to encourage bees to inhabit local areas.

Objectives:

1. Learn why bees are beneficial to the environment.
2. Understand how planting native plants can encourage bees to inhabit your area.
3. Understand how honey can be a beneficial addition to your food choices.

Lessons:

- The Buzz About Honey

Resources:

- Selecting Plants for Pollinators
<http://pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/EBFContinentalrx13FINAL.pdf>
- Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants
<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsV5.pdf>
- Perennials for Shady Locations (University of Kentucky Publication – HO-77)
- Perennials for sunny locations (University of Kentucky Publication – HO-76)
- Annual Flowers (University of Kentucky Publication – HO-65)
- Low Maintenance Annual Flowers for KY Gardens (University of Kentucky Publication – HO-47)
- Landscape design with plants (University of Kentucky Publication – HO-62)

Suggested Activities:

- Coordinate with a Horticulture Agent or Master Gardener to present a workshop pertinent to bees with neighboring counties.
- Host a plant/seed swap in your county to encourage more pollinators.
- Promote opportunities for entering plants and flowers in county fairs and exhibits.
- Adopt-A-Highway to beautify your community and promote Kentucky Extension Homemakers.

2019-2020 (Year Two)

TITLE: Birds and your Outdoor Spaces

Goal: KEHA members will learn ways (native plantings and habitat building) to encourage a variety of birds to inhabit their landscape.

Objectives:

1. Understand how native plants are good for the environment and encourage birds to inhabit your space.
2. Identify plants that are particularly appealing to the birds you wish to attract.

2020-2021 (Year Three)

TITLE: Monarchs, Skippers, Painted Ladies and other Kentucky Butterflies

Goals: KEHA members will learn what type plants are ideal for nurturing butterflies through their life cycle.

Objectives:

1. Understand which plants are ideal habitats for butterflies.
2. Understand plants to group together to encourage healthy development of butterflies through the life cycle.