

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 Radon Awareness Month (January), 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 – 2023 to 2026

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Environment, Housing and Energy

Program of Work for 2022-2024

Emphasis One

TITLE: Radon in Kentucky

Goal: The goal of this lesson is to raise awareness about radon in Kentucky and its negative health effects.

Objectives:

1. Define radon and its prevalence in Kentucky.
2. Understand radon's effect on health, especially when combined with smoking and lung cancer cases in Kentucky.
3. Learn how to test and mitigate in homes and other buildings.

Resources:

- Lesson titled "Radon in Kentucky" includes these contents:
 - Publication – HSW-HS.001: Radon in Kentucky
 - Facilitator's Guide
 - PowerPoint
 - Evaluation
 - Resource List

Additional Resources:

- KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services->Environmental Management Branch->Radon Program – <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/emb/Pages/radon.aspx>
- UK Kentucky Geological Survey – <https://www.uky.edu/KGS/radon/>
- UK College of Nursing BREATHE Program – <https://www.uky.edu/breathe/>
- KY Cancer Consortium Radon Coalition – <https://www.kycancerc.org/teams-and-networks/radon-coalition/>
- KY Radon Page – <https://ky-radon.info/>
- KY Association of Radon Professionals – <https://kentuckyradon.org/>
- Certified Radon Professionals – <https://certifiedradonpros.org/ky.html>
- American Lung Association Radon Basics – <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/at-home/indoor-air-pollutants/radon>
- EPA Radon – <https://www.epa.gov/radon>
- CDC Radon – <https://www.cdc.gov/radon/index.html>

Suggested Activities:

- Coordinate a presentation by a certified mitigation installer
- Coordinate a radon presentation with the local health department
- Distribute radon resources to your circles of influence
- Challenge each KEHA member to test their homes for radon and share their experience.

Emphasis Two

TITLE: Carbon Monoxide: Exposure and Prevention

Goal: The goal of this lesson is to raise awareness and knowledge about carbon monoxide, its negative health effects, and steps of prevention.

Objectives:

1. Define carbon monoxide and its sources.
2. Understand symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure and its effects on health.
3. Learn how to test for and detect carbon monoxide in homes and buildings.

Resources:

- Lesson titled “Carbon Monoxide: Exposure and Prevention” includes these contents:
 - Publication – HSW-HMS.002 Carbon Monoxide: Exposure and Prevention
 - Facilitator’s Guide
 - PowerPoint
 - Evaluation
 - Marketing Tools
 - Activity
 - Activity Answer Key