

## ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING, & ENERGY

All Educational Program chairmen are expected to work together to integrate their programs of work when possible. This educational focus area deals with the near environment in which one lives to include issues related to housing, interiors, and energy as well as traditional environmental concerns. When planning and preparing a new program of work, the chairman should use the following as a springboard of ideas:

- Promote and encourage the observance of special events and designated celebrations such as KY Water Awareness month (May), Arbor Day (1<sup>st</sup> Friday in April), Earth Day (April 22), Commonwealth Clean-up week (4<sup>th</sup> week in March), Indoor Air Quality Month (October), etc.;
- Seek out and promote the use of current information and recommended techniques related to the selection and purchase of plants, gardening, and the use and management of chemicals;
- Provide research-based information on the care and maintenance of household structures and systems such as building supplies, materials, wells, septic systems, heating and cooling systems, etc. to improve the decision-making process of Kentucky citizens;
- Become better informed on the application of interior design trends (color, lighting, pattern, furniture design) and the use of space for greater living satisfactions;
- Inform and encourage the application of universal design principals for new and remodeled homes as well as accessibility for present living environments 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.
- Encourage and promote the use self-help programs and materials such as the *KY\*A\*Syst* and the *KY\*A\*Syst for the Home* work sheets; and,
- Become a more knowledgeable, law abiding citizen, by learning 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, KY Agricultural Water Quality Act, and the Forest Conservation Act.

# KEHA Environment, Housing & Energy

## Plan of Work 2010 – 2012

### Theme: Going Green & Living Green

**Goal:** Learn how we can change the way we live by increasing awareness on the importance of green living concepts in order to improve our quality of life for our homes, our families and our communities.

#### Overall Objectives:

1. To understand how our use of energy and resources impacts our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren.
2. To become more knowledgeable about what it means to “Go Green” and the meaning of “Green Living”.
3. To learn about products that are naturally “green” products.
4. To develop a greater awareness of how we can save energy and other resources by making simple changes in our lifestyles.
5. To share with others the information learned and how important it is for **all** of us to participate.

### First Year of Work

#### Focus: How Green Are We?

#### Objectives:

1. Improve knowledge and understanding of the criteria related to green design products, practices, and systems that support family health, safety, and well-being.
2. Develop greater awareness of the basic concepts of green living and the impact upon environmental sustainability.
3. Learn information that will assist participants in selecting green products for the home.
4. Evaluate products for ability to provide healthy, green alternatives for individuals, families and communities.

#### Activities:

1. Donate to a Family Resource Center or other community organization.
2. Club can adopt and work with a community organization and encourage members to contribute products or collect unused items to benefit the organization.
3. Hold a club or county-wide white elephant swap day for KEHA members.
4. Conduct a survey of your community to determine how many green concepts the community has in place.
5. Participation in the BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag) project.

## **Lessons:**

### **■ Greening Your Home**

Green products and practices can improve our quality of life in both our homes and our communities. Learn how to evaluate and make the best choices from the growing number of green products. Are they really as effective as advertised? How do they contribute to a healthy living environment? How green are you willing to be in your homes?

### **■ Home Cleaning Products...Safe, Healthy and Green**

Green cleaning products and practices provide a healthy, safe option for the everyday cleaning jobs around your home. This lesson includes information on cleaning products and supplies as well as techniques for making various housekeeping jobs easier and more effective.

## **Contest(s):**

Let us know how you have made your home green. Submit a one-page description describing actions, practices and other changes on how you have gone green this past year. Pictures may be included to help tell your story. Entries are due by March 1. Please include the contest cover sheet (appendix page 20). Send to Helen Eden, 126 Dave Eden Road, Berea, KY 40403.

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## **Second Year of Work**

### **Focus: A Question of Energy**

#### **Objectives:**

1. Increase awareness of how our use of energy affects cost, climate, convenience, and comfort of all individuals.
2. Increase knowledge and skills in making a home more energy efficient.
3. Explore options for identifying products and recommended energy management practices that will use energy efficiently.
4. Identify energy management practices with lighting in the home.
5. Learn advantages, disadvantages, and proper disposal of compact fluorescent lamps used in home lighting.

#### **Activities:**

1. Invite a representative from a local utility provider (electric or gas) to share information on energy management, selection of appliances and saving on utility bills.
2. Take a field trip to a local retail outlet or lighting business to learn about energy-wise products for your home.
3. Encourage each member to convert at least one room to compact fluorescent lighting.
4. Encourage all members to participate in the calendar activity with all money collected from this activity to be donated to a local community assistance program that helps to provide heating and cooling to those in need.

## **Lessons:**

### **■ Energy Use in the Home.**

The lesson focuses on specifics for reducing energy use in the home, including methods most likely to have the best payback on energy bills. Choices in heating and cooling systems and appliances as well as other products and practices that could be considered for the home (lighting, use of appliances, water heating, windows treatments, etc.) will be included.

### **■ Energy-wise Lighting Products and Practices.**

This lesson focuses on energy management as related to home lighting products and practices. Emphasis is given to the selection, use, and disposal of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) as well as new developments in LED lighting. Timers, dimmers, and other lighting products commonly available will be included.

## **Contest(s):**

Let us know the changes you have made and how you are promoting wise energy use in the home. Submit an 11-inch by 14-inch picture poster along with a brief description showing changes that you have made using wise energy management practices.

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## **Third Year of Work**

### **Focus: Energy Crossroads: Sun, Wind and Water**

#### **Objectives:**

1. Build a greater understanding of various forms of renewable energy, such as sun, wind and water.
2. Learn ways of utilizing these energy sources to better manage our lifestyle needs and preserve our environment.
3. Educate people on best water conservation practices in their homes and daily activities.
4. Share with others the information learned and how important it is for all of us to participate.

#### **Activities:**

1. Tour a solar-powered home in your community and also one that has a water garden.
2. Invite a landscape designer to speak to your group on ways to utilize plants and water to maximize green concepts.
2. Plan a group “paint your rain barrel” day.

## **Lessons:**

### **■ Let the Sun Shine In! (Guidelines for Passive Solar Living)**

This lesson focuses on practices and technology that maximize the use of sunshine for heating, lighting, and energy sources. Lesson includes information on housing and product selections that take full advantage of the energy through solar power.

### **■ Energy Crossroads: Sun, Wind and Water Technology and How It Affects Your Home and Your Way of Living**

Learn about the newest developments in energy. How effective are they? What state, national and global impacts are there? How do these energy sources affect how we live?

### **■ Water Gardens and Landscaping**

Discover the joy of living and working with a water garden in your own back yard. Learn the basics of planning and caring for a water garden as well as design and water use for overall landscaping.

## **Contest(s):**

Paint a rain barrel! Submit color photo of the finished product and tell how it will be used.