

# PROJECT PROCLAMATION

“CREATION OF A BLUEGRASS  
PARTNERSHIP FOR A GREEN  
COMMUNITY...TO WORK TOGETHER TO  
FIND ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE  
WAYS TO PROTECT OUR  
ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVE OUR  
RESOURCES AND ENHANCE OUR WAY  
OF LIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

**Bluegrass Partnership  
for a  
Green Community  
Project Orientation**

**October 19, 2005**

# BLUEGRASS PARTNERSHIP FOR A GREEN COMMUNITY

---

To sustain and preserve regional  
quality of life

To protect the environment and  
conserve resources

To minimize waste and prevent  
pollution

# PARTNERS

---

University of Kentucky

Fayette County Public Schools

Lexington Fayette Urban County

Government

Ky State Government

US EPA

# How we are doing the Project

- Leadership interviews
- Survey of participants(about 75-100 people)
- Select and orient participants
- Cluster Meetings/identify opportunities
- Assess/compile results/set priorities
- Draft report
- Feedback
- Final Report and implementation

# A few statistics to consider about environmental opportunities

- 18350 employees
- 601 buildings
- 2773 vehicles
- 6800 acres land
- 58180 students
- \$40,000,000 utility bills

# WHY PARTNER??

- We can do more together than alone
- Positive support for change
- Confidence that community support exists
- TALENT exists to make change
- Universal vision of a better Lexington and Bluegrass region

Environmental education is a special priority of the project and will build upon efforts underway:

- Energy Tour
- Watershed Biodiversity Academy
- Natural Resource Academy for Urban Youth
- New opportunities including nature center; systemic environmental education; professional development

# WHAT WE HAVE TO OVERCOME

- Environment not organizationally prominent or focused in partners
- Lack of strategic plans for environment
- Lack of written values/goals/outcomes
- Lack of performance indicators and measures
- No current focal point for communication between partners

# Leadership Interviews To date

- Strong support for project
- Recognition that we can do better
- Desire for early success
- Recognize the value of partnering
- Recognize opportunities for improvement

# How “green” are we?

- Institutionally-5.9 (4-7)
- Lexington and vicinity-5.6 (4-7)
- Leaders-6.2 (5-9)

# SURVEY OF PARTICIPANTS

- Online/easy to do
- Determine participant values and expectations
- Self assessment and setting the bar for the partnership
- Help set agenda for working sessions
- Next week

# Cluster Meetings

- All day/facilitated sessions
- Three clusters/about 25 each
- Nov 17, 21, 22
- Location: McConnell Springs, Lexington

# Themes

- Sustainability
- Organizational and environmental efficiency
- Environmental education and outreach

# Participants/Report/Feedback

- You will identify projects and collaboration opportunities
- You will help set priorities
- You will set the early implementation agenda
- You will help identify the teams
- Student involvement will be emphasized whenever possible

# Leaders want:

- Performance measurement/visible results
- Early success
- No greenwashing
- You to participate and help make project successful

# What we expect from Leadership:

- Approve project(done)
- Support and encourage participation from staff(done)
- Share leadership expectations(in progress)
- Review/approve/support consensus recommendations and implementation
- Talk up success

# Some Desired Outcomes

- Low hanging fruit-Easy to do partnering projects within existing resources
- Environmental education opportunities a high priority
- Projects for partnership teams to implement
- Commitments to move towards sustainable public infrastructure and a greener Bluegrass region

# ACTION REPORT

- Target date is early 2006
- Funding opportunities
- Other partners -State,USEPA,NGO's for specific projects
- Recommendations will all be consensus based with support of all three partners

# Benefits from Partner Project

- Greener Lexington community
- Environmental education efforts enhanced
- Save \$\$\$
- Better support from others
- Cooperation on green projects leads to cooperation in other areas
- Model for others and outreach to rest of Kentucky

# Homework

- Sign up/show up
- Think green
- Recruit others
- Visit websites

# Websites

- [www.thegreenguide.org](http://www.thegreenguide.org)
- [www.nrdc.org/cities](http://www.nrdc.org/cities)
- [www.seer.org](http://www.seer.org)
- [www.greenpittsburgh.net](http://www.greenpittsburgh.net)
- [www.c2e2.org](http://www.c2e2.org)
- [www.ceres.org/coalitionandcompanies/principles.php](http://www.ceres.org/coalitionandcompanies/principles.php)

# Contact info

- [gordon@thegarner.net](mailto:gordon@thegarner.net)
- 502-468-7577