



Kentucky Environmental Foundation's Energy & Health Initiatives

Community Outreach and Education

Health care providers and health clinics can be invaluable vehicles for public education around the energy choices we make and the impact our choices have on our health. KEF is working with health professionals and health clinics to raise awareness about those impacts. By making personal decisions to reduce energy consumption in our own homes we not only save money but help keep Kentucky's air clean. Improving energy efficiency is the simplest way to make a difference. By changing out incandescent bulbs for more efficient CFL bulbs and by sealing cracks around windows and increasing insulation in attic spaces we can cut down on our state's residential energy use and associated air pollution by as much as 30%.

Peer Education for Health Professionals

KEF has assembled a team of health professionals as partners in developing strategies to improve Kentucky's air quality and public health. Together we're creating opportunities for any and all health care providers to get up-to-date research data and information on the impacts of pollution on our health, through a monthly, free conference call series. Topics covered on the calls will include adverse birth outcomes caused by air pollution, effects of mercury on development, and the effects of particulate matter on cardio/pulmonary health.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

An HIA uses a combination of procedures and methods by which a policy, program or project may be evaluated as to its potential impacts on the health of a population and the distribution of those impacts within the population. KEF is partnering with Berea College and other health professionals to carry out an HIA on Kentucky's energy sources, including clean energy options like renewable energy and energy efficiency. Through this evaluation we will produce a package of information that can be used to educate the public,

energy providers, regulatory agencies and legislators and promote clean energy policies.

Advocacy

KEF is a part of the Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance (KySEA), a collection of individuals, organizations and businesses working to promote energy efficiency and the production of clean, renewable energy. KySEA is currently working to pass sound state energy policies with a renewable and efficiency portfolio standard. In order to reduce the rates of morbidity and mortality due to coal-based air pollution our state's rising energy needs must be met with cleaner and safer alternatives. With state policy that focuses on energy efficiency and renewable energy we can create new jobs, save money and reduce the harmful health effects of coal-based energy production.

If you are interested in serving on our health team or participating in the call series please contact Deborah Payne, Energy and Health Coordinator at Deborah@kyenvironmentalfoundation.org for updates and call information.