

## 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 (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), 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 Chairperson – 2023 to 2026**

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# **Environment, Housing and Energy**

## **Program of Work for 2024-2027**

### **Emphasis One 2024-2025**

**TITLE:** Indoor Air Quality: Sources and Effects on Our Health

**Goal:** The goal of this lesson is to raise awareness and knowledge about indoor air quality, pollutant sources and their health effects, and steps to improve indoor air quality.

**Objectives:**

1. Define indoor air quality.
2. Identify indoor air pollutants and how they affect air quality.
3. Identify indoor air pollutants and how they affect health.
4. Identify one action that will improve indoor air quality.

**Resources:**

- Lesson titled “Indoor Air Quality: Sources and Effects on Our Health” includes these contents:
  - Publication – HSW-HMS.004 Indoor Air Quality: Sources and Effects on Our Health
  - Facilitator’s Guide
  - PowerPoint
  - Evaluation
  - Marketing Tools

### **Emphasis Two 2025-2026**

**TITLE:** Indoor Mold & Mildew

**Goal:** The goal of this lesson is to raise awareness and knowledge about sources of mold and mildew, how to deal with it, and the effects it can have on people’s health.

**Objectives:**

1. Define indoor mold and mildew.
2. Identify sources and conditions that can lead to indoor mold and mildew.
3. Identify solutions to treat mold and mildew in the home.
4. Identify how mold and mildew can affect one’s health.

**Resources:**

**A. Local Guest Speaker**

Have someone from the county public health department present on mold and mildew.

**B. Extension Resources:**

Share information from the Kentucky Extension publication:

- Clean It Healthy Publication: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/fcs4/fcs4412/fcs4412.pdf> (Mold and Mildew is one of the sections in this publication.)
- Exclusive: Mold Prevention and Removal:
- <https://exclusives.ca.uky.edu/2019/fcs/mold-prevention-and-removal>

**C. Government Resources:**

Share information from the following government sites:

- KY Cabinet for Health: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/emb/Pages/mold.aspx>
- KY Environment and Energy Cabinet: <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Air/Pages/Mold.aspx>
- EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/mold>
- Center for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/mold-health/about/index.html>

**Emphasis Three 2026-2027**

Emphasis Three is currently in development. Check the Environment, Housing, and Energy Chairperson website later for details.

<https://keha.ca.uky.edu/content/environment-housing-and-energy>

## **Additional Environment, Housing, and Energy Lessons Available**

### **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

### **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