



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016

*In 2016, we celebrated our 15th anniversary, established new programs and partnerships, and celebrated our continued work to provide Central Kentucky with resources and tools to live more sustainably.*

With the end of 2016, Bluegrass Greensource finished another successful year of empowering individuals, businesses, and organizations throughout Central Kentucky to create a more sustainable environment. **We are so proud to share our impact with you in this annual report!**

Now, more than ever, credible environmental education is crucial for Central Kentucky's future. Recent surveys from the Kentucky Environmental Education Council have shown that although 95% of Kentuckians think environmental education should be taught in our schools, only 55% can answer basic questions such as identifying where the majority of our electricity comes from or what a renewable source of energy is. The key to changing mindsets is creating an environmentally literate Central Kentucky, one where individuals have the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to foster a sustainable balance between human and natural systems. This is the goal of our work.

We know Central Kentuckians want to take actions to become more environmentally sustainable – our ability to impact people more than 100,000 times a year illustrates persistent demand for our services. But many more don't know how, don't have the tools or resources, or don't believe they can make a difference. Bluegrass Greensource works to remove barriers and equip individuals with the knowledge, power, and tools to create real change.

As I think about the impact numbers and the stories they tell, I am reminded of the broad support we have from individuals, regional businesses, foundations, and government partners. The number and geographical diversity of our supporters speaks to a regional belief and investment in the importance of environmental education and outreach. I am especially proud of this year's Main Street Clean Sweep which empowered over 1,000 volunteers to clean up over 4 tons of litter on Earth Day, proving that many small actions can have a large impact in Central Kentucky.

Thanks to your support and that of our many partners, we are making a difference. We look forward to seeing you at one of our spring events:

## **Main Street Clean Sweep**

April 14 - April 22, 2017  
20 Central Kentucky Communities

## **GreenFest**

Saturday, June 3, 2017  
10 am - 2 pm  
Bluegrass Greensource

## **Tacos N' Tequila**

Friday, June 16, 2017  
7 pm - 10 pm  
The Loudoun House

## **BLUEGRASS GREENSOURCE**

Executive Director

108,610 REACHED

BY TOPIC:

WASTE REDUCTION	54,589
WATER QUALITY	35,260
ENERGY EFFICIENCY	14,381
SUSTAINABILITY	4,284



4,658 CLASSES IMPACTED



WATER WARRIOR CAMPS  
5 camps, 91 students



179 RAIN BARRELS BUILT

20 Central Kentucky  
COUNTIES SERVED



\$105,610 INVESTED  
IN WATER QUALITY

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General Questions? Email: [info@BgGreensource.org](mailto:info@BgGreensource.org)  
For more information about Bluegrass Greensource programs,  
visit [www.BgGreensource.org](http://www.BgGreensource.org)!   



# EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT: STEM EDUCATION



Last year, Bluegrass Greensource educators worked directly with students in 4,658 Central Kentucky classrooms.

**Our hands-on lessons help Central Kentucky teachers incorporate environmental education into their lessons to help fulfill core existing standards.**

Erin Peach, a teacher at Frankfort's Second Street School, first met Bluegrass Greensource educator Danny Woolums at a workshop focused on aligning environmental education to the Next Generation Science standards. Ms. Peach mentioned that her students were struggling with mathematics related to geographical contours, and Danny knew immediately how to help.

Danny brought Legos to her classroom to help multiple fourth grade classes apply these concepts using real models. He also connected their lesson to the impacts of litter on water quality.

"I love doing these lessons," Danny said. "We use materials the students love. The students also get to use their hands and practice team work, while using math, science, and geography. This is what we try to do every day in our classroom education."



## EDUCATION SNAPSHOT



4,658 CLASSES

254 students,  
3 field trips

DUPREE NATURE PRESERVE  
GARRARD COUNTY, KY

WATER WARRIOR CAMPS  
5 camps, 91 students



# OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT: *ENERGY EFFICIENCY*



Each year, Bluegrass Greensource connects Central Kentucky adults to the resources, knowledge, and tools they need to become more sustainable. **One of the easiest ways to make a personal impact on the environment – and boost your finances – is through energy efficiency.** In Kentucky, many homes are energy inefficient, and measurable impacts can be achieved through relatively easy and inexpensive steps.

Based on research and conversations with residents, we learned the most common barriers to implementing energy efficient improvements are a lack of knowledge and – especially for low-income residents – the upfront money needed to purchase materials. To address these barriers, Bluegrass Greensource's VISTA Volunteer Mallory Johnson reached out to new partners to design workshops that connected participants to resources and provided them with opportunities to practice new skills.

In December, we held the first of these new workshops targeted to low-income and Spanish-speaking residents on Lexington's North side.

Chris Woolery, of the How\$martKY program, shared his expertise to show simple but effective modifications that can result in significant energy reductions and provide a more comfortable home. Participants broke into groups to experience hands-on demonstrations of these techniques. Each attendee left the workshop with a free energy efficiency starter kit.

Our friends at the Central Kentucky Chapter of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) helped survey residents in the neighborhood surrounding Embrace Church, our workshop host site. KFTC's hard work helped recruit more than 30 adults and children to the workshop. Jennifer Hubbard-Sanchez of Kentucky State University provided translation and interpretation services, which made this workshop tremendously successful.

"Small energy efficiency improvements don't just save energy and money, they create homes that are healthier and more comfortable," said Chris Woolery. "Most folks can do a lot of these improvements themselves, they just don't know where to start. That's why workshops like these are so important."



# GREENING LEXINGTON BUSINESSES



In late September, a small group including six businesses, several Bluegrass Greensource staff, and partners at the City of Lexington

gathered to launch an exciting new program – **Green Check.**

Green Check, a program of the City of Lexington that is managed by Bluegrass Greensource, recognizes businesses for green initiatives and for expanding their sustainability efforts. At the launch in September 2016, six diverse businesses were recognized for piloting the program: **Bullhorn Creative, Good Foods Co-op, Habitat for Humanity, Lexmark, RossTarrant Architects, and Trane.**

Becoming a Green Check Member begins with a consultation and completion of the Green Check Sustainability Scorecard. The Scorecard caters to a variety of entities across sectors, including restaurants, non-profits, retail, and manufacturers.

Based on their baseline Sustainability Score, the organization receives a Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Member designation. Certification is valid for three years, though members are encouraged to pursue higher tiers through follow-up consultations.

Sustainability initiatives from the pilot businesses included parking lot renovations with permeable pavers, installation of rain gardens, upgrades to energy efficient lighting, office compost programs, and promotion of alternative transportation. Beyond these high-impact features, there are many individual actions employees can take to improve sustainability in the workplace, given the right institutional support.

“You have to start somewhere,” says Brian Buckner, Project Manager at RossTarrant. “The Green Check certification process establishes a baseline, but there is always more we can do.”

Bluegrass Greensource is excited to see the growth of this new program – and of business sustainability—in 2017!



Pictured: Back Row, Left to Right: Bridget Abernathy, Bluegrass Greensource Outreach Specialist, Sheryl Gray, Good Foods Co-Op, Dowell Hoskins-Squire, Commissioner of Environmental Quality and Public Works, Vice Mayor Steve Kay, Brad Flowers, Bullhorn Creative, Brian Buckner, Ross Tarrant Architects. Front Row, Left to Right: John Gagel, Lexmark, Rachel Childress, Habitat for Humanity, Suzette Exum, Trane, Amy Sohner, Bluegrass Greensource Executive Director, Rob Gates, Bluegrass Greensource Outreach Specialist.

# BLUEGRASS GREENSOURCE *SUPPORT*

*We are creating a sustainable Central Kentucky thanks to our donors and the financial support we receive from the following:*

- 3M

Amazon Smile

American Water Charitable Foundation

Ashland Oil

Bank of the Bluegrass

Boyle County Solid Waste

Broom Wagon

Centered

City of Georgetown

City of Lexington

City of Midway

City of Winchester

Costco Warehouse

Cup of Commonwealth

Darley Stud

Department of Energy Development and Independence

Designs Unlimited

Don Jacobs Honda, BMW, and Volkswagen

Downtown Lexington Corporation

Franklin County Fiscal Court

Friends of Midway

Garrard County Fiscal Court

Georgetown College

Georgetown Community Hospital

Honorable Order of the Kentucky Colonels

Hurst Office Suppliers

Jessamine County Fiscal Court

Keeneland

Kentucky American Water

Kentucky Division of Water

Kentucky for Kentucky

Kentucky River Authority
- Kresge Foundation through the Blue Grass Community Foundation

Kroger

Lake Village Water Association, Inc.

Lexington Philharmonic

LexMark

Lincoln County Fiscal Court

Locals Craft Food and Drink

Lucia's Imports

Lucky's Market

Marksbury Farm

Messer Construction

National Provisions

NoLi CDC

Park Community Credit Union – Berea

PNC Bank

Republic Services

Saint Joseph Hospital Berea

Scott County Fiscal Court

Second Presbyterian Church

Shelbyville Main Street

State Office Building Green Team

Stites & Harbison

Synergy Home

The Morris Book Shop

The Nature Conservancy

The Thoroughbred Center

Toyota Philanthropy

West Sixth Brewing

Wilmore Community Development Board

WLEX

WUKY

*If you are interested in supporting our mission of empowering the Bluegrass to create a sustainable environment, visit [www.BgGreenSource.org](http://www.BgGreenSource.org) and click the 'Donate Now' button!*

## BLUEGRASS GREENSOURCE *by the numbers*



### Staff:

- 4

Environmental Educators
- 2

Outreach Specialists
- 1

Communications Specialist
- 1

AmeriCorps VISTA
- 4

Program Directors
- 2

Administrators



# BLUEGRASS GREENSOURCE

835 National Avenue  
Lexington, KY 40502

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 382  
LEXINGTON, KY

## Save the Dates

### MAIN STREET CLEAN SWEEP

APRIL 14 - APRIL 22

20 CENTRAL KY COMMUNITIES

DETAILS AT [BGREENSOURCE.ORG](http://BGREENSOURCE.ORG)

### GREENFEST

SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD

10 AM - 2 PM

BLUEGRASS GREENSOURCE

[BGREENFEST.ORG](http://BGREENFEST.ORG)

### TACOS N' TEQUILA

FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH

7 PM - 10 PM

THE LOUDOUN HOUSE

[TACOSNTEQUILALEX.COM](http://TACOSNTEQUILALEX.COM)

BLUEGRASS GREENSOURCE  
SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS