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Earth Day is April 22

New York City's Fifth Avenue is one of the nation's best-known shopping districts. Between landmarks like the Flatiron Building and the Guggenheim Museum, stores like Saks 5th Avenue, Tiffany & Co., and Armani showcase collections of consumable goods to millions of visitors annually. But one of the busiest days in Fifth Avenue history had nothing to do with shopping or sightseeing. On April 22, 1970, between 14th and 59th streets, 250,000 activists poured into the street in awareness of the first Earth Day. They occupied the city blocks wearing gas masks to protest worsening air quality and carrying signs. They cleaned the road and planted flowers.

Across the country, on that first Earth Day, over 12,000 demonstrations were held, attended by an estimated 20 million people.

The first Earth Day and the outburst of environmental advocacy accompanying it was not a production of some slick, well-funded corporate strategy. It borrowed heavily from the grassroots techniques of the anti-war protests and civil rights movement. Organized by Denis Hayes, a mid-20s Harvard student, and supported by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, the celebration had a significant challenge - elevating the concept of environmentalism to the public consciousness.

Working with disparate passions and populations, the first Earth Day unified millions nationwide. And this kind of solidarity encouraged action on a federal level. The EPA was created later that same year, followed by the Clean Air Act (1970), the Clean Water Act (1972), and the Endangered Species Act (1973).

That legacy of collaboration is one we still champion today. We in the environmental movement are unique people with specific niches of interest, but when we choose to work together, we are reminded that we are all working towards the same goal - a cleaner, healthier planet.

While Fifth Avenue may not be closed to traffic this Earth Day, there are still plenty of opportunities for assembly. Go out and find those opportunities in your community. Partner with those who share your concerns for the Earth. Be encouraged that when we unite, we can do great things for our Earth.

Happy Earth Day from KRC!



Take Action TODAY!

Governor Beshear vetoed several bills last week, including three opposed by KRC - House Bill 4 and Senate Bills 126, 150, and 226. The General Assembly reconvenes later this week and may vote by a simple majority (51 in House, 20 in Senate) to override the vetoes, so that the laws would take effect. You can read the vetoes for [HB 4 here](#), for [SB 126 here](#), for [SB 150 here](#), and for [SB 226 here](#).

Call 1-800-372-7181 and leave a message to “all legislators” to “uphold the Governor’s vetoes on HB 4 and SBs 126, 150, and 226.” If you can, email your Senator and Representative and House and Senate Leaders with that same message. Here’s a description of those four bills and why KRC opposes them:

HB 4 (Branscum & others)(Vetoed)(-)

Bill revises the current statutes on the Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting, weakening of protections for landowners from what is being required by the state Siting Board of utility-scale solar facilities under current law. The bill weakens existing protections for landowners and undercuts local government authority. Revisions are needed to assure the adequacy of decommissioning bonds, and to fully respect the rights of landowners during the decommissioning process.

SB 226 (Turner)(Vetoed)(-)

Bill would significantly interfere with the implementation of Kentucky’s water quality standards when permitting discharges, such as coal mining-related wastewaters, into streams containing federally threatened and endangered species, and would alter timeframes for issuance of water quality certifications.

The bill is in several ways inconsistent with Kentucky’s obligations under the Clean Water Act and will likely spawn significant litigation and more delays and uncertainty in permitting under the 402 and 404 programs.

SB 126 (Howell) (Vetoed)(-)

Bill would further muddle venue for civil actions against state officials or the General Assembly that challenges the constitutionality of state laws, regulations, and agency orders, by allowing any plaintiff or defendant in such an action to request a change of venue without reason, at which time the case will be assigned randomly by the Supreme Court Clerk to another circuit. Former law provided that venue was in Franklin Circuit Court, which was changed more recently to provide that venue lies where the plaintiff resides if the plaintiff is a Kentucky resident, or in Franklin County if a non-resident.

SB 150 (Wise and others)(Vetoed)(-)

“Parental rights” bill seeking to limit authority of the Kentucky Board of Education and Kentucky Department of Education in relation a student’s use of pronouns; prohibit a school district from requiring school personnel or pupils to use pronouns for students that do not conform to that student’s biological sex; and establish requirements for any public school’s course, curriculum, or program on the subject of human sexuality. Bill was amended in House committee to add most of the provisions of HB 470, a controversial bill interfering with parental decisions on medical care for trans kids, and interfering with decisions on and criminalizing medical providers of such care.

KRC encourages your support of the Governor’s veto of this bill as a matter of solidarity with others seeking different facets of justice. [Read more about SB 150 from the Kentucky Academy of Science.](#)

KRC’s Latest Legislative Update



The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly: 2023 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

Thursday, April 13, 7:00pm

Zoom (must pre-register)

The 2023 General Assembly has kept the Kentucky Resources Council incredibly busy. Many bills and resolutions have impacted our water quality, land use, affordability and reliability of utility services, and environmental and community health.

And we were on it every day of this year's session- testifying, informing, working against bills that would weaken environmental protections and working to advance environmental quality and justice.

Join us on Thursday, April 13, as KRC's Executive Director Ashley Wilmes and Lobbyist Tom "Fitz" Fitzgerald review this year's session and answer the question, "where do we go from here?"

A Q&A will follow the discussion.

[Register for the Wrap-Up](#)

Support KRC

As we enter the final quarter of our fiscal year, we've met 75% of our fundraising target. Help us reach 100% with a gift to the Kentucky Resources Council today!

[Give online](#) and support our ongoing efforts to protect Kentucky from state legislation that harms our environment by weakening regulation and favoring industry.

[Donate to KRC](#)

From our friends...



Danville Earth Day Celebration

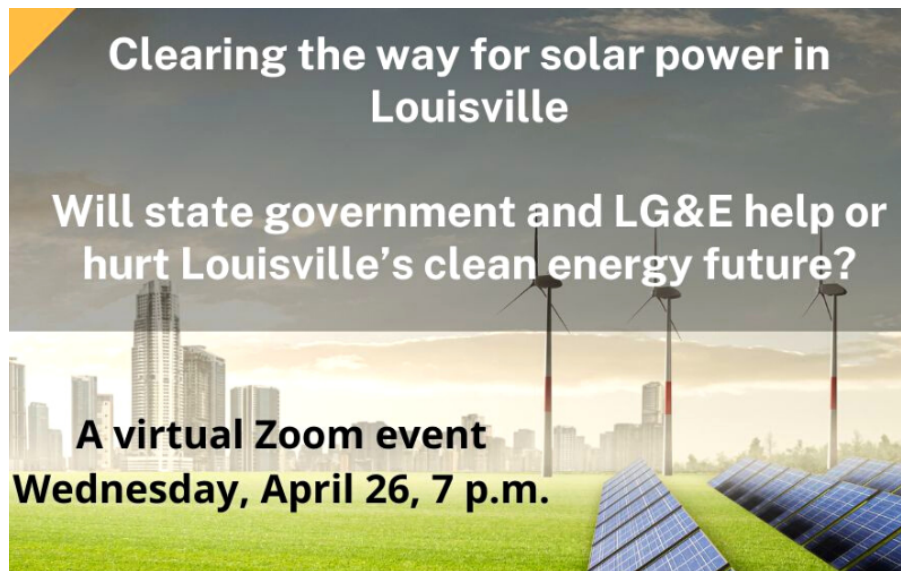
April 22, 2023, 11:00am-3:00pm

Boyle County Cooperative Extension Office Pavilion

99 Corporate Dr, Danville, KY

Our friends at Clarks Run Environmental Education Cooperation ([CREEC](#)) is the lead sponsor of Danville's Earth Day celebration. This year's celebration will be held at the [Boyle County](#)

KRC will be an exhibitor at this year's event, so make sure to stop by and say hello!



Renewable Energy Alliance of Louisville

Wednesday, April 26, 7:00-8:30pm

Zoom

"[REAL Good News](#)" will hold its 10th in a series of quarterly public Zoom meetings aimed at making sure Louisville implements its green energy goals. In 2020 the Metro Council passed a resolution to move the city's operations to 100% clean renewable electricity by 2030. That resolution also sets a goal of 100% clean energy for the entire Louisville community by 2040.

April's event will feature a discussion by an expert panel on how other cities have transitioned to solar and how Louisville can follow their example.

Speakers include:

- Steve Ricketts, chair of the Kentucky Solar Energy Society and owner of Generation Solar
- Ryan Van Velzer, Energy and Environmental Reporter at Louisville Public Media
- Andrew Owen, Metro Council Representative for District 9

Music by Louisville musician and activist John Gage will open and close the event. People attending will also be encouraged to attend Metro Council meetings to speak in favor of implementing Louisville's clean energy resolution.

The three sponsoring organizations are 100%REAL, Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light, and the Christian Action group of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

[Register for the April 26 session](#)



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