

[View this email in your browser](#)A photograph of tall grasses in the foreground, with a sunset sky in shades of orange and red in the background. The text "JUNE 2023" and "NEWS & NOTES" is overlaid in white serif font.

JUNE 2023

NEWS & NOTES

Advocating for Retiring Fossil-Fuel Plants

During the 2023 General Assembly, Kentucky lawmakers passed SB4, a law advocated for and developed by coal interests to attempt to extend the life of coal-fired power plants. KRC and our allies opposed SB4, joined by several utility companies who said the bill would damage grid reliability and raise costs by forcing utilities to operate coal plants past their useful lives. As law, SB4 requires utilities to seek approval from the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the closure of fossil-fueled electric generation and specifically disallows any use or reliance by the utility on incentives under the Inflation Reduction Act in the decision-making on plant retirement.

The first test of the new law will be a PSC case where Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company are requesting, among other things, PSC approval of

order regarding four solar purchases power agreements. This includes the retirement of two coal-fired units and the construction of two natural gas combined cycle combustion turbine facilities, one at LG&E's Mill Creek Generating Station in Jefferson County and the other at KU's E.W. Brown Generating Station in Mercer County, KY.



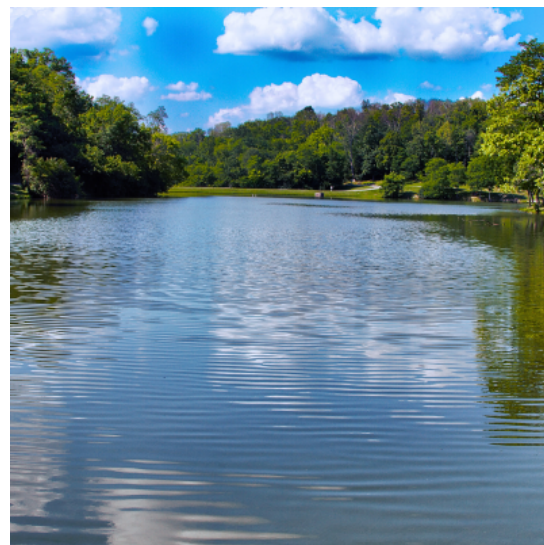
KRC is participating in that case on behalf of the joint intervenors - Kentucky Solar Energy Society, Metropolitan Housing Coalition, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, and Mountain Association,

Together, we seek to advance a business case for closing these coal-fired plants and to ensure that the process is not “gamed” to favor continued uneconomic use and dispatch of coal-fired generation.

[Read More from the Kentucky Lantern](#)

In response to U.S. Supreme Court Decision *Sackett v. EPA*

The 5-4 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Sackett v. EPA* represents a disappointing setback for the decades-long national effort to restore, protect, and maintain water quality. The Court established a more stringent test to determine whether the Clean Water Act applies to a wetland, ruling that the Act only protects “wetlands with a continuous surface connection to bodies that are ‘waters of the United States’ in their own right,” so that they are “indistinguishable” from those waters.



Sackett raises many questions regarding the scope of protection for Kentucky's wetlands, and KRC will be there to advocate for the broadest federal wetland protections possible in light of that decision.



Help us reach a \$40,000 Match by May 31

We are excited to share a \$40,000 matching gift opportunity available for donations in the month of May! We've raised over \$26,000 thus far, and we have through May 31 to close the distance to \$40,000.

Will you help us reach our goal of raising \$40,000, please? Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar! Any financial gift brings us closer to our goal.

Donate at <https://www.kyrc.org/get-involved/donate> or mail a check by May 31 to:
Kentucky Resources Council
P.O. Box 1070
Frankfort, KY 40602

Thank you for all that you do to protect Kentucky's air, water, land, and people from environmental harm. We are able to make a positive impact because of your support!



The Roots of Environmental Injustice in Appalachia: A Brief History

Virtual Event with Ron Eller

Thursday, June 29, 7:00pm | Zoom

Join KRC and speaker Ron Eller for a virtual discussion exploring the historical instances of environmental injustice in Appalachia and how it has shaped the region today.

[Register today for this event!](#)

If you would like to do any reading to accompany this session, you may find these reads interesting:

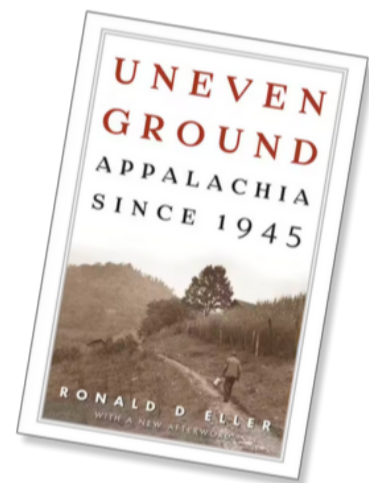
- *Uneven Ground* by Ron Eller
- *My Land is Dying* by Harry Caudill

[Please check out your independent bookstores or libraries for these titles!](#)

Ron Eller is a Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus University of Kentucky. Originally from southern West Virginia, Ron Eller has spent more than forty years writing and teaching about the Appalachian region. A descendent of eight generations of families from Appalachia, Dr. Eller served for 15 years as the Director of the University of Kentucky Appalachian Center where he coordinated research and service programs on a wide range of Appalachian policy issues including education, health care, economic development, civic leadership and the environment.



Dr. Eller's most recent book, *Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945*, was the winner of the 2008 Willis D. Weatherford Award for the best publication about Appalachia by the Appalachian Studies Association and the 2009 V.O. Key Award for the best book on Southern Politics by the Southern Political Science Association. The book examines the impact of government programs and economic development on Appalachia since World War II. He is retired and splits his time between his cabin in western North Carolina and his home in Lexington, Kentucky



Register for "The Roots of Environmental Injustice"

Endow KY Tax Credits begin July 1!

Learn how you can receive a tax credit for investing in the future of KRC!

What is a permanent endowment?

It is a fund designed to support the long-term financial health of a nonprofit organization. The funds are intended to be held in perpetuity, where only the income from the funds can be used for operations.

What's unique about this type of fund?

It's not an operating bank account. Money in an endowed fund is highly restricted and cannot be accessed like a checking or savings account. Funds are invested to balance growth in value and preserve the principle for the organization's future benefit.

Our endowment, the [Kentucky Resources Foundation](#), is the name of our permanently endowed fund to benefit the Kentucky Resources Council under an agreement with the

Why make a contribution to KRC's permanent endowment?

In addition to making it possible for you to earn a tax credit, your contribution adds to the principal of the fund and further strengthens KRC's financial position for the long haul. Please consider making a gift to KRC's permanent endowment today.

What is the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit, and how does it relate to the KRC endowment?

[The Endow Kentucky Tax Credit](#) program is made available by the Commonwealth of Kentucky each year. Under this program, donors intending to make an endowment gift to a permanent endowment fund managed by a qualified community foundation are eligible to apply for the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit. This tax credit allocation cap for the year is \$1 million. The available tax credit is equal to 20% of the value of the endowment gift and cannot exceed \$10,000. The "window" to apply for this tax credit opens July 1 and remains open until the state pool of tax credits runs out, which is usually within the first week of July. If the total applications exceed \$1 million in the first week of July, the credits may be prorated based on each application amount as a percent of the total submissions. (KRS 141.438, 103 KAR 15:195)

Our endowment is eligible for the Endow Kentucky Tax Credit and can provide donors with an opportunity to invest in the long-term success of KRC and provide the donor with significant tax savings greater than the regular charitable deduction. For example, if your application is approved for the tax credit and you donate \$1,000 to the endowment, you could be eligible for a \$200 tax credit. But to be eligible, donors must apply for the tax credit first! [The application is currently available on our website.](#)

How do I make a gift and apply for the tax credit?

If you are interested in making a gift to our permanent endowment, please reach out to [Donna Counts](#). She will provide you with detailed instructions on the process to submit an Endow Kentucky application.

Don't forget - applications must be submitted to KRC and BGCF before July 1!



Donna Counts

Development Associate





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