

# **Environmental Finance Center Network University of Louisville - Region 4 1999 Annual Report**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT 1999**

**Environmental Finance Center - efc@unc  
University of Louisville  
U.S. EPA Region 4**

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### **[Executive Overview](#)**

The Louisville EFC was authorized by Act of Congress in September, 1998. With support from the Environmental Finance Center Network and the University itself, it participated in Network affairs and activities throughout the year although it did not receive formal funding until September, 1999. Some staff were retroactively covered in the budget approved at that time, in recognition of their having been actively engaged in Center business starting in July, 1999.

The Center undertook a number of discrete activities in its first year, building the foundation for future work on a number of issues and problems. Activity was thus directed at:

- Becoming an active participant and partner in the EFC Network, to bring the knowledge and expertise of other Centers to the Southeast and to provide its expertise to others.

- Providing support services to the hundreds of small and medium-sized clean water and wastewater facility operators throughout Kentucky. This effort is seen as preparatory to serving a broader set of companies and municipal departments throughout Region 4 in providing these key environmental services.
- Examining the sources of urban spatial change and expansion and their responses to different public sector interventions in order to generate guidance documents, training and technical assistance services to municipalities and counties confronted with the fiscal problems and choices associated with infill, sprawl and other spatial development decisions that they can make and influence through their policies.
- Working on issues associated with urban brownfield redevelopment and base closure and readjustment processes, especially the problems of access to financing and promoting regeneration and the infill such sites makes possible in expanding economies.

## Introduction

This annual report describes the major accomplishments of the EPA Region IV Environmental Finance Center at the University of Louisville. The University of Louisville Environmental Finance Center was established by Congress in the federal 1998-99 fiscal year budget bill in September, 1998. The Center is one of two Environmental Finance Centers serving the US EPA Region IV states (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky), the other environmental finance center being located at the University of North Carolina.

## Facilities and Expertise

The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Louisville is housed within the Center for Environmental Policy and Management in the Department of Urban and Public Affairs. The Center is part of the University of Louisville's interdisciplinary network of faculty and staff that comprise the Kentucky Institute for the Environment and Sustainable Development (KIESD). The Institute reports directly to the Vice President for Research and includes seven other thematic centers in the schools of law, engineering, arts and sciences, education, medicine, business and public administration. These centers are involved in a wide range of research, technical outreach, public service, education and training related to environmental and sustainable development issues. The Institute is home to two state directed centers: the Kentucky Center for Pollution Prevention, and the Center for Environmental Education.

The Center for Environmental Policy and Management has engaged in a wide range of research activities including the impact of ecotourism, projecting environmental futures for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, brownfield redevelopment, environmental insurance, responding to environmental disasters, public management and finance, and environmental management issues.

The Department of Urban and Public Affairs offers both a Master in Public Administration and a Doctorate in Urban and Public Affairs. The KIESD also offers an interdisciplinary degree in Environmental Studies.

## Core Activities

### Center Initiation and Network Development

March 2-4. With support from non-EFC University funds, Peter Meyer and Russell Barnett attended the EFAB meeting and meeting of the EFC Directors in Washington in order to meet colleagues and develop working relationships.

Sept. 15-17. Russell Barnett attended the EFC Network Meeting in Boise, Idaho. The Network of Universities agreed at this meeting to form a formal association.

Sep 30- Oct 1. Tara Clapp attended Great Lakes Economic Development Conference, Rockford Illinois,

and presented and discussed the research agenda of the EFC and the work of other organizations providing support for environmentally-sensitive economic development, their approaches and results to date.

Oct. 5. Russell Barnett and Peter Meyer met in Chapel Hill, NC, with University of North Carolina EFC personnel to discuss cooperation and joint ventures, and how we would approach the diverse needs of the Region 4 states.

Oct. 20-24. Tara Clapp and Peter Meyer participated in the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Chicago, Illinois, distributed information about the EFC and its agenda, and initiated efforts to build a network for the development of approaches to shaping the spatial patterns of urban development and addressing financial and other related problems, concentrating recruitment among faculty from institutions in Region 4.

### Water Rate Setting and Regulations Compliance Support

Apr 14-15. With financial support from the EFC network, the Louisville EFC presented information about RateMod Pro to the Kentucky Water Association's Management Conference held in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The Conference was attended by over 600 wastewater plant managers from across the state. The keynote speaker to the conference was Mr. Bill Jarocki, Boise State University EFC in Region 10. Breakout sessions were also conducted where Mr. Jarocki and Russell Barnett, presented a detailed description of the capacities of the RateMod Pro model. During the meeting a number of plant managers expressed their interest in obtaining additional information and training on the model.

May 4. At the request of Vicky Ray, Manager, Drinking Water Division, KY NREPC, Peter Meyer provided telephone advice to Hopkinsville Water Environment Authority on pricing of water to be supplied to the City of Oak Grove. Dr. Meyer noted the compromises needed and made suggestions on how to resolve the cost-sharing and allocation issues that had to be resolved.

August 14. The Louisville EFC sponsored a one-day workshop on RateMod Pro. Class instructors included Mr. Russell Barnett and Dr. Tara Clapp from the Louisville EFC, and Mr. Bill Jarocki from the Boise State EFC in Region 10. The class was limited to 10 participants due to the number of copies of the computer program made available to the EFC. The fee structures developed during the workshop were reviewed favorably by the participants (some who had recently spent thousands of dollars with consultants who proposed rates identical to those they were able to generate during the workshop) and several participants purchased the software program. The workshop included a luncheon keynoted by Congresswoman Anne Northup (KY 3rd), a former member of the Environmental Finance Advisory Board. Rep. Anne Northup spoke about the importance of the EFC Network and her pride in the active role she played in its formation.

Sept 24. As part of year-long collaboration with the Kentucky Division of Water, the Kentucky Rural Water Association and the Boise State University EFC in Region 10 collaborated to provide technical assistance on environmental financing to small and medium-sized wastewater treatment facilities. Boise State EFC Director, Bill Jarocki conducted a seminar on RateMod Pro for representatives from Kentucky. The EFC Network provided funding for his trip. Attending the one-day seminar were representatives of the Kentucky Division of Water, Kentucky Public Service Commission, Kentucky League of Cities, Louisville Water Company, Kentucky Rural Water Association, Louisville-Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District, and the Kentucky Association of County Officials. As a result of the seminar, the Kentucky Division of Water requested the EFC to assist the state in developing financial capacity requirements under the 1996 Amendments of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Kentucky Rural Water Association asked the EFC to collaborate with the Association to provide training for wastewater plant operators.

### Responses to Changing Urban Spatial Form, and Land Uses

April 4-9. Participating as a member of its Board of Directors, Peter Meyer presented and discussed "The Opportunities in Urban Infill as a Means of Balancing Developmental Needs and Environmental Quality preservation" and participated in other deliberations of the Third International Urban Planning and Environment Organization Symposium, Pretoria, SA. April 14-18. Peter Meyer presented and discussed "Urban Sprawl and the Appropriateness of the Urban Regeneration Response: Can 'Smart Growth' Restrain the Urbanization of the Countryside?" and participated in the Urban Affairs Assoc. Meeting, Louisville, KY May 10. Peter Meyer and Russell Barnett were invited to participate in the KY Coalition for Smart Growth, a citizen-led effort to develop proposals on how the state could best address growth. The group examining this issue included over 50 prominent citizens of the state (including two former Governors) as well as representatives from the Kentucky Attorney General's Office, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky Nature Conservancy, Commodity Growers Coop, Bluegrass Conservancy, Kentucky Heritage Council, Bluegrass Tomorrow, River Fields, and the Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association. The Coalition met biweekly from May through July, 1999 to develop recommendations for Governor Paul Patton. June 1. Russell Barnett met with KY Coalition for Smart Growth in Frankfort, KY, to work on principles to guide design of anti-sprawl legislation.

July 3. Russell Barnett met with KY Coalition for Smart Growth in Frankfort, KY, to continue work on principles to guide design of anti-sprawl legislation.

July 7-10. Peter Meyer presented and led discussion of "Introducing Environmental Factors into the Land Cost - Transportation Cost Tradeoff Logic: A Critical Step Toward Sustainable Urban Planning" and participated in other sessions of the annual meeting of the Association of European Schools of Planning in Bergen, Norway.

July 21. Russell Barnett participated in presentation of a White Paper to Kentucky Governor Patton that was received favorably. The Governor's position has shifted to include brownfield and inner city redevelopment as part of his urban growth strategy, expanded the list of alternative funding mechanisms he is considering, and is now including a list of public policies that could positive influence the shape and timing of urban growth.

August 27. Peter Meyer briefed Louisville brownfield and economic development personnel on community development impacts of new investments and land uses on abandoned sites in the central city and techniques for planning to generate maximum public gains.

Sept 22-24. Tara Clapp participated in US EPA workshop on Environmental Problem Solving with Geographic Information Systems, September 22-24, Cincinnati, Ohio

Sept 30-Oct 3. Tara Clapp presented and discussed the service and technical assistance agenda of the EFC at the Great Lakes Economic Development Conference, Rockford, Illinois to recruit nearby allies and collaborators.

### Brownfield and BRAC Redevelopment

March 5. Peter Meyer, using other UofL funds, participated in an invitation-only meeting held by the EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response on the new Brownfields Tax Incentive program, Chicago, IL.

March 22. At the request of the Office of Economic Adjustment, Department of Defense, that funded his trip, Peter Meyer discussed private sector investors' concerns and needs for insurance associated with environmental risks in BRAC projects as part of the OSD (Office of the Secretary of Defense) Community Affairs Conference, Pentagon City, VA.

May 3. Also at the request of OEA, Peter Meyer provided a briefing to US DOD Office of Economic Adjustment staff in Pentagon City, VA on lessons from brownfields practices and use of insurance for Base Realignment and

Closure processes.

May 12. In conjunction with the University of Louisville's contractual role as a partner in the Louisville, KY, Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund, Peter Meyer met with and discussed impediments to borrowing for brownfield projects with the Louisville Community Development Bank and other fund partners.

July 1. The National Governor's Association's Center for Best Practice invited Peter Meyer to serve as its luncheon speaker at the in Boston, MA, Brownfields Workshop, at which he addressed innovations in state approaches to promoting brownfield redevelopment.

July 26-27. Peter Meyer made presentations on state brownfield voluntary cleanup programs and on the new forms of entrepreneurial environmental redevelopment approaches to the Council of Urban Economic Development Seminar on Brownfields in Cincinnati, OH.

July 29. At the request of Louisville Mayor David Armstrong, Peter Meyer served as resource person for a joint Mayoral-Gubernatorial field investigation/discussion of brownfield problems and financing issues facing Louisville, KY.

August 3. On request from the Institute for Responsible Management, an EPA-designated provider of technical support to EPA Brownfield Pilot Projects, Peter Meyer participated as an expert source in a nationwide conference call for Pilot staff.

August 4-5. As a special objective invitee of the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Peter Meyer participated in a two-day round-table consultation on environmental insurance program options for Pennsylvania's brownfield program.

August 19. Sharing portions of an EPA-sponsored study of which he is a co-director, Peter Meyer briefed Louisville brownfield and economic development personnel on use of insurance as a subsidy to investment in sites with histories of contamination risks.

Nov 6. As part of the EFC's efforts to help promote the proposed legislation on urban growth, Mr. Marshall Slagel, a member of the citizen-led group, presented a seminar at the University of Louisville on the proposed legislation. The seminar was attended by 66 people from the Louisville metropolitan area. Rep. Jim Wayne, the sponsor of the bill, has been invited to present another seminar on the legislation in January, 2000.

Nov. 9. As part of the continuing education programs of Environment and Natural Resources Sections, New York City and New York State Bar Associations, Peter Meyer provided the lead presentation on trends in environmental insurance and new uses of the tool in stimulating brownfields finance for a CLE Seminar.

Nov 22. On the request of Bonnie Biemer, Director of the Louisville Office of health and Environment, Peter Meyer provided review and comment for City of Louisville on the draft Voluntary Environmental Remediation Act proposed for the January 2000 KY Legislative Session.

Dec 6-8. At EPA's Brownfields'99 conference in Dallas, TX, the availability of the new report, Environmental Insurance Products for Brownfield Redevelopment, 1999, which Peter Meyer co-authored, was announced by Acting OSWER Assistant Administrator Tim Fields. This report, prepared in collaboration with Northern Kentucky University, provides a detailed look at the development of new approaches to insuring brownfield risks and freeing up access to capital for such projects.

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