

2015 Annual Report of KORA Committees, Subcommittees, Service,
Special Interest Groups and Support Groups

Name of Group: **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE**

2015 Chair(s): John Elder, Dina Schoonmaker, co-chairs; Co-Chair since what year? John 2013; Dina 2012

2016 Chair(s): Same unless a volunteer(s) appears.

1. Current mission statement:

- (1) To identify problems of environmental sustainability that most concern us as individuals, as residents of Kendal, and as members of the larger community;
- (2) To educate ourselves and our fellow Kendal residents on these problems and how they might be ameliorated;
- (3) To develop action programs in response to these problems that we personally can undertake and can also encourage others to undertake
 - (a) as individuals;
 - (b) as a Kendal community, in consultation and cooperation with the Kendal at Oberlin Board, the Kendal Staff, and other committees of KORA;
 - (c) in cooperation with the larger community, including other Kendals, Oberlin College and the City of Oberlin. (adopted 3/06/08)

2. Changes to mission statement? NO?

3. Summary of activities and accomplishments

A)Programs:

a) Films and DVDs on Environmental Topics:

“Years of Living Dangerously” 9 one hour DVDs on Mondays beginning 1/12/15 in Whittier Lounge. 20 to 30 attendees each week.

“The Day After Tomorrow”, 7/15/15 About 30 attendees.

“Merchants of Doubt” 8/29/15. About 55 attendees.

b)Talks and Presentations:

Cullen Naumhoff, Oberlin Project presented her mission of working on economic development strategies to the committee, 11/14

Steve Dupee, Director, OMLPS, overview of OMLPS work, 11/12

Darrick Evensen, OC Professor, “Fractured Discourse: Perspectives on ‘Fracking’...” 1/14/15. Well attended.

Andy McDowell, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, “Northern Ohio’s Natural Gems: Land Preservation in 2014” 3/25/15. About 35 attendees.

Sandra Steingraber (at First Church), “A New Environmentalism for an Unfractured Future” 4/20/15

Breakfast with Ms Steingraber in Den, 4/21/15 16-18 attendees.

Norm Damm, “Saving Lives with Medications Derived from Reptiles” 4/22/15. Attendees -30.

David Orr, “Greening of Oberlin” 9/21/15, attendees about 60-70.

Carl McDaniel “RECS, renewal Energy Credits” 10/8/15. 40-50 attendees.

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B) **Outreach:** Dina spoke to Newcomers 6/2 about ECC and what it does.
Created new posters for Langston and Heiser lounge on
reusing/recycling/composting carry-out containers functions.
Added articles about environmental issues to the ECC box in the library.

C) **Monthly reports on:**

FRACKING in the area and protest and educational programs outside Kendal
NEXUS pipeline controversy and protests.

D) **Activities:**

Worked with OC student on measuring heat loss in the apartments. (Natalia Garcia-Sanabria OC '17 project) (Unfinished)

Sponsored Swerve Bike Shop Bike maintenance on campus. 4/21/15, 7/2/15

Toured new Tyler hydroponic farm

Participated in Kendal Corp Sustainability quarterly phone conferences.

Met with Youngstown State U. and Oberlin city officials on possibility of city wide
composting program. 6/23.

Solar Panel conference, Cleveland, 7/23/15. Dina Schoonmaker, Don Reeves,
Vera Cooke and Pat Talbot attended.

Formed Solar Array Working Group to follow up on Cleveland Solar
conference. Dennis Cook, John Pesuit co-leaders. Met with City officials and
Kendal Facilities directors 8/26/15. Met with vendors of solar arrays-late
September and early October.

Regularly reminded residents and staff about reducing/reusing/recycling and
other conservation hints in Kendalight.

4. Problems? Needs: **Attract new members and new leadership.**

5. Plans for 2016 and future: Continue to educate residents about the value of
energy reduction, reducing waste, reusing materials, recycling; continue to
investigate solar array possibilities; show environmental films, bring in speakers
on a variety of environmental themes

6. Committee members: List with special assignment as necessary:

John Elder, Dina Schoonmaker, Anne Elder, Dan Reiber, Don Reeves, Don
Parker, Jim Helm, Gayle Sherry, Mary Clare Beck, Melissa Reed, Don Hultquist,
Nancy Hultquist, John Pesuit, Emily Pugsley, Nancy McClusky, Pat Talbot, Paul
Schwaegerle, Ruth Miller, Scott Orcutt, Vera Cooke, Betsy David, Tin David,
Marilyn Myerson, Jim Sunshine.

Peg Schultz: Secretary until her untimely death in April.

Jerry Berner and Bev Fordyce: RECYCLING

Dennis Cook, SOLAR ARRAY