

I can ECODEpot

center for cutting carbon and cost

The Crisis We Face

Climate change is harming Louisville: Extreme heat makes life miserable, especially for anyone who works outdoors or lacks AC. Flooding from worsening storms threatens our safety. Longer droughts drive up food prices. It's not the legacy we want to leave our children and grandchildren. However, political gridlock stymies government leadership.

We Have a Win-Win Opportunity

While we have no silver bullet for fixing this mess, we do have *silver buckshot*. We have the technology we need to cut enough carbon pollution to stabilize the planet by 2050—as well as cut costs and create local jobs. We only need to jump-start change at the grassroots to side-step the current political inertia.

A Lesson from Louisville's History

Louisville faced a similar challenge a century ago: Most homes and businesses burned softer coal for heat. Health and property values suffered greatly. In 1933, the average resident inhaled 1½ cups of soot annually! Streetcars needed headlights at noon on the worst days. Despite countless calls for change, few politicians supported the one solution available then.

Why? They feared a backlash if voters paid higher costs for cleaner, harder coal just before voting in November—if they hadn't yet realized it took much less harder coal to make the same heat.

Still, between 1940 and 1960, nine out of 10 Louisville home- and business-owners chose to switch to natural gas or electric

heating. In short, Louisville opted for lower costs and cleaner air—indoors and out. No more shoveling coal, ashes and clinker every day. No more “spring cleaning” soot, from ceilings to floors. And fewer house fires.



Downtown Louisville, 1943

Louisville could apply win-win solutions to today's pollution crisis, too: If we embrace energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy, we would lower costs for families, schools and businesses, and create jobs with decent wages—that can't be shipped overseas—and live healthier lives.



ECOdepot: The Center for Cutting Carbon & Costs

This evolution eventually will happen on its own, but not soon enough to avoid catastrophic damage to the planet and humanity. We need catalysts to jump-start change.

In early-2019, the Louisville Climate Action Network will open its ECOdepot: The Center for Cutting Carbon & Cost for empowering renters, homeowners, non-profits and small businesses with reliable, unbiased guidance, using different learning styles, including:

- Displays, such as a “truth wall” showing insulation choices, with take-home tip cards listing each one's advantages, disadvantages, approximate costs and consumer tips
- Models and instructions for DIY projects
- Hands-on activities, like mini “shower stalls” with show-and-feel showerhead options
- Kiosks for working through computer modules
- Seminars, classes and video screenings
- Resource library
- A help desk for one-on-one Q&A



Example questions we'll answer:

- What can we do to lower our home/apartment's utility bills?
- How do I go about hiring an insulation contractor?
- Which appliance, furnace, air conditioner or automobile would meet our needs, and be efficient and cost effective?
- How can we spend less at the fuel pump?
- How do we choose new light bulbs for our needs?
- Which TARC route would get me where I need to go on time, and back?
- How can our nonprofit group spend less on utilities and more on our mission?
- Can you teach me to become a confident bicyclist?
- Would solar panels make sense on my roof?

LCAN believes the ECOdepot will be successful for several reasons:

- Though Kentuckians pay relatively low electricity rates, our bills are inordinately high. Lower-income residents pay one of the nation's highest percentages of their incomes on utility bills, because their homes and apartments are so leaky.
- Homeowners, non-profit leaders and businesspeople would invest more money into their homes and buildings if they had a reliable, independent source of guidance.
- LG&E has requested permission to end almost all of its residential and commercial energy efficiency programs, including its low-cost home energy audits and appliance rebates, leaving a service vacuum we will work to fill more effectively.

Want to Get Involved?

We have found a great location, available in early-2019, and could use additional volunteers to help with the following activities:

1. Refining the business plan
2. Finishing programming plans
3. Writing grant applications
4. Creating displays
5. Documenting the process so other communities may replicate the idea



To Volunteer or More Information, Please Contact:

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