



General Survey Results

Health in Appalachia Class

Kentucky Environmental Foundation

Participants and Design of Survey

- 21 local health care providers
- 7 questions
 - 2 questions rating statements using Likert-type scale (7-1)
 - 5 open-ended questions

1. To what extent are you familiar with each of the following?

- Nine statements rated
- General questions
 - A greater percentage of the individuals gave a rating of a 7 or 6
 - 81% (17 out of 21) of the individuals surveyed were very familiar or nearly there with the effects of mercury on a developing baby
- Specific questions
 - Kentucky has led the nation in terms of premature deaths associated with soot from coal-fired power plants
 - Every year, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 38,000 heart attacks, 12,000 hospital admissions, and an additional 550,000 asthma attacks result from coal-fired power plant pollution
 - Had fewer ratings of 7 or 6, with each having 10% (2 out of 21) providing a rating of 7 or 6

2. Rate the importance to you of each of the following: (7= very important and 1= very unimportant)

- For 91% of the respondents, protecting public health is extremely important or nearly so (rating of 7 or 6)
- Only 72% of the respondents believe that becoming an advocate for clean air is extremely important
- Only 62% of the respondents believe that becoming more informed about the specific health issues associated with coal-fired power plants is extremely important

3. What could an environmental organization like the Kentucky Environmental Foundation (KEF) to help you become more familiar with energy choices that affect health?

- Many different answers to this open-ended question
- Some common themes
 - Respondents want to see more information through various forms of media such as press releases, fact sheets, email communications, newspapers, and television

4. What kinds of resources would you find helpful to inform your clients/patients about air quality and health?

- Common theme
 - A need for more facts
 - Suggestions include fact sheets, brochures, handouts, posters, and pamphlets.

5. If you would like to become an air quality advocate, what would help you personally to prepare for that role?

- Some of the respondents believe that they need more information in order to become air quality advocates
- Others are either not interested in becoming an air quality advocate (as seen in question 2, statement 2) or indicate that they simply do not have the time to invest in the issue

6. What specific steps has your organization taken to lower your environmental impact? What other steps could be taken to use energy more efficiently?

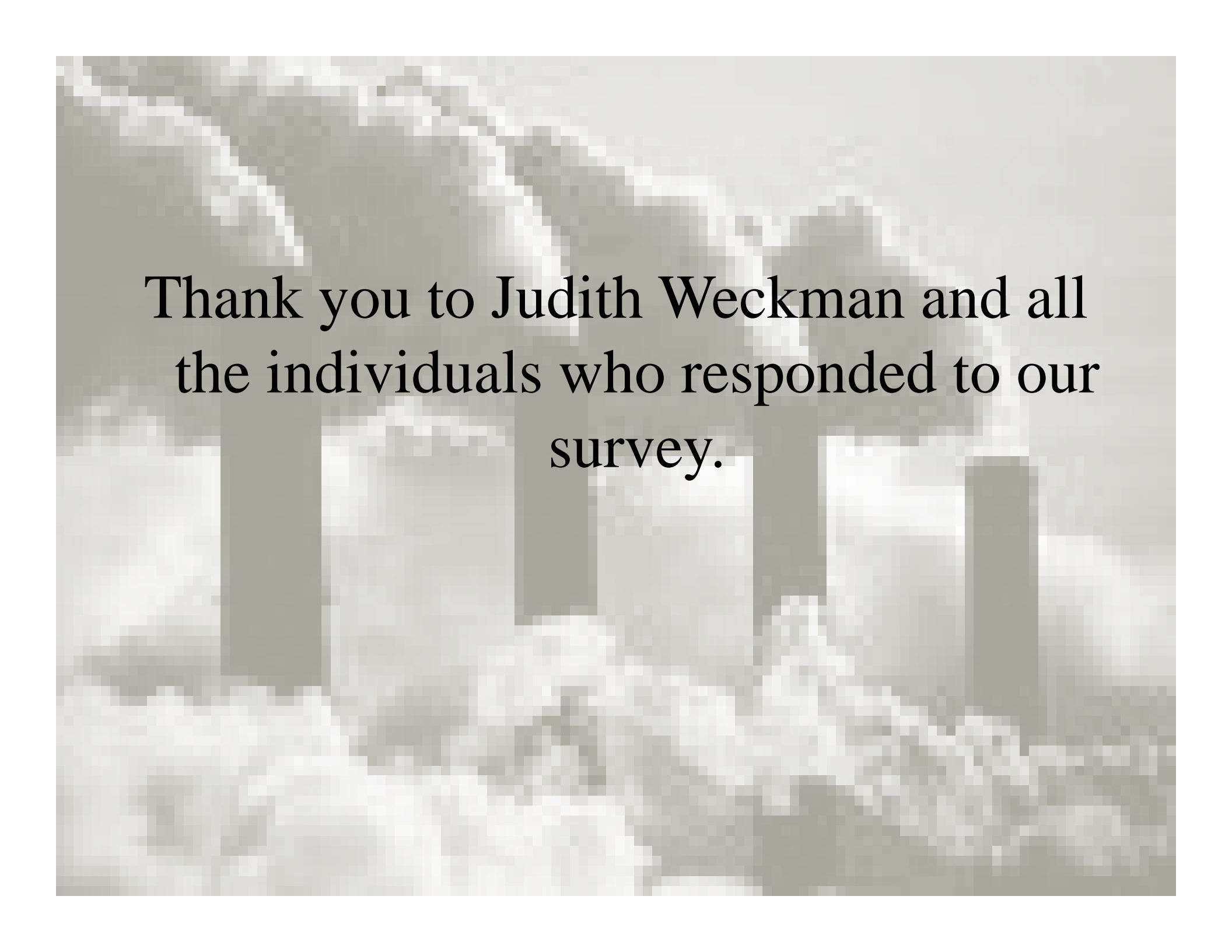
- 13 of the 15 responses indicate that some action is being taken on the issue in their places of work
- 3 of the respondents indicate that their workplaces are instituting or planning to institute specific “green” programs
 - “green agency,” “go green,” and a GoGreen committee

7. Contact Information and Invitation to Forum

- 8 respondents provided us with contact information

Lessons Learned

- More education
 - Respondents interested in protecting public health but many lack knowledge about the impacts of coal-fired power plant pollution
- Lack of interest
 - Reach out to health care providers by showing the connection between air pollution and poor health

A grayscale photograph of a stone archway leading to a building with columns. The image is slightly blurred and has a soft, ethereal quality. The archway is the central focus, leading the eye towards the building in the background. The building has several tall, rectangular columns. The overall tone is calm and historical.

Thank you to Judith Weckman and all
the individuals who responded to our
survey.