

Kay Drey

Kay Kranzberg Drey has devoted her life to civil rights and to saving the planet. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan where she received a degree in anthropology in 1954. Originally, from St. Louis, Drey returned after college and worked at the Washington University bookstore, the public television station (KETC), the St. Louis chapter of the United Nations Association and the Charles Guggenheim film company. In 1955, she married Leo Drey and they share a passion for saving our planet. *St. Louis Magazine* called Kay and Leo Drey “Green Giants” for their efforts to save the environment.



Drey’s commitment to integration began in her childhood; as a member of the first Jewish family in her neighborhood, she learned firsthand about discrimination. Drey volunteered in the civil rights field during the 1960s and 1970s promoting racial integration in neighborhoods, schools and workplaces. She was a founder and board member of the University City Residential Service and New Neighbors (renamed County Open Housing). She has worked on such issues as park preservation and family planning. Over the years, Drey has spearheaded many petition drives to express public concerns and to place issues on the ballot.

Starting in 1974, she began participating in efforts to oppose nuclear power plants, uranium fuel facilities, and their related radioactive wastes. Drey does research, and collects materials on a broad range of environmental issues, maintaining a library that is used by the media, government officials and members of the public. She also submits oral and written testimony to government agencies and writes pamphlets and other educational materials on nuclear issues. She is Board member of Beyond Nuclear and the Great Rivers Environmental Law Center. She is founder of The Green Center, a center for outdoor environmental education and the arts, located in University City, Missouri and a member of its advisory council.

Drey has won numerous awards--Democracy in Action, Audubon Society of St. Louis Robert J. Terry Lifetime Achievement Award, Ethical Society J. F. Hornback Ethical Humanists Award, the 1976 Argus Distinguished Citizen, 1993 St. Louis Woman of Achievement--to list a few. To return to the OEOD website, [click here](#).