

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



CHUCK CARR BROWN, Ph.D.  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

JAN 07 2021

The Honorable Eddie Lambert  
Chairman  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Post Office Box 94183  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**RE: Annual Recycling Report – Calendar Year 2019**

Dear Senator Lambert:

L.R.S. 30:2413 requires that the Department of Environmental Quality report to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee its findings and conclusions on the status of resource recovery and recycling programs in Louisiana parishes and municipalities.

Attached please find the Department's 2019 report. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Yolunda M. Righteous, Waste Permits Division Administrator, at (225) 219-3516.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott B. Vega", enclosed in a large, loopy oval.

Elliott B. Vega  
Assistant Secretary

Attachment: 2019 Recycling Report

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



CHUCK CARR BROWN, Ph.D.  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Honorable Jean Paul Coussan  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources and Environment Committee  
Post Office Box 44486  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**RE: Annual Recycling Report – Calendar Year 2019**

Dear Representative Coussan:

L.R.S. 30:2413 requires that the Department of Environmental Quality report to the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee its findings and conclusions on the status of resource recovery and recycling programs in Louisiana parishes and municipalities.

Attached please find the Department's 2018 report. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Yolunda M. Righteous, Waste Permits Division Administrator, at (225) 219-3516.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott B. Vega", written over a large, stylized oval scribble.

Elliott B. Vega  
Assistant Secretary

Attachment: 2019 Recycling Report

**Report to the Natural Resources and Environment Committee**  
**and**  
**the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality**  
**Summary of 2019 Annual Recycling Reports**  
**As Presented by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality**

L.R.S. 30:2413 requires that the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality report to the House Committee on Environment and to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality data on resources and recycling programs operated by parishes and municipalities within the State of Louisiana.

On or about July 6, 2020, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, requested of all parish solid waste planners their annual recycling reports for the year 2019. As a result of that request and other contacts, the following summary has been developed.

Solid waste typically generated by households, businesses, government facilities, and schools is managed by parish and municipal governments, and in many cases by private entities. The parish and municipal governments are requested to submit Annual Recycling Reports.

The following is a summary of the 2019 Annual Recycling Reports submitted:

- 28 entities have tendered reports of their activities, 16 of which reported no recycling activities in their jurisdiction.
- 2,649,307 residents are represented by the reports, or approximately 57% of the state's population.

The state's overall reported recycling rate for the year 2019 was 5%. This was an apparent decrease from the 12.87% rate reported in 2018. This is believed to be due to many curbside recycling programs being cancelled as a result of China's "National Sword" policy enacted in January 2018, banning the import of most plastic and paper in addition to tightening its restrictions on accepting other materials. Within the following year, this policy resulted in a drop in China's plastics imports by 99%. The effects of this ban can be seen locally through parishes such as Ascension no longer offering recycling services, facilities in Metairie no longer accepting residential recyclables, drop-off sites in Sulphur and St. Charles Parish closing, and scale backs that have occurred in Jefferson Parish, New Orleans, and Gretna.

Reported annual waste reduction ranged from 0% to 37%.

6 entities offered curbside recycling collection services.

19 entities provided drop-off recycling collection sites.

13 entities had household hazardous waste collection events.

To view the detailed reports submitted by all parishes and municipalities, you may access the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Electronic Document Management System at the following link:

<https://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/app/doc/view.aspx?doc=12434816&ob=yes&child=yes>

## 2019 LOUISIANA RECYCLING SUMMARY

RECYCLING ACTIVITY <sup>1</sup>	NUMBER OF ENTITIES REPORTING ACTIVITY	TONS RECYCLED
ALUMINUM	7	1352
APPLIANCES (WHITE GOODS)	12	5930
BATTERIES (LEAD ACID)	6	134
BATTERIES (OTHER)	6	1198
CARDBOARD	8	8191
COMPOSTING from FOOD SCRAPS, WOODWASTE & YARD WASTE <sup>2</sup>	7	49614
COOKING OIL / GREASE	3	16
ELECTRONIC WASTE (E-WASTE)	9	137
FERROUS METAL (IRON, STEEL)	12	14558
GLASS	2	2873
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE	7	235
MAGAZINES & CATALOGS	1	100
MIXED PAPER	0	0
NEWSPRINT	3	3175
NON-FERROUS METALS <sup>3</sup>	6	1416
PLASTIC		
#1 PET	2	533
#2 HDPE	3	560
MIXED #1 AND #2 PLASTIC	3	151
TIRES	18	2679
USED OIL	16	735
WASTE-TO-ENERGY <sup>4</sup>	2	4590
WHITE PAPER	5	86
OTHER	8	6505
COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES	8	26248
TOTAL RECYCLING + COMPOSTING + WASTE-TO-ENERGY REPORTED	28	131016
TOTAL LANDFILLING REPORTED	28	2862340
<b>OVERALL RECYCLING RATE</b>		<b>5%</b>

<sup>1</sup>May include all public & privately operated drop-off centers.

<sup>2</sup>Woody waste turned into mulch, does not include C&D waste or combustion.

<sup>3</sup>Includes mixed metals, mercury from fluorescent bulbs.

<sup>4</sup>Includes combustion of wood chips and tire chips with recovery of useful energy.