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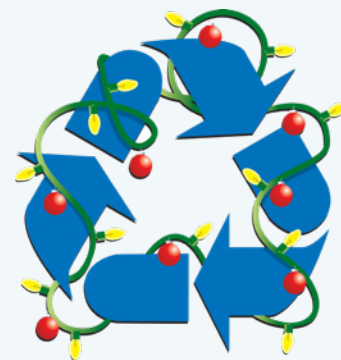
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## Happy Holidays – Give the environment a gift: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

The holiday season is here, and that means parties, family get-togethers, gift-giving, decorating and merry-making. 'Tis the season to reduce, reuse and recycle. Holiday celebrations and preparations produce waste and litter. Like the rest of the nation, Louisiana produces more waste in December than any other month but planning ahead is the key to reducing the amount of waste that makes it to landfills.



This year, as you make your holiday plans consider the environment and how you can be part of the solution and not negatively impact it. Starting with the meals and celebrations planning ahead makes a big difference. Big meals, parties, decorations and gifts -- the excess can negatively impact our environment.

Here are a few ways you can be a friend to the planet and reduce your holiday waste.

Use washable items like dishes, table cloths, napkins, utensils and decorations. These do not end up in a landfill. There are compostable plates and utensils that you can purchase also.

Ways to reduce your food waste include:

- Utilize your leftovers instead of throwing them away
- Plan and cook for the right number of guests.
- Freeze your food for future use.
- Give leftovers to friends and family.
- Use leftovers and compost food scraps.
- When shopping for groceries and gifts, use a reusable grocery bag. Fewer plastic bags equals less plastic bag litter.

Wrapping gifts can be a challenge and opening them produces waste. Be creative! Wrap a gift in a gift -- such as a scarf, bandana, dish towel, decorative reusable box or cloth shopping bag. The colorful comic pages and most colorful flyers make interesting wrapping paper and are recyclable. Last year's Christmas and holiday cards can be used in craft projects and as ornaments.

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# DISCOVER DEQ

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Be a conscientious gift buyer. Here are a few examples of environmentally friendly gift-giving:

- Give experiences, not things. Take your friend or loved one to a concert or purchase an annual pass to Louisiana's State Parks or the zoo.
- Shop locally to eliminate the need for packaging. If you do shop online, combine your deliveries to lessen your impact.

Decorating for the holidays is challenging but try to do it yourself with decorations using existing items from around your house and/or use natural items from your yard like pinecones or flowers. Making decorations is fun for all ages.

Out with the old, so you have room for the new! Before the holidays is a perfect time to clean out your clutter and unused items. If you have outgrown toys and clothing, consider donating them to charitable organizations. Discarded electronics (laptops, iPads and tablets, copiers, fax machines, printers and flat-screen monitors) may be donated to a local nonprofit agency or the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC). CACRC provides computers to schools, families and nonprofits. Visit the council's website at [www.cacrc.com](http://www.cacrc.com) for details.

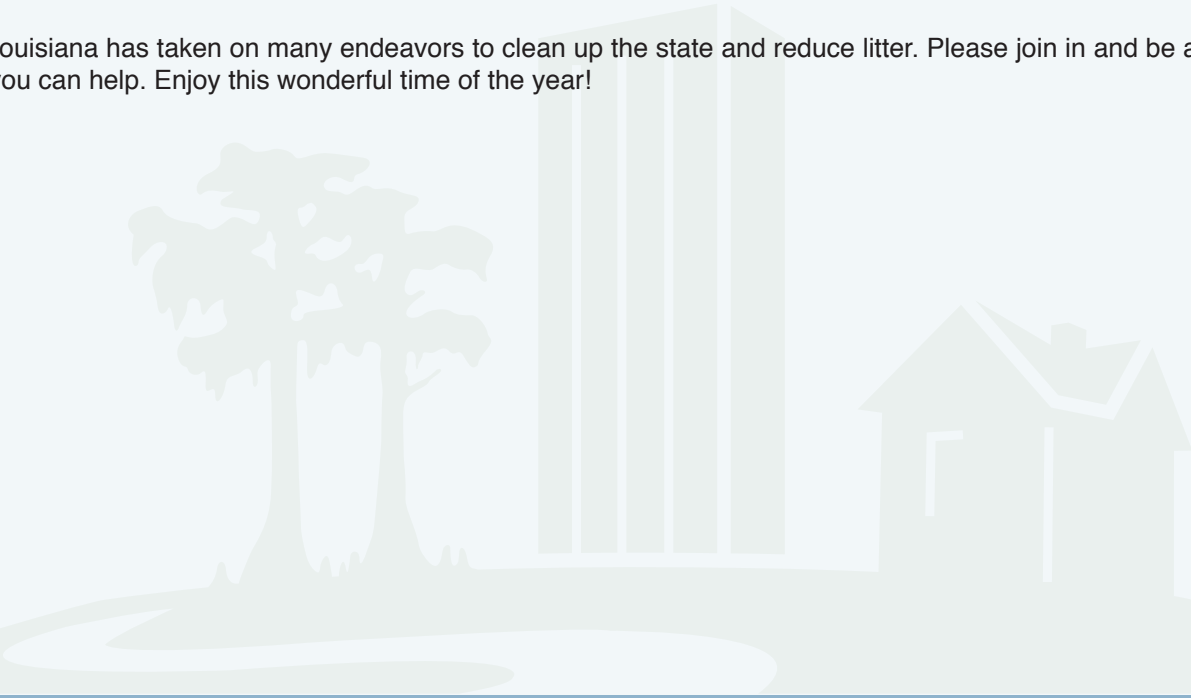
LED Christmas lights last longer, save energy and money and they can be recycled. Go to [www.holidayleds.com/free-light-recycling](http://www.holidayleds.com/free-light-recycling) for recycling instructions.

Recycling packaging materials such as cardboard and plastic foam peanuts really helps. Cardboard can be put into a recycle bin or taken to a drop-off location. Foam peanuts and bubble wrap can be reused or taken to a retailer that reuses them.

When decorating your home consider reducing the impact on the environment. An artificial tree doesn't have to be discarded, and a live tree can be replanted. If you purchase a cut tree, remember that it cannot be flocked or have tinsel or decorations on it if it is to be recycled. Various parishes and cities around the state will collect cut trees in early January.

You can find information about seasonal pickups and recycling at the East Baton Rouge Parish Recycling website, [www.brla.gov/recycle](http://www.brla.gov/recycle). For pick up and disposal of a tree, check with your local government for information.

In 2023, Louisiana has taken on many endeavors to clean up the state and reduce litter. Please join in and be aware of litter and how you can help. Enjoy this wonderful time of the year!





## Message from the Secretary

*Roger W. Gingles*

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving! I had a wonderful one on the beach in Florida – but no turkey. It was very relaxing with the sand and surf and burgers. I hope you all had as relaxing a time as I did. If so, we should all be rested and ready for the December run to the next round of holidays. At Christmas I will make up for that turkey I didn't eat at Thanksgiving!

Amid all the fun and bustle, remember that not everyone can sit down and enjoy a nice meal during the holidays. Many homeless and other disadvantaged people just don't have the resources for a big dinner. All season long, LDEQ employees have been generous in supporting food drives with donations of food and money. We donated 611 pounds of food for Thanksgiving meals. We have big hearts, each and all. There is still time to help someone out for the holidays. Here at LDEQ, there are food donation boxes on every floor and you can bring food until Dec. 13 when they pick up the boxes. They are also accepting cash donations, and you can still get casual dress privileges (Dec. 4-29) for a \$10 donation to the cause.

You can see Terry Thomas for more information about how to donate and what to donate. You can call Terry at 225-219-3840.

Between now and next year, there will be parties and events almost daily. It is the season to be merry, but don't get carried away and drink too much. If you go out and feel like you might turn a sip into a slurp, have a designated driver on hand or call a ride service. Just don't get behind the wheel of a vehicle and get a present from the police or, worse, hurt someone in an accident. There is no quick way to recover from that kind of thing.

Be careful but have fun. Happy holidays to you all.

The statewide burn ban has been lifted. As of 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, the State Fire Marshal's office has ended the burning prohibition across Louisiana. The ban had been in place since Aug. 7. It was set in place by the State Fire Marshal's Office, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Governor's Office Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and the National Weather Service.

It has rained. We are still pretty far behind on our rainfall totals, and the drought is not over. It's still pretty dry. Check local burn ban status before doing any outdoor burning. As always, burn only vegetative and yard waste items. LDEQ prohibits burning plastic, tires, rubber materials, paints, chemicals, paper products and buildings.

Things have been a bit slower at the agency so far this month with the holidays and vacations having an effect. Lots of work is still getting done, though. If you are on the job, stay safe and remember to look out for your co-workers.



LDEQ Secretary Roger W. Gingles



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## Ninth episode of LDEQ On Air Podcast discusses the Nonpoint Pollution Program and outreach

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has released the ninth episode of the LDEQ On Air Podcast. In this episode, Environmental Scientist India Ambeau explains Louisiana's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program and outreach.

Nonpoint source pollution is created during rainfall events through runoff. This type of pollution is not controlled by an LDEQ permit because it is not generated from a discrete conveyance, such as a discharge pipe. Examples of nonpoint source pollution are water running off a farmer's field, a paved road or a grassy park.

Ambeau also explained how the LDEQ Nonpoint Source Outreach Team visits local events and schools to educate the public. They use the *Enviroscape Model* to demonstrate problems caused by nonpoint source pollution and how some of those problems can be mitigated.

The LDEQ on Air Podcast aims to inform the public about how issues are handled at LDEQ, how LDEQ is organized, the people behind the processes at LDEQ and to answer questions about agency issues.



To listen, visit the LDEQ On Air Podcast webpage at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/podcast](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/podcast). The podcast is available on *Apple Podcasts*, *Spotify* and *Google Podcasts*.

If you have any questions or would like to submit suggestions, please email the LDEQ Communications Section at [SECTCOMMUNICATIONS@la.gov](mailto:SECTCOMMUNICATIONS@la.gov).

For more information about LDEQ's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program, visit [www.deq.louisiana.gov/nonpoint-source](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/nonpoint-source).

If you are interested in having the LDEQ Nonpoint Source Outreach Team visit your event or school, send an email to [Ideqoutreach@la.gov](mailto:Ideqoutreach@la.gov).



## LDEQ receives SWIFR recycling grant

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) was awarded a \$612,441 Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Sept. 14.

LDEQ will use the grant to update the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and update regulations, legislation and policies to support the SWMP. The update will involve the incorporation of circular economy principles, updating the state's Debris Management Plan, developing policies consistent with the National Recycling Strategy and Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal and incorporating EPA's Managing and Transforming Waste Streams Tool.

LDEQ plans to conduct reviews and studies of the Louisiana SWMP during the first six-month period to determine access to recycling and the existing recycling landscape. Other states' SWMPs will be reviewed. Reviews of EPA's National Recycling Strategy, Debris Management Policy, Food Waste Loss Policy, Zero Waste Policy and Circular Economy will also be conducted.

An online reporting tool will be obtained within the first six months to standardize data management and the reporting of data. The tool will allow for the analysis of collected information by measuring defined waste streams along with specific materials and appropriate units. Streamlined measurements and baselines will aid in determining the current recycling landscape and the understanding of the development of contamination in streams.

Existing policies will be researched and updated to identify communities to facilitate information sharing while working on the development of the statewide SWMP plan. The execution of the grant will be performed to ensure the needs of disadvantaged communities are addressed while ensuring a clear connection to circular economy and climate goals. The activities supported by this grant opportunity will facilitate an increase in recycling throughout Louisiana.

If you'd like to learn more about the SWIFR grant, please visit [www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grant-program](http://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grant-program).

## Annual LOOP drill held in Larose

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) had the opportunity to participate in the annual LOOP/LOCAP drill held Nov. 8 in Larose. LOOP LLC is an oil terminal that operates the LOCAP crude oil pipeline. The 57.5-mile long and 48-inch pipeline runs from the LOOP Clovelly storage facility to the LOCAP terminal in St. James.

The main objective of the emergency response exercise was to evaluate the efficiency of emergency response plans and augment them in the event of an oil spill or facility disaster. LOCAP puts heavy emphasis on environmental responsibility. LOCAP boasts a strong environmental record and offers safe transportation of crude oil across the pipeline.

Along with LDEQ, participants of the LOOP drill include the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Lafourche Parish Government, Lafourche Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO), Louisiana Offshore Terminal Authority, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana State Police, Greater Lafourche Port Commissions, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Terrebonne Parish Government, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), St. James Parish Government, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thanks to all the participants for making the LOOP drill run smoothly.



## Jason Meyers is the new president of AAPCA



Jason Meyers

In September, LDEQ Air Assessment Administrator Jason Meyers was elected president of the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA). The vote came at the AAPCA Fall Business Meeting in Raleigh, N.C., where 130 attendees convened -- senior air officials from 21 state environmental agencies, leadership from multiple EPA program offices and regions as well as other Clean Air Act stakeholders.

“Directly engaging EPA leadership is important to successful outcomes under the Clean Air Act, which is founded on cooperative federalism,” Meyers said. “AAPCA is thankful to the state, local and federal leadership that participated in Raleigh.”

The AAPCA, is a national, non-profit, consensus-driven organization focused on assisting state and local air quality agencies and personnel with implementation and technical issues associated with the federal Clean Air Act. Created in 2012, AAPCA represents 51 state and local air pollution control agencies, and senior officials from 21 state environmental agencies currently sit on the AAPCA Board of Directors. AAPCA is housed in Lexington, Ky., as an affiliate of The Council of State Governments.

More information about AAPCA can be found on the association’s website: [www.cleanairact.org](http://www.cleanairact.org).

## Register now for Louisiana’s first Resilience Summit, Dec. 5

Louisiana Clean Fuels, in partnership with the Governor’s Office, invites you to the Resilience Summit. Register at [louisianacleanfuels.org/meet-reg2.php](http://louisianacleanfuels.org/meet-reg2.php) for a day of presentations and discussions on the policies, technologies and practices that will enable our transportation systems to better withstand risks, quickly rebound from disasters and transition to a low-carbon future. You will have the opportunity to learn more about Louisiana’s Chief Resilience Officer, a high-level policy position dedicated to advancing a cross-agency, holistic approach to the challenges and opportunities associated with the impacts of environmental hazards in Louisiana’s coastal area. The summit is free to attend however registration is required.

December 05, 2023

8:30 AM CST - 4:00 PM CST

The Estuary at the Water Campus  
1110 S. River Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802





## LDEQ On The Move



*(L to R) Dr. Li, McNeese State University, and from the LDEQ Southwest Regional Office, Brian Boivin and Ella Barbe and Perry Fontenot from the LDEQ Acadiana Regional Office.*

### LDEQ environmental scientists head to McNeese

On Nov. 8, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBAP) scientists Ella Barbe and Perry Fontenot and Environmental Chemical Specialist Brian Boivin gave a presentation to senior engineering students at McNeese State University. SBAP members assisted Zhuang Li, Ph.D., professor of mechanical engineering, in presenting his senior engineering students with an introduction to the establishment of the LDEQ, the agency's mission and vision. The presentation transitioned to environmental compliance and an introduction to environmental regulations. Students were informed of opportunities LDEQ has for employment, based on their respective fields of study. The presentation concluded with an in-depth question-and-answer dialogue that further engaged the engineering students in the field of environmental science. Approximately 30 students were in attendance.



*LDEQ Environmental Scientist India Ambeau shows off the EnviroScape model to students at the STEM Café at Walker High School.*

### LDEQ Nonpoint Source shows off the EnviroScape at STEM Café

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Nonpoint Source group took the EnviroScape to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Café held in Walker, Louisiana at Walker High School on Saturday, Oct. 28. There were opportunities for elementary, middle and high school students to participate in different types of hands-on STEM activities ranging from environmental topics to robotics. STEM events are fun and educational events for the whole family to enjoy and are designed to inspire youth in STEM and to recognize STEM in communities.



## LDEQ On The Move



*LDEQ employees India Ambeau, Denise Bennett, Marissa Jimenez and Alyssa Auzenne attend the 2023 Louisiana Air and Waste Management Association Conference at LAuberge Casino and Hotel in Baton Rouge.*

### LDEQ environmental scientists attend Louisiana Air and Waste Management Conference

On Sept. 23, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) environmental scientists India Ambeau and Marissa Jimenez worked the LDEQ booth at the 2023 Louisiana Air and Waste Management Association Conference. The conference was attended by many LDEQ employees and some, such as LDEQ Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett, gave presentations.



*LDEQ employees Perry Fontenot and Robyn Geddes run the LDEQ booth at the 2023 Louisiana Small Business Summit at the Lafayette Cajundome and Convention Center.*

### LDEQ sets up booth at 2023 Louisiana Small Business Summit

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Environmental Scientist Perry Fontenot and Admin Program Director Robyn Geddes manned a booth for the 2023 Louisiana Small Business Summit in Lafayette at the Cajundome and Convention Center on Tuesday, Oct. 24.

The summit gave the audience opportunities to connect with state agencies and visitors to obtain information on small business resources.





## LDEQ On The Move

### Womens Supply Drive

The Sisterhood Supply needs your help! We are collecting items and donations for the New Orleans Women and Children Shelter.



#### WE ARE COLLECTING :

- Paper Towels
- Clorox wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Bath Towels
- Face Towels

100% OF THE ITEMS DONATED GO DIRECTLY TO THE NOWC SHELTER.

For updates and more information please visit or call:

@thesisterhoodsupply (504) 264-1644

### Southeast Regional Office employees rally for Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness

Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence affects many women in Louisiana. At the LDEQ Southeast Regional Office (SERO), employees were encouraged to wear pink or purple to remind others of breast cancer awareness or domestic violence awareness. Additionally, the SERO employees collected supplies for the Sisterhood Supply Women’s Shelter. Generous employees brought in goods to help out women and children in the New Orleans Women’s Shelter.



SERO employees gathered goods together for Sisterhood Supply.



## Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Kim Alston – Environmental Scientist III, Air Enforcement Division, Office of Environmental Compliance**

Alston is a native of New Orleans. She graduated from Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. She went on to graduate from Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (TSPH&TM) where she earned a Master of Science in Public Health. She has worked as an adjunct professor of biology for Southern University in New Orleans and as an environmental sector trainer for Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Louisiana and Mississippi.

In her spare time, Alston enjoys helping others, writing, traveling, attending concerts and the theatre, dining out and watching historical movies and television shows.

**Dinah Cador – Environmental Scientist I, Solid Waste Permits Division, Office of Environmental Assessment**

Cador is a native of Brusly. Cador graduated from Dillard University with a Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in chemistry. She went on to graduate from Nicholls State University with a Master of Science in marine and environmental biology.

In her spare time, Cador enjoys biking and playing soccer.



**John Bryson Wells – Environmental Scientist II, Office of Environmental Services**

Wells is a native of Calhoun City, Miss. and he currently lives in Baton Rouge. He graduated from Mississippi State University (MSU) with a Bachelor of Science in geoscience and a concentration in professional meteorology in April 2021. He later graduated with a Master of Science in geoscience and a concentration in Applied Meteorology and Climatology in May 2023. He worked at MSU as a teaching assistant and researched seasonal and annual precipitation variability on San Salvador Island.

In his spare time, he enjoys running, going to the gym, listening to live music, going on adventures and skiing.



# **DISCOVER** DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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## Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

### Third Quarter 2023 Enforcement Actions:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions>

### Third Quarter 2023 Settlement Agreements:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division>

### Third Quarter 2023 Air Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter>

### Third Quarter 2023 Water Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes>

### Third Quarter 2023 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits>

