DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

September 2018 Issue Number: 80

What's Inside?

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Career center, schools and theatre group in New Orleans find new home through collaborative effort

Beneath the soaring, vaulted ceiling of the former St. Rose de Lima Church on Bayou Road in New Orleans, where once penitents bent a knee in supplication, a theater company found a new home. A stage, some seats, a few baffles to control sound and, voilà, a new use for an old space is born.

Before the curtain could rise on a single performance, before any plaster or paint, before all the additions, some remediation was required for the two-acre property in the Esplanade Historic District. There were a couple of underground storage tanks and material impacted with lead, asbestos and avian fecal matter (bird droppings, a possible biohazard).

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, second from right, talks with Alembic Community Development New Orleans Office Manager Jonathan Leit during a tour of the former St. Rose de Lima Church in New Orleans. The facility is now home to Southern Rep Theatre and is part of the Rose Collaborative. Alembic is a partner in the Rose Collaborative.

Historical resources show that the site was developed since 1861. The former church was built in 1915. The buildings on Columbus Street, which formerly housed St. Rose de Lima School and served as a community center for the neighborhood, were built in 1925 and 1938. The school closed in 1978; the church closed in 2006. The buildings were in a state of disrepair in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina.

Retired private equity investor and former charter school board president Hal Brown had a vision for the site as the Bayou Treme Center for Arts & Education. He approached the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (NORPC) in 2010 for assistance addressing the environmental issues at the site. NORPC enrolled the site in LDEQ's Brownfield Program and conducted a phase I environmental assessment in 2011. They completed a phase II environmental assessment under LDEQ's Voluntary Remediation Program in 2012 including the removal of an underground storage tank.

While NORPC was preparing the cleanup plan and related documents, Brown passed away in April 2013, leaving the project in a state of limbo. NORPC went ahead and completed the cleanup plan in 2014 in the hopes that Brown's vision would eventually

Continued on page 2

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2018 Issue Number: 80

be realized. The Rose Collaborative eventually partnered with Alembic Community Development to move the project forward. They worked with the Archdiocese to negotiate a purchase of the property to replace their lease agreement.

On Thursday, Sept. 6, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown was among the dignitaries who spoke at the dedication ceremony at the former church, now the Rose Collaborative which includes:

- Southern Rep Theatre
- Fund 17
- School facilities for New Orleans Career Center, New Harmony High and Operation Spark through 2019
- Starting in Fall 2019, the Waldorf School

The dedication ceremony took place at the former church in the Esplanade Historic District.

"I just want to congratulate this collaborative for what you've done," Dr. Brown said. "I don't often get this kind of positive energy," he told the group gathered in the project's Career Center.

Sometimes a great notion is a simple one. That's true for the Brownfields Program at LDEQ. The idea is to find contaminated properties and return those properties to commerce by cleaning and remediating them.

"I try to focus on the end game," said Roger Gingles, LDEQ assistant secretary for the Office of Environmental Assessment. The Brownfields Program falls under the Remediation Division within Assessment, and Gingles has several years of experience working to turn blighted properties around, back into conditions of full, environmentally-sound use. "The end game is redevelopment, reuse and revitalization."

The process has a snowball effect, Gingles said. "When you bring in one property, it helps stimulate further revitalization."

EPA Brownfield Funding totaled $258,856, including $158,856 from the Regional Planning Commission's Brownfield Program and $100,000 from LDEQ's Brownfield Program. Including environmental work performed by the owner, volunteer hours, the site purchase and the funding to cleanup and redevelop the site, the Rose Collaborative leveraged over $12.6 million in private investment. This equates to a ratio of $49 of private investment for every $1 in Brownfield funding spent.

The project created approximately 10 jobs during the cleanup and 30 jobs during the redevelopment. Once the site is fully operational, the facilities will employ approximately 50 workers. One of the former school buildings will house career preparation programs including facilities for New Orleans Career Center, New Harmony High and Operation Spark through Fall 2019 when the Waldorf School will be ready to move in. The other school building is occupied by Fund 17, a nonprofit organization with "the mission to combat opportunity inequality in New Orleans by providing micro-entrepreneurs financial and educational tools for self-empowerment." The new home of Southern Rep Theatre will employ support production staff, actors and service personnel for events. All the redevelopments will support the surrounding businesses by bringing people and awareness to the neighborhood.

The Louisiana Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) provides a mechanism by which property owners (or potential owners) or others can clean up contaminated properties and receive a release of liability for further cleanup of historical contamination at a site. This release of liability flows to future owners of the property as well. Through the Voluntary Remediation Program, LDEQ hopes to provide administrative, technical, and legal incentives in order to encourage the redevelopment and reuse of brownfields properties.

Continued on page 3

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2018 Issue Number: 80

The soaring spires and stained-glass windows of Southern Rep Theatre's new home are not the norm for Brownfields projects, Gingles admits. Most Brownfields projects are not so high-profile. They may include vacant lots, old factory sites, railyards, etc. – pretty much anything, Gingles said, but all of the projects that LDEQ completes are sources of pride.

"It's a feel-good story," Dr. Brown said.

EPA, LDEQ and Gulf Coast Scrap & Salvage celebrate successful redevelopment in Harvey

Gulf Coast Scrap & Salvage in Harvey was also recognized Sept. 6 for successful redevelopment of the Former Haywilk Galvanizing Brownfield Site in Harvey. While the property is not as eye-catching as the former St. Rose de Lima Church, it's more typical of the kind of projects LDEQ undertakes as part of its Brownfields program.

Carl Edlund, left, and Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, right, present a certificate of completion to Gulf Coast Scrap & Salvage co-owner Craig Clark.

The property is located in an industrial area along the Harvey Canal on Peters Road. Gulf Coast Scrap & Salvage addressed zinc contamination in soil and groundwater at the property under LDEQ's Voluntary Remediation Program with assistance from EPA's Targeted Brownfield Assessment Program, LDEQ's Brownfield Program and RPC's Brownfield Redevelopment Program, allowing the formerly abandoned property to be redeveloped and put back into commerce.

As a group of dignitaries, local officials and Gulf Coast Scrap & Salvage workers gathered under the roof of the barn-like warehouse building, the Louisiana weather offered up an obligatory summer shower.

"These things take a long time," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown observed in his remarks. "But you should never lose track of the ultimate goal." He recalled an early Brownfields project in which he was involved in Shreveport that resulted in a remediated property being turned into an open-air market. "There is not one of us in here who does not believe in reuse and remediation," he said. "We are all committed to this."

Carl Edlund, director of EPA Region 6 Superfund Division, said that early on, the federal agency was focused on closing and covering contaminated properties as Superfund sites. "I was in risk reduction for 25 years," he said. One day EPA officials realized that taking marginally contaminated properties out of commerce was not really doing anything to help localities. "We realized we need to reuse and revitalize the land, not just clean it up. That's where Brownfields started.

"It was a changeover in perspective: not just clean up, but put back in use. One hundred and seventeen thousand dollars went into this project. That money was leveraged into $1.5 million in total funding. It produced five jobs during the cleanup, and there are 26 workers now. It is contributing to the economy."

The redevelopment includes sustainable reuse of materials including large warehouse doors and I-beams as well as permeable pavement and a bioswale, a landscape element designed to concentrate or remove debris and pollution out of surface runoff water. The new facility employs 26 workers in the fabrication industry.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

September 2018 Issue Number: 80

Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

It's nice when the agency can claim a clear success story. LDEQ had three such stories in September. First of all, we held an observance at St. Rose on Sept. 14 to mark the installation and operation of a community air monitor on Adams Street. The agency has fielded concerns from St. Rose residents over odors since 2014. LDEQ worked with a couple of local petroleum storage and handling facilities to reduce those problems through a change of feedstock and installation of carbon canisters to scrub vapors from storage tanks. Complaints were greatly diminished after these corrective actions, but they did not go away entirely.

I met with a group of citizens from the group St. Rose Community One Voice at a home in St. Rose in May 2017. I heard their concerns about odors, and I promised to try and get a monitor somewhere in the community. It took some work, but the monitor is now in place in St. Rose.

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, St. Charles Parish President Larry Cochran and St. Rose One Voice President Keith Adams stand in front of the continuous air monitor location on Adams Street in St. Rose on Sept. 14.

The continuous monitor began sampling for sulfur dioxide (SO2) and hydrogen sulfide (H2S) in May 2018. Canister samples are collected every six days and analyzed for the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The continuous monitoring data can be accessed online on LDEQ's webpage. The air monitoring station will continue to collect data for approximately two years, and LDEQ will analyze the data. Citizens in the community can access their computers and see exactly what the quality of their air is at any given time during the day or night. That's a win for everyone involved.

The other two success stories are both Brownfields projects in the New Orleans area: the Gulf Coast Scrap & Salvage property in Harvey and the Rose Collaborative in the Tremé section of New Orleans. The first is a former galvanizing plant near the Harvey Canal and the second is a church complex at St. Rose de Lima on Bayou Road. The church, which now houses a theater, business incubator, school and more, is the more high profile project, but both are worthy of praise. We can all be proud of the outcomes of our Brownfields section. These properties are not just encapsulated and left to be monitored. Brownsfields properties are remediated and each is returned to its designated use. That's the ultimate goal of this agency: not just to contain contamination but to clean it up and return property to a usable condition.

An update on the Volkswagen settlement: It's moving along, and the recipients have been notified. There's just a little bit of paperwork left, and we will begin to award the matching grants. And the electric car and charging station for the agency is still in the implementation stage. There is no timetable, but look for a photo of me in the ZEV (zero emission vehicle) soon.

Litter continues to be a massive issue in Louisiana. With EPA's recent emphasis on microplastic pollution, we are reminded that litter is not just a cosmetic issue. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is the lead enforcement agency for litter (at the state level), but LDEQ remains engaged in the prevention campaign, and we frequently work with Keep Louisiana Beautiful. This is everyone's fight. Don't litter. Don't let anyone with you litter. Let people around you know that littering is not acceptable. Be loud. Be insistent. It's our environment at stake.

Finally, we are still working to address the waste tire issues in our state to get the waste tire problem under control. We are working to meet the challenge and find solutions for illegal dumping. Keep an eye out. If you see tires being dumped, call local law enforcement. If you see a pile of illegal tires, call the Single Point of Contact line (225-219-3640).

As always, stay safe out there. Enjoy your favorite college football team, and root for the Saints on Sunday!

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

September 2018 Issue Number: 80

New and Improved Water Quality Data Portal is launching in October

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) collects surface water data from many water bodies throughout the state. One of the programs this water data supports is the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program. Data collected for this program is provided online through a web query tool. LDEQ is excited to announce this tool has undergone a complete overhaul recently. Launching in October 2018, the new water quality portal (provides not only ambient surface water quality data, but a plethora of additional water data and project parameters.

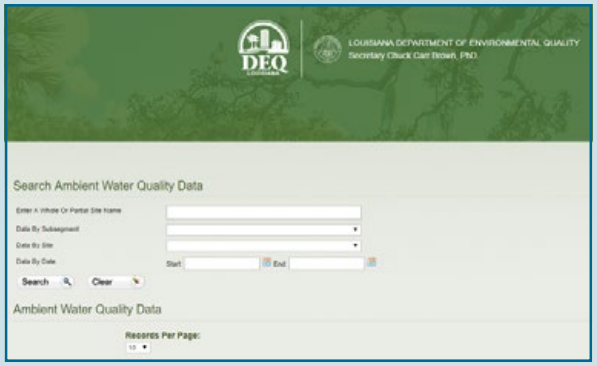
A notable upgrade is the new geospatial mapping tool. It allows users to pinpoint specific areas on an interactive map as opposed to being limited to searching by site names. The previous version was a great tool but was limited in its functionality. The new portal is user-friendly and much more robust. "Being able to present water data in a geospatially enabled form has allowed us to give users more freedom in how they query data. Previously, users were limited to querying one water project on a per-site basis. Now users have the ability to query across multiple sites and across multiple projects based on where sites are in relation to each other. Just being able to visualize this on the map adds another layer of robustness to the data," LDEQ Senior environmental scientist Tara Nixon said.

In addition to the improved site selection tools, users can now instantaneously graph data on some of the water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen and temperature. The portal also allows for the information to be graphed over a particular timeframe for a specific site making for a great, big picture visual versus a single snapshot. Other significant upgrades come in the form of mobile and tablet optimization and a virtual tour of the portal making the new webpage as user-friendly as possible.

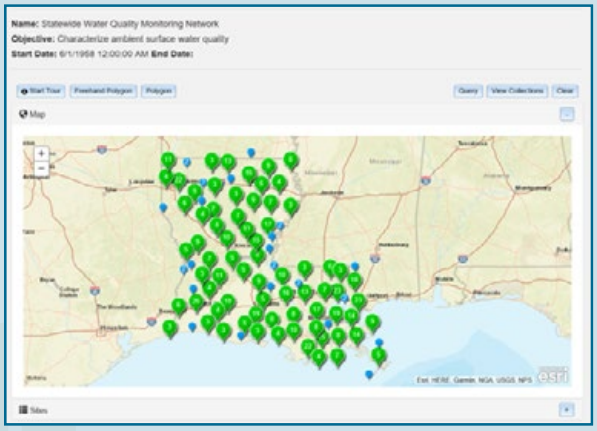
LDEQ's Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section (WQSAS), in coordination with the Office of Technology Services under the Division of Administration, is proud to have worked with Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) at Louisiana State University on the development of the new portal. SDMI leverages its programming, application development and geospatial knowledge into building capabilities for disaster

Continued on page 6

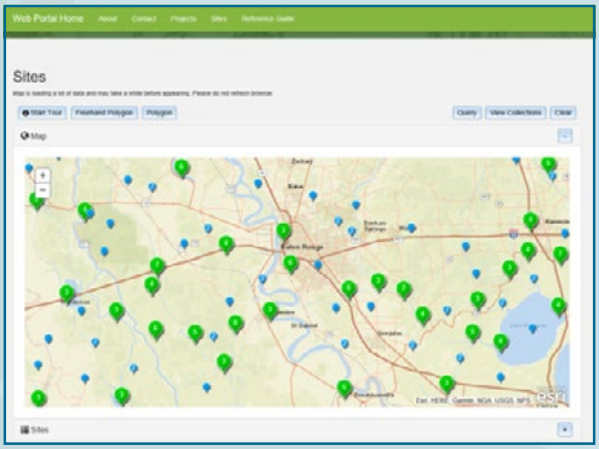
Out with the old...



In with the new!



Zoom in and out to refine your search!



managers and first responders to enhance their ability to plan and respond to disaster-related events. "We are very excited to partner with LDEQ's WQSAS to provide a better experience and more information on water quality for Louisiana citizens with the development of the new web portal. We have introduced the capability to search testing sites geospatially while also enhancing the way data is presented in both tabular and graphical formats," said SDMI director Brant Mitchell.

Identifying emerging water quality concerns, assessing compliance with environmental regulations, developing effective watershed pollution reduction strategies and understanding trends in water quality statewide are just a few of the goals of LDEQ's water division. Managing environmental data to ensure the availability of accurate and complete data for agency programs and the general public through the new portal will help reach those goals.

The entire project was made possible through an Exchange Network Grant from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to the EPA, the Exchange Network Grant Program "provides funding to states, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes to support the development of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN)." The program's primary goal is to foster improved access to, and exchange of, high-quality environmental data from public and private sector sources. "LDEQ has been fortunate to receive funding from EPA through the Exchange Network Program, this has allowed us to make advances in the use of technology and provide better access to water data," LDEQ environmental scientist manager Dr. Amanda Vincent said.

At its simplest, the objective of this project was to develop an enhanced data sharing tool for LDEQ water quality data. However, the project has gone beyond that by becoming a tool to help LDEQ work more efficiently across multiple disciplines. The new portal will provide interagency and interdepartmental efficiency by reducing the number of data requests received. Users can pull the specific data they are requesting directly from the portal and export it into an excel spreadsheet without agency involvement. Permitting, Surveillance, Records Management and Customer Service are just a few of the other LDEQ groups that will benefit from the capabilities of the new portal. Additionally, through the new portal, the Water Planning and Assessment Division will now have a much needed medium to relay water data in regards to the interagency Mercury Initiative. The program was also developed with the public in mind. LDEQ often gets requests regarding water quality in specific areas or around particular events. For example, in the aftermath of a hurricane, LDEQ can quickly get the data into the system and make it available for public consumption letting concerned parties know in a timely manner what is being found in the water in their areas. These are all new features that are capable in the new portal.

The WQSAS doesn't intend to stop here. The group is working on additional enhancements with SDMI for water quality data collection through the development of an application that allows for direct field data entry further improving agency efficiency. "While the launch of the deployment represents a significant milestone, we continue to work with LDEQ scientists on creating new efficiencies on the collection and processing of data from the field through the creation of automated processes. Once this next phase is completed, scientists will be able to spend more time analyzing data to ensure the public is provided with clean and safe water," said Mitchell.

Please visit our website, ***www.deq.louisiana.gov***, to look for the official launch of the Water Quality Portal in October 2018.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

September 2018 Issue Number: 80

LDEQ Graphic Designer/Videographer Emily Barlett films the waste tire processing operation at a scrap tire business in Lafayette Parish.

Most parishes offer waste materials collection days or have a recycling center where residents may drop off used tires FREE of charge. Several cities and parishes have weekly curbside residential tire pickups, also FREE of charge. *

PARISHES ACCEPTING TIRES BY DROP OFF AT A RECYCLING CENTER OR COLLECTION EVENT

Ouachita, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, St. Martin, Evangeline, Beauregard, St. Landry, DeSoto, St. Tammany, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Ascension, Lafayette, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, Livingston, Lafourche

PARISHES THAT OFFER FREE RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE TIRE PICKUPS

Orleans, Jefferson, East Baton Rouge Parish

**This list is not inclusive of all parishes. Please check with the waste tire policy in your city/parish, as collection policies are subject to change.*

What becomes of a waste tire after it leaves your vehicle?

A common question we hear from citizens around the state is "what is supposed to happen to a tire after it's removed from a car?" Well, there are two avenues upon which that tire may roll – one that's appropriate, environmentally-sound and legal, and the other which is illegal, disgraceful and harmful to human health and the environment.

If the handler of the tire follows the law and cares for Louisiana's environment, the tire will follow a path that culminates in its repurposing for a beneficial environmental use. Otherwise, taking the illegal route of dumping the tire somewhere poses a detriment to Louisiana's environment and creates a health, safety and ecological hazard that did not previously exist. Should anyone see tires dumped along a roadside, waterway or in the woods, LDEQ asks that citizens report the matter immediately to both LDEQ and their local law enforcement.

To illustrate the appropriate path that a tire should take, LDEQ's Communications section teamed up with the Surveillance Division in the office of Environmental Compliance to produce a video that explains the process. The video follows the life cycle of a tire from its removal from a vehicle, through the transportation and shredding phase, culminating in its newfound life as an end-use that benefits the environment.

Terry Dedon, an environmental scientist and waste tire inspector with LDEQ, narrated the video.

The series of events should go as follows: once a tire is removed from a vehicle, it's picked up by a waste tire transporter, delivered to a scrap tire processor where the material is ground up or separated, then ultimately used in a beneficial end use project that supports the environment in some fashion. This includes using the waste tire chips/scraps for erosion control along embankments and levees, landfill leachate liners for waste cells, firing range backstops or as a liner material for residential and commercial septic tanks.

What many illegal dumpers may not realize is that most parishes in the state offer a free resource for waste tire drop-offs through Household Hazardous Materials Collection days, or by delivery to recycling centers. There is typically a set amount, such as four or five tires per visit, but being proactive and delivering those tires cuts

Continued on page 8

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2018 Issue Number: 80

down on illegal dumping. Unfortunately, it appears illegal dumpers simply do not care for the environment and choose to exert greater effort, thought and resources to transport and discard the tires into the environment rather than taking the easy way and bringing them to a recycler.

In most cases, the gas and travel time it takes to transport and dump the tires on a roadside equates to the same gas and time it takes to bring the tires to a recycling center. In some cases, all people have to do is roll the tires out to their curb. Some parishes, such as Orleans, Jefferson and East Baton Rouge, actually offer free curbside waste tire pickups for residents on certain days of the week. Residents simply stack up their waste tires at the curb (the maximum number varies by city or parish), and the city/parish will pick them up and send them out for proper processing.

If the tire is sent along the proper process and does not find its way to an illegal dump site, it will be repurposed for a beneficial environmental use, thus completing the circle.

LDEQ asks that everyone be a watchdog for the environment and report any sign of open burning or illegal dumping – be it waste tires, chemical discharges or any health and/or environmental hazard. Report the incident online at ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/file-a-complaint-report-an-incident***, or call LDEQ's Single Point of Contact line, toll-free at 1-888-763-5424.

Watch the Waste Tire Video at ***https://youtu.be/vmDVNG4-qik***.

Air Quality Action Days more prevalent May through October

Spring, summer and fall in Louisiana typically mean hot, stagnant air so the conditions are expected to be favorable for ozone formation. When those conditions are seen in a major metropolitan area in the state, LDEQ will issue an air quality advisory on its homepage.

Category	Value	Ozone 2008 8-HR (ppm)	24-HR $PM_{2.5}$ ($\mu g/m3$)	Suggested Precautions
Good	0 - 50	0.000 - 0.059	0 - 12	None
Moderate	51 - 100	0.060 - 0.075	12.1 - 35.4	Unusually Sensitive People Limit Prolonged Outdoor Exertion
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 - 150	0.076 - 0.095	35.5 - 55.4	Sensitive People & Children Limit Prolonged Outdoor Exertion
Unhealthy	151 - 200	0.096 - 0.115	55.5 - 150.4	Everyone Limit Prolonged Outdoor Exertion

Air quality index for ozone and $PM_{2.5}$

Air quality advisories are called using a scale called the Air Quality Index or AQI. The AQI classifies risk from green for good to purple for hazardous. When air quality reaches the orange level, unhealthy for sensitive groups, or is predicted to reach that level, and Air Quality Action Day is called and is posted on the LDEQ website

When Air Quality Action Days are called, the communications section responds to media interview requests to explain the reasons to the public.

In conjunction with that media interaction, the department engages in programs and practices that promote clean air while engaging citizens to be proactive in reducing emissions into the air during their daily activities.

The Commuter Krewe program is the latest in those endeavors, inducing people to remove a few extra vehicles from the road by carpooling with others who have similar schedules. The department also promotes Air Quality Awareness month every

Continued on page 9

May, with information and tips on how we can all reduce emissions. These include carpooling, walking or riding a bicycle instead of idling in your car, combining errands for less time in traffic, running gas-powered lawn equipment in the evenings after peak ozone periods, and fueling vehicles in the evening.

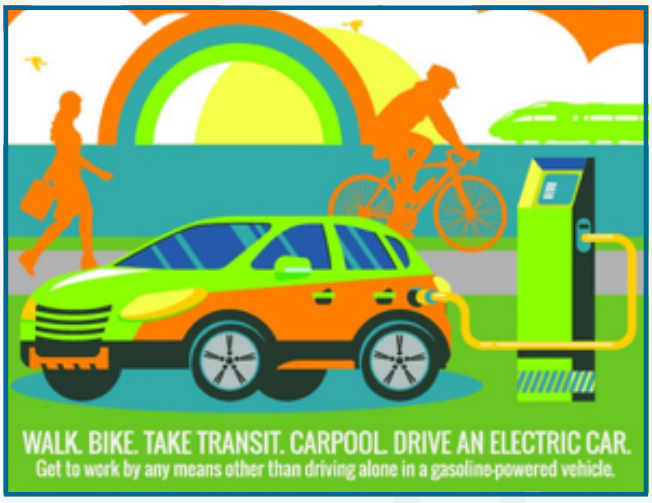
LDEQ encourages the public to sign up for Enviroflash at ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash***. EnviroFlash provides current air quality information and information on unusual air quality events, such as fires.

To help make a positive impact in reducing the conditions that facilitate the air quality advisory, plants and facilities operating in areas where an advisory is issued will initiate air quality protocols and run on decreased operations parameters in order to lessen their emissions output during those periods.

While peak ozone season ends at the end of October, that doesn't mean we should cease our emissions reductions and energy savings practices. To learn more about air quality and ways in which you can make a difference, go to: ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/subhome/air***.

Have you considered joining the Commuter Krewe of Louisiana?

Thank you to everyone who has signed up, logged rides, or even considered joining our efforts to "ReBoot the Commute!" Here is a little food for thought for those of you still on the fence when it comes to signing up. According to a Texas A&M Transportation Institute study, the annual cost of America's traffic congestion is estimated at $160 billion, which includes 7 billion hours of time lost to sitting in traffic and an extra 3 billion gallons of fuel burned. Citizens of the greater Baton Rouge area can undoubtedly attest to the nuisance traffic congestion causes drivers, but it goes beyond being inconvenient. Traffic is also a public health hazard and bad for the economy.



Carpooling, though it seems to be too small a step, will help conserve non-renewable energy sources like gasoline and diesel. It will also help optimize fuel usage as it equates to the efficient consumption of fuel. Carpooling means more people in a single car, less number of individual vehicles on the road and ultimately less pollution! Less air pollution, less carbon emission, and less greenhouse gas emission. Carpooling is a direct step towards a cleaner and greener environment.

Take the first step today, sign in or join:

If you are already a Commuter Krewe member, sign in at ***www.CommuterKrewe.la*** to check your "Profile" to make sure you've included your organization's name, so your department receives credit for the trips you make.

If you are not a Commuter Krewe member, sign up by going to ***www.CommuterKrewe.la*** and click the join button at the center of the page. Again, be sure to include LDEQ in your profile.

Be sure to share your greener trips by posting your photos and comments on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using #LDEQ, #LoveTheBootDontPollute, #ReBootTheCommute and #CommuterKrewe.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2018 Issue Number: 80

Waste Water Treatment Plants inspected by LDEQ on regular basis

Inspecting Wastewater Treatment Plants is an important part of LDEQ's mission to protect human health and the environment, and it's one of the duties within the department's Surveillance Division. The task is to ensure that Louisiana's wastewater treatment plants are in working order, and operating in accordance with the regulations.

During a walking tour of the site, LDEQ Environmental Scientist Staff Jeremy Moore will observe the conditions of the aeration ponds, identifying any imperfections in the plastic liner (such as the tear seen here), the existence of any strong odors, if high vegetation or obstructions are affecting the ponds, and whether solids are in the water. Inspectors also check to see that the aerators are functioning properly.

As the critical component of the residential and commercial wastewater treatment process, it's vital that all facilities have owners and operators who understand the regulations and are actively engaged in the maintenance of their facilities.

"Before visiting a plant, the LDEQ inspector will review the facility's permit, discharge monitoring reports and compliance history in EDMS (the Electronic Data Management System, where all documentation available for the public record for a facility is housed)," said Jeremy Moore, LDEQ environmental scientist staff based in the Northeast Regional Office. "That document review will give the inspector an indication of the site's operational history." Any problems or excursions will be detailed in that documentation, if applicable, and the review is key to making the inspector aware of any concerns before conducting the visit.

During the physical site inspection, the facility's conditions will be reviewed for proper functionality, overall safety and cleanliness around the site. Excessively high grass or intrusive foliage, destroyed or collapsed fencing, trash or any obstructions causing an issue with safe operations and access is noted.

As the inspector tours the facility, they will observe the functionality of the equipment to ensure that the system has proper aeration.

It's important to check the lift station to see that the electrical components are in working order and that no grease or sludge is present in the intake chamber.

The inspector will also take a look at any outfall from any discharge pipes that are adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant. The inspector will document any obstructions in the pipe, along with proper flow. The receiving stream will also be inspected to verify that no oil, solids, sludge or debris are impeding proper flow. The color and consistency of the water in the receiving stream and the presence of any odors will be documented.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

September 2018 Issue Number: 80

Pollution Prevention: Be a part of the solution

Did you know that September 17 – 21 is pollution prevention week? According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pollution prevention "means reducing or eliminating sources of pollution to prevent damage to the environment while also eliminating the need for costly controls and cleanup." While businesses and government agencies play a significant role in pollution prevention, it is not just their responsibility. Citizens can also help alleviate environmental problems by reducing pollution at the source and making smarter choices.

According to a 2015 EPA report, Americans generate 262 million tons of waste per year. According to that same report, of the municipal solid waste (MSW) generated, approximately 68 million tons were recycled, and 23 million tons of it were composted. In addition, more than 33 million tons were combusted with energy recovery, while more than 137 million tons of waste were sent to landfills. These are examples of dealing with waste after it is generated; whereas, pollution prevention looks at ways to minimize these numbers from the start, eliminating a substantial need for recycling, treatment and disposal. It reduces both financial costs (waste management and cleanup) and environmental costs (health problems and environmental damage).

Pollution prevention (or source reduction) is the first step to reducing environmental impacts throughout the life cycle of a material. It is thinking beyond the recycling, treatment and disposal of waste as well as the reduction of harmful chemicals by offering natural solutions to everyday problems. Fortunately, everyone can apply pollution prevention in their daily lives. Whether in the home and garden, at the supermarket or on the road, everyone can make pollution prevention choices every day in order to protect the environment, save money, and conserve natural resources.

By going beyond the concept of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," pollution prevention protects the environment by conserving and protecting natural resources. Please visit ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/pollution-prevention***. for more resources and additional tips on pollution prevention.

Pollution Prevention Tips at Home

- Instead of using bleach to wash clothes, kitchens, and bathrooms, use a solution of white vinegar and water or baking soda and water.
- In place of glass cleaners, use a solution of one tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice mixed with a quart of water. Spray on and use old newspapers to wipe.
- Mix a teaspoon of lemon juice with a pint of mineral oil or vegetable oil as a substitute for chemical-based furniture polishes.
- Select water-based latex paints over oil-based paints whenever possible. Choose inks and art supplies that are labeled as non-toxic.
- Use compost instead of chemical fertilizers.
- Use boric acid instead of commercial ant and roach killers.
- Select plants such as scented geraniums that attract ladybugs, praying mantises and spiders that prey on garden pests, or choose plants that repel insects such as mint, marigolds, and garlic.
- Try natural or low-toxicity pesticides such as insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, or natural pest control that can be sprinkled around the garden or home. You can also mix four tablespoons of liquid dish soap to each gallon of water to make a spray to control insects.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2018 Issue Number: 80

LDEQ On The Move

LDEQ's paralegals enjoyed food and a few lawyer jokes at the Legal Department's annual paralegal appreciation luncheon on Sept. 20. Secretary Chuck Carr Brown dropped by to offer a word of appreciation for all the hard work the paralegals do.

LDEQ Press Secretary Greg Langley gives an interview to reporter Smacker Miles from NBC 33 on the air quality alert.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2018 Issue Number: 80

Who's Who At LDEQ?

Tiffany Hundshamer - Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division, Solid Waste and Asbestos – Office of Environmental Compliance - Northeast Regional Office

Tiffany grew up in Mandeville and moved frequently after high school, eventually settling in Illinois. She was in the health care field for many years and decided to go back to college for something she loved. Tiffany went to Northern Illinois University, graduating in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in environmental studies and a minor in biology.

She just moved back to Louisiana from Rockford, Ill., for the position at LDEQ in March. Tiffany likes to travel, hike, camp, sit on the beach and just be outside. She also likes to watch movies and spend time with her family. She's very glad to be back in her home state.

Rashmi Krisnapuram – Environmental Scientist III, Water Standards and Assessment Division, Office of Environmental Assessment

Krisnapuram earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Osmania University, India. She earned a Master of Science degree and Ph.D. in biochemistry from Osmania University, India.

During her doctoral studies, her dissertation included a focus on metal toxicity and bioremediation. Prior to coming aboard at LDEQ, she was a scientist for 10 years at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge where she worked on improving human health-span in relation to obesity and nutrition.

Avery Price – Engineer Intern I, Water Planning and Assessment Division, Office of Environmental Assessment

Price earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil and environmental engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2017. He recently joined LDEQ under the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads) division as an engineer intern.

Price enjoys hiking, Virginia Tech football, working out, traveling, running and playing video games.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2018 Issue Number: 80

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Second Quarter Summaries

Second Quarter 2018 Enforcement Actions:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions

Second Quarter 2018 Settlement Agreements:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division

Second Quarter 2018 Air Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter

Second Quarter 2018 Water Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes

Second Quarter 2018 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits