



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ and the Regional Planning Commission seeking input on ozone reductions strategies

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) are seeking input from the public on air quality strategies to reduce ozone formation and maintain attainment with the national standards.

DEQ has created a statewide survey that allows the public to make suggestions on how improve air quality in their own geographic are. The link to the survey is <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cleanairforlouisiana>.

Data collected from the survey will be shared with RPC.

The New Orleans metropolitan area, comprised of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, and St. Tammany Parishes, currently meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the pollutant ozone. However, the area is very close to becoming nonattainment and has joined the Environmental Protection Agency's Ozone Advance Program to take measures to reduce ozone.

The New Orleans area is affected by a number of emissions sources that include marine and airport equipment, as well as industrial sources, but there are also areas where residents and citizens can exert some control. Nonroad emissions, which comprise 35 percent of the nitrogen oxide emissions and 25 percent of the volatile organic compound emissions in the New Orleans area, are also emitted by lawn and garden equipment, four wheelers, boats and other off road vehicles. On road emissions sources that consist of vehicles driven on highways, can be more controlled when everyone combines errands, carpools and does not allow their vehicle to idle. Nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react in the presence of sunlight to form ozone, so by reducing the amounts of these emissions, we can impact how much ozone might be produced.

DEQ is asking residents and the public in the affected parishes to make their suggestions, via the survey, on how to help the New Orleans area reduce ozone forming emissions.

For more information on the Ozone Advance Program and air quality, go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/ozoneadvance or at the EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/ozoneadvance>.