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LDEQ Makes Improvements to Solid Waste Capacity Report with Help from Louisiana Environmental Ambassadors Program (LEAP)

Baton Rouge, LA — The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is proud to announce a significant improvement in the newly released **2023 Solid Waste Capacity Report**, marking a major step forward in how the State monitors and manages solid waste disposal. The latest report offers a more precise and detailed breakdown of landfill capacity compared to previous reports, thanks to advancements in data organization and visualization.

One of the most notable upgrades in this year's report is the **breakdown of capacity data into data by region**, providing a clearer picture of landfill availability across Louisiana. This regional approach allows LDEQ to better assess remaining capacity in specific areas and focus efforts where volume is low. The report also includes detailed regional tables, maps, and disposal trend charts, offering readers an educational and visually engaging way to understand solid waste management across the state.

Additionally, the report incorporates a **more accurate method for calculating disposal rates** by averaging data over a 10-year period. This method accounts for large storm events, such as hurricanes or floods, ensuring a more precise evaluation of waste disposal trends and landfill longevity.

A key highlight of this year's report is the invaluable contributions from interns in the agency's **Louisiana Environmental Ambassadors Program (LEAP)**, who played a pivotal role in gathering data, drafting the report, and creating accompanying tables and maps.

"I had the privilege to work with a bunch of great people who supported my education," **said LEAP intern Nathan Mahoney**. "I enjoyed my internship and the opportunity to improve solid waste management in Louisiana."

LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto emphasized the importance of fostering young talent through the LEAP program and how their work benefits the agency's mission.

"This report is a testament to the incredible value of mentorship and hands-on experience," **said Secretary Giacometto**. "Our LEAP interns' contributions helped enhance the way we assess and manage landfill capacity across the state. The LEAP program is shaping the next generation of environmental leaders, and we are proud to support their growth while strengthening Louisiana's environmental oversight."

LDEQ recognizes the essential role of the LEAP program and its partnership with Louisiana's universities in developing future environmental professionals. **The 2023 Solid Waste Capacity Report** stands as a testament to the program's success in providing students with real-world experience while advancing environmental management in Louisiana.

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