



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



June 2020 Issue Number: 101

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Why does LDEQ issue Air Quality Action Day advisories?

When the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) issues an Air Quality Action Day Advisory, you may wonder what that means and how it affects you. These advisories are forecasts that indicate when conditions could be right for ozone or fine particulate (PM2.5) pollution. Ozone season officially begins May 1 and ends Sept. 30; however, we have to be concerned with air quality all months of the year. Although May through September affords weather conditions more conducive for the formation of ozone, Louisiana can have an exceedance at any time. An Air Quality Action Day or advisory can also be issued for PM 2.5 (fine particulate matter). In 2020, LDEQ issued a PM 2.5 advisory for much of southern Louisiana because of Saharan dust brought into the southern United States by the trade winds. While these advisories are less frequent, they are just as important.

An Ozone Action Day means that weather conditions are favorable for the formation of higher than normal levels of ozone. LDEQ works with a forecaster, Sonoma Technology, to look at the weather conditions and other factors likely to cause ozone formation or other air quality issues. In Louisiana, we tend to see ozone advisories when high pressure systems stall over the area. Ozone advisories are more common on very sunny days with little or no wind for mixing. An Air Quality Advisory is issued when the Air Quality Index indicates the Orange Level, or unhealthy for sensitive groups. When sunlight combines with VOCs and NOx, it forms higher than normal levels of ozone near the ground that may cause health issues. Increased ozone levels may cause health effects for active children and adults, the elderly and people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma. It is recommended that this group avoid prolonged outdoor activities.

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Category	Value	Ozone 2008 8-HR (ppm)	24-HR PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	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 (AQI)

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Ozone is a colorless gas that exists in the earth's stratosphere and protects us from the sun's ultraviolet rays. However, when ozone forms near the earth's surface, it can affect health. LDEQ issues an Ozone Action Day advisory when the Air Quality Index (AQI) forecast is above 100, categorized as Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, or Code Orange. Before LDEQ issues an Ozone Action Day advisory, industry partners receive a request to take voluntary measures to reduce ozone precursor emissions into the atmosphere. Local industries are notified when the prediction is 90 or above, and they take specific steps to reduce the level of ozone precursors that are released into the air. Many facilities have Ozone Action Plans.

Individuals can also impact the air quality by taking voluntary steps to reduce their impact on the air quality:

- Drive Less – Carpool, take public transportation, walk more, bring your lunch to work and combine errands.
- Do not idle your car in carpool lines or use the drive-thru. Turn off your engine and go into the restaurant or business. You create less pollution by stopping and restarting your engine than you do idling.
- Refuel when temperatures are cooler – typically after 6 p.m.
- Mow grass and use other gas powered lawn equipment and off-road vehicles after 6 p.m.
- Postpone chores that use oil-based paint, varnishes and solvents (that are flammable) to another, preferably breezy day.
- If you barbecue, use an electric starter or a chimney starter instead of lighter fluid.
- Conserve energy in your home. Set your thermostats a little higher when you are not at home to conserve energy and reduce the load placed on power producers. Not only will it save you money on your utility bills, but it also reduces the amount of precursor emissions produced by the power company.

To obtain real-time air quality information, go to airquality.deq.louisiana.gov.

To see the regional air quality information, go to www.airnow.gov.



If you would like notification of daily air quality, or when the air quality is high, you can sign up for EnviroFlash at www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash.



Information Regarding PM_{2.5} Air Quality Action Days in Louisiana

What is PM, and how does it get into the air?

PM stands for particulate matter (also called particle pollution): the term for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. Some particles, such as dust, dirt, soot, or smoke, are large or dark enough to be seen with the naked eye. Others are so small they can only be detected using an electron microscope.

Particle pollution includes:

- **PM₁₀**: inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller; and
- **PM_{2.5}**: fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.
 - How small is 2.5 micrometers? Think about a single hair from your head. The average human hair is about 70 micrometers in diameter – making it 30 times larger than the largest fine particle.

Sources of PM

These particles come in many sizes and shapes and can be made up of hundreds of different chemicals.

Some are emitted directly from a source, such as construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, smokestacks or fires. In the case of recent events, the PM_{2.5} Air Quality Action Days have been due to southwesterly winds transporting a large plume of Saharan dust over the Gulf of Mexico and into the state.

What are the Harmful Effects of PM?

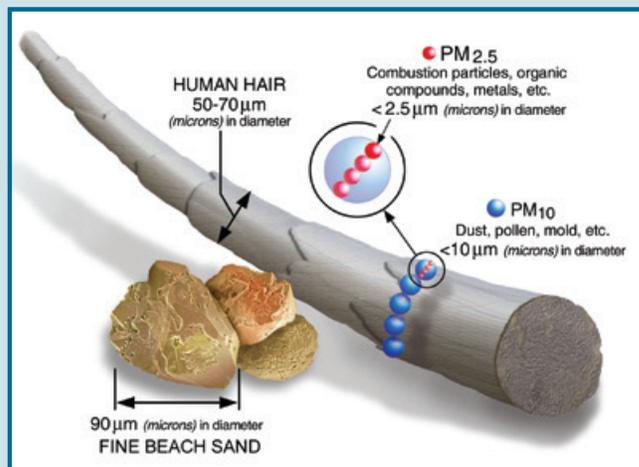
Particulate matter contains microscopic solids or liquid droplets that are so small that they can be inhaled and cause serious health problems. Particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter pose the greatest problems, because they can get deep into your lungs, and some may even get into your bloodstream.

Exposure to such particles can affect both your lungs and your heart. Numerous scientific studies have linked particle pollution exposure to a variety of problems, including:

- premature death in people with heart or lung disease
- nonfatal heart attacks
- irregular heartbeat
- aggravated asthma
- decreased lung function
- increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing.

People with heart or lung diseases, children, and older adults are the most likely to be affected by particle pollution exposure.

**Some of the information included above is from the EPA website on PM 2.5*





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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

We have come to the end of another month, and we are still grappling with COVID-19. We entered Phase 2 with high hopes, looking forward to getting this outbreak under control. But when it came time to consider moving to Phase 3, we found out that we don't yet have COVID-19 completely under control. As Gov. Edwards said, "Some of you might be done with COVID-19, but COVID-19 is NOT done with Louisiana."

So we move into July with restrictions still in place. I want to remind folks that it is our agency's policy to wear masks whenever we are in a public space in our buildings: break areas, restrooms, entryways, elevators hallways and passages. We are restricted to no more than 50 people in a room. We can't have more than four persons on an elevator simultaneously, and all must wear masks. Observe social distancing whenever you can.

Be careful when you're not in the building, too. Listen to our governor, our colleagues at the Louisiana Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. This isn't just about you. It's about grandma. It's about that lady down the street who is undergoing chemotherapy. It's about the emergency room nurse who has no choice but to work with infected people. We have to protect our most vulnerable population. One death is too many. Save a life. Wear a mask.

Like a lot of things, our annual gift basket raffle was interrupted by the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. I'm happy to say that we were able to draw the winning tickets on June 29. The winners were: Mary Beth Bucher, Office of Environmental Compliance basket; Stephen Lorio, Office of Management and Finance basket; Tim Beckstrom, Office of Environmental Assessment basket; Ned Stevenson, Office of the Secretary basket; and Roger Ward, Office of Environmental Services basket. The "Hearts" winners were the Southeast Regional Office with 60 hearts and the Office of Environmental Assessment at headquarters with 170 hearts. This fundraiser raised approximately \$3,100 for the American Heart Association. I am proud we were able to continue our fundraising efforts in the face of so many obstacles. Taken together, our workforce has one BIG heart. Thank you all.

Let's talk about the weather. Louisiana is not a place where you can walk outside and hold out your hand and get a good feel for what the weather is going to be today. In the past month, we've had a tropical storm, two tornadoes flooding and a dust storm. It's just the end of June. We have the rest of the 2020 hurricane season to go. And I want to remind you that flash flooding can be just as deadly as storm surges. The afternoon downpours can fill up ditches and overflow into streets quickly. Underpasses and low spots become deep pools of water. Many people drown in their cars when they misjudge the depth of water on the road. Don't try to ford a rushing current crossing the road. Heed the warning: Turn Around, Don't Drown.

Be safe! Enjoy the July 4th holiday! Social distance and wear a mask!



Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.



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COVID-19 highlights the benefits of telecommuting

COVID-19 has redefined what “normal” means for most of us. It has ingrained in many a new level of caution found in what used to be mundane tasks, and it has shined a light on just how much of our everyday lives can be handled digitally. From e-learning in schools to telecommuting at work to online grocery services, many people are navigating the “new normal.” No matter the hesitations that kept us from making the leap to digitally performing tasks prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the virus has forced many of us out of our comfort zones, opening our eyes to the many benefits these technological advancements can offer.

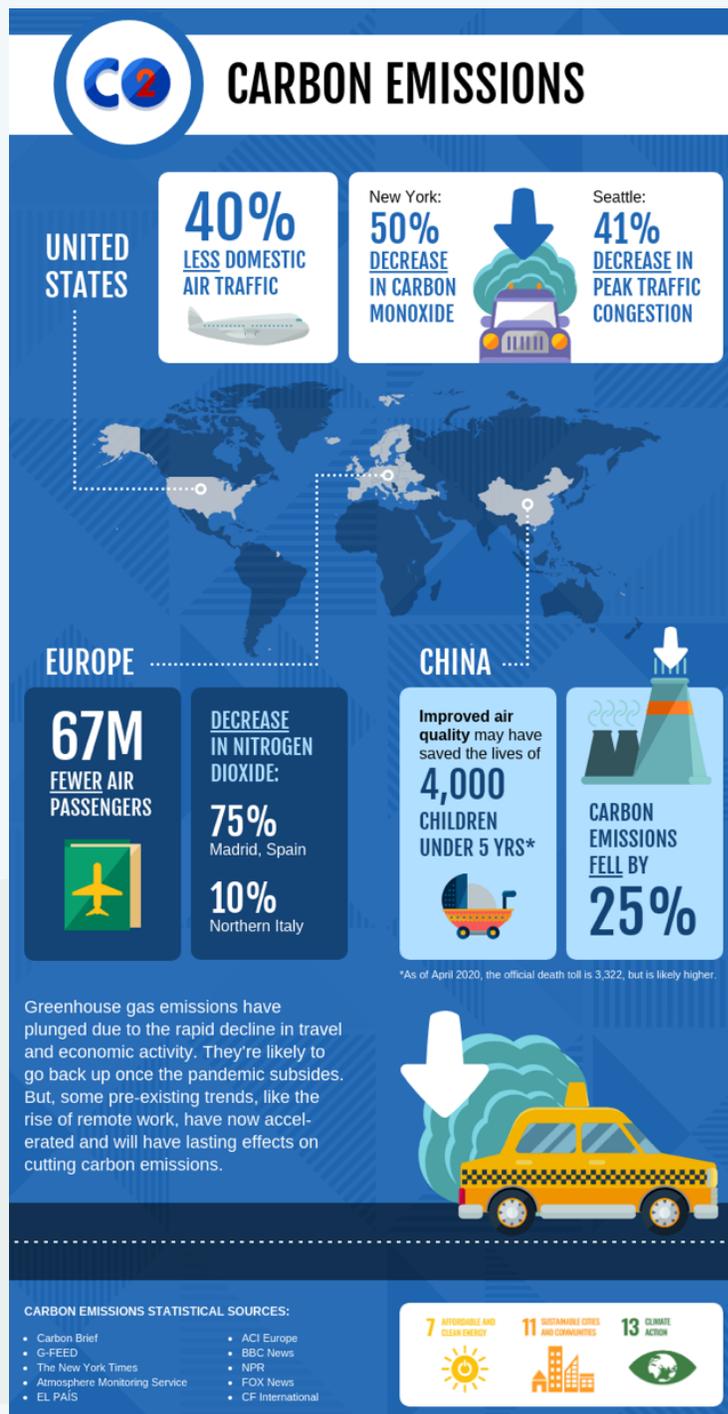
Remote work, for example, is looked to for solving problems with work-life balance, employee retention, and productivity under normal circumstances. However, it has become a necessity over the last few months for many employers and employees alike in the fight to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and maintain business as usual.

“When Governor Edwards declared his stay-at-order for the state of Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) was able to close our physical offices across the state and move to telecommuting without a pause in service or a reduction in productivity,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. “My staff was able to make this transition with minimal complications, and many are still telecommuting as we slowly repopulate our offices.”

Telecommuting has become an essential tool during the pandemic, but is it also a way to reduce negative impacts on the environment moving forward? While there are arguments supporting both answers to this question, here are four observations that say it could be a sustainable way to reduce negative impacts on the environment.

1. Transportation, which includes vehicles used commuting to and from work, is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States,

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Source: venngage.com



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according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 2017, the EPA reported 29% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States came from transportation.

2. In the same 2017 study, EPA reported that company offices are part of the fourth-largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Industry needs large amounts of office space, which negatively impacts the environment. According to the EPA, “In 2017, direct greenhouse gas emissions from homes and businesses accounted for 11.6% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.”

3. According to 2017 data from Global Workplace Analytics (GWA), remote workers have the same impact on air quality as planting a forest of trees. When data was collected in 2017, people working from home in the United States avoided emitting 3.6 million tons of commuting-related greenhouse gases annually. To replicate those results, it would take the planting of 91 million trees to offset the same level of emissions, according to the GWA website.

4. Not only does remote work potentially impact the environment positively, but the bottom line of companies also see its benefits. According to the Society of Human Resource Management, Xerox reported its teleworkers drove 92 million fewer miles, saving 4.6 million gallons of gas, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 41,000 metric tons, and saving the company over \$10 million in 2015.

Protecting the environment may not be the main reason people want to work from home or that employers allow telecommuting, but telecommuting can play a role in benefiting the environment by potentially conserving energy and reducing fuel consumption and pollution. Interstates, highways and city streets have seen remarkably less traffic for weeks due to stay-at-home orders across the country. According to Arity, a spinoff of Allstate Insurance, the coronavirus pandemic caused an unprecedented drop in U.S. traffic. Arity pulls mobility data from smartphone apps and devices installed in cars of customers who have opted to share their data, and their data shows that total miles driven dropped by more than 40% in the last two weeks of March.

As a result, cities around the globe are reporting less air pollution. According to CBS News, Washington, D.C., is experiencing its cleanest spring air in 25 years. In recent months, in the northeast, NASA observed a 30% drop in the air pollutant nitrogen dioxide compared to the same month in previous years. Additionally, since the beginning of the pandemic, air quality maps tracking scores on the EPA’s Air Quality Index were nothing but green—the color that denotes the cleanest air.

In 2017 FlexJobs and Global Workplace Analytics performed a study to evaluate the total environmental impact for the remote worker population at the time, which was 3.9 million workers who worked from home at least half-time. The environmental impacts included:

Vehicle miles not traveled: 7.8 billion

Vehicle trips avoided: 530 million

Tons of greenhouse gases (GHG) avoided (EPA method): 3 million

Reduced traffic accident costs: \$498 million

Oil savings (\$50/barrel): \$980 million

Total air quality savings (lbs. per year): 83 million

Although there’s been some debate on the extent of telecommuting’s environmental impact, the overwhelming body of research on telecommuting shows that working from home rather than commuting to work can reduce the amount of pollution. It’s notable that the environmental benefits can be gained with even part-time telecommuting.

The benefits of telecommuting are seen in a number of direct and indirect ways. As more companies, organizations and government agencies adopt remote work, hopefully we will see the continued positive benefits of telecommuting in the environment, our business practices, and the workforce’s productivity.



LDEQ encourages proper separation of trash, chemicals and debris after a storm or flood

With the tropical storm and hurricane season upon us, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) encourages residents across the state to be mindful of the proper separation and disposal of debris.

During the aftermath of a flood, tropical storm or hurricane, carefully sort any trash, household chemicals, appliances/white goods and debris into separate, distinct piles and place them curbside for proper disposal.

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Separating Your Debris

Debris should be placed curbside, without blocking the roadway or storm drains.

NO PICKUP ZONE
Any debris placed from the sidewalk toward your property will not be picked up.

DEBRIS SEPARATION
Separate debris into the six categories shown below.

DO NOT STACK OR LEAN
Placing debris near or on trees, poles, or other structures makes removal difficult. This includes fire hydrants and meters.

UNSURE WHERE TO PLACE DEBRIS?
If you don't have a sidewalk, ditch, or utility line in front of your house, place debris at the edge of your property before the curb.

Normal Household Trash
Normal household trash and bagged debris of any kind will not be picked up with debris as part of this program. You should continue to follow your normal garbage removal schedule.

VEGETATIVE DEBRIS

- Leaves (do not put in bags)
- Logs
- Plants
- Tree branches

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS

- Building materials
- Carpet
- Drywall
- Furniture
- Lumber
- Plumbing

APPLIANCES & WHITE GOODS

- Air conditioners
- Dishwashers
- Freezers
- Refrigerators
- Stoves
- Washers, dryers
- Water heaters

ELECTRONICS

- Computers
- Radios
- Stereos
- Televisions
- Other devices with a cord

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Cleaning supplies
- Batteries
- Lawn chemicals
- Oils
- Oil-based paints and stains
- Pesticides



Separate your waste into the following categories:

- Household trash: Normal household trash and bagged debris of any kind will not be picked up as part of debris collection. This will be collected on your normal garbage removal schedule.
- Vegetative debris: includes branches and limbs, logs, plants and leaves
- Construction and Demolition debris: Material that are an integral part of the structure such as Sheetrock/drywall, plaster, lumber, plumbing, insulation or brick
- White goods: air conditioners, dishwashers, freezers, refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers, water heaters
- Electronics: computers, radios, televisions, devices with a cord
- Household Hazardous Waste: cleaning supplies, batteries, lawn chemicals, oil, paint and stain, pesticides, vehicle fluids

Since household chemicals can become hazardous in storm-damaged homes and businesses, please ensure you seal, secure and properly dispose of those items so that they don't create a health and environmental hazard.

If possible, label all containers clearly before placing them out for disposal. Ensure that all food and liquids are removed from refrigerators and freezers before moving those appliances to the curb.

Most items can be recycled or donated to thrift stores or Habitat for Humanity ReStores, so please check into those locations to confirm what they will accept. Items such as used electronics, laptops and computer hardware, batteries, paint, cleaning products and solvents, and lawn/garden products can be donated to various recyclers or dropped off at a Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day.

Please refrain from conducting an open burn of your household waste as it is illegal in the state of Louisiana to do so.

For more information on debris management and re-entry after a storm or flood, please view the disaster debris management page <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.

Check out LDEQ's YouTube videos for tips on debris separation and open burning:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oA5TN-tIKGU

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yunEs3aYGY



The state of Louisiana enters contract with new bank for processing credit card payments

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) transitioned to a different bank for the processing of credit card payments. The switch took place at the end of the 2020 fiscal year and is now reflected on credit card payments beginning on the afternoon of June 26 and onward.

The change is a result of a change in vendor across state agencies. The state previously used Bank of America to process credit card payments, but has transitioned to US Bank moving forward. There will be no interruption in service for LDEQ customers nor any change in invoicing or receipts. However, customers can expect to see a change in the check-out process as they will be directed to US Bank's gateway to complete the transaction.

Please note that online payments will continue to be accepted at ***business.deq.louisiana.gov***.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact LDEQ's Financial Services Division at (225) 219-5337 and someone will discuss options with you.

Payment Information

First Name Last Name

Address 1

Address 2

City State

Zip

Phone

Email

Email a copy of your receipt?

Comment

Select Payment Method:

Credit Card

Electronic Check (Personal)

Electronic Check (Business)

Card Number CVV2

VISA [What is best?](#)

Expiration Date (6) Jun 2020

Above is the screen customers were accustomed to seeing via the Bank of America portal.

Personal Details

Email

Please enter Email

Payment method

New Card Account

Card Number CVV Exp. Date

Name on Card

Billing Address

Address Line 1

City State Zip Code

I agree to the [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Privacy - Terms](#)

The above is what customers can expect to see during the payment process on the US Bank portal.



Southern University promotes green infrastructure and use of biochar for pollution reduction

Southern University (SU) is always looking for ways to increase soil fertility while improving air quality. Graduate students in Southern University's Urban Forestry and Natural Resources program engaged in an innovative project that accomplishes both at the same time by tapping into the benefits of bioproducts and bioenergy.

"The idea came about when graduate students were looking for ways to use mother nature to sustain the urban ecosystem," said Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, professor and program leader at Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and SU Urban Forestry and Natural Resources program.

Dr. Abdollahi and his collaborators developed and submitted a comprehensive proposal to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). It resulted in grant funding to Southern University for the research, testing and study of alternative renewable energy resources, and experimenting with the use of recently living organic plant materials (biomass) for conversion to biofuel and biochar. Focusing on soil enhancement, water quality and quantity improvement, tree growth and development, the team looked specifically at the beneficial uses of biochar as a unique catalyst that could be applied to those areas of study.

Biochar is a charcoal-like substance formed as a result of pyrolysis. Pyrolysis is a controlled process by which decomposition is brought about by thermal decomposition of wood waste (such as storm-damaged dead trees, clippings, pruned branches, etc.). When applied to the soil around young trees to stimulate root and shoot growth, biochar has been found to be beneficial for retaining nutrients and water in the soil.

At Southern University's Urban Forestry Program Educational Forest, the biochar project is in full swing. Several plant boxes are spaced apart at the experimental site, with each containing a tree that is grown and tested with biochar added to the soil (approximately 6 inches deep into the critical root zone). A control group of trees has been planted nearby (without biochar) as a comparison model through an experimental design.

The team periodically assesses the biological activities in the soil impacted by biochar, with soil respiration being measured using a portable soil carbon dioxide flux system. The soil is measured randomly and periodically during the tree growing season and correlated with tree growth, physiology, respiration and soil nutrient levels.

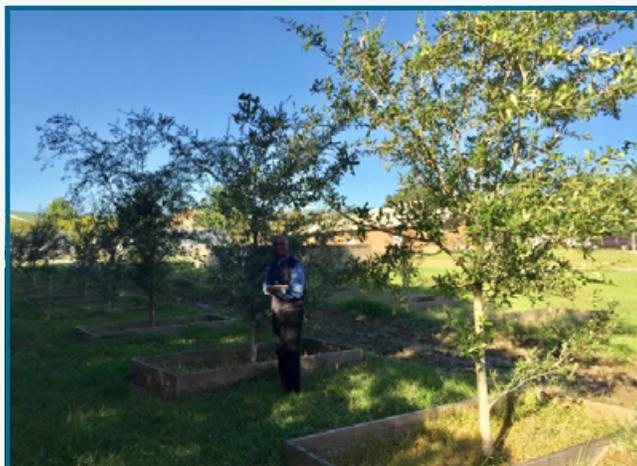


Photo courtesy of Southern University. Urban Forestry graduate student at SU takes measurements of oak trees treated by soil biochar amendment.



Photo courtesy of Southern University. The SU Biochar experiment site includes oak trees that are under biochar treatments for 3 years.

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*Photo courtesy of Southern University.
Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, project director and program leader at SU's Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department, SU Agricultural Research and Extension Center in the Bioenergy and Air Quality Laboratory.*

The impact of the biochar soil amendment is documented, noting tree height growth, diameter growth, estimated biomass and canopy size. A portable photosynthesis system is used to measure physiological activities with regard to the trees. "We use several portable systems to measure soil and tree parameters that are indicative of soil quality and tree growth, in addition to soil and plant tissue sampling for laboratory chemical analysis," Dr. Abdollahi noted. Soil nutrition, pH, water holding capacity and other parameters are measured through sampling, and the analysis is conducted in a lab.

When compared to the control plots, Southern's research found that the addition of biochar to the soil resulted in water use efficiency and soil fertility improvements. Adding biochar showed that it actually boosted the growth of tree saplings while reducing the need for watering due to biochar's water retention properties. "Biochar is porous and creates a hub for microbial activities and respiration for organisms to multiply. It enhances tree photosynthesis and is conducive to soil water holding capacity as it retains moisture, thereby creating an anchor for friendly fungi while simultaneously remediating drought problems," Dr. Abdollahi noted.

The team also tests the trees for their ability to remove particulate matter (PM 2.5) from the air as comparative statistical analysis is performed to assess the impact of tree canopy size on particulate matter reduction at the site. Using a real-time portable field particle pollution analyzer, the students measure the air quality (as it relates to particulate matter only) on a random and periodic basis. Measurements are conducted out in the open as well as under the tree canopy, and the results are correlated with particle pollution that is removed by tree leaves and needles that are analyzed in a lab. Results have shown that increased tree biomass and canopy size have impacted the total increase in the removal of PM 2.5 pollutants from the air.

The project and its successes can easily be transferred to other organizations and businesses due to its simplicity and the availability of wood waste and the production of biochar. Success has already been transferred to many local, state and regional entities for improving soil quality, tree growth and hence improving air quality in urban areas. "Tremendous interest has been seen, and we've been contacted by several companies and organizations on how they can use biochar in land remediation applications," Dr. Abdollahi added.

Students participating in the program have been involved in outreach and extension activities and have produced publications and conducted direct presentations to promote the project through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Renewable Resources Extension Act (USDA NIFA RREA) program. Southern's undergrads are also a key part of the project, and internships are available for students to get involved.

LSU is a bioenergy partner in Southern University's endeavor, and Dr. Dorin Boldor at LSU collaborated with the SU team on the bioenergy component of the project. Technical assistance was provided from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service as well as Mr. Robert Seemann and Baton Rouge Green, who assisted with outreach and educating the public on urban greening, tree and soil preservation methods.

For more information about the program, contact Dr. Kamran Abdollahi at kamran_abdollahi@subr.edu.



LDEQ On The Move



Russell Clark recognized for achievement in radiation protection

Longtime LDEQ employee Russell Clark was presented a Board of Directors Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Radiation Protection by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) at their Annual Meeting held May 7.

Clark was recognized for his active participation in the E-34 Committee on Unwanted Radioactive Material Working Group.

“Russell’s active participation in this working group utilized his knowledge and years of experience in the radiological field. Russell’s participation also allowed the state of Louisiana and the LDEQ to share information in a collaborative format with other states and federal entities in this unique space. The group produced an informational video that will be extremely useful to all stakeholders, and early reviews are very positive. We are proud of Russell, his collaborative work and his national recognition!” Emergency and Radiological Services Division Administrator Jeff J. Dauszat said.



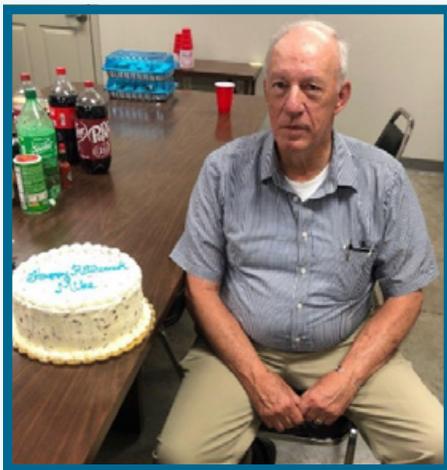
Ted Broyles honored on retirement

On June 11, friends gathered in Room 1051 at the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge to give attorney Ted Broyles a fond sendoff to his retirement. Broyles had been in the legal section for 20 years and now plans to return to west Louisiana where he will relax, do some fishing and see what opportunities life brings him.



LDEQ On The Move

Continued



Mike Savoy of the Small Business Assistance Program retires

The Small Business Assistance Program congratulates John “Mike” Savoy on his retirement from the agency after 21 years of service, effective as of June 30. Mike started with LDEQ in January 2004 as an environmental chemical specialist. Mike spent his entire career at LDEQ with the Small Business Assistance Program in the Acadiana Regional Office in Lafayette. Mike also volunteered with the Civil Air Patrol of Lafayette for over 30 years and worked as a flight instructor for more than 30 years. Prior to working for LDEQ, Mike worked in industry as a chemical engineer. All of LDEQ sends “Best Wishes and Congratulations” to Mike on his retirement.





Who's Who At LDEQ?



Candace Allen - Environmental Scientist, Remediation Division, Office of Environmental Assessment

Allen has been employed with the state of Louisiana since 2012. She recently joined LDEQ as an environmental scientist in the Remediation Division in the Office of Environmental Assessment. She earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in biology from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge. She is a Louisiana native and enjoys traveling.

Alex Madden - Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division, Office of Environmental Compliance, Southeast Regional Office

Originally from Covington, Madden graduated from LSU in 2014, earning a bachelor's degree in environmental management systems with a focus on resource conservation. After school, he briefly worked for a stack testing firm in the Baton Rouge area. After that, Madden spent roughly three years working for an environmental consulting firm in Baton Rouge before moving to New Orleans in late 2019. "I have managed to grow a beard during the COVID-19 crisis with relative success."

He enjoys traveling, running, biking and reading nonfiction. He also occasionally goes deer hunting in north Louisiana, but his main passion is fishing.



Sarah Trahan - Environmental Scientist, Emergency and Radiological Services Division, Office of Environmental Compliance, Acadiana Regional Office

Trahan earned a Bachelor of Science in radiologic technology from McNeese State University in May 2006. Her 13-plus year career as a radiographer began at a local hospital immediately upon graduating college. After working at a surgical hospital for the last 12 years, Trahan decided to leave this career to spend more time with her family. She started work with LDEQ as a radiation inspector at the Acadiana Regional Office in December 2019.

Trahan resides in Maurice with her husband and five-year-old son. She enjoys being outdoors with her family, visiting the beach, traveling and offshore fishing.



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

First Quarter 2020 Enforcement Actions:

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

First Quarter 2020 Settlement Agreements:

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

First Quarter 2020 Air Permits:

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

First Quarter 2020 Water Permits:

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

First Quarter 2020 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

