



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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## LDEQ launches new interactive map detailing the water bodies included in the Louisiana Water Quality Integrated Report

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) launched a new interactive map that details the water bodies included in the Louisiana Water Quality Integrated Report. The Louisiana Water Quality Integrated Report (IR) is the current format for the state's biennial reports on the water quality of Louisiana surface waters.

The IR, formerly known separately as the 305(b) Report and the 303(d) List, is a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act. It is developed every even numbered year and submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval of the 303(d) List portion of the report. The most current Water Quality Integrated Report, considered final and approved by the EPA, is the 2018 report, which can now be viewed via interactive map at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/louisiana-water-quality-integrated-report](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/louisiana-water-quality-integrated-report). The full report, including text, assessments and appendices, can be viewed at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/468](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/468).

"The new LDEQ Water Quality Integrated Report map has been needed for many years. Fortunately, the technology and the ability to use it recently came together to make it happen. It allows the public to more easily locate water bodies they are interested in and then find LDEQ's water quality assessment for each," said Al Hindrichs. Hindrichs is a LDEQ Senior Environmental Scientist in the Water Planning and Assessment Division (WPAD).

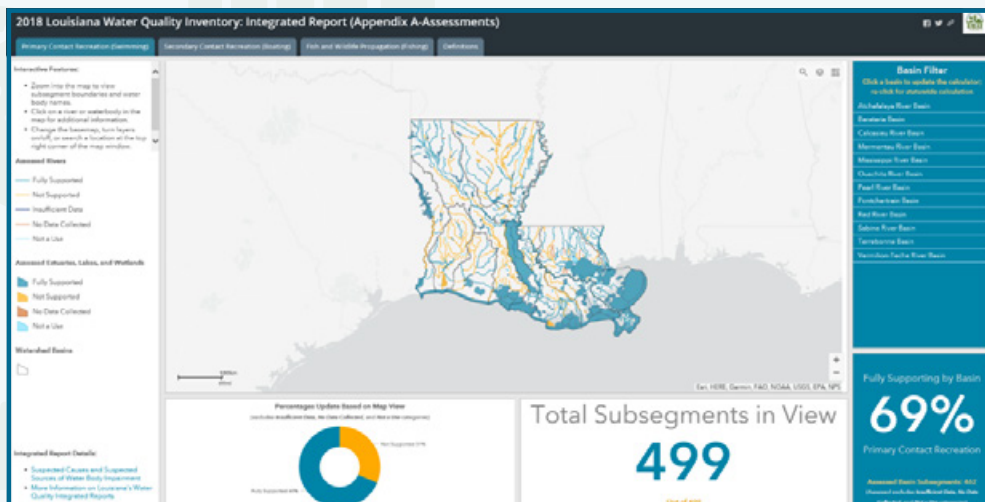
The map was developed by LDEQ Environmental Scientist Jaclyn Allen. "The spatial data in the new web map is actually generated with each Integrated Report cycle and

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published as soft copy maps; however, GIS software is required to view the data's true interactive format. The ArcGIS Online mapping platform solves this issue by providing the public access to IR spatial data through the public website," Allen said. "A major improvement is that the user can now zoom to smaller water bodies that may get overlooked on the older map files. The web map allows the user to interact with the data at a higher resolution that wasn't possible in the previous Integrated Report format." Keep watching for a soon-to-be-released app version of the IR map currently under development by LDEQ Geologist Shanna Mason, also with the WPAD.

The IR map breaks down the information according to subsegments, which are the water body assessment units used by LDEQ. The mapping tool is also divided into designated uses including Primary Contact Recreation (PCR), Secondary Contact Recreation (SCR), and Fish and Wildlife Propagation (FWP). The PCR use is defined as any recreational or other water contact activity involving prolonged or regular full-body contact with the water and in which the probability of ingesting appreciable amounts of water is considerable. Examples of this type of water use include swimming, skiing, and diving. The SCR use is defined as any recreational or other water contact activity in which prolonged regular full-body contact with the water is either incidental or accidental, and the probability of ingesting appreciable amounts of water is minimal. Examples of this type of water use include fishing, wading and boating.

The final designated use, FWP, is defined as the use of water for aquatic habitat, food, resting, reproduction, cover and/or travel corridors for any indigenous wildlife and aquatic life species associated with the aquatic environment. This use also includes the maintenance of water quality at a level that prevents damage to indigenous wildlife and aquatic life species associated with the aquatic environment and contamination of aquatic biota consumed by humans.

The map allows the public to zoom into the map to view subsegment boundaries and water body names. The public can then click on a river or water body in the map for additional information. The water body subsegment will fall into one of five categories for each of the three uses: Fully Supported, Not Supported, Insufficient Data, No Data Collected, and Not a Use. These are defined as follows:

- Fully Supported – the assessed water body is fully supporting the designated use
- Not Supported – the assessed water body is not fully supporting the designated use
- Insufficient Data – there is insufficient data to make a reliable determination if the water body supports the designated use
- No Data Collected – data was not collected on the assessed water body to make a determination if the water body supports the designated use
- Not a Use – the designated use on the map tab does not apply to that assessed water body.

Louisiana contains over 66,294 miles of rivers and streams, 1,078,031 acres (1,684 square miles) of lakes and reservoirs, 5,550,951 acres (8,673 square miles) of fresh and tidal wetlands, and 4,899,840 acres (7,656 square miles) of estuaries. It is the responsibility of the LDEQ to protect the chemical, physical, biological and aesthetic integrity of the water resources and aquatic environment of Louisiana. This responsibility is undertaken through the use of public education, scientific endeavors, water quality management, wastewater permitting and inspections and regulatory enforcement in order to provide the citizens of Louisiana with clean and healthy water now and in the future. The 2018 Integrated Report (IR) documents LDEQ's progress toward meeting this responsibility.

Louisiana's IR is produced, in part, to meet requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act commonly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA) (U.S. Code 1972, 1987). The primary CWA sections addressed by the 2018 IR are § 303(d) and § 305(b). Section 303(d) states that each state shall identify water quality-limited segments still requiring Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) within its boundaries for which: (1) Technology-based effluent limitations required by sections 301(b),

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306, 307 or other sections of the Act; (2) More stringent effluent limitations (including prohibitions) required by either state or local authority preserved by § 510 of the Act or federal authority (law, regulation, or treaty); and (3) Other pollution control requirements (e.g., best management practices) required by local, state or federal authority are not stringent enough to implement any water quality standards applicable to such waters.

Section 305(b) of the CWA requires each state to provide, every two years, the following information to the Administrator of the USEPA:

- A description of the water quality of all navigable waters in the state
- An analysis of the status of waters of the state with regard to their support of recreational activities and fish and wildlife propagation
- An assessment of the state's water pollution control activities toward achieving the CWA goal of having water bodies that support recreational activities and fish and wildlife propagation
- An estimate of the costs and benefits of implementing the CWA
- A description of the nature and extent of nonpoint sources (NPS) of pollution and recommendations for programs to address NPS pollution

For the 2018 IR full support of the designated use of SCR remained the same at 96%. Support of the PCR use decreased from 72% of assessed water body subsegments down to 69%. Of the 69% of subsegments showing impairment of the PCR use, 74% (114 of 154 subsegments) are due to elevated fecal coliform densities and 11% (17 of 154 subsegments) are due to enterococcus densities. Enterococcus sampling of coastal recreation water bodies is new for the 2018 IR, thus representing a new suspected cause of impairment in the IR assessment process.

The remaining 14.9% of PCR impairments are due to chemical contamination (7.8%) or elevated water temperature (7.1%). For SCR use, 81% (17 of 21 subsegments) of the impairments are due to fecal coliforms and 19% (4 of 21 subsegments) are due to chemical contamination of some sort.

FWP use support decreased slightly from 31% of assessed water body subsegments down to 29%. This is nearly the same as the average use support of 30% between 2000 and 2016. The slight decrease in use support for FWP may be due in part to the creation of 21 new subsegments.

The new subsegments are part of the eastern Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plain ecoregion realignment of subsegments. This occurred along the Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain and resulted in assessments of not supporting FWP for most of the new subsegments.

Low FWP use support is due in part to the large number of water quality parameters and information used to assess the use. LDEQ currently uses data and information on dissolved oxygen, chlorides, sulfates, total dissolved solids, turbidity, non-native aquatic plants, pH, oil/tar/grease, seven different metals and dozens of organic compounds including pesticides when assessing water quality for the designated use. In addition to these monitored parameters, the presence of fish consumption advisories due to mercury or organic chemicals also results in impairment to this designated use.

To learn more about Water Quality Management in Louisiana, watch the EnviroSchool webinar here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiftFJ1Hn48](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiftFJ1Hn48).



## Message from the Secretary

*Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*

Two of LDEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratories (MAMLs) conducted an air sampling mission in Lake Charles after Hurricane Laura. I visited with the crew of one MAML onsite. Little did I know then that this would not be the last hurricane to hit Lake Charles in 2020.

I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday. I know it was different this year as we all worked around the COVID-19 concerns. We didn't go to Grandma's house or gather with friends because of its ever presence. It's an awful time. Yet, there is much for us to be thankful for.

I am not one of those people who equivocates and says, "well, it could have been worse." That's always true. It's also always true that it could have been better. But I am an optimist. I will not look at this year with a biased eye.

One thing I am glad of this holiday season is that the most active hurricane season on record is finally over. I know December could bring us a hurricane. It has happened before, but it is very rare. I refuse to expect it. I will say that we need to learn from the 2020 hurricane season. All the preparations we do are essential. We all need to think about how we prepare for hurricanes in our jobs and our personal lives. We want to be ready when the 2021 season begins.

Another thing I am cautiously hopeful about is a COVID-19 vaccine. There are a couple of vaccines ready. The enormous task of delivering and dispensing those vaccines is still ahead. If all goes smoothly, the next hurricane season may not be complicated by COVID-19 concerns. I will be extremely thankful for that.

Some essential workers, doctors, nurses and other medical professionals, may even begin to be vaccinated before Christmas. The rest of us will have to wait just a little longer. So that means Christmas and other December/January observances will have to be like Thanksgiving. We will have to wear masks and practice social distancing and avoid large gatherings. Keep your celebration small, five people or less if possible. Don't hug and kiss everyone (toss out the mistletoe) and no buffets.

I am asking employees at LDEQ to forgo holiday parties at the agency this year. Don't have get-togethers for your division or workgroup. I hope I never have to ask this again, but this year we have to find safer ways to celebrate and share our holidays.

Finally, we are still hard at work with our debris removal mission after the hurricanes Laura, Delta and Zeta. This work can be hazardous. Be safe as you go about your mission. Keep your co-workers safe. We will all be thankful for that.



*LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown talks with MAML staff during its Lake Charles deployment.*



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## “Tis the season to recycle” Holiday Recycling tips from LDEQ

Every season is the season to recycle. However, like the rest of the nation, Louisiana produces more waste in December than any other month. Holiday celebrations produce waste, and planning ahead is the key to reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfills. You can “Be the Solution” if you recycle, reuse and reduce. If you reuse, you can even generate useful items and have a more waste-free holiday season.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) offers some useful tips on planning and being environmentally friendly. When you prepare for the coming holidays, think green: reduce, reuse and recycle. Wrapping gifts can be a challenge, and opening them produces waste. Be creative! Wrap a gift in a gift -- such as a scarf, bandana, dishtowel or cloth shopping bag. The comic pages from the Sunday newspaper and most colorful flyers make interesting wrapping paper and are still recyclable. Last year’s Christmas and holiday cards can be used in crafts and as ornaments.



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, old CPUs, 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.

When decorating your home, there are ways to consider reducing the impact to 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. Around the state, various parishes and cities will usually collect cut trees in early January, where the trees are ground up into compost or mulch or used in other ways. You can find information about seasonal pickups and recycling at the East Baton Rouge Parish Recycling website, [www.brla.gov/890/Recycling-Office](http://www.brla.gov/890/Recycling-Office).

LED Christmas lights last longer, save energy and money, and they can be recycled. Go to [www.holidayleds.com/christmas-light-recycling-program.aspx](http://www.holidayleds.com/christmas-light-recycling-program.aspx) 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 who reuses it. Buy rechargeable batteries for toys, cameras and gadgets. When those batteries no longer hold a charge, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at 800-8-BATTERY (800-228-8379), or go to their website [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org) for information on the nearest battery recycling drop off location.

Have a safe holiday season, and remember never to burn wrapping paper or Christmas trees in the fireplace. For more recycling ideas, go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/recycling](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/recycling) or go to Republic’s holiday recycling tips at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8KR5qWMhpU&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8KR5qWMhpU&feature=youtu.be).

Give your environment a present this holiday season and properly dispose of holiday waste.



## Rescuing contaminated property is the mission of LDEQ's Brownfield Program

DEQ offers programs to help reclaim contaminated land and buildings and improve the environment. The Brownfield Program is one of these proactive programs and has been successful.

What is a Brownfield? Brownfield sites are vacant and underutilized properties where actual or suspected environmental issues are a barrier to redevelopment. Under the Office of Environmental Assessment, Remediation Division, LDEQ's Brownfield Program partners federal, state and local resources to facilitate the reuse of Brownfield sites. Addressing potential environmental issues can be intimidating, and financial and regulatory hurdles can create barriers to the redevelopment or expanded use of these sites. LDEQ's Brownfield Program helps convert these properties from community liabilities into community assets. The Brownfield Program staff assists local governments and communities in navigating the environmental process from investigation to cleanup and redevelopment.

Examples of Brownfield sites include (but are not limited to):

- Abandoned gas stations
- Vacant historic buildings (commercial structures, schools, government buildings, etc.)
- Abandoned or underutilized industrial complexes
- Vacant lots in previously developed areas

There are many benefits that come with addressing Brownfield sites to facilitate their reuse. For LDEQ, this program helps address legacy contamination at abandoned sites more expediently. Liability protection for non-responsible parties provides an incentive for developers to repurpose Brownfield sites. Communities benefit by returning properties to tax rolls and increasing the tax base; creating spaces for community uses; adding jobs both during the cleanup and construction phase and after the redevelopment is complete; and reducing maintenance costs by utilizing existing infrastructure such as roads, sewer systems, and water lines. Reusing Brownfield sites also reduces blight in communities and residents' risk of exposure to environmental contamination. For developers, Brownfield properties may be eligible for additional tax credits/financial incentives and are often in key locations.



*Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost and Gail Etienne, known as the "McDonogh 19 Three," present at the groundbreaking ceremony held on March 9.*

LDEQ partners closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Brownfield and Land Revitalization Program as well as local Brownfield Programs throughout the state to maximize the impact of EPA Brownfield funding.

EPA's Brownfield and Land Revitalization Program provides technical assistance, case studies and funding to help facilitate the reuse of Brownfield sites and incorporate resiliency into the new development. Additional information on EPA's Brownfield and Land Revitalization Program can be found at [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields) and [www.epa.gov/land-revitalization](http://www.epa.gov/land-revitalization).

Louisiana is part of EPA Region 6. Information on EPA Region 6's Brownfield Program can be found at [www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-texas-new-mexico-oklahoma-arkansas-and-louisiana](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-texas-new-mexico-oklahoma-arkansas-and-louisiana).

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Follow the link to meet LDEQ’s Brownfield team: [www.deq.louisiana.gov/news/meet-ldeqs-brownfield-team](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/news/meet-ldeqs-brownfield-team).

One of the two Brownfield sites where remediation has been completed or is in progress is a project in New Orleans, the Former McDonogh No. 19 School Site – 5909 St. Claude Ave.

According to the National Park Service, “McDonogh 19 Elementary School, built in 1929, is a three-story stuccoed building designed by Edgar Angelo Christy in the Italian Renaissance Revival. It takes up one city block in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. It has not been altered since construction and retains many original features on the exterior and interior and has a high degree of historic integrity. Because of its high degree of integrity, it is easily recognizable to the three young girls, Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost and Gail Etienne, who integrated the school in the fall of 1960.”



*Workers at the groundbreaking ceremony in front of the main entrance, March 9, 2020*

The nonprofit Leona Tate Foundation for Change partnered with Alembic Community Development to purchase the site from the Orleans Parish School Board and is in the process of converting it into a Civil Rights educational/interpretive center. The center will promote interracial discussions and understanding about racial equity, and provide senior and low-income housing focused on supporting Lower 9th ward residents.

LDEQ provided funding (\$150,000) for lead and asbestos abatement on the 1.38 acre site. New Orleans’ Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Brownfield Program provided Phase I and II assessments and developed the cleanup plan. Jennifer Schatzle, an LDEQ environmental scientist, provided oversight under the LDEQ’s Brownfield Program.

Redevelopment is underway with the help of \$15 million in leveraged funding. Since most Brownfield projects require additional resources, those funds are referred to as leveraged funding. Leveraged funding is investing Brownfield dollars to support the assessment and/or cleanup of the site with the hope of attracting additional investors from the community as a result of the project. Leverage funding can include the purchase price of the property, additional funding contributed by a local entity and/or the developer’s completion of the assessment and cleanup of a site, and the costs associated with putting the site back into productive use, such as renovating a building or creating park space.

Additional websites with more info:

[www.mymodernmet.com/leona-tate-tep-center/](http://www.mymodernmet.com/leona-tate-tep-center/)

[www.nola.com/news/article\\_c9bf8746-6241-11ea-91ec-9f70a64d5993.html](http://www.nola.com/news/article_c9bf8746-6241-11ea-91ec-9f70a64d5993.html)

[www.leonatatefoundation.org](http://www.leonatatefoundation.org)

[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McDonogh\\_Three](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McDonogh_Three)

Another Brownfield Project in progress is the Old Federal Courthouse Complex/Downtown Lafayette Civic Center located in the historic district. The buildings involved are 731 Jefferson, the former Administration Building; 705 Jefferson, the former federal courthouse building (Rosa Parks Federal Courthouse); and 704 Lee Avenue, the former Acadiana Arts Building in Lafayette.

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This 1.75-acre project is being completed with a partnership between LDEQ, Acadiana Planning Commission, and South Central Planning and Development Commission's Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund. Leveraged funding of \$17.2 million was procured. An LDEQ 128(a) Grant to Acadiana Planning Commission for environmental assessment work was also provided in the amount of \$74,859, and the work was completed Dec 30, 2019.

A 128(a) Grant refers to Section 128(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), which authorizes a non-competitive grant program through EPA to establish and enhance state and tribal Brownfield programs. Basically, it's the primary EPA grant that funds LDEQ's Brownfield Program and the Voluntary Remediation Program.

The finished project will result in the redevelopment of the former federal buildings into a mixed-use development, part of the city's efforts to revitalize downtown Lafayette.

Websites with more info:

[www.developinglafayette.com/wp/update-on-the-old-federal-courthouse-in-downtown-lafayette](http://www.developinglafayette.com/wp/update-on-the-old-federal-courthouse-in-downtown-lafayette)

[www.lptfa.org/portfolio-posts/u-s-federal-courthouse](http://www.lptfa.org/portfolio-posts/u-s-federal-courthouse)

Downtown Lafayette Civic Center Historic District:

[www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojectsVS/NRHP/PublicForms/ViewProperty/1488](http://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojectsVS/NRHP/PublicForms/ViewProperty/1488)



*Interior photos from the federal building before remediation began.*





## EDMS redesign sneak peek at AI lookup screens

Work on the EDMS redesign is in full swing, and the project team plans to roll out the new features in the June 2021. Glenn Frederickson, LDEQ's Records Project Manager, has this to say about the new EDMS:

*"The Records Management Department could not be more excited about these changes. Not only does the new EDMS bring extra valued features to both the public and LDEQ employees, but it is also built on up-to-date technology that will make it easier to incorporate additional features in the future. As a reminder, EDMS was originally designed and rolled out in 2006, so getting this upgrade is like trading in your 2006 automobile for a 2020 model. The new features are far and above what we've had!"*

The screenshots below give users a sneak peek of the AI lookup pages, including a description of the new features of AI lookup. Also planned for the page is a "How to Video," which will help new or first-time users navigate the new screens and capabilities.

The **AI Lookup page** will perform a search to locate matching AI results. Users will be able to enter a keyword that matches AI Number, Name, Mailing Address, Physical Address, and Alternate ID. This new lookup page also allows users to look up AIs by Type, Region, Parish/County, and City.

AI	Name	Physical Address	Mailing Address
17616	Dock Services	31 Gulf Hwy Cameron, LA 70633	1930 W Summers Dr Abbeville, LA 70510
17616	Milky Transportation Services - Port Allen	145 River Hwy 890 Westbank Port Allen, LA 70767	987 S River Rd Port Allen, LA 70767
17616	Milky Transportation Services - Vachere All Trans World Services	34 Hwy 10 Blvd 145 River Hwy 12 & 52 Vachere, LA 70092	PO Box 110 Vachere, LA 70090-0930
17616	Blue Tail Marine Supply	2309 Main St Cal Orl, LA 70343	2309 Main St Cal Orl, LA 70343
17616	Buckeye Properties	123 DeGravelle Amelia, LA 70340	PO Box 2197 345 West Chase Houston, TX 77212
17616	Funkin the Sun Boat Rentals	2201 Engineers Rd Belle Chasse, LA 70027	2201 Engineers Rd Belle Chasse, LA 70027
17616	Bull's Boat Storage	874 Safety Dr Convent, LA 70223	443 Hwy 44 Reserve, LA 70084
17616	Barge Cleaning Facility	River 141 134 Baton Rouge, LA 70800	PO Box 321 Houston, TX 77001
17616	Port Service	Wilson Dr Port Allen, LA 70767	785 Manchester St Ste 110 Houston, TX 77002
17616	Sunset Marine	548 River Rd Port Allen, LA 70738	548 River Rd Port Allen, LA 70738

The **AI Lookup Results** screen will provide additional information about each AI number retrieved. Users will be able to refine initial search results by selecting one or more filters (e.g., city, parish, region, and type). Users will also be able to select one or more AI numbers to add to a document search.

If you have any questions or comments about the redesign of EDMS, please contact the team at [edmsquestions@la.gov](mailto:edmsquestions@la.gov).



## Fort Polk promotes sustainability, recycling initiatives

Covering nearly 200,000 acres in Vernon Parish, the Joint Readiness Training Command (JRTC) at Fort Polk is a major military and civilian employer in the state, serving more than 82,000 people in the surrounding region. With those numbers, one can only imagine the amount of recyclables processed through the post on a daily basis.

Leading those recycling efforts is the Qualified Recycling Program (QRP), which was implemented in 2009. It is the post's overseer of the integrated waste management program established by the Department of Defense. Under the program, U.S. military installations are authorized to retain the revenue from the sale of materials that are recycled. Since the goal is to divert waste from landfills, QRP strives to spread the word across Fort Polk through outreach and education.

At the post's Recycling Center, incoming materials are separated, weighed and packaged daily for subsequent recycling or reuse.

"QRP is a total self-sustaining program that doesn't receive any outside or appropriated funding," Environmental Protection Specialist Terrell Turner said. QRP's operational costs include a contracted labor workforce and any needed equipment, all of which are self-funded through returned revenues from the sale of recyclables.

In fact, QRP's efforts actually support various projects at Fort Polk. Turner reports that over the last two years, QRP has provided \$80,000 in funding for post-wide energy ventures (one of which was a \$30,000 LED lighting project), along with \$45,000 for the maintenance of oil storage containers, \$23,000 for the Riches from Recycling program and \$50,000 to support the annual Freedom Fest music event for the soldiers and their families.

With education as a critical part of maintaining the program, approximately 260 soldiers and civilian employees on the post have been trained in various environmental subjects under the Environmental Training Program, where they serve as Environmental Compliance Officers (ECOs) for their respective sections or units. They ensure that the sustainability programs are being conducted appropriately, and each ECO undergoes an initial 40-hour environmental training course, followed by an annual 8-hour refresher. Supporting them are a group of Environmental Customer Service Technicians, who make certain that the post's environmental compliance needs are being met.

Promoting environmental stewardship through outreach is key. The post's recycling initiatives are outlined on Fort Polk's website, where newly arriving soldiers and their families can learn about the QRP and do their part to cut down on the waste stream. "The culture of recycling here has actually been quite good with the younger soldiers, and it's been a positive team effort overall," Ira Crawford, Installation Solid Waste Manager, said.



*At the post's Recycling Center, incoming materials are separated, weighed and packaged daily for subsequent recycling or reuse.*



*Recyclables can be dropped off in bins outside the post's Recycling Center on a 24/7 basis.*

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*Ira Crawford, Installation Solid Waste Manager, checks pallets of collected waste paper that will be sold to a vendor who will then process and repurpose the paper.*

At Fort Polk, the recycling process is designed for convenience, as drop boxes outside the QRP facility allow any section or unit to drop off their recyclables on a 24/7 basis. “With the current COVID-19 safety measures in place, the drop boxes have seen an increase in usage,” Turner noted. Sustainability is omnipresent, with more than 1,500 marked recycling bins located across the post where soldiers and civilians can deposit any used paper, plastic and aluminum.

Incentives have helped engage the soldiers as well. A program called “Riches from Recycling” provides money to units who compete to donate the most paper during a specified period – money that is put back into the unit’s morale and recreational activities. Each unit also plays a huge part in mitigating the dangers caused by chemical spills that can reach the soil or groundwater through the maintenance of a hazardous material collection receptacle.

Reuse is also an important facet to cutting down on waste, and a popular endeavor has been the continual reuse of packing supplies. “The Recycling Center provides boxes and packing materials for transitioning soldiers and their families,” Crawford noted. As incoming soldiers bring in their used cardboard packing boxes, those are, in turn, reused by soldiers who are departing the post and need to pack up for movement to their next duty station.

Other areas in waste reduction have been a boon to the program, such as the collection of non-lithium batteries for purchase by the highest bidding vendor for recycling. This keeps battery acid out of the waste stream while putting dollars back into the program. Used motor oil and cooking oil is another particularly popular recyclable, and anyone living or working on the post can drop off used oil at the Recycling Center. The post also has an office supply re-store where used office binders, unused printer paper and file folders are free and available for use instead of being thrown out.

While it’s no surprise that any U.S. Army installation will accumulate thousands of spent brass casings from the firing of small arms, at Fort Polk, all of that brass is collected, demilitarized and sold to a scrap metal vendor, with those revenues going right back into the QRP. In fact, this endeavor has been a particularly successful one. From FY 19 to the present, 146 tons of brass has been recycled, and to date into FY 20, spent brass collected on the post has amounted to at least \$200,000 in annual revenue for the QRP.

The post’s recycling numbers are impressive. In FY 19, the recycling totals amounted to 595 tons of cardboard, 8 tons of ink, 508 tons of scrap metal, 78 tons of brass, 93 tons of batteries, 174 tons of motor oil, 9 tons of plastic, 40 tons of paper and 26 tons of cooking oil. So far, in FY 20, some of those items already outweigh the FY 19 final totals – with motor oil already at 191 tons, scrap metal at 517 tons and batteries at 180 tons.

“In FY 19, the Solid Waste Management program successfully diverted over 64% of municipal solid waste and construction and debris waste from the local landfill,” Crawford explained. “The 64% diversion number was a culmination of the QRP, Solid Waste contractor and other private company contractors’ efforts to reduce solid waste here on the post.”

The numbers are proof of Fort Polk’s successful, multi-faceted approach toward energy conservation, recycling and waste reduction – all great examples of how sustainability can be achieved.

For more information about Fort Polk’s QRP mission, please visit [www.home.army.mil/polk/index.php/my-Fort-Polk/recycling](http://www.home.army.mil/polk/index.php/my-Fort-Polk/recycling).



## LDEQ hosts GBRFB Food Drive and Fundraiser

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is currently partnering with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank (GBRFB) to host a fundraiser and food drive with opportunities to give through Dec. 4. With the need among community members greater than ever, LDEQ's annual food drive this year strives to support that need.

According to the GBRFB website, hunger impacts one in five people in our community. Add a global health pandemic and record hurricane season in the mix, and the number is sure to rise.

Map the Meal Gap 2020 is the latest Feeding America report on food insecurity at the state and parish level (data from 2018). A Meal Gap is the difference, measured in meals, between a household being food insecure and food secure. Pre-pandemic data reflects a 20.1 million meal gap in the 11-parish service area and Louisiana leading the country with 24.6 % of children suffering from food insecurity. These numbers are actually on the better end of history for Louisiana. They reflect the lowest food insecurity rates the state has seen since before the Great Recession. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has surely reversed the improvements that have occurred over the past decade.

According to the GBRFB, Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs, such as SNAP, are the first line of defense against hunger; however, not everyone who is food insecure qualifies for these federal programs. As a result, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank may be a critical source of food for many individuals and families who are food insecure but ineligible for these programs. This has a tremendous impact on children living in a household who don't qualify for federal nutrition programs. Statistics show this impacts up to 38% of children in Ascension Parish alone.

And it's not just the children that we have to worry about. Map the Meal Gap 2020 shows one out of seven individuals in Louisiana suffer from food insecurity. Specifically, our seniors. Louisiana is in the top three states with the highest rate of senior hunger. Many low-income seniors face spending tradeoffs that can lead to or worsen food insecurity, such as utilities, transportation, housing and/or health related costs.

### How can you help?

#### Give Funds

This pandemic's impact is being felt by so many – especially our seniors, children, and low-income families. According to GBRFB, just \$1 can provide up to three meals. The Food Bank has the ability to purchase products in bulk at low costs, which allows a single donated dollar to go much further than the average dollar.

You can give monetary donations to Terry Thomas or Emily Barthelemy by Wednesday, Dec. 2. Checks should be payable to the Food Bank. Additionally, all funds raised in the "Snack Shack" will go to GBRFB, so be sure to support them when in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The "Snack Shack" can be found on the 9th floor of the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge, in the Undersecretary's lobby.

#### Give Time

GBRFB has seen a significant decrease in volunteers since the beginning of the evolving COVID-19 situation. Fortunately, they received assistance from the Louisiana National Guard (LANG) during COVID-19. However, LANG's assistance came to an end at the beginning of August. To read about volunteer safety or to sign up to volunteer, please visit [brfoodbank.org](http://brfoodbank.org).

#### Give Food

With the increased need for food assistance, GBRFB is seeking an increase in food donations. You can drop off your donated food items to collection areas at the regional offices and in the elevator lobby areas at Headquarters in the Galvez Building.

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Read "Stories of Hunger" on the GBRFB blog, [www.brfoodbank.org/category/stories-of-hunger](http://www.brfoodbank.org/category/stories-of-hunger), to see first-hand how impactful your donation is. We hope you all will join us in our efforts to help support GBRFB this year.

## What to Donate

- Canned vegetables (beans, peas, carrots, etc.)
- Canned soups
- Dried beans
- Canned meats
- Flour
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Pasta
- Corn meal
- Breakfast cereal and bars
- Any canned, bagged or boxed nonperishable food



## FAST FACTS

## WHAT IS THE GREATER BATON ROUGE FOOD BANK

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is a nonprofit organization that provides services across 11 different parishes. We solicit, inventory, and distribute donated products to over 100 member agencies that directly serve people facing hard times. In 2019, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank distributed over 11.2 million meals to those in need.



Ascension  
Assumption  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Livingston  
Point Coupee  
St. Helena  
St. James  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

## HOW DOES THE FOOD GET TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT?

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank distributes food to member agencies, most of which provide food directly to needy clients through various types of programs. Here's a snapshot of how the process works.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP? GET INVOLVED IN ONE OF 3 WAYS

### DONATE MONEY

DONATIONS ALLOW US TO FUND FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND SENIORS. JUST \$1 COULD PROVIDE FOOD EQUIVALENT TO 3 MEALS.\*

### DONATE FOOD

HOST A FOOD DRIVE, DONATE FOOD, OR COORDINATE A SPECIAL EVENT TO RAISE FOOD FOR THE FOOD BANK.

### DONATE TIME

YOU CAN VOLUNTEER MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM WORKING IN THE WAREHOUSE TO HELPING IN THE OFFICE.

GREATER BATON ROUGE FOOD BANK | 10600 S. CHOCTAW DRIVE | BATON ROUGE, LA 70815 | (225) 359-9940 | WWW.BRFOODBANK.ORG

\*Costs of providing meals may include additional expenses associated with securing and distributing food.



## Louisiana Clean Fuels Celebrate its 20th Anniversary with the Clean Fuel Leaders Awards

Louisiana Clean Fuels (LCF) celebrated its 20th Anniversary as a Clean Cities coalition at their 20th Anniversary Gala and Clean Fuel Leader Awards. The event was held on Nov.5 at the Estuary at the Water Campus in downtown Baton Rouge. Board members, recipients and others attended the event, practicing all COVID guidelines. LCF premiered the 20th Anniversary commemorative video featuring footage of Louisiana alternative fuel fleets and interviews with state leaders and valued stakeholders and share some exciting announcements and congratulatory messages from leaders such as Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Department of Natural Resources Secretary Tom Harris and others. Go to [www.act-news.com/videos/louisiana-clean-fuels-2020](http://www.act-news.com/videos/louisiana-clean-fuels-2020) to see the video.

Twenty years ago, in April 2000, Louisiana Clean Fuels received official designation as a Department of Energy Clean Cities coalition. Clean Cities coalitions work in their communities to advance affordable domestic alternative fuels such as natural gas, propane, electric vehicles, and biofuels; fuel-saving technologies and practices; and energy-efficient mobility systems. LCF is proud to have served Louisiana for the past 20 years, helping to serve both public and private fleets, educate the public, reduce toxic emissions, reduce the dependence on foreign oil, and increase the use of alternative fuels.



*Best Performing School District Award was accepted by Tommy Holliday and Chauncy Moore.*



*The Climate MVP was accepted for St. Landry Solid Waste by Faltery "FJ" Jolivette.*

The Clean Fuel Leader Awards were presented, and some of the recipients were there to accept while others accepted in absentia. The awards, presented by Ann Vail, Executive Director, and co-coordinator Tyler Hermann, co-coordinator of LCF.

They were as follows:

**Best Performing School District – Winner**  
East Baton Rouge Parish school system – 60 new propane buses

**Best Performing Municipality with transit**  
City of Shreveport – SportTran – all-electric buses

**Climate MVP- Most greenhouse gases emissions reduced**  
St. Landry Parish Solid Waste – 1,100 tons of greenhouse gases (GHG) reduced from landfill – 22% increase

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*The Rising Star Award was accepted for Capital Area Transit by Bill DeVille.*



*The Clean Fuel Champions Award was accepted for Republic Services by Sharon Mann and Karla Swacker..*



*The Katry Martin Award was accepted by Scott Barrios, Entergy, from Faltery "FJ" Jolivet as Katry Martin's daughter, Brandi Martin and Ann Vail, LCF Executive Director, look on.*

**Progress Award – Most Improved Municipality**

City of Lake Charles – 43% increase in the use of propane

**Rising Star Award**

Capital Area Transit – added three all-electric buses, which offset 40 tons of GHG

**Media Award for outstanding AFV Publication**

Fuels Fix – [www.Fuelsfix.com](http://www.Fuelsfix.com)

**Clean Fuel Champion Award**

Republic Services - saved 19000 tons of GHG emissions in 2019, 10000 GHG gas by not idling and approximately 15,000 Gallon Gas Equivalents (GGEs) through route optimization

**The Katry Martin Award – given bi-annually**

Scott Barrios - Entergy

The award was named for Katry Martin, who served as the Executive Director of St. Landry Parish Solid Waste. Martin was a visionary who was able to put his ideas into place. Under his leadership, St. Landry Parish was the first landfill in Louisiana to successfully commission, operate and monetize environmental attributes. While many others talked about the merits of carbon offsets, St. Landry Parish planned and executed. Additionally, St. Landry Parish was one of the first to build, own and operate a Renewable Natural Gas (CNG) Project at the landfill. This project is the template for smaller RNG (CNG) projects on a global basis.





*LDEQ General Counsel Courtney Burdette*

## LDEQ General Counsel Courtney Burdette

LDEQ welcomes Courtney Burdette to her newly appointed position as General Counsel. Burdette joined the Legal team at LDEQ in January 2014 and brings a wealth of varied experience to the position of chief legal advisor for the department.

Burdette, a Baton Rouge native, earned a bachelor's degree in English at Howard University in Washington, D.C. After graduation, she returned to Baton Rouge and attended Louisiana State University's Paul M. Hebert Law Center, where she earned juris doctorate and bachelor of civil law degrees.

Following law school graduation, she served as a law clerk to two federal judges, Hon. Ralph Tyson and Hon. Brian Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

Burdette was later employed as an attorney with the Louisiana Board of Ethics. She provided ethics training to elected officials, members of boards and commissions and other public employees throughout the state.

Immediately prior to coming to LDEQ, Burdette served as an Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice in the Litigation Division, General Liability Section, where she defended the state of Louisiana in a variety of tort cases.







## Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Kristin East - Environmental Scientist IV, Public Participation and Permit Support Section, Office of Environmental Services**

East is from Lake Charles and graduated from LSU with a bachelor's degree in coastal and environmental sciences. She worked at the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services as a Disability Determination Analyst before joining LDEQ in Sept. 2017.

During her time at LDEQ, she has worked on Asbestos Demolition & Renovation Notification Forms, Asbestos Disposal Verification Forms and Solid Waste Notification Forms. She was recently promoted to Environmental Scientist IV in the Public Participation and Permit Support section.

**Mykenz Brown – Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Waste Permits Division, Office of Environmental Services**

Brown earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry with a concentration in forensic chemistry and an Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice at Grambling State University in 2009. She then went on to obtain a master's degree in business administration at the University of Phoenix in 2012.

She began her career at LDEQ in 2014 as an Environmental Scientist in the Waste Permits Division and was recently promoted to Environmental Scientist Supervisor. She enjoys watching her son play sports (especially baseball), traveling, spending time with family and volunteering with youth.



**Amber Litchfield – Attorney, Legal/Enforcement & Remediation, Office of the Secretary**

Litchfield comes from the Division of Administrative Law, where she served as Associate General Counsel. She was previously employed as an attorney in LDEQ's Legal Division from September 2012 to November 2018.

She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Louisiana State University and a Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center. In her spare time, Litchfield teaches Legal Writing and Analysis at Southern University Law Center, where she is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Law. She and her husband, Ryan, have two children, Amelia and Miles.



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

### Third Quarter 2020 Enforcement Actions:

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

### Third Quarter 2020 Settlement Agreements:

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

### Third Quarter 2020 Air Permits:

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

### Third Quarter 2020 Water Permits:

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

### Third Quarter 2020 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

