



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **Environmental Leadership Awards recognize voluntary pollution reductions**

**BATON ROUGE** – Today, Secretary Peggy Hatch of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality was joined by Senator Mike Walsworth, chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee, to recognize environmental achievements at the 2012 Environmental Leadership Program Awards ceremony. New and existing members of ELP were commended for their voluntary pollution prevention efforts, community environmental education and outreach initiatives. The ceremony highlighted projects that went above and beyond regulatory compliance to substantially improve the quality of the environment. In 2012, the ELP enrolled 15 new members.

Awards were presented to large, medium and small businesses, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and schools. This year, DEQ presented 15 awards in recognition of the following:

- 342,785,000 pounds (lbs) of pollutants were removed including: criteria pollutants, waste catalyst, hydrogen usage, GHG emissions, etc
- Reduction in water usage in the amount of 95,000,000 gallons (gals)
- Recycling 296,680,000 lbs/yr of E-waste
- Recycling 715,369 gals/yr of hydrocarbon contaminated water, soapy water, used oil, etc.

“The Environmental Leadership Program recognizes those who have gone above and beyond regulation to combat pollution, spearhead community outreach efforts, or present educational programs that make a positive difference in the quality of Louisiana’s environment,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “The school recognition award encourages students to participate in protecting their environment and helps give them the tools to do so.”

The ELP began in 1995 as a cooperative effort between DEQ and participating companies in the state. Today, any company, federal entity, municipality, non-governmental organization, school or university committed to improving the quality of the state’s environment is eligible to join the program. For more information on the ELP, please contact Linda Brown at 225-219-3954 or visit the DEQ Web Site at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/elp](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/elp).