



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ paint swap recycled 125 five-gallon buckets of paint

BATON ROUGE – The Greater Baton Rouge Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day and Paint Swap was held on Saturday, March 10. East Baton Rouge residents brought household hazardous materials and leftover paint to Memorial Stadium parking lot. More than 430 residents dropped off recyclables.

Twenty-eight DEQ volunteers and volunteers from LSU Alpha Epsilon Delta manned the paint swap area taking in reusable latex paint and mixing it in five-gallon containers. The objective of the swap is to recycle unused paint, varnishes, and stains. After the material is collected, screened and blended by the volunteers, it is given to Habitat for Humanity ReStore and then sold to the public at a reduced price. This HHMCD, DEQ recycled 125 five-gallon buckets of paint that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill or disposed of in an environmentally unsound manner.

DEQ initiated the paint swap in 1990 and has participated every year since.

“DEQ has been involved with Household Hazardous Material Collection Day since 1985 and helped initiate the program,” said Judy Schuerman, DEQ coordinator for the event. “DEQ employees have worked with the paint swap for many years and thousands of gallons of paint have been disposed of properly because of environmentally aware citizens and the volunteers that assist each year.”

The collection day is a collaborative effort between the Baton Rouge City parish and other partners. For more information about recycling, paint disposal and common potentially hazardous materials in the home, go to the DEQ Web site at www.deq.louisiana.gov.