



For Immediate Release:

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Governor Edwards proclaims May as Air Quality Awareness Month

BATON ROUGE – Gov. John Bel Edwards has declared May as Air Quality Awareness Month in Louisiana. Louisiana is in attainment with the National Air Quality Standards for Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5), but there is still much work to do to maintain that designation. May is traditionally the start of ozone season. The proclamation encourages citizens to become familiar with the Air Quality Index, to understand what causes ozone formation and to take voluntary steps to help prevent ozone formation and improve air quality.

National Air Quality Awareness Week is May 3 – 7, and the theme for the week is Healthy Air – better for everyone. Each day focuses on a different topic: Monday is Wildfires & Smoke, Tuesday is Asthma and Your Health, Wednesday is Citizen Science and Sensors, Thursday is Environmental Justice and Air Quality, and Friday is Air Quality Around the World. Tune in to our Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaDEQ/>, and Twitter pages, @Louisiana_DEQ, for more information on each topic and tips on how you can do to be air aware and help improve the air quality in Louisiana.

Air quality improvement is a cooperative effort. Industry develops air quality action plans and operates under regulations and controls to prevent emissions. Government entities help by cutting emissions. But there are many steps individuals can take to help improve air quality and reduce emissions. Some of those steps include: walking, biking, carpooling, using mass transit, ridesharing, not using gasoline-powered engines, not idling and fueling vehicles after 6 p.m., combining errands, bringing lunch to work, and walking into a restaurant instead of idling in a drive-thru can also reduce emissions.

Being aware of the air quality is important, and LDEQ offers several ways for the public to get more information. Anyone can access real-time air quality information on the LDEQ website, <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov>. Individuals can also access the AQ forecast at <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/forecast> or receive air quality information automatically by email, text or on a phone app by subscribing to EnviroFlash. EnviroFlash allows citizens to receive daily or on-demand air quality information and ensures that the public receives Air Quality Action Day advisories. To sign up to receive air quality notifications from EnviroFlash, go to <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash>.

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