



225-219-3964

For Immediate Release

Graham Beduze

[Graham.Beduze@la.gov](mailto:Graham.Beduze@la.gov)  
[www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov)

## LDEQ Engages Louisiana's Most Valuable Resource in Fight against Waste Tires



**BATON ROUGE, LA**— The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has launched an extensive outreach initiative, holding the first two of six Waste Tire Community Town Halls across the state. These gatherings aim to raise public awareness and gather input on the legal disposal and the rampant illegal dumping of waste tires. LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto leads the charge, engaging municipalities, community leaders, elected officials, and the public in partnership with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's offices. The meetings in Gonzales and Carencro have sparked critical discussions about best practices for handling the over 4 million tires that reach the end of their lifecycle in Louisiana annually.

"Illegal dumping of used tires continues to plague communities, causing unsightly blight and environmental hazards," Secretary Giacometto explained. "LDEQ is committed to tackling this problem by engaging with the people of Louisiana to find workable solutions."

During the meetings, officials from Ascension Parish stressed the importance of utilizing approved tire collection centers, where citizens could dispose of a daily allotment of tires. "Five tires can be discarded per person per day," explained Terry Dedon, an environmental scientist with LDEQ. "This is a simple, low-cost solution for proper tire disposal; with programs like this, there is no excuse for illegal dumping."

Local leaders also raised concerns about the strain of illegal tire disposal on their workforce. Iberia Parish President Larry Richard shared how his public works employees are often forced to divert time away from essential tasks to address large-scale tire dumps. "When we receive a call about dozens of dumped tires, it takes our crews away from critical infrastructure projects."

West Baton Rouge Parish President Jason Manola praised LDEQ's efforts, stating, "The Secretary and her team have been instrumental in helping us manage the waste tire issue."

Others in the public expressed appreciation for the tour and believed it was a step in the right direction to rid the state of this blighted issue. One attendee said, "If you care about your community being a clean and safe place to live, then you need to speak up and get involved in the conversation." The statewide Waste Tire Community Tour has four more stops, and all are encouraged to attend.

The next Waste Tire Community Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **Pineville: Main St. Community Center, 708 Main Street, Pineville, LA 71360 09:00 - 11:00 am Sep 24**
- **Metairie: Joseph Yenni Bldg., 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Elmwood, LA 70123 09:00 - 11:00 am Sep 25**
- **West Monroe: Convention Center, 901 Ridge Ave., West Monroe, LA 71291 09:00 - 11:00 am Sep 26**
- **Shreveport: Council Chambers, Government Plaza, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, LA 71101 2:00-4:00 pm Sep 26**

All meetings are open to the public, and all press and media are encouraged to attend.

For more information regarding waste tires, please visit our website [here](#).

###