



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

Thursday, March 7, 2013 Issue Number: 17

DEQ hosts Hazardous Waste Annual Report workshop

Staff from DEQ's Permit Support Services section presented the annual Hazardous Waste Report Workshop at DEQ Headquarters in Baton Rouge in front of approximately 30 large quantity hazardous waste generators on Tuesday, Jan. 15. DEQ Environmental Scientist Lee McNabb provided an overview of the required forms and guidelines, while Environmental Scientist Sheryl Grimmer discussed annual report preparation and filing procedures. The workshop concluded with a question and answer session.

Every year, the workshop is held around the state at DEQ's five regional offices in order to assist large quantity generators of hazardous waste with the filing of their federally-required hazardous waste annual reports. Large quantity generators of hazardous waste are defined as facilities that generate in excess of 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste per month under federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations. Generators of small quantity waste or conditionally exempt generators are not required to submit an annual report. All generators are required to have a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency identification number for their site, which is used for tracking purposes throughout the waste disposal process.



Sheryl Grimmer, Environmental Scientist with DEQ's Permit Support Services section, discusses filing procedures for Hazardous Waste annual reports

Topics of discussion include hazardous waste annual report preparation and submittal, Waste Received (WR) forms and Generation and Management (GM) forms, the EPA identification number requirement, and an overview of the electronic reporting method in lieu of filing a paper copy by mail or in-person.

"The workshops provide an effective forum for informing interested parties on any major changes to annual report submittal procedures under RCRA, which authorizes EPA control over the treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste," said McNabb, Environmental Scientist with DEQ's Permit Support Services section. "These also serve as a valuable refresher on the overall annual report filing process."

Since hazardous waste annual reports are due to DEQ by March 1, 2013, the workshop is particularly effective as an informational tool for large quantity hazardous waste generators who have questions or concerns regarding report filing procedures leading up to the deadline.

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DEQ lends support to Electronics Waste Materials Recycling Day

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, along with the Louisiana Senate Environmental Committee and Louisiana State University's Student Government Association, lent their support to the electronics waste materials recycling event held at LSU on Feb. 8-9.

Business owners and citizens participated in the event as a free and effortless way of donating their unwanted electronic components for recycling. E-waste from businesses was collected on February 8, while e-waste from the general public was collected on February 9. The event was held from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at LSU parking lot drop-off locations.

Materials donated included computers, monitors, box and flat-screen televisions, LCD panels, printers, other computer electronic games, DVD players, VCRs, circuit boards, microwaves, and other household electronic devices. Upon request, donors received a document attesting to the destruction of any sensitive information that may be present on any donated computer components.

"The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is proud to lend our support to this event by spreading the word to the media and the general public on the importance of electronic recycling in Louisiana," said



Electronic waste is collected and wrapped for recycling at a LSU parking lot during the event

Paul Miller, Administrator of DEQ's Assessment Division. "The collected materials will be recycled appropriately, thereby keeping them out of landfills, making this a win-win opportunity for the state."

To minimize wait times and expedite the offloading process, donors remained in their vehicles while volunteers removed and categorized those items for recycling.

DEQ staff assists West Baton Rouge Parish

DEQ staff volunteers will assist with the West Baton Rouge Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day, Sat., March 9, from 8 a.m. to noon. The HHMD will be held in the parking lot of the Louis A. Mouch Jr. Multi-Purpose Arena at 153 Turner Road, Port Allen.

The HHMD is for West Baton Rouge residents only and no commercial waste will be accepted. WBR is accepting batteries, acids, arsenic, household cleaners, paint and paint thinner, lawn and garden products,

up to 5 tires without rims, propane tanks and bottles, fluorescent bulbs, electronics, TVs, stereos and more. WBR will offer free paper document shredding also. The HHMD cannot accept ammunition, fireworks, radioactive devices, appliances, furniture, styrofoam, power tools, liquids in containers more than five gallons, and commercial waste.

For more information call 225-490-8549.



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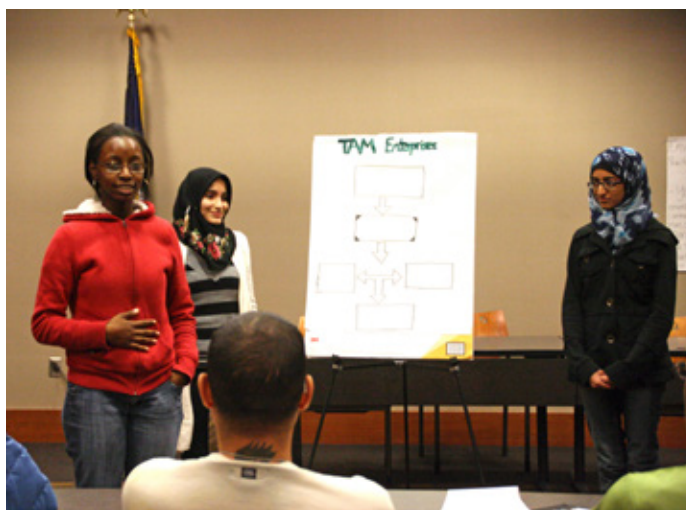
DEQ On The Move



India Anderson and Rhyshima Parms-Green, DEQ environmental scientists, man the nonpoint source pollution booth at the Louisiana Education Environmental Symposium



Linda Brown, environmental scientist senior, and Marissa Jimenez, environmental scientist, man the DEQ booth at the Louisiana Education Environmental Symposium



Envirothon Training



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Calcasieu Parish inspects individual home sewage systems

The Calcasieu Parish Police Jury has undertaken an innovative project to ensure that individual home sewage systems are not polluting the waters of the state.

There are an estimated 33,000 individual home sewage systems located in unincorporated areas of Calcasieu Parish and the police jury's goal is to educate home and business owners about the proper operation and maintenance of their systems.

The police jury is taking a targeted approach to inspecting the systems. They pick a section of the parish and send the residents post cards approximately one week prior to inspecting the systems. This gives the residents an opportunity to ask questions, or submit requests. There are five trained parish inspectors who then go out and inspect the systems. They look for accessibility, status of electrical connections, presence and operation of the aerator motor, sludge depth in clarifier and condition of discharge.

If the home system passes, the homeowner receives a green tag. If it fails, the homeowners are given information on how to fix or upgrade their systems to regulation. If a resident cannot afford to fix their system, they can call the Calcasieu Parish Community Services offices where funding is available through a grant from USDA Rural Development. If a system gets a yellow tag it means that there are accessibility problems with the site.

There is a five-year timeline to get all of the systems inspected. As of October 31, 2012, 4,925 or 15 percent of the 33,000 on-site sewage systems had been inspected. Seventy percent of the mechanical systems or 2,942 systems passed inspection and 1,250 failed. For other types of systems, 600 passed and 133 failed.

This inspection program will ultimately improve the quality of the water in Calcasieu Parish water bodies by reducing bacteria related to faulty sewage systems. The Police Jury program will be a model for other areas of Louisiana.

St. Thomas More Catholic School wins 2013 Louisiana Regional Future City competition

A trio of eighth grade students from St. Thomas More Catholic School in Baton Rouge recently took first prize in the annual Louisiana Regional Future City competition, held at Southeastern University in Hammond. In addition to winning the regional competition, the team also won the Most Holistic Approach Award.

"Future City" is a concept sponsored by the country's professional engineering community, with the goal of promoting science, technology, math and engineering among the nation's youth in a competitive format. Students work in teams under the guidance of a teacher and a volunteer engineer mentor in order to design and build a city of tomorrow. Their future city concept is designed on a computer and used as a blueprint for the construction of a city model out of recycled materials. Teams also conduct research for an essay relating to clean solutions in managing storm water runoff.



The St. Thomas More team displays their Future City model alongside their 1st place trophy



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Beginning last August, more than 33,000 students across the country began working on projects in preparation for the regional competitions in January. Louisiana's annual regional competition was narrowed down to five youth civic organizations and middle school teams across Louisiana and Mississippi.

This year's winning team consists of eighth graders Chris Alumbaugh, Josh Brooks and Laura Kaiser, who were assisted by teacher Shirley Newman and volunteer engineer mentor William Johnson, P.E., a chemical engineer with Jacobs Engineering in Baton Rouge. In preparation for the regional competition, the team spent many after-school hours designing and creating the future city and preparing for the competition.

The final model consisted of a 23rd century city representation known as "Camino de Agua," which is hypothetically located in central Louisiana's Sabine River valley. The model includes actual water which serves as examples of streams and bayous that flow into the Sabine River and the Toledo Bend Reservoir without an immediate benefit to deep aquifers. The planned city is built on well-drained, permeable soils, and its theoretical 77,000 residents use onsite water collection, closed loop water systems, landscaped swales and infiltration basins as methods to improve water quality and water conservation within the community.

On February 18, the team competed in the annual national competition against 33 other teams across the country at the 2013 National Engineers Week Future City Competition in Washington, D.C. The grand prize will be a weeklong attendance at the U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala. The team won the land survey award at the competition.

"St. Thomas More's team has set an impressive example by thinking outside the box with a comprehensive water conservation model that would sustain a sizeable urban populace," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. "Environmental projects such as these promote innovative techniques that serve to maintain and

protect clean water resources for future generations." St. Thomas More Catholic School holds the unique distinction of being the only school in the nation to have competed and won the Future City's regional competition every year over the past consecutive 14 years. St. Thomas More also won the national competition twice; winning in 2005 and 2007.

For more information, please visit the Future City Web site at: www.futurecity.org.