



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

Monday, August 24, 2009 Issue Number: 3

STATE AIR QUALITY ISSUES CHALLENGING

Protecting and improving air quality in Louisiana has always been a challenge, but never more so than this last year. Before March 12, 2008, the state had only one nonattainment area consisting of five-parishes around Baton Rouge for the pollutant ozone. Those parishes are East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Ascension, Livingston and Iberville. Louisiana was in attainment for all other air toxics including fine particulate matter, PM 2.5. For Ozone season 2009, DEQ will be monitoring for ozone, and even though the entire state is in attainment, DEQ will monitor for PM 2.5.

On March 12, 2008, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency lowered the standard for the pollutant ozone from 84 to 75 parts per billion to be more protective of human health and the environment. Air quality is judged using the National Ambient Air Quality Standards established by EPA in conjunction with the Clean Air Act. DEQ was charged with suggesting designations to EPA for parishes that could be potentially out of attainment. DEQ suggest six additional parishes: Pointe Coupee, Jefferson, Caddo, Lafourche, Lafayette and St. John the Baptist. EPA has a year to consider the designations.

The NAAQS measures the air toxics sulfur dioxide, airborne lead, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, PM 2.5 and ozone.

At the end of 2008, for the first time in 30 years, the state met all federal standards for the original one-hour ozone standard and the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard. This milestone marked the success of a collaborative effort that included DEQ, EPA, local industries, local governments, environmental groups, citizens and community leaders in addressing the air quality issues of the five-parish Baton Rouge area. This achievement is an example of how the air quality has improved in the Baton Rouge area and throughout the state since the ozone standards were first put into place.

There are many things that the average citizen can do to help prevent the formation of ozone.

1. Fuel your vehicles when it is cool, don't top off the tank and be sure your gas cap is on tight
2. Maintain your vehicle to prevent excess emissions
3. Mow and use gasoline powered lawn equipment after 6 p.m.
4. Conserve energy in your home
5. Carpool and use public transportation where possible
6. Combine your errands
7. When you grill, use an electric starter
8. Spread the word to others

Even small lifestyle changes can make a big difference. Everyone can take voluntary steps to be the solution.

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DEQ WATER SURVEYS GATHER VALUABLE INFORMATION

If you see a river or stream with red water this summer or early fall, it may be part of a DEQ water survey. The Water Quality Surveys section of DEQ's Surveillance Division conducts water sampling surveys when conditions are optimum— low flow in the water body and high temperature - for the best results.

The surveys are conducted to gather water quality information that will be used to restore and protect the water body. The data gathered from the survey identifies suspected pollutants that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water body. This condition is called low dissolved oxygen.

Citizens who notice the red coloration of the water should not be alarmed. The water body returns to its normal state and color by the end of the day. The bright red, non-toxic dye is injected into the water and is used to determine flow and distribution patterns of the water body. These patterns are used to establish sampling

points for the survey and to aid in the development of a total maximum daily load, which is the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be released into a water body without causing it to become impaired and/or violate state water quality standards. TMDLs are used as a basis for establishing wastewater discharge limits.

Why does DEQ conduct these surveys and how are the locations determined? Ambient water sampling in the state is conducted on a four-year cycle and from this sampling a 303(D) list of impaired water bodies is developed that includes rivers, streams and bayous that are considered to have low dissolved oxygen. When the Water Survey section receives the list, they consult with the DEQ modeling section to develop a survey plan and determine where to sample. After the water survey is complete, the data goes back to the modeling section and is converted into a TMDL for that particular water body. The modeling report then goes to the permitting division to use to develop or adjust permit limits on point source (identifiable) discharges into the river, streams and bayous.

Water quality surveys give DEQ the information necessary to protect and improve that state's waters.

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CAMPAIGN

In May, DEQ began a statewide educational and outreach campaign to inform citizens of nonpoint source water pollution. The campaign, which was made possible by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, uses billboards, radio and TV public service announcements to spread the word on the dangers of nonpoint source water pollution and what people can do to "Be the Solution" to water pollution.

Nonpoint source water pollution is any pollutant that runs off the land from our yards, farms, forests, streets and parking lots throughout the watershed. Nonpoint source pollution enters our bayous, rivers, and lakes when it rains and includes sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, oil, metals, litter, and bacteria (from animal



Red dye in stream used for water survey



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Billboards around the state help educate public on nonpoint source pollution

waste). Controlling nonpoint source water pollution is an integral part of DEQ's efforts to improve the quality of the water in Louisiana.

The billboards illustrate Garbage In/Garbage Out showing that things that go down the storm drains end up, untreated, on our beaches, in our rivers, bayous and lakes. The radio commercials inform citizens that anything you spray, throw or rake into the storm drains ends up in the waters of the state and encourages people to properly dispose of their trash and pet waste.

The TV announcements feature a crawfish, Louie, and show his journey from his home in the swamp to various neighborhoods. There, he sees people contributing to the pollution at his home by pouring oil, littering and spraying pesticides. The PSA ends with the narrator giving advice on how to avoid contributing to water pollution.

To find out more about Louie and the nonpoint source campaign, log into the DEQ website and click on the Be the Solution button. You can view the TV commercial,

listen to the radio commercial, see the billboards and gather information about nonpoint source pollution and how you can help -www.deq.louisiana.gov/watershed.

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION GRANTS AVAILABLE

DEQ is requesting proposals for awarding grant money that addresses nonpoint source pollution in the state. Funds will be available for projects that will provide watershed improvement and identify and reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Nonpoint source pollution is the largest remaining type of water pollution that needs to be addressed within Louisiana. It is any pollutant that runs off the land from our yards, farms, forests, streets and parking lots throughout a watershed (an area of land that drains to a river, bayou, lake, estuary or wetland), and into a storm drain. Pollutants that enter the storm drain are not treated before they reach the waters of the state. This includes sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, oils, metals, litter and animal waste. Curtailing these pollutants will help restore the designated uses or our impaired waterbodies, such as fishing and swimming.

State and local governments, non-government organizations, non-profit organizations and federally recognized tribal groups may apply for these funds, which are available under section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Funding priority will be given to proposals that include a project or program designed to address waterbody impairment caused by nonpoint source pollution.

For more information on the grants and requirements for the proposals, go to <http://nonpoint.deq.louisiana.gov> and click on the Notice for 319 funds button or call Reggie Coleman at 225-219-3585. Submission deadline is Aug. 31.

BE THE SOLUTION



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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION CRACKS DOWN ON ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

The Criminal Investigation Division has been particularly busy in 2009 with several investigations throughout the state, ranging from illegal dumping crimes to wastewater permit violations to document forgeries and professional misrepresentations.

The year began with the arrest of a New Roads resident who later pled guilty to the illegal burning and disposal of a hazardous substance on a debris pile on an open pit in Ventress. The guilty party was ordered by the 18th Judicial District Court to pay \$8,500 in total fines and received 24 months probation for his illegal activities.

In April, a Natchitoches man was arrested for misrepresenting himself as a Professional Engineer on DEQ permit application documentation. Two weeks later, CID arrested a New Orleans area demolition contractor on 11 felony counts of submitting false inspection certification forms relative to his asbestos

removal work in the area. Later that month, an Ethel man was sentenced to 24 months of criminal probation for illegal tire burning.

Just under a week later, CID arrested a Vacherie centralized wastewater operator for 96 felony counts involving violations of his facility's Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit and the submission of false documents relative to that permit. The next day, CID arrested a Bienville Parish man for illegally dumping solid waste from a vacuum truck on a landowner's property in Ringgold.

In June, CID's continued investigation of the Vacherie incident resulted in the arrest of the plant manager for Armant Environmental Services, LLC, who was accused of allowing the routine illegal dumping of untreated wastewater onto the ground.

WEST MONROE/GRAPHIC PACKAGING WASTEWATER RECYCLE PROJECT IS A WIN/WIN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, PEOPLE AND THE INDUSTRY

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality selected 55 applicants to receive \$43 million allocated to the state as part of the federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund stimulus funds. The federal government will provide final approval. One of the requirements of the ARRA was that 20 percent of the fund allocated had to be for "green projects."

One of the seven green projects picked in Louisiana is the West Monroe/Graphic Packaging wastewater recycling project. The West Monroe project could save 10 million gallons of water a day being taken from the Sparta Aquifer by turning wastewater into potable water for industry use.

The Sparta Aquifer covers 6,920 square miles in northern Louisiana and 16 parishes in northern Louisiana depend either entirely or partially on the



Illegal dumping of waste tires



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Sparta aquifer for their drinking water. Currently, the amount of water taken daily from the aquifer is about 18 million gallons beyond its sustainable use. This is causing the water level to drop.

West Monroe will build a new wastewater treatment plant using the stimulus funds, loans and capital outlay funds. The current facility treats wastewater to secondary limits to be discharged, but with advanced technology, the new plant will produce effluent that will be up to drinking water standards. Currently, Graphic Packaging is drawing 10 million gallons of water a day from the Sparta Aquifer for use in their processes. Graphic produces cardboard packaging for food and drink. It hopes to completely eliminate its use of water from the Sparta Aquifer by using treated wastewater instead of water from the aquifer. The wastewater will take the place of the water currently coming from the aquifer. It will cut the use from the aquifer and help to ensure the stability of the aquifer for other uses, such as drinking water. Once the plant's dependence on Sparta is gone, the overuse of the aquifer will be reduced by approximately 50 percent. Graphic also uses 10 million gallons of water a day from the Ouachita River.

The approximately \$13 million dollar project will receive funding from the ARRA stimulus package, the DEQ Revolving Loan Fund and capital outlay funding that they have on hand. The project will be underway by the first of the year 2010. The project is expected to create more than 200 construction jobs, while saving 1,200 jobs at Graphic Packaging, along with 312 timber jobs and 125 truck driving jobs.

For information on the State Revolving Loan Fund, contact Bijan Sharafkhani, P.E. at 225-219-3957, or at Bijan.sharafkhani@la.gov.



DEQ BEGINS OIL AND GAS WORKSHOPS ACROSS STATE

Louisiana's oil and gas industry continues to grow, especially with the drilling taking place along the Haynesville Shale. Because of this new growth and the number of agencies involved in regulating the industry, the DEQ began working with its partners to hold oil and gas workshops around the state.

It's one thing to have an informative workshop, but these meetings were geared at providing a service for the industry, the regulators and the public.

"We want to hear from you," said DEQ Environmental Scientist Chris Piehler, who was coordinating the meetings as part of the Environmental Results Program, to about 40 participants at a meeting room in Shreveport. "The information you provide will help us in our efforts to ensure the oil and gas industry thrives in Louisiana and remains in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations."

Ultimately, the participants in the five workshops will play a major role in developing an Environmental Field Guide for the Oil and Gas Industry. The guide will have emergency contact information, the contact information for all regulatory agencies, information on water and air permitting, tips on how to go above and beyond environmental compliance and more.

Another positive about having industry and regulators at the same meeting is that both sides learn about each other. For example, at the Shreveport meeting on July 30, many participants were curious to know about on-line permitting. On that very day in Baton Rouge, DEQ officials were giving a demonstration on the coastal general oil and gas permit. That news was met with much fanfare at the Shreveport meeting.

In Lake Charles, one topic was the industry's use of groundwater and surface water withdrawal. There was a question as to if a permit was needed to take water



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from these sources and use it in the oil and gas drilling process. A permit is not needed, however, the Louisiana Groundwater Commission, through the Department of Natural resources, requires a notification under some circumstances.

“We’re learning a lot about each other,” said Dirk Kavanagh, DEQ Environmental Scientist. “As we see issues come up at the different meetings, at the various regions, we begin to understand issues that are outside of what we do as far as DEQ regulations. The field guide will be able to address these issues, and we are initiating the dialogue to do that at these meetings.”

THE GREEN PROJECT IN NEW ORLEANS LEADS THE WAY IN SALVAGE, REUSE AND RECYCLING

New Orleans is home to the Green Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creatively promoting and encouraging environmental sustainability in New Orleans. They recycle building materials and paint, deconstruct homes, salvage usable materials and operate a building materials recycling store. The staff and volunteers at the Green Project promote community involvement and environmental activities, offer community space to other community-based organizations and serve as an environmental reference resource. The Project employs 15 full and part-time staff and depends on volunteers. Many volunteers are Tulane and local college students.

The Green Project operates a warehouse store that resells high-quality, salvaged building materials at low cost to the community. The store is dedicated to helping the environment by reducing the amount of usable materials placed in landfills or disposed of improperly. Angie Green is the executive director is enthusiastic about the Project’s scope and expansion.

“We plan to expand the paint program,” said Green. “We are the only place around that collects used paint from household hazardous material collections and we are contracting with surrounding parishes to take their paint. With our truck and facilities, we could serve a 200-mile radius around New Orleans.”



At the Green Project, usable latex paint is recycled and sold at affordable prices

The Green Project store also serves as a local recycled paint resource by reclaiming, combining and reselling surplus paint. This keeps paint out of the region’s landfills and water system while providing affordable paint to the community.

The paint recycling at the Project has grown substantially. The staff and volunteers take usable latex paint and combine like colors to make one gallon and five gallon cans of usable paint. They had been mixing the paint in 55 gallon drums but have upgraded to 300 gallon totes.

“There are so many people that can’t afford to paint their houses,” said Green. “By reclaiming this paint, we are able to sell it for \$4 a gallon, which allows them to be able to buy it. Using the 300 gallon totes, the paint can also be used for larger commercial.”

One of the problems with expanding the program is that when the Project accepts more paint, there is more that has to be incinerated. That process can be costly. The Green Project warehouse serves as a recycling center. They currently recycle cardboard, newspaper, regular paper (plain and colored), aluminum cans



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and household e-waste (electronic equipment like computers, stereos, printers, monitors, cell phones, etc). They cannot take plastic or glass because no one in the city can pick it up. They also cannot accept scrap metal.

The warehouse building, which houses the store and the paint recycling, is partially powered by solar panels. During Hurricane Katrina, the Green project lost more than one third of their roof; including solar panels. They have replaced 18 of the panels, which help to keep energy costs down at the warehouse, but they still need to replace 18 more. Losing the roof caused serious damage to the upstairs offices, resulting in major repairs to the building.

“Since Katrina, most of our major activities are 100 percent back to normal,” said Green. “These are our core activities, what we do, like the paint recycling. We are proud of the fact that we are now open seven days a week. We are here nine to five, seven days and it feels good to be here for the community.”

The Green Project also supports others who salvage or deconstruct damaged or collapsed buildings by hand, in a way that saves between 45 to 70 percent of the materials. Taking down buildings this way preserves New Orleans’ unique architectural history and benefits New Orleans’ residents by returning their ruined building materials to use elsewhere in the city. Many movie studios come to the Green Project to find authentic architectural material for their movies.

Since summer of 2005, the Green Project has accepted e-waste. They are the only nonprofit in the area that accepts it. E-waste involves high disposal costs and a contract with an outside disposal company to handle that disposal. Analog TVs can be recycled there for \$20.

Even gardening is a part of the Green Project and their garden is blooming. Through the gardening workshops, you can learn how to make the most of a small space, recycle your yard and kitchen waste into compost and improve your soil and have fresh produce to supplement your diet and help your income.

Recycle for the Arts merged with The Green Project in 2003. R4A provides art materials to individual artists, schools, art programs, galleries, and other non-profit groups at minimal cost, as well as offers monthly recycled art workshops. The Projects community arts space is called the Green Room. It is constructed with recycled materials (including a glass and plastic bottle insulated wall, a recycled crafts paper floor, and walls built with salvaged lumber). The space reflects The Green Project’s mission to support environmentally conscious programs that involve the community, as well as its growing interest in the arts. Students and graduates from the State University of New York at Purchase, constructed the space and have recently been working with The Green Project to further develop its community arts program. The room is an interactive community space that promotes using garbage and salvage as artistic material. The space is used to display the work of local artists, and is available for workshops and community events. However, the Green Room is currently out of service because of damage due to Hurricane Gustav.

The Green Project is located at 2831 Marais Street, New Orleans, LA 70117 and their phone is 504-945-0240. You can email them at info@thegreenproject.org. If you are interested in working there, volunteering, donating or buying, contact them.

The Green Project is governed by a 15-member board. Each board member serves for two years and is elected by The Green Project holds an annual membership meeting each June.



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ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS RECOGNIZE ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

On July 30, DEQ Secretary Harold Leggett and State Senator Jody Amedee, Chairman of the Senate Environmental Committee, presented the 2009 Environmental Leadership Awards to 14 recipients. The emphasis of the awards was on pollution prevention and environmental innovations. The awards recognized the achievements of industry, local governments, non-governmental organizations, schools and an individual. New and existing members of the ELP were commended for their voluntary pollution prevention efforts and community educational outreach initiatives. The ceremony highlighted projects that went above and beyond regulatory compliance to substantially improve the quality of the environment.

ELP categories include Pollution Prevention programs and projects and Community Environmental Outreach. In the Pollution Prevention category, for 2008-09, ELP members made these contributions:

- 34,409,974 pounds of pollutants were removed from the environment including sodium chloride brine, CO2 emissions, PM10, SO₂, nitrogen oxides and more.
- Reduction in wastewater discharge capacity of 9,125,000 gallons a year of waste water and 18,000 gallons/year of diesel fuel.
- Reuse of 2 million cubic yards of wood waste and 4,300 cu/yds of asphalt and 3,111,341 pounds of materials were recycled.

In the Community Environmental Outreach Initiatives category, ELP members contributed in many ways. Community-industry partnerships resulted in preservation, conservation, restoration, recycling initiatives and the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home. twenty-seven hundred Publicly Owned Treatment Works operators were certified and 45,000 members of the community attended Earth Day.



The award to St. Margaret Catholic School Science Club in Lake Charles was one of the first awards to a school

“We are very encouraged by the pollution savings realized by the ELP membership for 2008-09. However, we are not satisfied and look forward to even greater savings in years to come” said DEQ Deputy Secretary Alex Appeaning. “We are particularly excited about our new ELP members that include schools, municipalities, small business, non-government entities and individuals.”

The winners and a short synopsis of their projects and pollution savings follow:

CellXion LLC, Bossier City-

CellXion was awarded an Environmental Leadership Program Large Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention. The award honored CellXion for reducing the consumption of city potable water and reuse of wastewater in the process of manufacturing concrete for production. Through their reuse program, CellXion will eliminate roughly 25,000 gallons per day from being discharged into the Publicly Owned Treatment Works. All water consumed will be contained and reused in the facility’s Batch Plant to manufacture concrete for production purposes.



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ExxonMobil, Baton Rouge -

ExxonMobil was awarded an ELP Large Business Recognition Award in Community Environmental Outreach for contributions to Earth Day 2008. ExxonMobil and EXC!TE (ExxonMobil Community Involvement Through Employees) volunteers served more than 207 hours, raised and contributed over \$30,000 towards the event, and reached out to approximately 45,000 people to educate the Baton Rouge community on environmental matters.

Marathon Petroleum Company LLC, Louisiana Refinery Division, Garyville -

Marathon was awarded an ELP Special Recognition Award for Nitrate Reduction. The Marathon Louisiana Refinery Division committed to bringing the GME project online with no increase in permitted effluent limits, while the expanded refinery will be totally self-sufficient for water supply, treatment and disposal. Waste Water Treatment Plant modifications include installation of a biological reactor train, consisting of an Induced Gas Flow Unit, a Closed Circuit Cooling Tower, an Advent Integrated System, Biological Reactor and an Integral Clarifier. These Biological Reactors have the ability to remove between 85-90 percent of dissolved nitrates, a common nutrient in treated refinery effluent. Nutrient (nitrates and phosphates) loading into the Mississippi River has been linked to the hypoxia issue in the Gulf of Mexico.

DuPont Performance Elastomers LLC, LaPlace -

DuPont was awarded an ELP Medium Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention for implementing operational strategies to reduce the amount of aqueous waste being generated by the site including: automating operational controls, adjusting effluent rates from an air pollution control device, resizing the effluent valve and installing a ratio controller in the Data Control System to allow for automatic adjustment of the feed rate. The successful implementation of this project will eliminate the disposal of approximately 22 million pounds per year of aqueous waste using underground injection wells.

Natural Resources Recovery Inc., Baton Rouge -

Natural Resources Recovery was awarded an ELP Small Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention for recycle and reuse of over 2 million cubic yards of woody debris generated after Hurricane Gustav, thus avoiding disposal in a landfill. Natural Resources Recovery's efforts resulted in the recovery of a total waste stream; 80 percent of debris was used as bio-fuel, 15 percent recycled into landscape material, 3 percent put to beneficial re-use for erosion control, and 2 percent recaptured as saw logs/pulp wood.

Martin Brothers Inc., Winnsboro -

Martin Brothers was awarded an ELP Small Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention for the reduction of 1,500 pounds of wood crating materials used to ship ice cream equipment overseas in 2008. Martin Brothers received the International Standards for Phyto-Sanitary Measures 15 International Plant Protection Convention Treatment Program certification to be able to package/crate and ship approved wood products overseas and reduce the wood crating waste being created each year through repackaging. This will create an annual average reduction of 3,500 pounds of wood waste per year. These savings prevent the disposal of wood by burning or disposal in a landfill.

Baker Petrolite Corporation -

Baker Petrolite was awarded an ELP Small Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention for implementing a solid and hazardous waste reduction program and sustaining a comprehensive waste recycling initiative. The facility hazardous waste reductions were achieved through the implementation of a solvent distillation system that allowed spent solvent to be re-used in the facility cleaning processes. By implementing this, Baker Petrolite reduced the amount of hazardous waste generated by 21,879 pounds in 2008, a 9.2 percent reduction and expects a further reduction of more than 18,000 pounds during 2009. The facility also significantly improved recycling efforts by increasing the amount of waste being recycled by 21 percent, recycling 551,581 pounds in 2008. Baker Petrolite reduced their on-site waste accumulation period to less than 20 days, much less than the 90 days



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allowed by regulations for large quantity generators. These innovations have all contributed to the facility's goal of continuous environmental improvements at the plant.

The City of Monroe – Transit System, Monroe -

The City of Monroe Transit System was awarded an ELP Municipality Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention for taking steps to decrease the amount of emissions produced by city vehicles by introduction of biodiesel fuel as an option, purchasing buses with particulate filters, purchasing a hybrid vehicle with a low emission vehicle rating, and promoting ridership to decrease the number of automobiles on the road. The City is using a 20 percent blend of soybean oil and diesel in 25 buses in the fleet and a 5 percent blend in four other vehicles. The City also purchased buses with a diesel particulate filter that can eliminate up to 85 percent of the soot produced by a normal diesel engine. Through these initiatives, the City hopes to decrease emissions and improve air quality.

City of Ruston-Department of Water Utilities -

The City of Ruston was awarded an ELP Municipality Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention for expansion and upgrades to the city wastewater treatment plant including improvements to the collection, transmission and treatment systems. These changes have resulted in discharge improvements that far exceed regulatory requirements and facilitate better data collection through implementation of a GPS/GIS mapping program. All of the waste sludge generated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is pumped to a city-owned Beneficial Use Facility where the sludge is land-applied at the 100 acre hay farm site that is commercially available for non-dairy use, thus eliminating disposal of sludge offsite. City officials also visited each school in the city to discuss and share information about energy conservation for not only water and sewer, but also for electricity use, garbage disposal and other conservation issues.

Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council, Baton Rouge -

The Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council was awarded an ELP Non-Governmental Organization Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention. The Council was honored for outstanding achievement in e-waste reduction and promoting the use of recycled goods by educating corporations, policy-makers and the public concerning e-waste, reducing the stream of e-waste to landfills, and providing recycled computers and equipment to schools, nonprofit organizations, and low income families. Achievements include recycling and reusing over 1,050 tons of electronic material, reaching over 1,000 kids through 75 participating schools with surplus computers through the Computers for Louisiana Kids Program, placing 785 refurbished computers into the CLK schools in 2008, teaching children how to rebuild computers and donating 1,500 refurbished laptop computers (1,200 to the New Orleans School System and 300 to low income families and non-profit organizations). The Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council has held electronic collection events in several Louisiana communities collecting close to 80 tons of electronics.

Louisiana Rural Water Association, Kinder -

The Louisiana Rural Water Association was awarded an ELP Non-Governmental Organization Achievement Award in Community Environmental Outreach for providing training and technical assistance to small towns and rural areas on operation and maintenance of water and wastewater systems, energy conservation, water protection, and compliance assistance. More than 2,700 water and wastewater systems benefited from LRWA's assistance each year. After Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, LRWA assisted communities and provided support services by transporting generators to communities that needed assistance. LRWA's efforts have been instrumental in restoring Louisiana's rural communities' vital services after the devastation caused by the recent hurricanes.



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St. Margaret Catholic School Science Club, Lake Charles -

The St. Margaret Catholic School Science Club was awarded an ELP School Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention for implementing a project to reduce the carbon footprint at their school. The Science Club monitored the temperature in their classrooms and installed solar screens on the school building to reduce electric usage from air conditioning units. The students also worked with a local Eagle Scout to raise money to purchase solar panels and have them mounted on the school as an alternative energy source. Students have implemented other conservation efforts including replacing old equipment in the classroom with Energy Star equipment, resulting in 50 percent less energy consumption in classrooms; saving energy by unplugging appliances; and monitoring their energy consumption. All of these efforts allowed the Club to achieve reduction of the carbon footprint at their school.

Gretna No. 2 Academy for Advanced Studies-

Gretna No. 2 Academy for Advanced Studies was awarded an ELP School Recognition Award in Community Environmental Outreach for participating in a coastal restoration project organized by the University of New Orleans. About 150 students from the first, third and fourth grades participated in exercises describing wetlands and the impacts of storms and hurricanes. Students successfully built two wetland areas where they planted and cared for over 250 wetland plants including spartina grass, cypress trees, iris plants and beach grass that they monitored weekly. The students will travel to the spillway to transplant what they have grown, hopefully planting at least 150 plants to help restore the wetlands.

Marylee Orr, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Baton Rouge-

Marylee Orr was awarded the ELP Environmental Leader Award for her environmental leadership and advocacy work for Louisiana and our nation. Marylee Orr has served as the Executive Director for the Louisiana Environmental Action Network over the last 22 years, transforming the organization into a national environmental advocacy powerhouse. As the leader

of LEAN, Marylee has led the organization in its effort to empower more than one hundred grassroots community organizations, thereby making Louisiana's communities safer and healthier places to live. In 2008, the US Office of Management and Budget Watch selected Marylee Orr to receive the OMB Watch Public Interest Hall of Fame award. Also in 2008, Marylee was a runner up for the Conde' Nast Traveler Environmental award.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Environmental Leadership Program and submitting projects, you can contact Dr. Alex Appeaning, Deputy Secretary at 225-219-3951, or his assistant, Linda Brown, at 225-219-3964 or go to the Web site at www.deq.louisiana.gov/elp. In 2008-2009, the ELP enrolled 48 new members.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S FOURTH QUARTER SUMMARIES

2nd Quarter 2009 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/225/Default.aspx>

2nd Quarter 2009 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2838/Default.aspx>

2nd Quarter 2009 Air Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx>

2nd Quarter 2009 Water Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx>

2nd Quarter 2009 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2586/Default.aspx>