



# **2022 ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (ELP) AWARDS**

*June 9, 2022*

*1:00 PM*

*Galvez Conference Center*





# ELP AWARDS & RECOGNITION

## PRESENTERS

**Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.**

*Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality*

**Denise Bennett**

*Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality*

## 2022 ELP AWARD RECIPIENTS

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

**Compost NOW (New Orleans Waste)**

### ACHIEVEMENT

**Jefferson Parish Environmental Affairs**

**New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center**

**Tangipahoa Parish Government**

### RECOGNITION

**Alliance Compressors**

**Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC)**

**ExxonMobil Product Solutions - Baton Rouge Refinery**

**New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center**

**Port of New Orleans**

# 2022 NEW ELP MEMBERS

<b>Abita Brewing Co., L.L.C.</b>	<b>New Harmony High School</b>
<b>Abita Committee for Energy Sustainability</b>	<b>New Orleans City Park</b>
<b>BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo - Education Department</b>	<b>New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center</b>
<b>Caddo Lake Institute</b>	<b>Pastorek Habitats</b>
<b>Caddo Magnet High Greens Club</b>	<b>Pilgrims Pride</b>
<b>Carmo</b>	<b>Pinnacle Polymers</b>
<b>Centenary College of Louisiana</b>	<b>Rapid Eye Movement LLC</b>
<b>CK LABORDE FARMS</b>	<b>Recirculating Farms Coalition</b>
<b>Common Ground Relief</b>	<b>Ronpak Inc.</b>
<b>Energy Wise Alliance</b>	<b>Sankofa CDC</b>
<b>Glass Half Full Nola</b>	<b>Schmelly's</b>
<b>Green Light New Orleans</b>	<b>Shreveport Green</b>
<b>I Dig It, LLC</b>	<b>Tangipahoa Parish Government</b>
<b>Keep Assumption Beautiful</b>	<b>The Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans</b>
<b>Keep East Feliciana Beautiful</b>	<b>Thermaldyne</b>
<b>Keep Jefferson Parish Beautiful</b>	<b>THYME TO LIV LLC</b>
<b>Keep St. John Beautiful</b>	<b>Town of Pearl River</b>
<b>Live Oak Environmental LLC</b>	<b>Trinity Business Group/ Ronaldson Field</b>
<b>Louisiana Clean Fuels</b>	<b>Westdale Heights Academic Magnet</b>
<b>Louisiana Master Naturalists of Greater New Orleans</b>	<b>Woodlands Conservancy</b>
<b>Morph Recycling Initiative</b>	



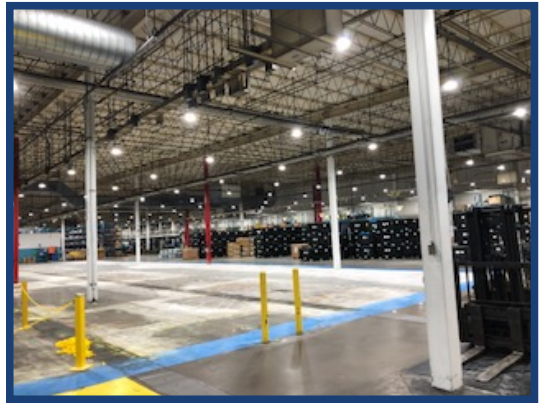
# ELP AWARD RECIPIENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

## RECOGNITION

### **Alliance Compressors: Natchitoches, LA**

*Pollution Prevention: Assembly Area LED Lighting Upgrade Project*

Alliance Compressors chose to upgrade the lighting in the assembly area of the plant. Replacing all lighting in the assembly operation consisted of replacing 761 fluorescent fixtures with high efficiency, high intensity LED lights. LED lighting provides significantly more light with lower electrical usage. Converting to LED



lighting improved the appearance of the assembly area as the quality of light provided by LED is significantly better than fluorescents. The reduction in electrical energy use will cause approximately 180 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction annually thereby reducing the plant's carbon footprint.

### **Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC): Baton Rouge, LA**

*Community Environmental Outreach: COVID Computer Distribution*

During the unexpected shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, an urgent need was created for students and working adults to have access to affordable technology to stay connected to virtual school, remote jobs, and to stay informed of world and local developments. CACRC's mission had to be further amplified by this urgent need. With a grant partnership, CACRC re-opened their doors by appointment to get the computers into the hands of those in need. CACRC was able to increase the number of computers distributed to families in need, seniors, first responders, and local small businesses. Between May



2020 and December 2020, CACRC distributed 1399 computers and diverted 1,203,229 pounds (601.6 tons) of electronic waste from the landfill. Post pandemic, the CACRC has continued this important work and has recycled and diverted 2.7 million pounds of electronics from the landfill in 2 years (2020 & 2021). They are the only R2 Certified E-Waste Recycler in Louisiana and have received national recognition as the gold standard for responsible recycling of electronics.



**ExxonMobil Product Solutions - Baton Rouge Refinery: Baton Rouge, LA**  
*Pollution Prevention: Baton Rouge Refinery Recycling of Hazardous Materials*

The ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Refinery (BRRF) took the initiative to utilize the newly promulgated recycling exclusions included in the revised Definition of Solid Waste (DSW) rulemaking to create more sustainable outlets for petroleum refining materials. The new DSW Exclusions allows these petroleum refining materials to be reclaimed at facilities other than a petroleum refinery. BRRF recognized this as an opportunity to significantly reduce the site's hazardous waste generation while also promoting sustainability.



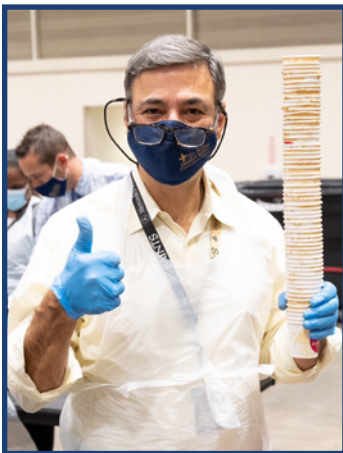
This initiative resulted in an 88% decrease in hazardous waste generation over a 3 year period, and encouraged the site to reclaim over 33 million (MM) lbs of hazardous secondary materials since 2019.

**New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center: New Orleans, LA**  
*Community Environmental Outreach: Talking Trash at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center*

The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOMCC) regularly hosts conferences, tradeshows, sporting events, and high-profile events such as charity galas and Carnival balls. But now they are Talking Trash! The Center recently completed their first-ever Event Waste Audit, in pursuit of a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certification.



During the Specialty Coffee Expo on October 1, 2021, Center employees (dubbed “The Trash Team”) rooted through over 400 pounds of a representative sample of waste materials in order to evaluate how well the building diverts materials from landfills. A mix of trash, recycling, and composting bins were collected over a 24-hour period and then sorted by hand into groups (e.g. plastics, compostables, landfill waste, etc.) to determine whether materials were placed in their proper bins.



The event had a 52% diversion rate. Staff applied their newfound knowledge to improving the facility’s recycling programs – doubling the footprint of attendee recycling, adding plastics and increasing pallet and cardboard recycling,

and piloting composting in the public spaces and exhibit halls. NOMCC shared results and reached a much larger audience in the community by showing best practices and educating the public about how waste audits work to improve environmental performance.

**Port of New Orleans: New Orleans, LA**  
*Pollution Prevention: Container on Barge,  
American Marine Highway Emissions Reductions*



In 2016, the Port of New Orleans (Port NOLA) first partnered with the Port of Greater Baton Rouge (POBR) and Seacor AMH (container on barge service provider) to launch a container on barge (COB) service between Memphis, Baton Rouge and New Orleans. In 2020 and 2021, the service moved

over 14,000 containers between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, which directly translates to significant industry, community and environmental benefits.

Availability of container equipment to load cargo is a top concern for Louisiana Exporters. Over 50,000 export cargo containers originate in the greater Baton Rouge area, creating a critical mass of users for a COB service. Prior to COB services, trucking was the only mode of transportation available to move containers from Baton Rouge to Port NOLA for international export.



Port NOLA, Port of Greater Baton Rouge and Seacor AMH received two America's Marine Highway (AMH) grants from the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) to support investment in the service. One barge holds up to 36 loaded 40-foot containers, with one tug pushing up to 10 barges per trip. Each one-way trip per container is a reduction of 86 drayage truck highway miles between ports, reducing 30,000 miles per fully loaded barge trip. Based on numbers reported from Seacor AMH, on average more than 3,700 container moves per quarter were made in 2020 and 2021. This COB service reduces wear and tear on Louisiana infrastructure, mitigates congestion and lowers CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, estimated at more than 400 short tons per year.

# ACHIEVEMENT

## Jefferson Parish Environmental Affairs: Harahan, LA *Community Environmental Outreach* *Jefferson Parish Environmental Stewardship Program*

The Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs (JPDEA) created the Jefferson Parish Environmental Stewardship Program in response to the numerous complaints of illicit dumping into storm drains the department was receiving. Under the program, JPDEA's goal is to educate on how to prevent pollutants from reaching waterways. JPDEA developed and conducted workshops for owners and operators of Industrial and High Risk Facilities (I&HRFs)



as one of the educational tools for I&HRFs at each workshop. The workshops were held in person on October 3 and 10, 2019 and virtually on August 4 and 6, 2020. Educational materials were distributed at the workshops, at other events attended by Jefferson Parish Environmental Affairs staff, and when conducting inspections of I&HR facilities.



The program success is measured by the number of I&HRF-related complaints tallied each year; the number of violations issued to I&HRFs; and an increased public awareness of the environmental

consequences related to specific activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. The number of complaints has decreased 35% since project implementation.

The Department also established the annual Environmental Stewardship Awards to recognize industries and businesses in Jefferson Parish that demonstrate environmentally friendly storm water practices and are leading the community by example.



**New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center: New Orleans, LA**  
*Pollution Prevention: Major Energy and Water Reduction Projects at the  
New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.*

The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC) has made sustainability a top priority and is taking steps to reduce environmental impacts. While the coronavirus pandemic impacted hosting events in 2020, NOENMCC took advantage of the downtime through 2021 and made critical facility upgrades that will reduce their environmental footprint, and in turn, help make the facility a leader in sustainable events. NOENMCC:



- Switched to energy efficient LED lighting. More than 8,000 fixtures within the 1 million sq. ft. exhibit hall space were upgraded to high-tech LED exhibit lighting. This represented one of the largest energy savings and lighting upgrades in the entire state.
- Worked with the Energy New Orleans Energy Smart program to receive incentives to help fund the energy savings. They are expected to ultimately result in an approximate 15-20% reduction in energy use, and a corresponding decrease in cooling and building water use.
- Purchased additional recycling bins for events and developed a streamlined labelling system for all recycling across the building.
- Upgraded all public restrooms and installed low-flow fixtures that use less water and installed efficient bottle-filling stations outside the restrooms which provide chilled and filtered water.
- Opened a 7.5-acre Pedestrian Park that created a lush green space including walkways, a water feature, decorative festoon lighting and a mile-long tract of unique and varied spaces for



outdoor events. In the park, stormwater is managed by channeling rainwater into rain gardens, bio-swales and tree plantings, reducing the impact on the drainage system and providing natural irrigation to plants.

### **Tangipahoa Parish Government: Amite, LA**

#### *Pollution Prevention: Tangipahoa Parish Waterway Enhancement / Litter Vessel Project*

The Tangipahoa Parish government has partnered with private companies, the Parish School Board, the Sheriff's office, and many organizations and individuals to help address pollution prevention and control initiatives and litter abatement through the use of organized, replicable programs that help to abate, reduce, recycle, enforce, and educate the public about environmental problems and opportunities



in the community. This includes the use of the patented "litter gitter" vessels placed in local streams and rivers that result in the removal or hundreds of bags and tons of trash, debris, tires and white goods from rivers and streams, with much of it being recycled; over 1200 4th and 5th grade children involved in the "Rocksey's Toolbox" environmental awareness program during the past two years (and continuing today); and the efficient operation of a regional landfill facility in the mid-Parish area.

The Parish is also one of the few Louisiana Parishes that funds a full-time Keep Tangipahoa Beautiful Program Coordinator who helps to organize and administer many litter and related environmental programs, code enforcement staff, surface water testing, and public outreach events, bringing together hundreds of volunteers for river clean-ups and solid waste abatement events. In addition, the Parish has, within the past three years, passed legislation relating to more environmentally sensitive development of land and subdivisions which now require substantial increases in on-site stormwater retention/detention, the preservation of wetland areas, and increases in open space requirements.

# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

## Compost NOW (New Orleans Waste): New Orleans, LA

*Community Environmental Outreach: Community Garden Composting*

In 2020, Compost NOW developed a direct-to-farm/community garden composting program to continue food scrap collection in multiple New Orleans locations after library-based collections were closed due to COVID-19. The new operation model has become a very popular site design, allowing food waste to be collected and processed in the same location. Throughout 2020-2021, Compost NOW has grown to coordinate nine



residential compost collection sites in different neighborhoods (plus additional public sites like City Park, Audubon Park, Green Project and more) where residents, during select hours and days, can drop off food scraps.

Collections also connect new people to their local gardens, allowing them to reach a wider audience. At these sites, Compost NOW helps build the compost and supplies bins, signage, promotion, and a two-hour monthly volunteer shift. The resulting compost is used to enrich garden soil or given to community members. Part of the programming is the development of Compost NOW volunteer shifts where participants learn about the composting process as well as its connection and application to gardening.



Community garden sites form a cohesive network of compost infrastructure that works to mitigate landfilled waste in a decentralized, closed loop model. By using a decentralized model, Compost NOW further reduces greenhouse gasses from waste transport miles, and instead, builds compost and soil that sequesters carbon. The compost and soil produced by community gardens is used in the same location it is created. Community garden sites are more

self-sustaining and widely successful, collecting 1,500-2,000 pounds of food scraps per week diverting food waste from the landfill turning it into soil.



# ELP STEERING AND AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

**David Burroughs**  
*Ronpak, Inc.*

**Dr. David Constant**  
*LSU College of Engineering,  
Retired*

**Tokesha Collins-Wright**  
*Louisiana Chemical Association*

**Douglas Melancon**  
*ExxonMobil,  
Baton Rouge Facilities*

**Chuck Berger**  
*Louisiana Department of  
Environmental Quality*

**Bess Foret**  
*Lafayette Consolidated  
Government*

**Jonathan McFarland**  
*Louisiana Department of  
Environmental Quality*

**Scott Templet**  
*Louisiana Department of  
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**Jodie Kimball**  
*Louisiana Department of  
Environmental Quality*

**Dr. Maud Walsh**  
*LSU College of Agriculture*