

# LDWPP Goals



- ◆ Educate Louisiana communities about their drinking water sources and the importance of protecting them.
- ◆ Educate Louisiana communities about actions they can take to protect their drinking water sources.
- ◆ Maintain drinking water protection through continued community activism.



## We need your help!

*Help Louisiana protect its drinking water. We need volunteers to serve on local committees dedicated to the protection of our drinking water sources. You can help us and your community by volunteering to give presentations at local schools, participating in local Hazardous Waste Collection Days, and passing on information about how to protect drinking water sources to your family, friends, and neighbors. For more information, please contact the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team.*

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
Office of Environmental Assessment  
Environmental Evaluation Division  
Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section  
Post Office Box 4314  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4314

Phone: 1-888-763-5424  
Website: [www.deq.state.la.us/evaluation/aeps](http://www.deq.state.la.us/evaluation/aeps)  
Email: [evaluation@deq.state.la.us](mailto:evaluation@deq.state.la.us)

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# Louisiana Drinking Water



# Protection Program



## Drinking Water Protection Program

The Louisiana Drinking Water Protection Program (LDWPP) is a voluntary program designed to assist Louisiana communities in protecting their drinking water. The goals of the program are to increase public awareness on the importance of protecting drinking water sources, to educate communities on actions that can be taken locally to protect drinking water sources, and to maintain drinking water protection through continued community activism.

The LDWPP uses information reported during the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The purpose of the SWAP was to assess drinking water sources' potential susceptibility to contamination. Through the SWAP, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) mapped the locations of all public supply wells, surface water intakes, and potential sources of contamination (PSOCs) in the state. PSOC's may include gas stations, dry cleaners or other facilities that sell, store, use or dispose of chemicals. Chemicals, if not handled properly, have the potential to contaminate our surface water and ground water. (Two-thirds of Louisiana residents get drinking water from ground water sources.) Other factors that could affect drinking water sources' susceptibility to contamination were considered, such as well depth or age of surface water intakes.

DEQ issued a final report to each system assessed through the SWAP. The report ranked each system's susceptibility to contamination. The susceptibility to contamination rankings are used by the LDWPP team to prioritize which systems to work with first.

The LDWPP team visits water systems and encourages them to write contingency plans that provide the water system personnel with a plan of action in the case of a loss of the normal water supply. The team enlists the help of local volunteers to form citizen committees to assist them in educating area businesses and the general public about the importance of protecting our drinking water. All stakeholders are encouraged to implement best management practices (BMPs). BMPs are measures taken to prevent or reduce the possibility of contamination, such as the proper use and disposal of chemicals.



The LDWPP team along with citizen committees encourage local governments to adopt drinking water protection ordinances and to use the SWAP results in planning and zoning. The committees also decide what topics to address and how, based on the drinking water protection needs of their community. The LDWPP team uses brochures, videos, road signs, press releases, public service announcements, promotional materials, public presentations, youth educational materials, and collaborations with other organizations to help spread the word to the public.

The LDWPP team wants to make everyone aware of their drinking water sources and how important it is to protect them. Water is easy to contaminate but difficult and expensive to clean up. We all need to do our part to ensure that the water we drink remains clean and pure.