

Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Five Year Strategic Plan

July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2005

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Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Strategic Plan

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Strategic Plan

Executive Summary

This strategic plan covers fiscal years 2000-01 to 2004-05.

The Department's mission is to provide service to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection in order to promote and protect health, safety and welfare while considering sound policies regarding employment and economic development.

The Department has set six goals to accomplish its mission. They are:

1. Protect public safety, health and welfare by protecting and improving the environment (land, water, and air).
2. Increase compliance with environmental laws (both voluntary and mandatory compliance) that meet state and federal mandates.
3. Operate in an efficient and effective manner.
4. Conduct programs that are consistent with sound policy for employment and economic development.
5. Work to enhance customer service.
6. Work to provide regulatory flexibility.

Each office in the Department: Office of the Secretary, Office of Environmental Compliance, Office of Environmental Services, Office of Environmental Assessment and Office of Management and Finance has developed segments of the Department's Strategic Plan. Each office has a mission, goals and objectives that align with the goals of the department.

Executive Staff Action Initiatives

Action Initiatives are projects of special interest to the Executive Staff. While they do not usually appear as objectives, they appear as strategies throughout the Strategic Plan.

- ?? Continue and improve the Environmental Performance Partnership Grant with the US Environmental Protection Agency.
- ?? Continue to ensure environmental justice with respect to environmental and department regulatory activities.
- ?? Continue departmental pursuit of registration with ISO 9000 (quality management system certification) and ISO 14000 (environmental management system certification) by the International Standards Organizations.
- ?? Participate with EPA and the local community in developing a community-based pilot project for the Calcasieu Estuary to coordinate full and aggressive multi-media assessment, services and remediation activities.
- ?? Continue progress in the implementation of the comprehensive document and data management system throughout the department.
- ?? Work with the DOA to develop environmental aspects of multi-uses for Capitol Lake.
- ?? Continue development of a self-sustaining program to address environmental issues related to dry cleaning.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Five Year Strategic Plan July, 2000 – June, 2005

Vision

Louisiana is a recognized leader in the protection of the environment, natural resources, health and the quality of life. A spirit of cooperation and trust exists between state government, local government, business, universities, and private citizens in seeking solutions to environmental problems. The healthy, beautiful environment, complementary job opportunities, and unique culture of Louisiana all create an unmatched quality of life.

Mission

The mission of the Department of Environmental Quality is to provide service to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection in order to promote and protect health, safety and welfare while considering sound policies regarding employment and economic development.

Philosophy

- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality is an assertive proponent of a clean and healthy environment, accomplishing its mission through regulatory and non-regulatory means to achieve a balance that sacrifices neither economic growth nor environmental protection.
- ?? Decisions made by the Department of Environmental Quality will be open, fair, consistent and based on comprehensive scientific information applied in accordance with the law.
- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality will encourage stakeholder and public participation in consideration of environmental issues.
- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality will emphasize and support innovative and effective programs including but not limited to Pollution Prevention, waste minimization, recycling and regulatory flexibility.
- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality will promote environmental awareness through education.
- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality supports enhanced customer service, outreach and small business assistance.

Goals

- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality will protect public safety, health and welfare by protecting and improving the environment (land, water, air).
- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality will increase compliance with environmental laws (both voluntary and mandatory compliance) that meet state and federal mandates.
- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality will operate in an efficient and effective manner.
- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality will, to the maximum extent possible, conduct programs that are consistent with sound policy for employment and economic development.
- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality will work to enhance customer service.
- ?? The Department of Environmental Quality will work to provide regulatory flexibility.

Office of the Secretary

Five Year Strategic Plan

July, 2000 – June, 2005

Agency Number: 13-850
Program: Administrative Program
Program Authorization: La. R.S. 30:2011.C (1)(a)

Vision

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Mission

The mission of the Administrative Program is to help the Department fulfill its mission. As the managerial branch of the Department, the Administrative Program will facilitate achievement of environmental improvements by coordinating the other program offices' work to reduce quantity and toxicity of emissions, by representing the Department when dealing with external agencies, and by promoting initiatives that serve a broad environmental mandate.

Philosophy

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Goal

Protect and improve Louisiana's environment.

Objective 1:

The Administrative Program, through a review activity, will ensure that 95% of the programs in the Department meet their objectives between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Provide management guidance, final decision making authority and coordination of policies within DEQ and with other government agencies.
- 1.2 Implement the Strategic Plan to ensure that budgetary allotments and policy support DEQ's mandate to protect the environment.
- 1.3 Improve communications within the Department through executive staff meetings, quarterly meetings with all employees, annual visits to regional offices, automated information management systems, etc.
- 1.4 Facilitate working relationships with the Governor's Office, the Division of Administration, Civil Service, DHH, and other governmental agencies.
- 1.5 Implement activities pursuant to move DEQ toward ISO 14000 and ISO 9000 registration.
- 1.6 Maintain a lead person to coordinate QA/QC.

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Percent of programs in the Department meeting their objectives.

Objective 2:

The Administrative Program, through the Louisiana Environmental Leadership activity, will promote pollution prevention through non-regulatory programs and projects by enlisting 95 businesses, industries and municipalities to participate in cooperative, voluntary reduction of pollutants between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategy:

- 2.1 Promote use of municipal plant effluents by potential industrial users.
- 2.2 Recruit companies to participate in enhanced pollution prevention program.

Performance Indicators

Input: Number of facilities participating in Louisiana Leadership Program.

Outcome: Amount of voluntary reductions of hazardous waste reported by participants (million pounds per year).

Amount of voluntary reductions of Toxic Release Inventory chemicals reported by participants (million pounds per year).

Objective 3:

The Administrative Program, through an audit activity, will examine 450 external entities governed by DEQ to ensure compliance with the department's rules and regulations between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 3.1 Conduct audits and reviews of tire dealers and waste tire processors to ensure compliance with Waste Tire Regulations.
- 3.2 Conduct audits and reviews of Motor Fuel distributors to ensure compliance with Motor Fuel Trust Regulations.

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Percent of audits conducted of those prioritized through risk assessment.

Objective 4:

The Administrative Program, through the investigation activity, will ensure that 100% of the cases referred to Investigations, where evidence of criminal violations exist, are properly developed and submitted to the appropriate prosecutor as required by the Environmental Quality Act between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 4.1 Utilize criminal prosecution to supplement and support the traditional administrative enforcement process.
- 4.2 Provide training on criminal and other environmental enforcement protocols to department staff, law enforcement, and local prosecutors.
- 4.3 Provide coordination in cases involving cross-program or multi-agency efforts for criminal investigation or prosecution.

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Percent of criminal cases referred to the investigation section that are properly forwarded to appropriate district attorneys.

Objective 5:

The Administrative Program, through the legal affairs activity, will assure consistency and legal sufficiency of permit and enforcement actions by providing legal review of 100% of the documents submitted to the legal division, and by providing quality legal opinions and representation for the department, based upon research, interpretation of laws and regulations, review for compliance with federal directives, and drafting of pleadings, briefs, and memoranda between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 5.1 Conduct peer review of targeted enforcement actions and review for legal sufficiency all enforcement documents submitted to the legal division.
- 5.2 Review permit actions submitted to the legal division to assure that the contents comply with law, regulations, and rulings by review courts.
- 5.3 Provide a timely response to requests for legal opinions using a fixed format for formal opinions, e-mail for fast turnarounds, and verbal responses where necessary.

Performance Indicator

Efficiency: Percent of referrals for which an initial legal opinion is prepared within 30 working days of receipt.

Objective 6:

The Administrative Program, through the technical assistance activity, will provide review of 96% of tax credit applications received within thirty days of receipt between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 6.1 Recycle post-consumer solid waste or recovered material for recycling equipment.
- 6.2 Include a determination that the proposed equipment will accomplish reductions in toxicity and volume of pollutants for pollution control equipment in each application.

Performance Indicators

Efficiency: Percent of recycle tax exemption applications reviewed in 30 days.

Percent of pollution control tax exemption applications reviewed in 30 days.