



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For immediate release:  
Oct. 25, 2010

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### Lafourche Parish Government helps DEQ educate citizens to “Be Air Aware”

BATON ROUGE – The reconsideration and potential tightening of all current air quality standards by the Environmental Protection Agency means that much of Louisiana will be out of attainment for some of the new air quality standards. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has undertaken a major effort to help educate the public on the impacts of lowered standards and what they can do to be the solution.

In Lafourche Parish, the parish government has taken the lead by asking parish residents to help raise air quality awareness in Lafourche Parish by using good “air-awareness practices.” While these practices should be used every day, parish officials have established *Air Awareness Days*. One was held on Oct. 22 and the next one is Oct. 29. On these days, the parish is asking that everyone employ the following recommendations:

- **Postpone Yard Work.** Use gas-powered lawn equipment in the cooler evening or early-morning hours. Use hand tools when possible.
- **Save energy.** Turn off fans and lights when not home or in the room. Lower air conditioners to reduce power use. Minimize trips to the refrigerator.
- **Limit Solvent Usage.** Avoid using charcoal lighter fluid, dry cleaning fluids, oil-based paints, and other flammable liquids. When painting, use a brush instead of a sprayer.
- **Limit Chemical Use.** Use household, workshop and garden chemicals in ways that keep evaporation to a minimum. .
- **Carpool. Walk, bike or take public transportation.** Help reduce emissions. Combine errands and refrain from prolonged engine idling. Avoid waiting in long drive-thru lines.
- **Keep it in the Tank.** Fill up after dusk. Avoid spilling any gas, and do not “top off” the tank.
- **Don’t drive aggressively and maintain your vehicle.** Avoid rapidly accelerating or braking. Follow speed limits. Be sure your gas cap is tight and your tires are properly inflated.

With enough participation, parish residents can raise air quality throughout the parish. For a more extensive list of good air-awareness practices, and for more information, residents can log on to the *Be Air Aware* section of the parish website: [http://www.lafourchegov.org/be\\_air\\_aware.aspx](http://www.lafourchegov.org/be_air_aware.aspx). There is also a link to this section on the homepage. You can also find real time air quality information and tips on the DEQ Web site, [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov).