



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ celebrates Earth Day events

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality participated in several events during the week of April 19 – 25 for the Earth Day celebration.

On April 19, DEQ manned a booth on Earth Walk in downtown Baton Rouge for Louisiana Earth Day, where representatives presented the public with information concerning environmental protection, recycling and reuse methods, energy-saving ideas and litter-reduction techniques.

Outreach to area schools was a highlight throughout the week, as teams from DEQ gave several presentations to students on environmental issues such as air and water monitoring. Al Hindrichs, Environmental Scientist with DEQ's Water Quality Assessment Division, gave a presentation to science classes at St. Thomas More School in Baton Rouge to explain to how people can better protect their waters.

DEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Lab, or MAML, made several stops around the state to show students its capabilities and air monitoring instrumentation. The MAML, which is a Winnebago RV that is specially outfitted with air monitoring equipment, can be utilized to obtain air quality data from nearly any location in the state. Air Quality Assessment teams accompanied the MAML on its visit to Scotlandville High School on Tuesday; Academy Middle School in Plaquemine on Wednesday; and the Earth Day celebration at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Thursday.

On April 25, DEQ representatives were on hand to assist student teams in the annual Envirothon competition at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. During the competition, student teams participate in various events to test their knowledge of ecosystems, topography, natural resource management and ecology. Scholarships are awarded to the top performers in the weeklong competition and recognition is awarded to the top schools. For more information, visit <http://envirothon.org/>