DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

September 2021 Issue Number: 116

What's Inside?

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LDEQ encourages proper separation of trash, chemicals and debris after storms

Hurricane Ida made landfall in southeast Louisiana, near Port Fourchon, as a Category 4 hurricane at 11:55 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 29 - the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Ida brought maximum sustained winds of 150 mph, making it one of the most powerful hurricanes to strike the Gulf Coast in decades. The resulting destruction and catastrophic damage are widespread, and many Louisianans will be recovering for months to come.

As a result of the storm, LDEQ's Office of Environmental Compliance is working in full force with the support of the Office of Environmental Services. Ongoing air monitoring tasks are being conducted, as well as Waste Water Treatment Plant monitoring. LDEQ liaisons are contacting impacted parishes to provide assistance, and teams are performing facility damage assessments and monitoring emergency debris sites. The work has been ongoing and will be for quite some time.

The widespread wind damage generated tons of debris to be appropriately addressed. As a result, these efforts require increased resources from LDEQ and coordinated assessment oversight coverage from staff in all of the department's regional offices. Regional offices are no strangers to receiving help from each other and lending a hand when they can. LDEQ is currently working to shift personnel to support each regional office to ensure that LDEQ's environmental protection responsibilities continue uninterrupted.

In addition to the usual inspections of wastewater treatment plants, facilities and landfills, emergency debris sites are added to the environmental protection oversight mission when a major storm or hurricane impacts the state. Through an Emergency Order and Declaration, pre-approved emergency debris sites are activated to handle the overflow of debris. Designated landfills will also be allowed to accept construction and demolition debris. Inspectors from LDEQ's Office of Environmental Services support the Office of Environmental Compliance to schedule inspection rotations of those debris sites to ensure that each one is accounted for and in compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

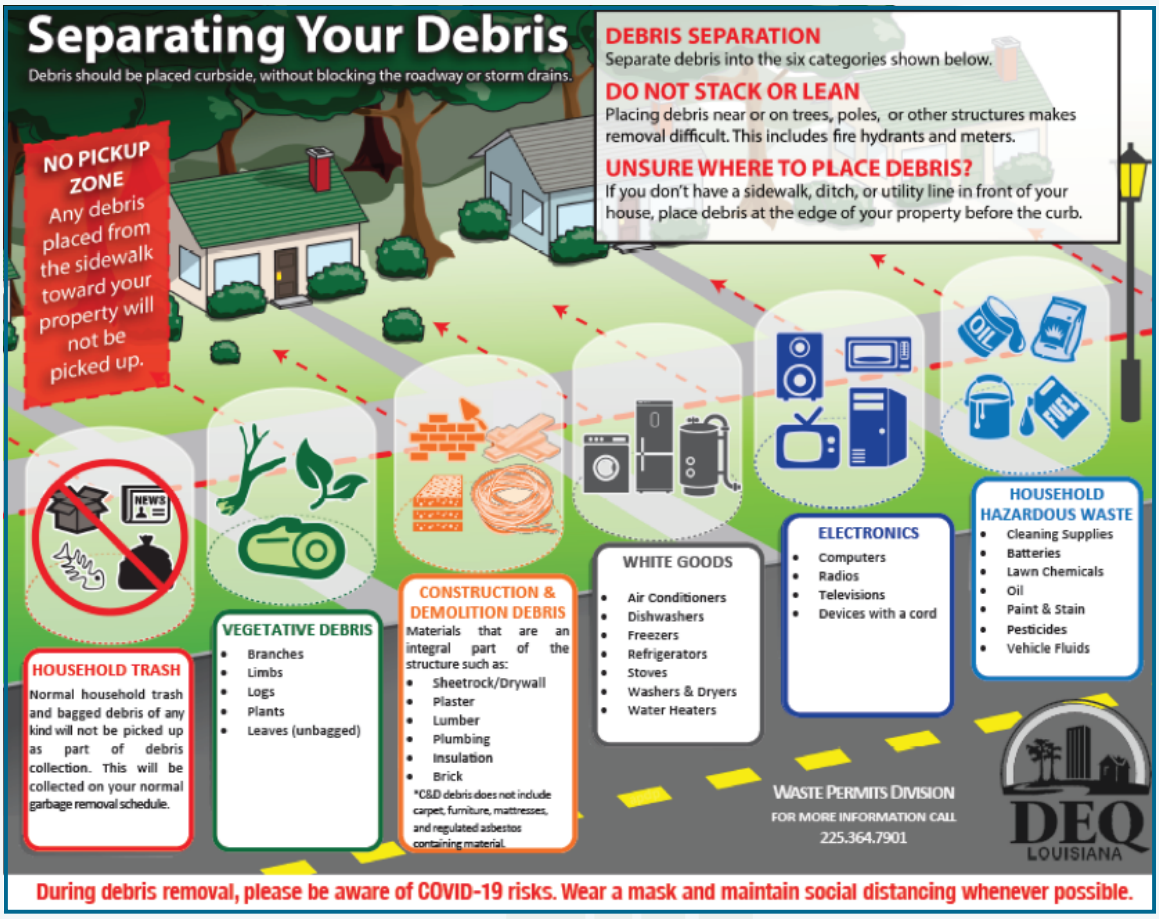
In the aftermath of such a destructive storm, the debris removal process will last for many months. As residents continue to recover, the LDEQ encourages them to be mindful of the proper separation and disposal of debris. Additionally, please be aware of COVID-19 risks. Remember to wear a mask and maintain social distancing whenever possible during debris removal work.

Debris removal operations generally occur in two phases: (1) initial debris clearance activities necessary to eliminate life and safety threats; and (2) debris removal activities (the initial pickup will be vegetative debris).

Continued on page 2

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

September 2021 Issue Number: 116



During the removal efforts, contractors will make multiple passes in the coming weeks. There are several reasons why debris is not removed during the first few passes. These include: debris that is mixed and unknown, debris that has visible utility lines, bagged debris, stumps (separate removal effort), or the debris is ineligible. Ineligible debris includes: debris related to reconstruction efforts, debris from undeveloped properties, debris from a contracted demolition, restoration or construction effort, non-storm related debris, or debris from commercial sites.

What can residents do?

Residents should place debris as close to the roadside as possible without placing it in the roadway, ditches or in front of drains and/or catch basins. Additionally, please do not place debris on or near fire hydrants. It is extremely important that residents separate debris by type to help expedite the pick-up process. Vegetative debris, such as tree limbs, should be separated from other construction and demolition debris. White goods, such as refrigerators and freezers, should also be emptied out and secured shut before being placed roadside separately from other debris piles. Debris removal contractors will not collect bagged household garbage. These items should be placed in a residential garbage can and placed roadside on your normal garbage collection day.

Please note, state contractors cannot come onto private property to collect debris.

Continued on page 3

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2021 Issue Number: 116

"Even though we know these are trying times for everyone, the extra effort to do the debris separation at the curb goes a long way toward aiding the cleanup solution," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said.

During the aftermath of a flood, tropical storm or hurricane, carefully sort any trash, household chemicals, appliances/white goods and debris into separate, distinct piles and place them curbside for proper disposal.

Separate your waste into the following categories:

- Household trash: Normal household trash and bagged debris of any kind will not be picked up as part of debris collection. This will be collected on your normal garbage removal schedule.
- Vegetative debris: Includes branches and limbs, logs, plants and leaves.
- Construction and Demolition debris: Materials that are an integral part of the structure such as Sheetrock/drywall, plaster, lumber, plumbing, insulation or brick.
- White goods: Air conditioners, dishwashers, freezers, refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers, water heaters.
- Electronics: Computers, radios, televisions, devices with a cord, etc.
- Household Hazardous Waste: Cleaning supplies, batteries, lawn chemicals, oil, paint and stain, pesticides, vehicle fluids.

Since household chemicals can become hazardous in storm-damaged homes and businesses, please ensure you seal, secure and properly dispose of those items, so that they do not create a health and environmental hazard.

If possible, label all containers clearly before placing them out for disposal. Ensure that all food and liquids are removed from refrigerators and freezers before moving those appliances to the curb.

Ineligible Debris Types (These items will not be removed by Louisiana DOTD):

- Any debris originating from restoration/construction activities such as new roofs, new siding, etc.
- Any debris that originates from any undeveloped properties such as pastures, agricultural fields, timber land, etc.
- Any debris that is being generated from a contracted demolition, restoration, and construction work.
- Any non-storm or disaster-related debris.
- Any debris originating from commercial sites including the following: Businesses, Gas stations, Shopping centers, Strip malls, Mobile home parks, Apartments, Hotels/Motels, Industrial & Manufacturing Facilities.

LDEQ would also like to remind residents that any open burning of household waste (in the form of solids, liquids and gases) and solid waste (including discarded chemicals) is ILLEGAL IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA – regardless of what parish in which it occurs and whether or not it's conducted on private property. There are no exceptions.

For more information on debris management and re-entry after a storm or flood, please view the disaster debris management page ***https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management***.

Check out LDEQ's YouTube videos for tips on debris separation and open burning:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oA5TN-tIKGU
www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yunEs3aYGY

https://ladotd-state-highway-reporting-ds.hub.arcgis.com
Visit ***https://hurricanerecovery.la.gov*** for more Hurricane Ida updates.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

September 2021 Issue Number: 116

Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown

There is an elephant in the room right now. Its name is Ida. You can't begin a conversation about what LDEQ is doing without talking about how we have responded to that monster storm.

Ida came ashore with sustained winds of 150 mph but, unofficially, some places saw gusts of more than 170 mph. It was one of the strongest storms ever to hit Louisiana. It had power and deadly aim. Ida tracked right up the Industrial Corridor, destroying electricity infrastructure, ripping off roofs, knocking down trees, bringing storm surges and dropping flooding rains. Every place from New Orleans to Houma to Baton Rouge was affected. Many LDEQ employees had damage to their own homes. State agencies were shut down for a few days as we all tried to cope with no electricity, no air conditioning, scarce groceries and impassible roads. Blue tarps appeared on roofs across Southeast Louisiana. Gas stations ran out of gas. The sound of generators filled neighborhoods across the region.

In the past, storms like Katrina did their worst damage with storm surge. Ida had a storm surge, but it was the wind that was the issue in most places. That wind took out all sorts of infrastructure. Plants lost their power. Most had generator power to keep processes going, but that wasn't enough to sustain production. They lit their flares as a safety measure to ensure that no emissions of a harmful level threatened the public. Most of LDEQ's ambient air monitoring system in south Louisiana went down when the power went off. LDEQ called in EPA to assist with air monitoring and to fly their Aspect Air Monitoring plane over the area. Those efforts produced reassuring news – no elevated readings from the Aspect plane and only a few temporary spikes from the ground sampling.

As electricity began to be restored to the hard-hit areas, LDEQ's monitors began to return to service. We now have only one monitor out of service for loss of electricity at LaPlace. EPA is still sampling in areas where increased flaring has been observed. LDEQ personnel never left the bridge. Despite their own concerns, they stayed at work to handle reports of spills and flaring and all sorts of storm-related incidents.

I am very proud of our responders in the regional offices, in Emergency Response and those working with the Incident Command Group. This whole agency responded well. Good job. We are now moving out of the response phase into investigation and enforcement. We are overseeing a massive removal of storm debris across south Louisiana and assisting local governments with their debris disposal issues. We are by no means back to normal, but we are headed in the right direction.

A couple of things stand out about Ida: we were still in the middle of the Covid-19 epidemic and had to maintain social distancing and mask protocols. That complicated things. And another thing – this storm did less environmental damage than many strong storms of the past like Katrina. We didn't have a big oil spill like the Murphy Oil event or a big fire like the Biolab incident during Laura.

We're going to look at what this storm did, take some time to examine things, and then we will use that information to develop some recommendations for resiliency planning and response efficiency. We'll sort something good out of the bad and use it for the next event. We all know there will be one.

One last thing. You all stay safe out there. Storm debris can hide threats. Be careful. Watch out for your coworkers. Stay safe.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2021 Issue Number: 116

Pollution prevention – Everyone can help

What is pollution prevention and how can everyone be a part of improving the environment? Pollution prevention is any practice that reduces, eliminates or prevents pollution at its source. Reducing the amount of pollution produced means less waste to control, treat or dispose of in landfills. It means preventing pollution before it is created, and this is preferable to trying to manage, treat or dispose of it after the fact. Preventing pollution reduces and eliminates damage to our environment and the burgeoning costs of cleanup. It has also been called source reduction.

Pollution prevention reduces financial costs (waste management and cleanup), environmental costs (health problems and environmental damage) and protects the environment by conserving and protecting natural resources.

Congress passed the Pollution Prevention (P2) Act in 1990 to recognize how source reduction or pollution protection provides significant opportunities for industry to reduce or prevent pollution at the source.

Some examples of pollution prevention in industry include equipment or technology modifications, reformulation or redesign of products, substituting less toxic raw materials, improved work practices, maintenance, worker training and better inventory control.

Why should an industry or organization incorporate pollution prevention into its operational process?

- Cost Savings & increased profits
- Increased efficiency
- Reduced regulatory exposure, risk and long-term liability
- Improved worker safety
- Reduced energy & water use
- Reduced waste production & disposal costs

While the P2 Act is designed to help U.S. businesses transform the way they think about manufacturing products and processes and how to reduce costs by minimizing waste, there are many steps the public can take to do the same. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administers the Pollution Prevention Program, and more information can be found by visiting ***www.epa.gov/p2week***.

This year's P2 week was Sept. 20-26.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has a program that encourages and rewards pollution prevention in both industry and the private sector called the Environmental Leadership Program.

The Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) was established in 1995 as a voluntary cooperative effort between the LDEQ and various Louisiana industries. It was fully operational by 1997 to promote pollution prevention and other efforts in the pursuit of environmental excellence and leadership.

The ELP is a voluntary partnership with businesses, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, federal entities, schools and universities and community organizations designed to promote a cleaner and better environment for Louisiana.

Continued on page 6

ELP members recognize and promote pollution prevention, waste reduction, community outreach and other efforts that go above and beyond regulatory requirements. ELP membership signifies a commitment to support the ELP core principles. The ELP Awards Program recognizes outstanding activities and projects undertaken by the membership that demonstrate environmental leadership and the pursuit of a cleaner, safer environment.

Project Categories are:

- Pollution Prevention (P2) (Project and Program)
- Community Environmental Outreach (CEO) (Project and Program)
- Environmental Management Systems
- Environmental Ordinances in the Pollution Prevention and Community Environmental Outreach

For more information on how to participate in ELP, go to ***www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/the-louisiana-environmental-leadership-program***.

In addition to industry and business efforts and programs, there are many opportunities to apply pollution prevention activities and principles in our daily lives. We can be conscious of pollution prevention in our homes, gardens and vehicles. We can make pollution prevention choices every day in order to protect the environment, save money and conserve natural resources. At home, we can find greener products designed with the environment in mind, make our homes more energy-efficient, reduce the amount of garbage we generate, conserve water and generally making our homes more sustainable.

Below are some resources that can be helpful:

The ***EPA Greener Products website*** is designed to help you navigate the complex world of greener products. It allows you to search for EPA programs related to greener products and links to additional information from other sources.

Do's and Don'ts of Pest Control

ENERGY STAR features energy-efficient choices that can save families about one-third on their home energy bills without sacrificing style or comfort.

Calculate your household greenhouse gas emissions

Reduce, reuse and recycling products and materials helps to protect the environment. Here are some suggestions on how to accomplish these reductions:

Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste
Learn about practical steps you can take to reduce the amount and toxicity of your garbage.

In the yard:

Water-smart Landscape Design Tips helps to reduce water usage by planting drought-tolerant plants and grasses for landscaping and reduce grass-covered areas.

Water-Efficient Landscaping: Preventing Pollution & Using Resources Wisely (PDF). Conserve water by mulching and by using a soaker hose or drip system. Install a drip irrigation water system for valuable plants.

Continued on page 7

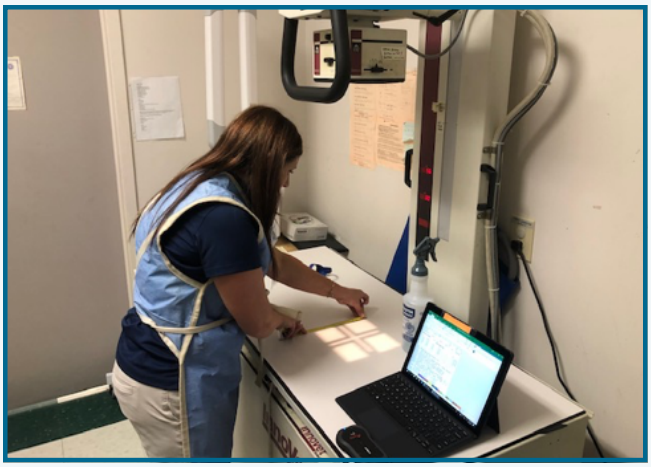
DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2021 Issue Number: 116

For more information on how you can prevent pollution, save resources and improve the environment go to ***www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/pollution-prevention***.

For information on litter prevention, go to ***www.keeplouisianabeautiful.com***.

If you would like to recycle glass, go to ***www.glasshalffullnola.org*** in New Orleans or ***www.backyardsapphire.com*** in Lafayette.

Inspecting radiation-emitting devices part of LDEQ's environmental oversight



Wearing a lead vest for radiation safety purposes, LDEQ Environmental Scientist Sarah Trahan takes measurements of the x-ray device as she tests the functionality of an x-ray machine at a veterinary clinic in Lafayette Parish.

The dental X-ray, mammogram or CT scan that you may receive during the course of a medical or dental visit is conducted by radiation-emitting machines that are frequently inspected by LDEQ.

LDEQ has environmental scientists across the state who are certified to conduct inspections of these devices. The team conducts radiation inspections within their respective multi-parish jurisdiction. Visits are unannounced and include medical centers, doctor's offices, clinics, dental offices, veterinary offices and any industrial location in the state that uses any type of X-ray machine. Each location will be inspected every two to five years, depending on the type of inspection.

The goal is to ensure that the devices meet environmental safety and health regulations and that the imaging reports are accurate according to the device's operational standards.

Inspections always begin with a thorough review of the location's prior X-ray inspections, field interview forms and other associated paperwork. Subsequently, during the on-site inspection, the documentation maintained at the site will be checked to ensure that all record-keeping is up to date and accurate.

For inspections of devices that perform mammograms, the inspector must have a specific certification known as MQSA before undertaking such an inspection. In order to maintain that certification, LDEQ inspectors must conduct at least 12 mammography inspections a year. Additionally, LDEQ inspectors and any radiology technicians actively working with the units must have 15 hours or more of continuing education in radiation devices and safety within the last three years.

Once a year, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the federal agency responsible for regulating mammography inspections, will conduct an audit. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulates radioactive material and audits LDEQ's inspections and licensing. The LDEQ Emergency and Radiological Services Division's (ERSD) Radiation Section recently passed one of these NRC audits with flying colors. The NRC performed a comprehensive Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review of the Radiation Section between November 2020 and January 2021. The review compared the program to standard performance indicators and found that LDEQ's Radiation Program met or exceeded those performance standards.

Continued on page 8

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2021 Issue Number: 116

The LDEQ inspector will also look at the location's quality control reports, the number of exams conducted, and a check to verify that the imaging reports are accurate and that the machines are up to state and federal codes.

By regulation, each radiation-emitting device must have a certificate posted on a wall or available on file for review. The certificate must denote that the device meets the regulatory guidelines. With regard to Computed Tomography (CT) scan units, a "radiation caution" advisory, or similar type of warning sign, must be clearly posted outside the examination room.

Trahan checks the calibration on a veterinary dental x-ray machine to ensure that the settings fall within state regulations.

Testing the devices is the main goal of the inspection, as proper operation must be verified. This is typically done through the use of a small instrument called a Piranha RTI (Radiation to Information) meter that is exposed during the course of the X-ray test. "The Piranha is placed on the X-ray platform, in lieu of a body part, and at least four X-ray images are captured," explained Sarah Trahan, an environmental scientist based at LDEQ's Acadiana Regional Office. The technical data from those images is fed into the inspector's laptop where the data is auto-filled into the form. Proper calibration of the machine can then be determined, with a 10% window of accuracy being allowed according to state regulations. "Any percentage above or below that window is deemed an area of concern that is citable by LDEQ," Trahan noted. The X-ray device must be properly calibrated, and proper shielding of the operator should be present.

X-ray machines must have a tape measurer installed that measures the Source-to-Image distance, which is the distance from the lens to the platform. The inspector will double-check this with their own tape measurer as a verification. Calibration records are checked for each X-ray device in the facility, and technique factors (which show the patient's size relative to the adequate adjustment needed on the device in order to pull an accurate image) must be clearly shown. This is critical, as it's important that an image is reflective of a specific patient's body type against the X-ray device's calibration, as all body types and sizes vary.

With regard to medical and dental X-ray devices, facilities have 30 days to correct any issues addressed on an inspection, and they must provide a response to LDEQ noting the corrective action. Failure to comply with the regulations can ultimately bring an enforcement action, but LDEQ works with facilities to get the issue resolved before an enforcement action is initiated.

Digital radiography units are tested for functionality through source-to-image measurements to ensure that proper photographic ratios are set. For verification purposes, the technician will take a few sample X-rays to see if the device is capturing accurate, clear images. A key point is to make sure that dental and medical offices are abiding by the "ALARA" concept, which is an acronym for "As Low as Reasonably Achievable." This means that the administered radiation dose to the patient is the lowest possible amount needed in order to produce an accurate image.

As with other inspections conducted by LDEQ, a Field Interview Form will be completed by the inspector at the conclusion of the inspection. The form will be signed by the facility representative, and a copy will be kept by the facility while the original will be filed into the official public record, or the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS).

For additional information, please visit ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/resources/category/radiation-informational-resources***.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2021 Issue Number: 116

LDEQ's Enviroschool to host webinar: LDEQ's New Vision 2021– An Evolving Approach to the TMDL Program

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) Enviroschool will host a webinar on the New Vision 2021: An Evolving Approach to the TMDL Program. This session will provide an update on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) related activities planned under LDEQ's New Vision approach.

A long-term vision for assessment, restoration, and protection under the CWA 303(d) Program, Vision allows states to identify and prioritize watersheds. The primary goals of New Vision include prioritization, assessment, protection, alternatives, engagement, and integration. New Vision will guide the realization of our clean water goals in a manner that recognizes lessons learned and addresses new challenges with innovative solutions.

When: 10 a.m. Thursday, October 14
Online: Live Webinar Only

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ENVIROSCHOOL

Please register by emailing ***enviroschool@la.gov***.

There is a "pollution budget" set for every body of water - from rivers and lakes to the bayou that runs behind your home. A pollution budget is the amount of contamination that a waterbody can assimilate (or blend in) while still maintaining the water quality criteria for the parameters of concern specific to that water body.

Each waterbody will have a point source loading component (i.e., discharge from a permitted sewerage treatment facility), a nonpoint source loading component (i.e., individual home septic tanks), and a margin of safety (applied percentage factor for error). All of these factors combined will equal a specific waterbody's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

A TMDL can be developed for any parameter (i.e., dissolved oxygen, fecal bacteria, etc.) and can be expressed in a variety of ways. Additionally, TMDLs establish water quality-based permit limits for point source loads and the reduction percentages, if any, that are required for both point and nonpoint source loads.

The CWA 303(d) program requires TMDLs for each waterbody, and the Code of Federal Regulations governs them.

The CWA 303(d) Program allows for implementation efforts that restore and protect the nation's aquatic resources. Through this program, the nation's waters are assessed, restoration and protection objectives are prioritized, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and alternative approaches are implemented to achieve water quality goals. The achievement of these goals is only made possible through the collaboration between LDEQ, federal agencies, the regulated community stakeholders and the public.

The original LDEQ program, referred to as the TMDL program, was established by the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) in the 1970s. At that time, it documented that states must assess all waterbodies and prioritize impaired waterbodies for TMDL development. The Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection Program, also referred to as the New Vision program, has since been implemented under the CWA 303(d) Program.

The primary goals of the New Vision Program include prioritization, assessment, protection, alternatives, engagement and integration to achieve water quality goals. LDEQ hopes the program will guide the realization of our clean water goals in a

Continued on page 10

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2021 Issue Number: 116

manner that recognizes lessons learned from the past two decades of CWA 303(d) Program implementation while addressing new challenges with innovative solutions.

The Enviroschool program at LDEQ is the environmental education outreach arm of the agency and provides training for communities, businesses and other organizations on a number of regulatory topics. The program aims to inform attendees about the environmental regulatory process and to maintain and improve environmental compliance.

The workshops are free and open to the public. If you are interested, please feel free to register for any of our workshops. For more information, go to ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroschool*** or email Enviroschool at ***Enviroschool@la.gov***.

LSU strives to promote sustainability on and off campus

According to LSU, the mission of their campus sustainability program is to enable the university to become more efficient and environmentally responsible in all of its activities and operations while educating students, faculty, staff and visitors about ways in which they can incorporate sustainable living and recycling into their daily lives. This is done through the promotion of sustainable practices on and off campus.

"The program's goals are to decrease energy usage in campus buildings, promoting alternative fuels and transportation modes and increasing the rate of recycling while incorporating sustainability and green alternatives in building design," said Sarah Temple, assistant director for LSU's Campus Sustainability in the Office of Facility Services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, as masks and gloves began adding to the trash across campus, Campus Sustainability began looking at reducing the PPE, or Personal Protective Equipment, waste. To accomplish this, they partnered with TerraCycle, a private recycling business based in New Jersey that runs a volunteer-based recycling platform that collects consumer waste to reuse into new products. As of July 2021, there are four PPE recycling boxes on campus where anyone may properly dispose of used masks and gloves. Periodically, those contents are submitted to TerraCycle, who then recycles that waste. "We have sent them more than 15 full large boxes of used PPE to the recycler," Temple said.

But PPE waste is just one component of LSU's recycling program, as the campus is very active in gathering commingled recycling.

The PPE recycling program has been a success, and LSU's Campus Sustainability office continues to seek new ways in which sustainability practices can be implemented. The office has been

Continued on page 11

During the COVID-19 pandemic, LSU partnered with TerraCycle to collect PPE throughout the campus to reduce litter while promoting recycling.

LSU's PPE Recycling Program collects boxes of used masks and gloves for submission to TerraCycle.

working with a broader committee to identify short and long-term goals related to sustainability at the university in the areas of procurement, food, energy efficiency, communication, landfill diversion and recycling, lake cleanup events, transportation, forests and grounds and green building.

A recent successful venture is the black soldier fly food composting program, which LDEQ covered in its January 2021 newsletter. “Our sponsorship of the black soldier fly composting program involves post-consumer food waste being collected from campus dining halls,” Temple noted. “We also send pre-consumer food waste to farms in Louisiana to be used as animal feed. We have composted more than 150 tons of food since the program began in 2019.”

Campus Committee on Sustainability’s webpage to learn more: ***www.lsu.edu/sustainability/recycling/index.php.***

LSU’s recycling program is broken down as follows:

- Plastic (#1-7, which are bottles, jugs, containers, etc.), cardboard, mixed paper, aluminum/steel/tin cans, glass bottles and jars, and used or rechargeable batteries can be placed in any green recycling dumpster, blue indoor bin, or outdoor recycling bin.
- Lead-acid batteries should be picked up by the Environmental Health & Safety Office. Toner and ink cartridges can be recycled at University Stores or at the Campus Recycling Office.
- Vegetative debris and loose wood pieces may be brought to the Landscape Services roll-off lot and placed in the 30-yard roll-off container designated for the appropriate size of the vegetative debris. The roll-offs are separated into a larger piece of debris (large branches, stumps, and logs) and smaller vegetative waste (leaves, grass, tiny branches), all of which gets reused as mulch. Wood pallets can be picked up by the Campus Recycling Office.
- Concrete and scrap metal may be brought to the Landscape Services roll-off lot and placed in its respective 30-yard roll-off container. Scrap metal must be free of any fuel or oil.
- Used fluorescent light bulbs, motor oil and hazardous waste must be serviced by the campus Office of Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) at ***www.lsu.edu/ehs/index.php***.
- Electronic waste is recycled through LSU’s partnership with the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC). Once every semester, an electronic waste recycling collection event is held for students, faculty and staff wishing to recycle electronics. Electronic waste collected includes cell phones, computers, monitors, keyboards and servers. Used electronics can also be given to campus Property Management for future recycling/reuse. Collection events are posted on the campus’ social media pages.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2021 Issue Number: 116

Keep Louisiana Beautiful State Conference is Oct. 13 and 14

The Keep Louisiana Beautiful annual state conference and Everyday Hero Awards Banquet will take place Oct. 13 and 14 at the Hilton Capitol Center in Baton Rouge.

Those interested in a greener, cleaner, more beautiful Louisiana are invited to attend.

This year's conference will focus on collaboration with an emphasis on the benefits of strategic partnerships relating to all aspects of waste reduction and sustainability. We are all better together.

From the very recently released litter study results from Keep America Beautiful to panel discussions covering community gardens, Love the Boot initiatives, glass recycling, community recycling and storm water management, this year's conference has relevant information to positively impact all localities. Grab the full agenda here.

KLB is committed to conducting a successful, productive and safe conference. We will work closely with the Hilton Capitol Center to ensure best practices and state COVID-19 mandates are followed. You can expect smaller sessions in larger rooms (in classroom-style settings), hand sanitizers and masks.

To register, go to ***www.keeplouisiana.org***. KLB hopes to see you there.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2021 Issue Number: 116

Resources available for Small Business Assistance concerns

In light of recent natural disasters affecting Louisiana as well as the worldwide COVID-19 health pandemic, the LDEQ Small Business Assistance (SBA) program is receiving numerous calls regarding small business assistance opportunities.

As a reminder, the Small Business Assistance Program's primary role is to provide environmental regulatory assistance and information to Louisiana small businesses and communities. The LDEQ SBA team has pulled together a list of appropriate resources to share in regard to pandemic or disaster assistance.

Small Business Assistance (Hurricane Ida)

Here are some helpful links that can provide assistance to small businesses impacted by Hurricane Ida:

- ***Small Business Administration will provide loans, help to residents and business owners affected by storm***
- ***Disaster Loan Assistance for Hurricane Ida from the U.S. Small Business Administration***
- ***www.disasterassistance.gov***
- ***Louisiana Hurricane Ida (4611-DR-LA)***
- ***Hurricane Ida Updates by the Louisiana Economic Development (LED)***

Small Business Assistance (COVID-19)

Here are some helpful links that can provide assistance to small businesses during COVID-19:

- ***Assistance for Small Businesses from the U.S. Department of the Treasury***
- ***Coronavirus Small Business Guide from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce***
- ***COVID-19 Relief Options from the U.S. Small Business Administration***
- ***COVID-19 Assistance by the Louisiana Economic Development (LED)***

Hotline: 833-457-0531; SBA Louisiana District Office (504) 589-6685; Email: ***LEDBiz@la.gov***

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
September 2021 Issue Number: 116

Brian Tusa named Administrator of LDEQ's Surveillance Division

Brian Tusa, Regional Office Manager for the Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans, has been named Administrator of LDEQ's Surveillance Division. He officially began work in his new job Monday, Sept. 27.

Tusa began his career at LDEQ in 1994 as an inspector in the Solid Waste Division before transitioning to the Air Division. He then took on a broader field of coverage as an inspector in multi-media (covering water, air, underground storage tanks and solid waste). After 12 years as an inspector, he was promoted to Supervisor, where he served for 10 years. In 2016, he was named Regional Office Manager for the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) in New Orleans.

Tusa has more than 27 years of experience with LDEQ and looks forward to his new position. As Administrator of the Surveillance Division, he will be responsible for overseeing multi-media environmental inspections across the agency's regional offices.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental management systems from LSU.

Brian Tusa

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September 2021 Issue Number: 116

Who's Who At LDEQ?

Caitlin Neal – Environmental Scientist, Solid Waste Permits Division, Office of Environmental Services

A New Roads native, Neal graduated from LSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in coastal and environmental science in December 2019. She recently joined the LDEQ Solid Waste Permits Division as an environmental scientist.

Neal is looking forward to learning as much as possible in this division.

Joshua Riggins – Engineer Intern, Water Planning, Office of Environmental Assessment

Riggins graduated from LSU in May 2021 with a degree in civil engineering. He was also in the LSU Tiger Band for all four undergrad years, including a national championship season.

"I'm glad for this opportunity, and I believe I'll be able to gain a lot of experience in this position."

Connor Gruntz – Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division, Office of Environmental Compliance

A native of Covington, Gruntz earned a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental sciences and a Master of Science degree in biology at Louisiana Tech University. He recently joined the LDEQ Surveillance Division as an environmental scientist.

Gruntz was an Eagle Scout and was a member of the Louisiana Tech Powerlifting Team. He enjoys camping, hiking and working on cars.

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Second Quarter Summaries

Second Quarter 2021 Enforcement Actions:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions

Second Quarter 2021 Settlement Agreements:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division

Second Quarter 2021 Air Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter

Second Quarter 2021} Water Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes

Second Quarter 2021 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits