



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



November 2021 Issue Number: 118

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LDEQ presents Employee Service Awards to 93 statewide employees

LDEQ always appreciates the hard work and dedication of all of its employees. However, once each year, there is a special recognition for years of service with the Employee Services Awards for five, ten, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 and beyond.

"I know the last two years were the most unique of your career," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. The agency head addressed a group of LDEQ employees gathered to receive service awards at the Galvez Building on Nov. 2, the first such ceremony in two years. "Covid has put us to the test," Brown said.

"We've all had to figure out how to work from home, how to wear masks and breathe," he said. "We had to ride elevators with two people (limits)," Brown said. "But we managed to get it done and provide service to the people of Louisiana," he said, adding that the agency as a whole had a 10 percent Covid-19 positivity rate and, tragically, lost one employee to the epidemic. Now, LDEQ is back, and many of the restrictions have been lifted or relaxed.



Recently retired Assistant Secretary for Environmental Services Elliott Vega receives his 30 year certificate from Dr. Chuck Carr Brown.

This year there were four separate ceremonies for the offices in person and the regional offices via Zoom.

"We wanted to make sure we had some type of ceremony this year," Brown said of the service awards. "I'm appreciative of your commitment and everything you do to make this agency a success," he told those participating in the ceremonies. "I wanted to tell you how much I appreciate your commitment. It's quite an achievement – it doesn't matter if it's five, 15 or 20 years."

Employees received a certificate and pin for years of service.

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2021 Service Award Recipients

(In recognition of milestone anniversaries that occurred July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

Office of Environmental Assessment

5 Years

Jaclyn Allen
Ngozi Asonye
Noelle Chalona
Robert Fuqua
Lacey Gotreaux
Karen Marchal
Jennifer Schatzle
Terriana Wilcox

10 Years

Hien Tran

15 Years

Lloyd Barnett
Darlene Williams

20 Years

Hugh Doran
Vennetta Hayes
Miriam Tullier
Jennifer Zimmer

25 Years

Kyle Blanchard
Michael Miller

30 Years

David Greenwood
John Jennings
Lisa Miller
Van Pentecost

Office of Environmental Compliance

5 Years

Jonathan Crain
Jamie Dismukes
Justin Hallmark
Matthew Henry
Adrienne Landry
Paula Lang
Brian Lash
Stacy Martinez
Nathan Prince
Angela Scheuer
Karley Vinson

10 Years

Kevin Borne
Mary Haley-Trim
Jerry Lang
Charles Lato
Tiffany White

15 Years

Christopher Calvitt
Amanda Daniel
Dawn Johnson
Cory Lormand
Anthony Olivier

20 Years

Carrick Boffy
Rebecca Brown
Sandy Coon
Brian Fontenot
Andrew Mills
Jason Roy
Davina Witte

25 Years

Otis Randle

30 Years

Keith Jordan
Phyllis Luke
Timothy O'Brien
Maureen Olinde

Office of Environmental Services

5 Years

Ereene Barry
Diana Francois
Kathleen Giles

10 Years

Lina Saale

15 Years

Daniel Cheatham
Stanley Hazard
Eugene Jarreau

20 Years

Mehdi Aarabi
Laura Ambeau
Paul Bergeron
Jeremy Franklin
Karen Jones
Corbet Mathis
Tien Nguyen
Tabitha Tourere

25 Years

Deanna Bloodworth
Melanie Connor
Sonja Loyd
Karla Vidrine

30 Years

Ernestina Cuadra
Gary Goay
Cheryl Nolan

Office of Management & Finance

5 Years

Meagan Arnold
Tyler Bajo
Rosalind McGregor

10 Years

Sierra Trabeau

15 Years

Elizabeth Thornhill

20 Years

Gloria Robertson

25 Years

Donia Gillespie
Helen Hebert

30 Years

Susan Landry

Office of the Secretary

5 Years

Elisabeth Moore

10 Years

Courtney Burdette
Andrea Jones

20 Years

Debra Jackson-Johnson
Deidra Johnson

25 Years

Roger Ward

30 Years

Elliott Vega

35 Years

Jackie Marve



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown

Congress has passed President Biden's Infrastructure Bill. The measure offers funding for a sweeping list of needs like roads, bridges, water systems, sewage facilities, broadband internet, climate change mitigation, remediation of pollution, electric vehicle charging stations, rail lines and much, much more. It boasts \$1.2 trillion worth of funding muscle.

I am very excited about this opportunity to tackle some of Louisiana's longstanding needs. LDEQ will play an integral part in many of these efforts. Right now, there is an in-house focus group at the agency working on analyzing which projects we will be involved with and what we need to do to be prepared. We want to have a blueprint for our long-term goals even though we don't have many details about the routing of the financing yet.

Thanksgiving has come and gone now. I hope you all had a splendid holiday and made some good memories to keep. Thanksgiving is the first of the big fall/winter holidays, and now the buildup to Christmas is in full swing.

It's the most wonderful time of year, as the song says, but keep in mind that it's the most wonderful time of the year for scammers, identity thieves and porch pirates too. With more of our shopping activity moving online, be cautious with your personal information and watch out for packages left on your doorstep or porch. The FBI has a website about holiday scams with tips to stay safe at www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/holiday-scams.

There are lots of fake websites and other schemes out there in cyberspace. Take a second to consider what you are doing before you provide someone with your personal information. Don't push that button if you have any doubts. The last thing the FBI advises is, "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is." Good advice.

Stay safe and make your holiday a happy one. No matter your personal beliefs or what holiday you observe, I hope you will get to spend some time with your family and friends this season.

Covid has not gone away. Things are better now. We can unmask in safe situations, but there are still many people getting Covid-19, hundreds each day. There are multiple safe and effective vaccines available, and vaccination remains the best way to protect others and yourself from catching this nasty and frequently lethal virus.

We have more than 50 percent of the population vaccinated in some parishes, including East Baton Rouge and Orleans, but the percentages in other parishes are still lagging below that mark. Nationally, the percentage of the population who have been vaccinated is around 75 percent. I have been vaccinated. I respect whatever decision other people make about it. At the same time, I urge you to get vaccinated if you haven't already received the shot.

Remember, things are more hectic during the holidays. There are more accidents, more traffic, more crowding. Stay safe and watch out for your co-workers. We are all in this together.



“Tis the season to reduce, reuse and recycle” Holiday Recycling tips from LDEQ

Every season is the season to recycle. However, like the rest of the nation, Louisiana produces more waste in December than any other month. Holiday celebrations produce waste, and planning ahead is the key to reducing the amount of waste that makes it to landfills. You can “Be the Solution” if you recycle, reuse and reduce. If you reuse, you can even generate useful items and have a more waste-free holiday season. Planning in advance can make a big difference.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) offers some useful tips on planning and being environmentally friendly. When you prepare for the coming holidays, think green: reduce, reuse and recycle. Wrapping gifts can be a challenge, and opening them produces waste. Be creative! Wrap a gift in a gift -- such as a scarf, bandana, dishtowel or cloth shopping bag. The comic pages from the Sunday newspaper and most colorful flyers make interesting wrapping paper and are recyclable. Last year’s Christmas and holiday cards can be used in craft projects and as ornaments.

Out with the old, so you have room for the new! Before the holidays is a perfect time to clean out your clutter and unused items. If you have outgrown toys and clothing, consider donating them to charitable organizations. Discarded electronics (laptops, ipads and tablets, copiers, fax machines, printers and flat-screen monitors) may be donated to a local nonprofit agency or the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC). CACRC provides computers to schools, families and nonprofits. Visit the council’s website at www.cacrc.com for details.

When decorating your home, there are ways to consider reducing the impact on the environment. An artificial tree doesn’t have to be discarded, and a live tree can be replanted. If you purchase a cut tree, remember that it cannot be flocked or have tinsel or decorations on it if it is to be recycled. Around the state, various parishes and cities will collect cut trees in early January. You can find information about seasonal pickups and recycling at the East Baton Rouge Parish Recycling website, www.brla.gov/890/Recycling-Office. For pick up and disposal of a tree, check with your local government for information.

LED Christmas lights last longer, save energy and money, and they can be recycled. Go to www.holidayleds.com/christmas-light-recycling-program.aspx for recycling instructions.

Recycling packaging materials such as cardboard and plastic foam peanuts really helps. Cardboard can be put into a recycle bin or taken to a drop-off location. Foam peanuts and bubble wrap can be reused or taken to a retailer that reuses them.

Buy rechargeable batteries for toys, cameras and gadgets. When those batteries no longer hold a charge, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at 800-8-BATTERY (800-228-8379), or go to their website www.call2recycle.org for information on the nearest battery recycling drop off location.

Have a safe holiday season, and remember never to burn wrapping paper or Christmas trees in the fireplace. For more recycling ideas, go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/recycling or go to Republic’s holiday recycling tips at www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8KR5qWMhpU&feature=youtu.be.

Give your environment a present this holiday season and properly dispose of holiday waste. For more information on recycling resources, go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/AF8B39A4-B431-C713-0FDA24AB099554BA.



Anti-litter programs across the state highlight enforcement of litter laws

Modeling their efforts after St. Tammany Parish's successful implementation of what's known as "Litter Court," many cities, municipalities and parishes have made inroads into ramping up anti-litter programs of their own.

While getting a dedicated litter court off the ground is a difficult task, many cities and parishes in the state have undertaken some form of environmental adjudication that specifically addresses the problem of gross littering – where violators can be held legally responsible.

With support from 12,000 volunteers on average each year, Shreveport Green has launched an extensive anti-litter outreach effort and recently created a Litter Task Force. The group encourages recycling and hosts at least one citywide cleanup annually, plus an average of 75 neighborhood cleanups throughout the year. The group promotes increased education and outreach, including the placement of additional anti-littering signage along busy thoroughfares. Citizens are encouraged to make a reservation at the public works department for complimentary curbside litter pick-ups.

"We've worked with the city on litter and illegal dumpsite ordinances, and brought together Public Works, Code Enforcement, the Shreveport Police Department, and LDEQ to target illegal dumpsites," said Donna Curtis, Executive Director for Shreveport Green.

Since its inception, the group has pushed for litter enforcement, an effort which culminated in Shreveport's implementation of an Environmental Court in 2020. "We used the city of Monroe's litter court as a model," said Terrence Green, Shreveport's Director of Property Standards. The city's environmental court is held twice a month, and monthly caseloads have been around 50 to 65 cases. The city sends out courtesy letters on demolition jobs and to junked properties that are in need of proper cleanups. "It is a big initiative, where many departments have allocated funding in their budgets in support," Green said. The issuance of fines and property liens has been effective as deterrents to littering in the city.

Another deterrent has been the installation of cameras in areas where illegal dumping is commonplace. Shreveport Police Department's environmental crimes unit installed cameras, which trigger an audio warning when movement is detected. The warning announces that an offender's picture has been taken and will be used for prosecution. Anyone arrested for illegal dumping will appear before the environmental court.

Ouachita Parish's Environmental Court system, starting with holding environmental hearings in 2004, was a model for Monroe and Shreveport's programs. The parish's anti-litter program has extended into housing as well; turning around blighted properties where litter is a key component. According to Ouachita Parish Sheriff Deputy Wayne Heckford, the parish has seen 12,872 litter-oriented cases from 2004 through 2020. Of those, 9,429 cases have been resolved through compliance, such as cleanups and fines. "This indicates a 74% compliance rate since 2004, and we handle about 805 litter-oriented cases a year," Heckford noted.



Litter was subsequently removed from this ditch in East Baton Rouge Parish during a sweep of the area. Rainfall and wind often transport discarded plastic, aluminum and Styrofoam into our waterways, where they can harm the soil and impact drinking water sources.

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As blighted and abandoned property is a major issue, a parish ordinance in 2004 put in place the authority for the sheriff to enforce the litter ordinance under state law. Louisiana Revised Statute 13:2575 allows for environmental hearings to be held after action has been taken to initiate cleanups. The parish can place liens on properties via the tax assessor, and any paid fines are rolled into the litter enforcement program. Fines have amounted to about \$100,000 a year for cleanups, and an annual \$30,000 in funding from the Police Jury is spent primarily to pay contractors to conduct cleanups on private property.

Calcasieu Parish has been promoting anti-litter and illegal dumping activity as they continue to work closely with the Ward 3 and Ward 4 Marshal offices, sheriff's office and District Attorney on enforcement. The parish has pushed for increased citizen involvement, and anyone can report litter violations either to the hotline (337) 493-LITR or the website at www.pickitupcalcasieu.com. The parish has responded by sending letters to violators and placed door notices regarding the litter problem, touting that everyone can do their part to make a difference. "We're seeing a huge shift in people wanting to enforce litter problems," said Wyvette Pryor-Cousin, Litter Manager with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. "Litter now has its own focus, and citizens want it addressed."

In Jefferson Parish, there is an enforcement mechanism through Chapter 16 of the parish's Code of Ordinances pertaining to trash, illegal dumping activity and related issues such as how to containerize garbage and proper storage of solid waste. Enforcement is managed through the parish's Department of Environmental Affairs. Two solid waste inspectors are tasked with addressing code violations – i.e., litter, improper containerization of trash, dumpsters overflowing with debris, parking lot litter and storm drain obstructions.

Infractions are processed through the parish's Bureau of Administrative Adjudication, and alleged offenders are issued a notice of violation with a deadline in which to address the issue. Adjudicated hearings are held to resolve compliance issues. "Our first priority is educating residents and getting everyone into compliance," said Katherine Costanza, Assistant Director of Jefferson Parish's Department of Environmental Affairs.

Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) is working with law enforcement on cleanup programs. "We currently have a Lafayette Sheriff inmate crew that picks up litter and dumping five days a week," explained Bess Foret, Environmental Quality Manager with LCG. "We're also working to streamline the way offenders sign up for community service hours, getting more litter pickup out of those delegated hours as well."

Other litter initiatives are also underway in Lafayette. "There is a new system called "No Threaux," which allows certain stakeholders to report littered areas, which will then be added to a database for volunteer cleanup groups. If a volunteer group can't get to a particular area, the sheriff will send a litter crew to clean it up," said Brianne Hendricks, Director for Parish Proud in Lafayette. "We are hoping to expand these efforts through researching ways to promote litter enforcement and possibly streamlining legislation."

Everyone can take an active role in fighting litter through a few simple steps:

- Teach your children to respect their community and avoid littering at a young age
- Keep an eye out for illegal dumping and littering
- Learn about your city or parish waste tire collection
- Be an active participant in recycling and visit your local recycling location
- Reduce, reuse and repurpose items in lieu of adding them to landfills
- Report any littering activity to your parish and to the 1-888-LITRBUG hotline
- Participate in a cleanup day in your city or parish
- Encourage creating a litter abatement program at your school or place of work
- Volunteer for Keep Louisiana Beautiful events by signing up at www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org.

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LCG has also installed a litter trap that catches tons of litter in a major coulee, keeping litter out of the drainage system before it enters the Vermilion River. "This is an important way that Lafayette is able to tackle litter in the parish," Foret noted. "All of these various efforts and partnerships should reduce litter in Lafayette," Hendricks said.

Tangipahoa Parish has fully funded its code enforcement officers in their litter enforcement endeavors. Litter violations are processed through the justice of the peace, and the parish council holds weekly code enforcement meetings on litter abatement issues. "The parish works closely with LDEQ on illegal tire dumping and litter enforcement and recently investigated an illegal tire dumping case where more than 100 tires were dumped into a waterway," noted Collins Simoneaux, Code Enforcement Administrator for Tangipahoa Parish. "We continue to develop partnerships to tackle the problem of littering, and use Rick Moore's (of St. Tammany Parish) litter abatement document as a reference guide as we work toward enforcing the statute."

Regardless of location, there is a statewide litter reporting hotline maintained by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The hotline, 1-888-LITRBUG (1-888-548-7284), is an avenue by which citizens may report any instance of littering they may witness. Citizens should provide as much detailed information as possible when contacting the hotline.

To view the litter abatement handbook, go to <https://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/app/doc/view.aspx?doc=10054868&ob=yes&child=yes>.

LDEQ's EnviroSchool to host webinar: LDEQ's Air Emissions Inventory and Other Air Emissions Data

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) EnviroSchool will host a webinar on LDEQ's Air Emissions Inventory and Other Air Emissions Data. The webinar will provide an introduction to emissions inventories, a detailed look at Louisiana's emissions inventory data collection tool and other air emissions data resources.

When: 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 9

Online: Live Webinar Only



Please register by emailing enviroschool@la.gov.

The Air Quality Assessment and Planning Division is responsible for developing comprehensive criteria and toxic pollutant emissions inventories for the state of Louisiana. Emissions inventory data is used for a variety of planning, regulatory and reporting purposes both locally and nationally.

This division works closely with the regulated community, trade groups and other state and federal agencies to develop and maintain high quality and current emissions data. Regulated point sources of criteria air pollutants must submit an inventory of annual criteria pollutant emissions pursuant to the requirements of LAC 33:III.919. Detailed annual emissions data are maintained on point sources going back to 1984, with the number of point sources changing each year.

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 www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroschool or email EnviroSchool at enviroschool@la.gov.



Recycle your old electronic devices at the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council

As the holidays approach, many people will be unwrapping gifts of the electronic variety – the latest iPhones, iPads, tablets, desktop and laptop computers. Older computers and digital devices will be cast aside as upgrades render them obsolete, while older gaming consoles will be switched out for newer ones. Don't discard those old devices! If you can't trade or sell them, consider donating them to the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC) in Baton Rouge, where they are sure to find a new life in another home or business.

While most electronics are simply tossed into the trash, this creates an environmental burden on our landfills – particularly batteries and other toxic materials. CACRC's mission is to reduce that burden by reconfiguring those electronics so that they will ultimately see a second life in a new home or business.

According to the EPA, in 2009, U.S. consumers and businesses discarded 2.37 million tons of televisions, computers, cellphones and hard copy peripherals (including printers, scanners and fax machines). Only about 25 percent of those electronics were collected for recycling, with the remainder disposed of primarily in landfills, where the precious metals cannot be recovered.

EPA estimated that the generation of consumer electronics goods in 2018 was 2.7 million tons, with a recycling rate of those goods at 38.5 percent. While this marks a slight uptick in e-recycling numbers, CACRC is doing its part to sustain and promote that trend. "We are pleased to see that people are becoming more aware of the importance of electronics recycling," said Shannon Fish Fertitta, executive director of the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council.



CACRC Executive Director Shannon Fish Fertitta explains the e-recycling and refurbishment process.

In 2019, CACRC participated in 13 electronic waste collection events that brought in 47,240 pounds of electronic waste. Household Hazardous Waste events were postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In 2020, CACRC saved 1,203,229 pounds (601.6 tons) of electronic waste from landfills.

During 2021 (through July 1), CACRC has saved 724,658 pounds (362 tons) of electronic waste from landfills.

Since 1997, the CACRC has been a non-profit organization committed to reducing electronic waste through the refitting and refurbishment of recycled computers and electronics. Those components are provided to schools, veterans, senior citizens, low-income families, non-profit organizations and individuals who have been impacted by natural disasters. They are also sold to the public in their storefront and online, where those sales go back into CACRC's operations.

As an EPA-registered handler of universal waste, the CACRC also remains the only non-profit R2 RIOS (Recycling Industry Operating Standard) certified recycler in Louisiana. R2 is an EPA-recognized responsible recycling practices standard certification. The technical guidelines set forth in R2 are designed to promote and assess responsible practices (including worker health and safety) for recyclers.

The R2 model also outlines the proper downstream management of electronic materials. Under those principles, the CACRC must closely monitor all of its

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recycled material as it moves from its warehouse and all points downstream to its ultimate destination. Under R2, the CACRC can send components only to other R2-certified recyclers, and about 30-35% can be refurbished. The remaining 70-75% is shipped to R2-certified scrap recyclers, and income generated through those sales goes back into CACRC's operations.

"The process is down to a science, as under the R2 model, every item is traced downstream to its end of life. Everything coming in and going out of our facility is tracked very carefully," Fertitta said.

The CACRC accepts several different types of electronic devices for refurbishment and reuse, where they are ultimately provided to those in need or re-sold to the public. Donated computer hard drives will be completely cleared of all sensitive data or shredded, and devices that cannot be repaired are used for parts to refurbish other devices. Certificates of Destruction can be provided to donors upon request. Tax vouchers for donations are also available upon request.

Anyone may dropoff a device at the CACRC's 35,000 square foot warehouse at 1400 Main St. in Baton Rouge, Tuesday through Friday. New Orleans-area residents may drop off items at the recycling center on 2829 Elysian Fields in New Orleans. Items donated there will be brought to the CACRC warehouse in Baton Rouge.

CACRC also makes the process easy by conducting commercial pickups of used or unwanted electronics five days a week, statewide and into parts of Mississippi. Donors can simply call or email recycle@cacrc.com to schedule a pickup.

The CACRC also sells items to the general public through walk-ins, phone and email orders and online orders made through their eBay store. Monetary donations are accepted electronically through PayPal.

For more information, you may visit the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council's website at www.cacrc.com or call 225-379-3577. To schedule a pickup or inquire about CACRC's services, send an email to recycle@cacrc.com.

Items Accepted

- iPads/Tablets
- Desktops & Computer Hardware
- Computer Accessories (keyboards, mice, speakers, etc.)
- Laptops
- Telephones, Telephone systems
- Security systems
- Cell phones/Bag phones
- Cable Boxes
- Networking Equipment
- Circuit boards (of any type)
- Processors
- LCD Monitors Only
- Telephone and computer cables
- Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS)
- Printers and fax machines (\$10 - \$25 fee applies)
- DVD Movies & Video games
- Gaming Consoles (Playstation, Xbox, Wii, etc.)

Items Not Accepted

- Household batteries (AA, AAA, etc.)
- Appliances / Furniture
- Light Bulbs / Fluorescent Bulbs of ANY kind
- Copiers
- Televisions
- CRTs
- Media (tapes, CDs, floppy disc etc.)
- DVD/CD Players/VCRs
- MP3 Players
- Digital cameras & Digital video recorders (DVRs)/Video cameras
- Stereo Equipment
- Speakers
- Ballasts
- Toner and inkjet cartridges
- Portable Navigation & GPS Devices (Garmin, Magellan, Tom-Tom)



EPA Announces Baton Rouge Catholic High School Student Among 2021 President's Environmental Youth Awards Winners

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), announced that Steffek Taylor Rainey of Baton Rouge's Catholic High School is among the 2021 recipients of the President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA). Rainey was recognized for developing a reusable water bottle to reduce ocean-bound plastic waste – the Envi Bottle.

Rainey is a Baton Rouge native. He attended St. Thomas More Catholic School and then Catholic High School where he graduated in May. Upon graduation, he was awarded Man of the Year, Outstanding Graduate and was a nominee for Diocesan Student of the Year by Catholic High School. With accolades like those, it is no surprise that he was heavily involved in extracurricular activities while in high school.

He was a member of the Student Council, the National Honor Society, Student Ambassadors and was president of the Science Club where he began performing environmental experiments. He was a member of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC), where he proposed ideas for plastic reduction legislation modeled after other states to Louisiana legislators. He also had a discussion with the Governor's policy advisor. None of the ideas came to fruition, but his efforts marked a continued involvement in environmentally conscious activities.

Rainey has always been an advocate for reducing plastic pollution. The summer after his sophomore year, he invented the Envi Bottle. The idea came to him after observing someone in a Starbucks use a plastic bag, fork and straw, while carrying a metal water bottle. He recalls considering the conundrum that people will always carry their water bottle, but they do not bring reusable utensils because it is not convenient. As a result, his patent-pending design includes five reusable products inside one easy-to-use device.

Using Louisiana State University's Innovation Park, he researched and developed a reusable bottle that includes storage compartments to house reusable silverware and a straw as well as a foldable shopping bag. The bottle will be made of insulated stainless steel, the utensils and straw are made of food-grade stainless steel and the bag is nylon. You can reserve a bottle at a discounted price while it is still in the pre-manufacturing stage by visiting www.chooseenvi.com. Rainey is working to finalize funding and manufacturing, a task made much more difficult amidst all the supply chain issues businesses are currently experiencing. He hopes to officially launch the product sometime next year.

While Rainey is grateful to be a PEYA recipient, the launch of the product will represent more than a competition entry come to fruition. It will mark the culmination of a two-and-a-half year passion project. Rainey had already begun working on the Envi Bottle when he heard about the PEYA and decided to apply. "I am very grateful to be recognized by the U.S. EPA and the



Renderings of the Envi Bottle

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President for my efforts, and I look forward making the world a cleaner place with this product. I always like to say change will not happen overnight, but it has to start somewhere. I cannot single-handedly end plastic pollution, but if I can help just a few people begin to reduce their waste, we're taking a step in the right direction," said Rainey.

Rainey estimates that one person's switch to Envi Bottle could save nearly 55 lbs of plastic annually from entering the waste system and/or environment without ever sacrificing comfort or convenience. "I truly believe that the Envi Bottle will help countless people change their habits and reduce their plastic waste, hopefully making a dent in the plastic pollution crisis one day," said Rainey.

"Steffek's project shows how vision, ingenuity and persistence can help find solutions for the biggest environmental challenges we're facing," said Acting Regional Administrator David Gray. "Reducing plastic waste is vital to protecting ocean water quality and marine life, and we appreciate Steffek's work toward achieving this goal. Congratulations to Steffek on his President's Environmental Youth Award."

The PEYA was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1970 and recognizes outstanding community-level environmental projects by K-12 youth that promote awareness of natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. Each year, PEYA honors a variety of local projects developed by students, school classes, summer camp attendees and youth organizations to promote engagement in environmental stewardship and protection.

Rainey is currently attending the University of San Diego and is planning to major in International Business. He says there is a strong possibility that a minor in Innovation and Environmental Studies may also be in his future. In fact, he most recently competed in USD's Fowler Business Concept Challenge and won 2nd place competing against 76 other contestants, including upperclassmen and graduate students. LDEQ is sure he will leave his mark and congratulates him on his President's Environmental Youth Award.

To read about the winning projects in detail, visit www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award-peya-winners and www.epa.gov/education/presidential-innovation-award-environmental-educators.

Also, EPA is now accepting nominations for the prestigious President's Student and Teacher Environmental Awards for 2022. Application deadline is February 18. Learn more at www.epa.gov/education or apply at www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award.



EDMS updates and a survey to provide feedback

Preferences Panel

The EDMS Redesign Project officially concluded with the successful July rollout of the new interface; however, progress has not stopped there. We have continued to take in user feedback and make updates to refine the new system. The most notable new feature that has been added post-launch is the preferences panel.

Available for anyone with an EDMS account, the preferences panel provides a centralized location for users to alter their default settings in EDMS, including the landing page, the number of results per page, results display, column selection, and more.

Using the mouse, users can access the preferences panel by hovering over their username at the top right of the screen and clicking “Preferences.” Changes are applied after clicking “Save” and refreshing the page. If you have any questions or comments, send an email to edmsquestions@la.gov.

The screenshot shows the 'Preferences' panel in the EDMS system. At the top right, there are two buttons: 'Reset to Default' and 'Save'. The panel is divided into two columns. The left column contains four dropdown menus: 'Default Landing Page' (set to 'Advanced Search'), 'AI Lookup Results Per Page' (set to '10'), 'Document Search Results Per Page' (set to '50'), and 'Submittal Search Results Per Page' (set to '50'). The right column contains three checkboxes: 'Always include Email Notification for Submittals' (checked), 'Add Header on Download/Print' (unchecked), and 'Display Item View' (unchecked). Below these are two settings for column selection: 'Document Search Results: Column Selection' and 'AI Search Results: Column Selection', each with a small icon representing a table grid.

EDMS Post-Launch Survey

In May, we announced that there would be a survey to capture user feedback on the modern EDMS. Now that everyone has had a few months to experience the new interface, we would like your feedback!

As demonstrated with the preferences update, we are excited to actively improve this system to ensure that LDEQ’s EDMS continues to effectively meet the needs of its users. Let us know what you think so far and tell us what you would like to see in the future by taking the quick, 3-minute survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZQTQDFC.

Please participate!



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



November 2021 Issue Number: 118

Last call for registration for the 2022 Louisiana Envirothon!

Don't miss out! LDEQ has proudly helped host the Louisiana Envirothon for more than 10 years and hopes you will join us in making the 2022 competition the best yet. This year's competition is Feb. 17, 2022, at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. However, the team registration deadline is Dec. 3, 2021.

The Louisiana Envirothon is an environmental problem-solving competition for students in grades 6-12. Teams train and compete by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management with the hope of going on to represent Louisiana at the North American Envirothon Competition. The competition focuses on five natural resource areas: soils and land use, aquatic resources, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issue. The current environmental issue for 2022 is Waste to Resources.

You can get involved by organizing a team of five students from the same school or that are associated with an organized group (i.e. FFA, 4-H, science clubs). Test preparation is on your own. However, Louisiana Envirothon team members and advisors have direct access to the station masters for questions as well as access to online study guides. To supplement the study guides, you may also visit the Louisiana Envirothon Training Hub on Facebook for training videos.



Students learn how to apply resource management and ecology to complex environmental issues with hands-on environmental experiences.

Get Involved!

LEAD: You can get involved with Louisiana Envirothon by organizing a team of five students from the same school or associated with an organized group (i.e. FFA, 4-H, science clubs). The team registration fee is \$50. Download your registration packet now! The registration deadline is Dec. 3, 2022.

ADVOCATE: Share information! Please share this information with any teachers or groups you think may be interested! Follow us on Facebook and share the opportunity via social media. Envirothon is an exceptional opportunity for our youth to get hands-on experience in environmental problem-solving. Help us spread the word!

SPONSOR: Become a Sponsor! Envirothon would not be possible without our wonderful sponsors. Sponsors receive recognition on competition posters, promotional items, the LDEQ website, social media and through press releases. Details are listed on the sponsorship flyer found at www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon.

Louisiana Envirothon is a success because of an ongoing partnership with academia leadership willing to provide students with the opportunity to experience environmentally oriented activities, enabling them to become environmentally aware citizens. We hope you will consider leading a team or sharing this with someone who will. Visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon to register now.



Little Lambs Outreach helps children for Christmas



Presents for the children in the Little Lambs InnerFaith Prison Ministry Program

Every year, for more than 15 years, a Christmas Tree with children's Christmas wishes appears in the lobby of the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge. These wishes are from local children whose parents are incarcerated. The tree and the wishes are part of the Little Lambs InnerFaith Prison Ministry Outreach Christmas Project. LDEQ employees and others pick a child and make their wishes come true. This year the response was overwhelming.

Little Lambs is an outreach of InnerFaith Prison Ministry, a ministry to the families and children of the incarcerated. The children enrolled in this program are not spread throughout the country. They live right here in our community.

Little Lambs is a year-round program helping to meet the many needs of these precious children for their birthdays, back to school and Christmas. The goal and ultimate purpose of Little Lambs is to help a child regain their self-worth and to let them know that they are valued and loved. It is a step to try to restore the family unit that has

been destroyed by crime. Statistics say that 69% of all inmates' children will end up in the prison system. Little Lambs goal and desire is to bring healing, forgiveness, restoration and prayerfully change this statistic through their outreach.

If you are interested in more information, contact Kristie Monson at 337-288-1744 or email innerfaithpm@gmail.com.

LDEQ On The Move



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, center, stands next to Dr. Robyn Merrick, Southern University vice president for external affairs and university relations. Brown spoke to a group of students public policy students (standing in back) Saturday, Nov. 20. Brown's topic was "The Issue of Proximity."

Environmental policy is one subject area of the course which is jointly taught by Merrick and Dr. Kristie Roberts-Lewis.



Who's Who At LDEQ?



Stanley Hazard – Environmental Scientist Staff, Waste Permits Division, Office of Environmental Services

Hazard is a Michigan native who moved to Louisiana after an 18-year career in the U.S. Army, with tours of duty in Kentucky, Colorado, Georgia, Texas, Germany and Southwest Asia. He has a bachelor's degree in physical geography from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. His career at LDEQ began in 2007 after working for LSU for 18 months.

He has 14 years of experience in regulation development, solid waste permit application review and financial assurance review. He was recently promoted to environmental scientist staff in the Waste Permits Division.

Heather Harrison – Environmental Scientist, Waste Permits Division, Office of Environmental Services

A Baton Rouge native, Harrison earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at LSU in 2014. She recently joined the LDEQ Waste Permits Division in Hazardous Waste as an environmental scientist after working in consulting for five years.

Harrison enjoys spending time with family and friends, food, reading and her dog, Rocket – a Jack Russell terrier. She has recently begun renovating a 1917 farmhouse and is enjoying learning through the process.



Chance Back – Environmental Scientist, Small Business Section, Northwest Regional Office

Back is a native of Shreveport who received his bachelor's in environmental science from Louisiana Tech in 2020. Upon graduating, he moved to Colorado, where he spent a year as a Wastewater Operator/Lab Technician. Back returned to Shreveport to join the LDEQ Small Business section and to be closer to family.

Back enjoys spending time with his family and friends, hiking, traveling and eating good southern food.



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

Third Quarter 2021 Enforcement Actions:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions>

Third Quarter 2021 Settlement Agreements:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division>

Third Quarter 2021 Air Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter>

Third Quarter 2021 Water Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes>

Third Quarter 2021 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits>

