DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

February 2022 Issue Number: 121

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LDEQ to provide $168,076 in funding in support of Waste Tire Pilot Programs

More than $168,000 in funding taken from overdue fees in the waste tire program for the last fiscal year will be going back into the program. The funding will go toward preventing waste tire dumping and, in support of projects within various municipalities across the state, to help pay for cleanups associated with tire dumping.

Waste tire dumping along bayous destroys the stream's aesthetic and causes a direct impact to aviary and aquatic species who rely on the water body for sustenance.

Under Louisiana Revised Statute 30:2418(O)(5), LDEQ collects late fees from tire processors associated with the waste tire program. Under the Department's current directive, those fees will be used to assist municipalities in combating waste tire problems. To assist in this endeavor, LDEQ is initiating a pilot program to provide $168,078.16 toward approved programs.

LDEQ reached out to different regions within the state requesting proposals for receipt of this funding. Submissions were received from the cities of Monroe, Shreveport, New Orleans and East Baton Rouge Parish.

With the pot split four ways among those four jurisdictions, each recipient will receive $42,019.54 for use in addressing their respective illegal waste tire disposal issues. "Each participant will provide invoices to us outlining their costs, and funding will be released upon review and approval," said Dutch Donlon, LDEQ Environmental Scientist Staff.

The pilot program will end in June 2022. After that the receiving jurisdictions may submit a request to LDEQ to receive additional funding, if available, that will continue to be dedicated toward waste tire programs.

"Illegal disposal of waste tires continues to be one of the top environmental issues in Louisiana," said LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown. "This pilot program is just a small step on our part to help local governments find ways to address the problem."

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Shreveport's proposal involves increasing their platforms for informing and educating the public about waste tires through various outreach mechanisms. This will include placement of billboards and production of public service announcements to be published via radio and social media outlets. The city will also hold community meetings to increase public participation in cleanups and to engage citizens on informing the city's environmental crime unit about illegal dumping. The city also plans to purchase an additional motion camera to assist in monitoring illegal dumpsites.

Tires dumped behind businesses are a common problem throughout the state.

The city of Monroe's proposal will entail construction of a building that will house approximately 3,000 waste tires currently held at the city's waste tire disposal site. The building will shelter and cover the tires and prevent water accumulation, which fosters mosquito and rodent sustainability, thereby transmitting illness.

East Baton Rouge Parish and the city of Baton Rouge propose to use the funding toward augmenting the mayor's Operation Fresh Start Program, which will reduce the number of orphan tires (which are mis-matched, abandoned tires) in the parish. The program entails the dedication of maintenance crews and equipment to remove and properly dispose of waste tires from areas in the parish, while using the QAlert system to map out reports of orphan tires that will be targeted for cleanup. The funding will also pay for maintenance crew overtime, disposal costs and program management.

New Orleans' proposal will include purchase of additional monitoring technology to identify individuals who are conducting illegal dumping and funding of overtime for Sanitation Department employees who remove waste tires from rights of way.

Illegal dumping across the state often includes waste tires. Many illegal dumpers of waste tires do not realize that there are free, pro-environmental alternatives to illegally discarding used tires. In many Louisiana cities and municipalities, local governments have an arrangement to pick up waste tires for disposal on a regular basis, curbside and free of charge. Many areas also have centralized waste tire disposal locations that accept waste tires from the public.

Still, scofflaws continue to choose the illegal route by dumping tires onto roadsides, bayous and woodlands instead of choosing the legal, environmentally-sound option. It takes little effort to properly and legally deliver waste tires to waste tire collection centers.

Should you become aware of illegal dumping of tires or any other debris, please report the incident to LDEQ's Single Point of Contact line at (225) 219-3640, or file a report online at ***www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/file-a-complaint-report-an-incident***. Please provide as much detail as possible in order that LDEQ response personnel can adequately investigate the matter.

Together, we can all be watchdogs for the protection of our health and environment.

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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

I am watching a five-member student team at the Current Issue station.

On Thursday, Feb. 17, LDEQ and its partners were able to hold the first Envirothon in two years. The event, an environmental and natural resource conservation problem-solving competition for students in grades 6-12, had to be canceled because of Covid-19 last year. For a little while, things didn't look so good for the event this time around either. We've been in a prolonged drought in Louisiana, and it's so dry there are outdoor burn bans across the state. But on the date of the revived Envirothon, rain was in the forecast, and not just rain but thunderstorms and wind.

Fortunately, we have some good friends in high places. The Capitol Park Museum, part of the Louisiana State Museum system, agreed to host the event, so we moved it there, right across the street from LDEQ Headquarters. There is a large covered event area attached to the front of the Capitol Park Museum. It was perfect.

The Envirothon features teams of five students who visit a series of stations which exhibit materials like animal skins, tree branches and leaves, soil cores and more. The teams have to answer questions about the aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife and current environmental issues. The displays were set up in the museum's event area, and this year's teams – 12 in all – worked a circuit around the stations.

Students in the competition receive scores on their responses. The goal of the Envirothon is to help the student develop critical thinking skills to create inventive solutions to the complex local and global environment and natural resource issues facing our world today. Looking at those bright young faces, I have no doubt that the talent is there to do just that.

The Louisiana Envirothon is a part of the North American Envirothon, which includes 50 states, Canadian Provinces and China. It is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. The winning high school team meeting minimum score requirements may represent Louisiana in the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon competition where students can win scholarships, cash and prizes. It's a win-win for students and for LDEQ. A large majority of the people who work at LDEQ have science degrees, the most educated work force in the state. These young Envirothon participants may someday be working right here.

The Communications section is doing a story in this newsletter about the event and will have a complete list of winners and photos galore.

I have decided to briefly discuss one of our agency core values each month. This being Black History Month, it's appropriate to start with diversity. Our core value: "We will sustain our commitment to diversity."

I have repeatedly said that diversity makes us all stronger. It's important that no group be barred from the up staircase. I want to make sure everyone is treated fairly at LDEQ and gets a fair chance at promotions, raises and training. Hard work, talent and intelligence are traits that are not related to race, gender or age. Those are traits that our workforce has to have to meet the ever escalating environmental challenges we face. I am proud of the people who work here now. Most of them exemplify all of those things. I want more of those kind of employees, and I want them to stay at LDEQ so that when the rest of us have all left the agency, the mission will still be in good hands.

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Air Quality Information is available in real time and by notification

The air quality in Louisiana affects all of us, and it is important to know about it and how it may affect you and your activities. If you are interested in current data and air quality information, you can go the Louisiana Department of Enviromental Quality (LDEQ) website at ***airquality.deq.louisiana.gov***. There, you can see current air quality, air quality forecast, regional 8-hour ozone data, hourly regional ozone data, and air quality at LDEQ's monitoring sites. You can also register to receive immediate notifications of air quality for ozone, PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) and SO2. You can also follow monitoring on LDEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAMLs) when they are deployed.

To sign up for air quality forecasts so you know what air quality is predicted to be, you can subscribe to EnviroFlash. EnviroFlash is an automated notification system, designed by EPA and available free of charge. It is a convenient way for the public to receive air quality information, air quality alerts and alerts on how air quality is affected by events such as fires and dust. EnviroFlash is a partnership between EPA and LDEQ. It is easy to receive this information via email or on your phone.

You can subscribe to this free service and receive information daily or on-demand at different air quality levels. Once you subscribe, you will receive current information about air quality. When the ozone level is high or if the particle pollution is expected to be high, EnviroFlash sends an Air Quality Awareness advisory with air quality information and actions you can take.

The system is also set up to send you notifications of unusual events, such as fires, that might affect your air quality. To stay better informed about ozone, particulate pollution and other air quality matters, LDEQ encourages the public to sign up for the EnviroFlash system in their area. The interactive EPA website, ***www.airnow.gov***, provides more regional information as well as local.

EnviroFlash
Your Environmental News Flash

You can sign up for forecast emails by visiting ***www.enviroflash.info***, selecting "LA" from the state menu, then select the forecast area, or you can visit any of the direct links listed below:

http://batonrougearea.enviroflash.info

http://neworleansarea.enviroflash.info

http://shreveportarea.enviroflash.info

http://alexandriaarea.enviroflash.info

http://lakecharlesarea.enviroflash.info

http://monroearea.enviroflash.info

http://thibodauxarea.enviroflash.info

http://lafayettearea.enviroflash.info

Subscribing to EnviroFlash provides you with timely air quality information that you can use to plan your daily activities and protect your health. With EnviroFlash, you have complete control of your forecast subscription. Subscribing is fast, easy and free, and you decide which forecasts you get. You can change or discontinue your subscription at any time through the automated EnviroFlash web page.

Users may choose the level at which they want to be notified in regard to air quality:
GOOD – Green
MODERATE – Yellow
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS – Orange – An advisory is issued at this level
UNHEALTHY – Red
VERY UNHEALTHY – Purple

LDEQ provides the current data and the forecasts so that Louisiana citizens can be informed and better able to take individual action to help improve air quality and do their part to protect human health and the environment.

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Envirothon environmental competition resumes with eleven statewide teams

For the 16th year, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) partnered with other Louisiana organizations to host the Louisiana Envirothon, an environmental problem-solving competition, at the Capitol Park Museum. On Thursday, Feb. 17, eleven high school teams participated in the environmental competition that included testing in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, a current issue and an oral presentation. The 2022 current issue was Waste to Resources.

Envirothon teams consist of five students who answer questions about the subjects and present on the current issue.The Louisiana Envirothon is a part of the North American Envirothon, which includes 50 states, Canadian Provinces and China. It is North America's largest high school environmental education competition.

Winning teams received recognition, plaques, medals and cash prizes. Participating schools included Arthur F. Smith Middle Magnet School, Caddo Parish Magnet High School, Calvin High School, Captain Shreve High School, Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, Live Oak High School, North Caddo Magnet High School, and Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy.

Winners of the 2022 Louisiana Envirothon:

- First Place: Caddo Parish Magnet High School-The Hue Manatees (Ashini Modi, Alice Hale, Sarah Johnson, Justine Negron, Anika Alla)
- Second Place: Caddo Parish Magnet High School –The Green Team (Alston Zhang, Soren Cate, Mason Sater, Marshall O'Callaghan, Logan O'Callaghan)
- Third Place: Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy (Alex Kraus, Ava Johnson, Nathan Cao, Julia Lagrange, Allie Johnson

Highest Scores in Testing Areas:

- Caddo Parish Magnet High School-The Hue Manatees: (Ashini Modi, Alice Hale, Sarah Johnson, Justine Negron, Anika Alla) scored highest in Forestry, Current Issue, Orals, and Wildlife
- Calvin High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) (Kaylie Canerday, Kyleigh Blundell, Emma Canerday, Halee Roton, Karlee Abels) scored highest in Soils
- Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy (Alex Kraus, Ava Johnson, Nathan Cao, Julia Lagrange, Allie Johnson) scored highest in Aquatics

The Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts sponsored as a patron level sponsor. Louisiana Environmental Health Association sponsored at

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1st Place Winners:
Caddo Magnet High School – The Hue Manatees

2nd Place Winners:
Caddo Magnet High School – The Green Team

3rd Place Winners:
Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy

2022 Louisiana Envirothon participants

the supporter level. The Kolache Kitchen and Fox Pest Control both sponsored at the friend level. Learn more about sponsorship opportunities by visiting ***Envirothon Sponsorship Packet***.

Louisiana Envirothon partnered with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, LSU School of Plant, Environmental & Soil Sciences, LSU Superfund Basic Research Program, Shreveport Aquarium, and Southern University and A&M College – Urban Forestry Program to host the competition.

For more information on Envirothon, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon or follow Louisiana Envirothon on Facebook, ***www.facebook.com/Louisiana-Envirothon-143476735949***.

Make plans to participate in the Envirothon next year, an educational and fun time for all.

We can do it! Join the movement. Love the Boot Week is April 18 to 24

Litter is not a new problem for Louisiana, but it is an overwhelming one. It causes blight, damages wildlife and quality of life, has a negative impact on economic development and causes flooding due to storm drains clogged with litter and debris. Mardi Gras and the festivities surrounding it exacerbate the problem.

The good news is that we can all be part of the solution. Organize or participate in a litter cleanup or beautification event in your community during Love the Boot Week. This week is our state's week-long Earth Day initiative supported by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Keep Louisiana Beautiful and the state litter task force. Anyone can participate, either by volunteering, by organizing an event themselves or by taking the pledge to participate in Love the Boot Saturdays.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful encourages all interested groups to organize a cleanup or beautification event during Love the Boot week. Many tools and resources have been provided to support event planners with their coordination. Fill out the form, at the website below to officially register your organization's event with Keep Louisiana Beautiful. Keep Louisiana Beautiful will post all registered events on their website, however specific event details and contact information will only be published for those events that are open to receiving volunteers from the general public. You can register your event at ***https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/love-the-boot/organize-an-event***. To volunteer with a registered event, go to ***https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/love-the-boot/participants***.

Another way to be a part of cleaning up Louisiana is to pledge to participate in 4th Saturday cleanups. Governor John Bel Edwards, in partnership with the Lieutenant Governor's Office and Keep Louisiana Beautiful, has declared the fourth Saturday of every month in 2022 "Love the Boot. Don't Pollute Day." By completing a form, you are pledging to participate on a monthly basis and clean up your neighborhood, a park, a roadway, or another space in your community. You can take the pledge at ***https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/#ltb-map***. So jump on the Mardi Gras float and join the movement to make Louisiana the cleanest, brightest, most beautiful state in the union. We can do it!

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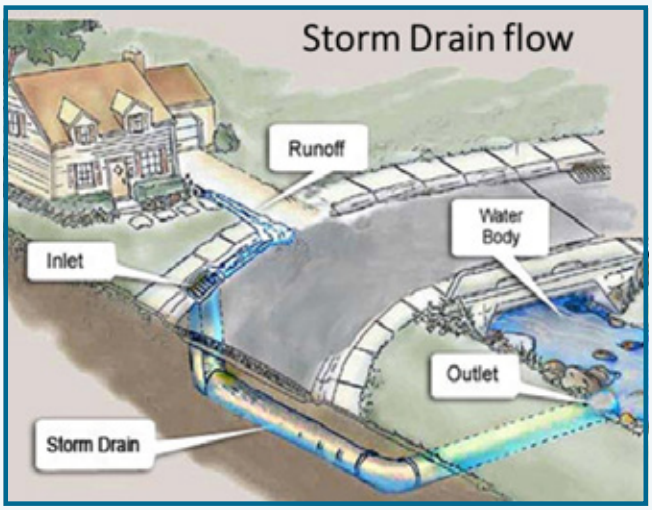
LDEQ produces video on the importance of keeping storm drains clear

It only takes a minute to check and clear your neighborhood storm drain.

Grass clippings, leaves, cigarette butts, Styrofoam food containers, aluminum cans, plastic cups and water bottles are all things that commonly enter storm drains. Many citizens don't realize that anything that enters storm drains enters our waterways and can cause backups that lead to flooding.

To spread the word about the importance of keeping storms drains debris-free, this month, LDEQ's Communications Section and Nonpoint Source group produced a video for the agency's YouTube channel on the topic.

Our storm drains are negatively impacted by those who may not understand what a storm drain's purpose entails – or where the waste and debris entering the drain ultimately goes.



Graphic courtesy of the city of Elk Grove, CA
Anything entering a storm drain will ultimately go into a waterbody, potentially damaging drinking water sources as well as aquatic and aviary habitats

Lawn maintenance workers commonly use rakes and leaf blowers to send grass clippings, pine needles and leaves into storm drains in lieu of using it for mulch or placing it into trash bags. Many people routinely dump liquids such as crawfish boil water and motor oil down storm drains. They don't understand that they are damaging the environment, and adversely impacting the living conditions of aquatic species and birdsand mammals that live in and use the waterway at the end of the line.

Discarded items from Mardi Gras parades also impact storm drain functionality.

A storm drain marker serves as a reminder to keep this drain debris-free, but it's up to everyone to check and clear their local drain to prevent flooding.

As Mardi Gras parades take place across the state, many beads, plastic cups and other "throws" will make their way onto city streets, adding further stress on sewer systems' ability to function. After the parade passes, consider gathering up plastic cups, beads, doubloons and other items for donation, re-sale or for use in art projects. Otherwise, be a good steward of your environment and discard unwanted throws into trash cans. Doing so will keep storm drains clear while reducing street litter.

While word-of-mouth is very important, citizens can take further action by placing markers on storm drains as a visual call to action. It is vital to inform the public that drains are direct conduits to our waterways, and the markers serve as a quick reminder to think twice before dumping or sweeping anything into your drain. Storm drain markers are funded through a program under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319.

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After getting approval from your local government, volunteers can request a set of free storm drain markers from LDEQ's Nonpoint Source staff and get to work immediately. Using an adhesive, the markers are affixed to storm drains as a reminder that rainwater is the only thing that should be entering drains. Litter not only pollutes those waters, it often clogs storm drains and causes flooding and the scattering of trash during high rain events.

Storm drain markers come in various designs.

Informing the public about smart, environmentally sound practices is a very important part of LDEQ's mission, but it's the word-of-mouth among neighbors who value those practices that can fill in those gaps. Tell your neighbors and local businesses about the importance of keeping storm drains clear, as clogged drains can negatively impact everyone in the community through street flooding.

For more information, please visit the following links:

LDEQ's latest YouTube video on keeping storm drains clear: ***www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5CmJqd-7lk***

Storm drains and storm drain marking: ***www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/storm-drain-marker-program***

LA Environmental Conference and Trade Fair being held in March

The Louisiana Solid Waste Association and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) are pleased to announce the upcoming LA Environmental Conference and Trade Fair scheduled March 16-18, 2022, at the Cajundome in Lafayette, LA.

We are excited to be able to meet in person and to see all of our attendees, exhibitors and speakers. We will continue with all the plans made in March, 2020. There will still be a golf tournament sponsored by K&L Wednesday afternoon, the reception Wednesday night co-sponsored by LSWA and Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson and, of course, our Thursday night vendor sponsored hospitality night. Thank all of you for your patience.

Please note that all registrations from 2020 have been transferred and any additional conference-related information can be found at the LSWA website at ***www.LSWA.us***.

If you want to register for the conference go to ***www.lwsa.us***.

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Clean TRIP Environmental Initiative expands at the Port of NOLA

The Port of NOLA is expanding its award winning air quality initiative, the Clean Truck Replacement Incentive Program (TRIP), which began in 2016. The port has applied for and received state and federal funds to leverage in replacing drayage trucks (with 2009 engine models and older) that service the port terminals in Jefferson, St. Bernard and Orleans Parishes.

In June of 2021, Clean TRIP was awarded special recognition for "Best Community Partnership" from Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuels Partnership. The port also received a Lighthouse Award of Excellence for Environmental Improvement and Stakeholder Involvement in 2021 from the American Association of Port Authorities for the Port Inner Harbor Economic Revitalization Plan.

A drayage truck, like the ones eligible for the cost-sharing program, is a truck that moves shipping containers and liquid bulk chemicals from the port to a point outside. Some trucks make short trips and will come back to the port and restock several times during the day.

The Clean TRIP Program has been responsible for the replacement of 79 older diesel cargo trucks with newer, cleaner running models. This translates to annual air quality reductions of 96% in small particulate matter (PM2.5), a pollutant that causes respiratory problems, and 90% reduction in nitrogen oxides (NOX), a precursor to ozone. These reductions improve the air quality and the health of citizens in the area, and together, the grant funding and truck driver contributions total a $6 million dollar investment in local air quality.

Last month, the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans voted unanimously to receive $346,180 from Louisiana's Department of Environmental Quality, bringing total federal and state support to approximately $3.21 million. This grant and the matching amounts from the truck drivers will fund the purchase of at least 10 new vehicles by September 30, 2022.

"Managing Clean TRIP has been rewarding, and I feel lucky being in this role with our fifth grant award to support the local trucking community. It is great to see local drivers getting new trucks, increasing their fuel efficiency and reliability," said Emily Federer, environmental services manager for the Port of NOLA "Not only does Clean TRIP improve our local air quality, it also benefits local businesses and families."

To be eligible for the cost sharing program, owners of drayage trucks with 2009 engine model years and older, need to replace those vehicles with trucks having 2015 (or newer) emissions compliant engines, in order to qualify. Other criteria include:

- Current trucks must have been owned for at least 24 months prior to replacement and have records for service to a drayage facility within Port of NOLA's jurisdiction for the previous 12 months.
- Clean TRIP provides 50% of the cost of a new truck, with a maximum award of Clean TRIP funds of $35,000 per truck. Qualifying truck owners may replace up to two trucks with this funding if they have never replaced a truck previously with Clean TRIP

Applications for Clean TRIP can be downloaded from ***http://cleantrip-portno.com*** or picked up from the Port Administration Building at 1350 Port of New Orleans Place, the Louisiana International Terminal Community Connection Office at 6201A East St. Bernard Highway in Violet, La. Those with Transportation Worker Identification Cards (TWIC) can also pick up applications at the Truckway Circle Building at 50 Nashville Ave., New Orleans, La. Interested truck owners my find more information at ***www.portnola.com/sustainable-development/cleantrip*** or contact 504-528-3538.

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Louisiana Clean Fuel announces winners of the Clean Fuel Leaders Awards

Every year, Louisiana Clean Fuels (LCF) seeks to honor those in our state who make significant progress in reducing transportation emissions. Due to COVID, this year, the ceremony and reception on Jan. 25 was private as LCF honored the recipients.

The winners of the 2021 Clean Fuel Awards are:

- 2021 Clean Fuel Leader Award Recipients
- Clean Fuel Champion – Waste Management
- Climate MVP – Republic Services
- Most Efficient Fleet – Republic Services
- Top Performing School District – East Baton Rouge Parish
- Top On-Road Idle Reduction Fleet – Amerigas
- Top Propane Fleet – UPS
- Top CNG Fleet – Waste Management
- Top EV Fleet – Sportran
- Fastest Growing EV Fleet – Capital Area Transit System

L to R: LCF Executive Director, Ann Vail, Waste Management Public Sectors Solutions, Donald Haines, Waste Management Municipal and Community Affairs Director, Tricia Farace and Stephanie Rolling, LCF.

LCF Executive Director Ann Vail presented the awards and announced the winners at the event. Amanda Shaw also performed at the awards ceremony which was held in the Annex at Kalurah Street Grill in Baton Rouge. LCF is proud to honor these outstanding organizations and to recognize the achievements of clean fuel stakeholders who have gone above and beyond in reaching their environmental and transportation goals.

Sharon Mann (L) receives the award for Republic Services from LCF's Ann Vail.

"This awards ceremony was well overdue. The fleets we honored reflected their activity in 2020. We kept the group small and intimate rather than postpone it once again," Vail said. "We are repeatedly honored and humbled by the achievements and dedication of our stakeholders to preserve our natural resources, reduce harmful emissions, and protect our nation's energy security through the use of domestically produced alternative fuels and advanced technologies."

LCF, a designated US Department of Energy Clean Cities Coalition, awards outstanding public and private fleets in the organization's territory each year. The awards recognize the exceptional achievements of Louisiana Clean Fuels stakeholders who work to reduce their transportation emissions through the use of alternative fuels, electric vehicles, idle reduction, and various other fuel-saving technologies and practices.

LCF is proud to honor these outstanding organizations and to recognize the achievements of clean fuel stakeholders who have gone above and beyond in reaching their environmental and transportation goals.

The next awards ceremony will be held in the fall of 2022 for 2021 fleet activities. For more information, please visit ***www.louisianacleanfuels.org***.

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EDMS survey team answers frequently asked questions post launch

Thank you everyone who participated in Records Management's EDMS post-launch survey. Our team is working hard to reflect on your feedback and incorporate it into our activities and developments. In the meantime, we wanted to answer a few frequently asked questions:

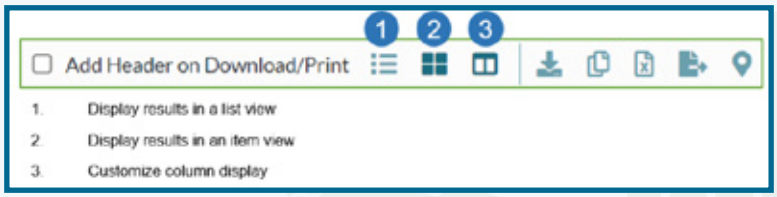
Q: How do I narrow my AI Lookup Search?
A: When using the AI Lookup name search in EDMS, you can use quotes ("") to retrieve an exact phrase and limit your search results. This functionality used to be the default behavior in the previous version of EDMS, but we altered it to allow for more flexible searching in the new EDMS.

For additional guidance and examples of how this feature works, you can request the AI Lookup Fact Sheet by reaching out to us at ***EDMSQuestions@la.gov***.

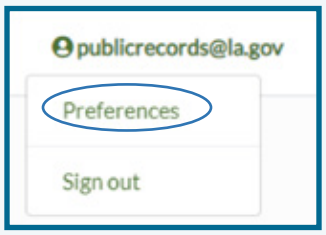
Q: Why are some AIs missing geolocation data?
A: In order to develop our AI proximity lookup tool, we utilized another internal database (RM Advantage) to collect the latitude and longitude data for current Agency Interest numbers. Unfortunately, not all AIs are associated with this metadata and therefore, some AIs could not be added to the proximity lookup tool.

We received some great feedback related to this feature that we are excited to explore in the future, so stay tuned.

Q: Can I change how my results page looks?
A: Absolutely! You can change the format of the results (between item and list views) and alter what columns are displayed (add, remove, or rearrange). Access these options in the menu bar at the top right of the results page or set them in your Preferences (see below).



-OR-



Note: DEQ users will automatically have access to the preferences feature with their user accounts. If you are a frequent public user of EDMS, creating a MyEDMS account and accessing the preferences panel will allow you to customize several facets of your user experience to suit your specific needs

Q: Why don't we have searchable documents?
A: Optical Character Recognition (OCR) can be a useful tool and is certainly something our team has considered utilizing for EDMS. However, applying OCR to past and future EDMS documents would greatly increase the size of each document and the speed at which documents are entered into the system. In order to maintain the response time and relevance of our searching system and results, we have thus far opted not to use it.

Nonetheless, this technology is something that is and will continue to be on ther radar, and we hope to find an effective means of incorporating it into our system in the future.

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Q: Why does the document viewer no longer have options to see more than 5 thumbnails at a time?
A: This change actually came before the launch of the new EDMS. We transitioned from our previous document viewer application to an updated one to provide a significantly faster response time when loading documents.

Now, the viewer loads only a few pages at a time, rather than trying to load the entire document. This makes for a faster, more responsive user experience; however, it does limit the number of thumbnails you can view at one time.

Q: Why does the document viewer sometimes get stuck when scrolling?
A: This has to do with your browser resolution. If you are encountering this issue, we recommend using the "Fit Height" or "Fit to Window" viewing options available in the top menu bar to scroll.

Still have more questions? Please let us know at ***EDMSquestions@la.gov*** or check out our help videos here: ***https://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/edmsv2/help/videos***.

LDEQ's 2022 campaign for the American Heart Association is underway

LDEQ's campaign for the American Heart Association is Feb. 14 – April 15. This year's fundraising activity is $20 Casual Dress for employees – everyday Feb. 14 through April 15. Employees may also make monetary donations. Checks should be payable to American Heart Association.

Employees and others may also want to join the 2022 Capital Area Health Walk on Saturday March 26. For details, click here: ***https://www2.heart.org/site/TR?fr_id=6391&pg=informational&type=fr_informational&sid=1020***

American Heart Association.
Heart Walk

American Heart Association Heart Walk
Check-in Opens: 8:30a.m. I Walk Begins: 9 a.m.

Downtown Baton Rouge I City Hall Plaza I Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Route Length: 1 and 3.1-Mile Route Options

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Who's Who At LDEQ?

Zoila Osteicoechea - Environmental Scientist Staff, Surveillance Division, Southeastern Regional Office

Osteicoechea attended Louisiana State University where she earned a degree in geology. She joined LDEQ in the 1990s and loves to eat, read and travel.

Diane Matthews - Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Surveillance Division, Office of Environmental Compliance, Capital Regional Office

Matthews is a native of Palmetto. She earned an Associate of Science degree from Louisiana State University at Eunice and a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry at Southern University in Baton Rouge. She began her career at LDEQ in 2001 as an Environmental Scientist in Surveillance. Matthews has over 15 years of experience within the department in various areas of inspections and enforcement. She was recently promoted to Environmental Scientist Supervisor in the Surveillance Division.

Matthews enjoys spending quality time with her husband and their two sons, cooking and relaxing on the beach.

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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

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

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

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

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

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