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## Environmental Leadership Awards presented at LDEQ

Being a good environmental steward and neighbor is the goal of the members of the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) at LDEQ. Members submit projects to be considered for Environmental Leadership Awards, and the projects are judged by panels consisting of business, industry, agency and other personnel. This year, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown presented nine awards to commend ELP members for their voluntary pollution prevention efforts and community environmental outreach initiatives that went above and beyond regulatory compliance to improve the environment.

LDEQ hosted the ELP awards at the LDEQ headquarters in the Galvez building in downtown Baton Rouge. Large and small businesses, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations received awards, while new ELP members were also recognized.

Award winners for 2022 are:

### Outstanding Achievement Award

*Compost NOW (New Orleans Waste)*

### Achievement Awards

*Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs*

*New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center*

*Tangipahoa Parish Government*

### Recognition Awards

*Alliance Compressors*

*Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council*

*Exxon Mobile Product Solutions*

*New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center*

*Port of New Orleans*

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The awarded projects reduced pollution and improved the environment:

- 180 tons of CO2 reduction annually
- Diverted 1,203,229 pounds (601.6 tons) of electronic waste from landfills

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- 88% decrease in hazardous waste generation over a 3-year period, reclaimed over 33 million (MM) lbs of hazardous secondary materials
- 52% event waste diversion rate improving facility recycling programs, doubling the footprint of attendee recycling, adding other recycling streams and piloting composting
- Lowered CO2 emissions, estimated at more than 400 short tons per year
- Through public education and awareness, improved compliance and reduced the number of complaints 35%
- 15-20% reduction in energy use, and a corresponding decrease in cooling and building water use. Switched more than 8,000 fixtures to energy efficient LED lighting, Upgraded all public restrooms and installed low-flow fixtures, installed efficient bottle-filling stations, stormwater is managed by channeling rainwater into rain gardens, bio-swales and tree plantings, reducing the impact on the drainage system and providing natural irrigation to plants
- Community garden sites are more self-sustaining and widely successful, collecting 1,500-2,000 pounds of food scraps per week, diverting food waste from the landfill turning it into soil that sequesters carbon.



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown presents the ELP Outstanding Achievement Award to Compost NOW.

“The Environmental Leadership Awards highlight the efforts of schools, industry and communities to take ownership of their environment,” Dr. Brown said. “These ELP projects go a long way toward improving our environment, setting a good example and raising awareness of how to protect the environment.”

The ELP began in 1995 as a cooperative effort between LDEQ and participating companies in Louisiana. Today, any company, federal entity, municipality, non-governmental organization, school or university committed to improving the quality of the state’s environment is eligible to join the program.

The descriptions of the winner’s projects can be found at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/ELP/ELPProgram2022.pdf](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/ELP/ELPProgram2022.pdf).

For more information about the ELP, call 225-219-0877, email at [elp@la.gov](mailto:elp@la.gov) or visit the LDEQ website at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/the-louisiana-environmental-leadership-program](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/the-louisiana-environmental-leadership-program).



## Message from the Secretary

*Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*

Two farmers met after not seeing each other for 20 years. “You think it’ll rain?” one asked the other.

The joke is that farmers always talk about the weather. This spring/summer has made farmers of us all. The last couple of weeks were about as hot a time as anyone has ever seen in June in Louisiana. That’s saying something. That kind of heat makes outdoor work twice as hard. All our responders can testify what it is like to go to a spill, fire or overturned 18-wheeler when it’s near 100 degrees out. Frequent breaks and lots of cold water to drink are essential.

The water in the Gulf of Mexico is dangerously warm now. Heat is the driving engine for storms. When a tropical storm hits the warm Gulf water, it churns itself into a hurricane and in no time, a strong hurricane. That’s the situation now, and we have to make sure we are vigilant about being prepared. I know we deserve a break after last season’s multiple storms, and I hope we don’t get a hurricane this year, but we must always be prepared. There have already been a couple of storms in the Caribbean, but we have not seen any tropical activity in Louisiana. It is unlikely to stay that way. Information is available at [GetAGameplan.org](http://GetAGameplan.org).



*Dr. Chuck Carr Brown*

### **Clean Fuels Summit**

I took part in the Clean Fuels Summit on June 28. I was on a panel with DOTD Secretary Shawn Wilson and LDNR Secretary Tom Harris. We covered various aspects of the effort to get carbon emissions lower through fuel efficiency, emissions reductions and use of alternative fuels. The panel provided some good information and reiterated our joint effort to support the goals of the Governor’s Climate Initiatives Task Force.

### **Covid is still a concern**

Don’t forget that covid is still active. We have had several cases recently at LDEQ. Even if you have had it before, you can still get covid. Even if you have had the vaccine and booster, you can still get covid. Just stay aware. I try to wear a mask in large groups.

### **Core value**

This month’s core value for review is “We will be accountable for our work.” That means that we stand behind everything we do. When we make a mistake, we say so and set about correcting it as soon as possible. When we do something that has an unintended consequence, we follow up and do something about it. We answer all complaints. When we get a complaint, we keep working on it until we get a resolution.

### **Final note**

Last and not least, Happy July 4th. Have a great holiday and stay safe!



## Southeast Louisiana Brownfields Summit held in Baton Rouge

“Rethink-Reclaim-Reclaim Rebuild-Renew” was the theme of the Southeast Louisiana Brownfields Summit organized by the Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC) and held at the EBR Parish River Center Branch Library. The daylong summit offered participants basics Brownfields 101 for those in the group who are just getting started with the Brownfields Program. Success stories were featured and the way for moving forward was featured.



*Rebecca Otte, LDEQ Brownfields Coordinator, speaks at the Southeast Louisiana Brownfields Summit.*

Alison Bates and Kim Marousek with CRPC opened the program and introduced the speakers and resource people in attendance. The EPA presentation, Brownfields 101, outlines the basics and the steps to moving forward. It addresses “What is a Brownfields, how do you locate them and what are the benefits of addressing them?” Rebecca Otte, Brownfields Coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, worked with the EPA presenters, Paul Johnson and Selma Cosma to present the information.

Brownfields sites are vacant and underutilized properties where actual or suspected environmental issues are a barrier to redevelopment. These issues are often the result of unsafe levels of environmental contamination due to past or current industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural or recreational uses and practices. Contaminants may be found in soil, water or air. Cleaning up contaminants on a brownfields site reduces or eliminates potential health risks to residents, workers, pets and the surrounding environment. Examples of brownfields sites include (but are not

limited to) abandoned gas stations, vacant historic buildings (commercial structures, schools, government buildings, etc.), abandoned or underutilized industrial complexes, and/ or vacant lots in previously developed areas.

Identifying Brownfields sites requires some effort. You can use city master and community plans, look at underutilized/under-served areas, city directories, aerial maps, Sanborn maps (detailed maps of U.S. cities created to allow insurance fire insurance companies to assess liability) and LDEQ’s Electric Data Management System (EDMS). In his presentation, Trey Hess, director of the Brownfields and Economic Development for PPM Consultants, said when Brownfields hunting you can use Google Earth and maps, for sale and tax delinquent properties and areas and properties with recognizable environmental concerns.

There are many benefits to cleaning up a Brownfields site. They include:

- Improve Environmental Quality for all citizens
- Remove blight from the community
- Create or retain jobs
- Increase tax base and private investment
- Reclaim previously unusable property

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When considering a Brownfields project, planning is necessary. Identifying sites, eligibility and liability concerns, considering reuse goals, engaging the community and site redevelopment are basic steps. When engaging the community, consider elected officials, city and parish governments, economic development groups, Chambers of Commerce, community groups interested in the environment, local developers and real estate professionals, active community members and those involved with the historians. Try to find a “project champion.”

Funding is key and can be complicate, however now is a good time to address that. Research available options which can include:

- Brownfields competitive and non-competitive funding for assessment and cleanups
- Seek and leverage other grants such as those from HUD, FEMA, SBA, EDA and more
- Consider State and Federal Historic tax credits, Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Private donations and more

When considering site redevelopment consider existing or green infrastructure planning, transit issues and sustainability.

The summit brought together the experts, the resources and those interested in getting started in one place, Participants and presenters were from Capital Region Planning Commission, LDEQ, EPA, USDA Rural Development, Louisiana Brownfields Association (LBA), Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA), city of Baton Rouge, PPM Consultants, TAB Kansas City, RPC Planning Commission and the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Help is available. For Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) helps communities “Transform environmental liabilities into community assets” at no cost to the communities. To find out more about this resource go to [www.epa.gov/brownfields/epas-technical-assistance-brownfields-tab-communities-program-transforming](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/epas-technical-assistance-brownfields-tab-communities-program-transforming).

The Brownfields Summit brought together information, resources and those who are interested in starting a Brownfields project to learn and discuss the issues and solutions.

Reclaiming and renewing our communities through Brownfields projects is a real possibility. If you are interested, you can start through LDEQ or EPA’s targeted Brownfields program.

For more information on Brownfields go to LDEQ’s Brownfields site [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields). For LDEQ’s Revolving Loan Fund go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfield-cleanup-revolving-loan-fund](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfield-cleanup-revolving-loan-fund).

For more information on EPA’s Brownfields program, go to [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).



## LDEQ Parish Resource Book available online

Every year, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality updates the Natural Disaster and Catastrophic Event Parish Resource Book for use around the state. This book contains resource documents to assist the Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) Coordinators/Directors, city and/or state government officials and the public before, during and after an event such as a hurricane, flooding or any other natural or catastrophic disaster.

Each year prior to June 1, LDEQ tries to ensure that all Parish OHSEPs have access to all updated documents that are related to the Parish Resource Book. (Hurricane season generally runs from June through November, but the information in this book can be used for weather-related events outside of hurricane season).

The Parish Resource book contains:

- LDEQ Regional Office Map
- LDEQ Regional Offices List
- Single Point of Contact Notification Procedures and Requirements
- Guidance for Segregation of Curbside Debris and Debris Management
- Attachment A – Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management

The Natural Disaster and Catastrophic Event Parish Resource Book can be located at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/parish-resource-book](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/parish-resource-book).

For information on disaster debris management go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management).

To locate approved emergency debris sites go to <https://internet.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WASTE-PERMITS/CURRENTLY-APPROVED-EMERGENCY-DEBRIS-SITES>.

## Habitat for Humanity's ReStore offers reusable furnishings at low cost

While most may know the Habitat for Humanity for its work rebuilding homes, the organization also has resources where homeowners, contractors and developers can donate and purchase used home goods at low cost.

The ReStore, a home furnishings store operated by Habitat for Humanity, offers new and used items at discounted prices. Specializing in selling used and new construction materials for the home or business, the outlets sell used furniture, lighting fixtures, tile, sink and plumbing supplies, tools, electrical components and a host of other accessories. Profits from the stores go toward Habitat for Humanity's home building projects and other philanthropic endeavors.

There are two locations in the Greater Baton Rouge area -- a 45,000-square foot store in North Baton Rouge on Airline Highway that opened in 2003, and a 23,000-square



ReStores specialize in selling low-cost used furniture, construction materials and furnishings for the home.

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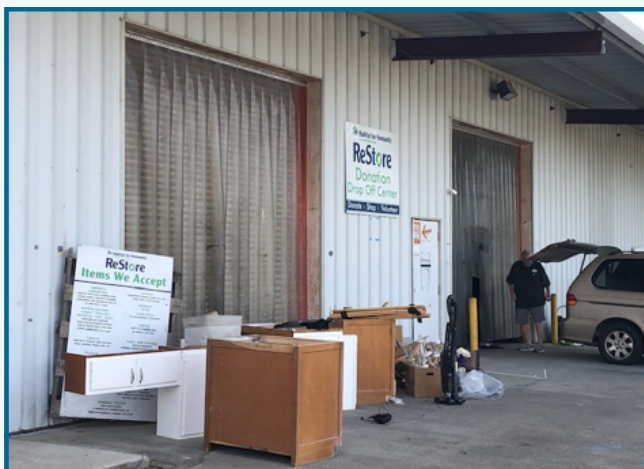


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*Anyone can donate serviceable, used items at either ReStore drop off center location.*



*Practically any home furnishing from flooring to chairs to ceiling fans and lamps can be found at the ReStore .*

foot store on Perkins Road near Bluebonnet Boulevard that opened in 2016. “We have nine full-time employees at the North location, and six at Perkins, along with several volunteers that assist with our mission,” said Percy Joseph, senior manager of the ReStore in North Baton Rouge.

Most of the items in the ReStores are donated by the general public including businesses and organizations that change out appliances, furniture, room accessories and other furnishings. Some hotels that commonly change out furniture for aesthetic upgrades, will donate tables, chairs and miscellaneous furnishings. New shipments frequently come in, and there is an ebb and flow to what’s available on the storeroom floor from week to week.

Donations are encouraged, and all items are evaluated for serviceability before they are separated into categories such as lighting/lamps, plumbing, home décor, housewares, electrical, sporting goods, flooring/carpeting, doors, lumber, media (books/videos/LPs), tools, lawn/garden and hardware. Donated items are tax deductible and must be in sales-ready condition, although minor adjustments and repairs can be done by the intake team. Pricing is based on the item’s condition, brand name and age, with brand new items typically tagged around 50 percent of its retail value.

Increasing awareness of the ReStore’s mission and boosting the donor pool is important to the success of the operation. One of their core values is assisting with home building and storm/flood recovery efforts. Another major benefit of the ReStore’s operation is how they uphold the pro-environmental concepts of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Eliminating used home goods from landfills and roadsides is what it’s all about.

LDEQ supports the ReStore’s objectives as well, particularly with the department’s participation in the paint swap. During household hazardous materials days in Baton Rouge, the paint swap brings in donated, used paint that can be repurposed and reused. During those events, LDEQ volunteers handle the intake and mixing of

donated paint, which is then sent to the ReStore’s North Baton Rouge site. There, the staff will blend and separate the paint by color into containers, where it is subsequently labeled and resold to the public.

Volunteers are always welcome at Habitat for Humanity and the ReStore, so contact [www.Habitat.org](http://www.Habitat.org) for more information. For store information, contact the ReStore Southeast, 10300 Perkins Road #102 at (225) 408-0021; or the ReStore North, 4301 Airline Highway at (225) 355-1895.



## Batteries Plus keeps batteries, lights and electronics out of landfills

**K**nown as a national chain selling a variety of batteries and lightbulbs, Batteries Plus also does its part to reduce waste through convenient drop-offs.

With six locations across Louisiana, Batteries Plus offers a convenient way to donate your old batteries in lieu of discarding them in the trash and adding waste to our landfills.

“Batteries Plus’ is a leader in promoting recycling because it’s just the right thing to do for the environment,” said William Bell, manager of store #455 in Shreveport. “Our Shreveport location recycles about 7,000 to 8,000 lbs. of material per year.”

While the business has competition from other recycling and mobile device repair companies, Batteries Plus is unique in that they handle a wider range of recycling and electronics repair services. In addition to automotive batteries, light bulbs and specialty batteries such as hearing aids and watches, Batteries Plus also repairs iPhones, iPads and other electronics. They also fix and reprogram key fobs for vehicles, making the stores a unique, one-stop shop for keeping several types of dead batteries from unnecessarily finding their way into the environment.

“Our location has been here for 14 years and is growing,” Bell said. “Establishing commercial relationships has been an important way to expand our recycling effort, and we’ve successfully partnered with the city of Bossier, the city of Shreveport, Overton Brooks VA Medical Center, Horseshoe casino, Margaritaville, Bally’s and Sam’s Town.”

“Automotive batteries are the most common item brought in for recycling, with regular and compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs being popular as well,” Bell noted. Batteries accepted include lithium, alkaline, rechargeables, nickel cadmium and nickel metal. A third party shipping company delivers them to a recycler in Howell, Mich., who ensures that the batteries are recycled in a safe manner, with any salvageable material being separated and reused.

Light bulbs are ultimately distributed to a bulb recycling partner in Tallahassee, Fla., who will separate the bulbs by type then repurpose any material that can be reused, since nearly 90% of the material in bulbs is recyclable.

According to Batteries Plus, each year their stores recycle approximately 47.5 million pounds of lead acid batteries and more than 1.68 million pounds of all other chemistries including alkaline, lithium ion, NiCd, electronic devices, etc. Additionally, the stores recycle more than 306 tons of light bulbs and more than 15 tons of ballasts annually.



*The Batteries Plus franchise in Shreveport is one of six stores in Louisiana, with additional franchises in Monroe, Baton Rouge and Slidell. Corporate stores are located in Lafayette and Houma.*

### Batteries Plus Recycles

**Batteries:** Lead Acid (vehicle batteries), Nickel Cadmium, Nickel Metal Hydride, Lithium Ion and Polymer, Household and specialty (hearing aids, scales, key fobs, watches, etc.)

**Lighting:** LED, Compact Fluorescent Bulbs, Incandescent, Circular Fluorescent, Fluorescent Tubes, U-Bend Fluorescent, Ballasts, Plastic Coated and Shatter Shield, Germicidal lamps, UV lamps, Mercury Vapor, Cold Cathode, Halogen, Metal Halide, High Pressure Sodium

**Small Electronics:** Tablets, Laptops, Cell Phones, Smartphones, Portable Tools, Power Cords, Charging Accessories

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Most electronic devices contain plastic, wires and toxic elements that can leach into groundwater or enter the atmosphere when heated. Batteries Plus ensures that those recyclables are properly broken down and disposed under local, state and federal environmental laws.

Recycling is made simple for customers, as they just need to drop off used bulbs, electronics and batteries to the nearest Batteries Plus store. Some fees may apply, and vary by location. Customers may also open a free business account online to complete their recycling with greater ease by visiting the Batteries Plus website.

For more information on how you can do your part to help Batteries Plus reduce waste, visit [www.batteriesplus.com/recycling](http://www.batteriesplus.com/recycling).

For information on Store #455, visit Batteries Plus, 7230 Youree Dr., Suite 108, Shreveport, LA 71105. Phone: (318) 797-0161.



*Shreveport Store Manager William Bell explains how automotive batteries are shipped for recycling.*

## Emergency Response and Radiological Services Division announces promotions



*Jerry Lang*

**J**erry Lang, Manager for LDEQ’s Emergency Response Section, was recently promoted to Administrator of the Emergency Response and Radiological Services Division. Lang takes over for Jeff Dausat, who recently retired after more than three decades of service with the state.

A graduate of Denham Springs High School, Lang earned a Bachelor of Science degree in marine fisheries from LSU, with a minor in surveying. He was a research associate at LSU for four years and a biologist for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for four years. Lang came aboard LDEQ in 2012 as an environmental scientist in the Emergency Response Section. He was promoted to Supervisor in 2015, then to Manager in 2017.

Taking over Lang’s former position as Manager is Kevin Borne, who was formerly the Supervisor in the Emergency Response Section.

A lifelong resident of Lafayette, Borne graduated from LSU in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry. He began working for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as a marine biologist in 2010 in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Borne came aboard at LDEQ as an emergency responder in 2012, and was promoted to staff scientist in November 2015. He was promoted to supervisor in December 2017, then to manager in June 2022.



*Kevin Borne*

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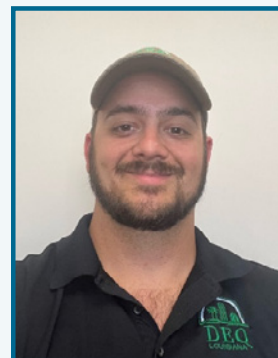
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*Chris Rajewski*

Chris Rajewski, environmental scientist based in the Acadiana Regional Office, was recently promoted to Emergency Response Supervisor. Rajewski will supervise emergency responders from the Acadiana, Kisatchie Central, Southwest, Northeast and Northwest Regional Offices.

Rajewski was born and raised in Lake Charles, and currently lives in the Alexandria area. He graduated from Northwestern State University with a bachelor's degree in biological science. He began at LDEQ in 2011 as an emergency responder in the Capital Regional Office, and subsequently worked in surveillance before transferring back to the Emergency Response Section in 2018. Rajewski works in the Kistachie Central Regional Office in Alexandria.



*Christian Flucke*

Christian Flucke, environmental scientist III, was also promoted to Emergency Response Supervisor. He will supervise the Single Point of Contact and emergency responders from the Southeastern and Capital Regional Offices.

Born and raised in Slidell, Flucke graduated from LSU in 2016. He began working for LDEQ in 2016 as an emergency responder, and was promoted to supervisor in April 2022.





## Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Lindsay Maloan -- Environmental Scientist IV, Office of Environmental Compliance, Surveillance Division, Southeast Regional Office**

A native of New Orleans, Maloan earned a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries and a minor in English from Mississippi State University in 2006. She is currently working on her master's degree in forestry with a concentration in natural resource policy, also through MSU. After working as a zookeeper, she joined LDEQ in 2008, where she served as an air inspector until 2013. Since then, she has worked as an asbestos and water inspector. She was recently promoted to the Water Environmental Scientist IV for the Southeast Regional Office.

She is a plant and glitter enthusiast who enjoys spending her spare time crafting and exploring the national parks with her husband, eleven-year-old son, and eight-year-old identical twin daughters.

**Chad Keith -- Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Water Planning and Assessment Division/Water Surveys, Office of Environmental Assessment**

Keith is from Baton Rouge. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Louisiana Tech University. After a short internship with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, he went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in fisheries biology.

He began his career with LDEQ in 2001 and his first few years were with the Enforcement Division. For the last 15 years, he has been a part of the Water Surveys section, where he served as an environmental scientist IV with Water Surveys.



**Katie Bowers -- Environmental Scientist, Air Enforcement Division, Office of Environmental Compliance**

Bowers is a native of Georgia who earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Georgia College and State University. She moved to Baton Rouge to attend graduate school at LSU where she earned a master's degree in Environmental Science.

After graduate school, she worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, managed the Coastal and Wetlands Ecology Lab at Texas A&M University at Galveston, and worked in the 404 mitigation section at the EPA headquarters in Washington D.C. She recently joined Air Enforcement after working for the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office since 2018.





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## Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's 1st Quarter Summaries

### First Quarter 2022 Enforcement Actions:

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

### First Quarter 2022 Settlement Agreements:

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

### First Quarter 2022 Air Permits:

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

### First Quarter 2022 Water Permits:

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

### First Quarter 2022 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

