



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



December 2022 Issue Number: 131

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## 2022 – A year for recovery and restoration

The year 2022 stands out in many ways, not the least of which was that Louisiana did not suffer a hurricane. As every year does, 2022 brought changes and improvements, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and its employees continued to serve the State with enthusiasm and hard work. Here are a few of the agency's many accomplishments for the year 2022:

### Air Monitoring

In 2022, LDEQ began a roving monitoring program using the department's two Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratories (MAMLs). One of the MAMLs is deployed each month to supplement ambient air monitoring data collected at stationary monitoring sites. These missions typically last between 3 and 5 days. Since beginning the roving monitoring program, LDEQ MAMLs have visited Dutch Town, Nine Mile Point in New Orleans, St. James Parish, Luling, Alexandria and other locations. The MAMLs are used to collect an array of data to determine background levels of criteria pollutants and other constituents of concern.



*Air monitoring equipment in the MAMLs*

### Two New Temporary Air Monitors

LDEQ's Air Assessment and Planning Division won a competitive EPA air-monitoring grant announced in November. The agency will receive more than \$902,000 to add temporarily located community (TLC) monitors in Alexandria and St. James Parish. The monitor in Alexandria will be located between two wood-treating plants in an area that has been the source of air quality complaints for several years. The monitor in St. James Parish has not yet been sited, but once it is in place, it will provide local residents with real-time AQ data available online through our website. Currently, the state has 38 stationary monitors and 2 temporary monitors producing data on ozone, PM2.5 and SO2 and other pollutants. When the temporary monitors addressed above are installed, Louisiana will have 43 total ambient monitors with five being temporary.

### Brownfields Program

The LDEQ Brownfields program has been very active in 2022. EPA presented Brownfields grant awards to the LDEQ, South Central Planning and Development

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Commission (SCPDC), Baton Rouge City/Parish Planning Commission (BRCPDC) and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) totaling \$5 million. This funding will help address environmental conditions at vacant and underutilized properties throughout Louisiana to facilitate their reuse and community revitalization. The funding comes from EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The grants are awarded with a special focus on reaching environmental equity communities. Grantees have already begun utilizing funds to help communities across the state.

In June, a Brownfields Summit was held in Baton Rouge. 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.

The 2022 Louisiana Brownfields Conference was held Oct. 5-6 in Houma. Attendees who connected with local, state and federal Brownfields resources included representatives from SCPDC, who co-hosted the conference with LDEQ, KSU TAB and EPA. Attendees heard from speakers explaining how to address asbestos at Brownfields sites, access redevelopment resources, revitalize Main Street corridors, address underground storage tanks and partner with USDA. Local governmental entities from across the state were able to connect with each other and state, federal and consulting partners to share stories and resources and develop ideas to bring back to their communities. The two-day conference shows that with the extensive financial resources of Brownfields programs throughout the state, the knowledge we share with each other and visionary project leaders, community revitalization is achievable.

One successful Brownfields project in Lafayette turned an abandoned Coca-Cola bottling building into a 40 unit affordable artist housing property called Bottle Arts Lofts. There are still two more phases to finish the project.

If you'd like to learn more about the Louisiana Brownfields Program you can visit our website [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields) or reach out to our team at [Brownfields@la.gov](mailto:Brownfields@la.gov).

## Waste Tires

The year 2022 was the first year in the last 19 that the waste tire program has not received criticism from state auditors for the way the program is being run. Waste tires and their disposal have been problematic for years in Louisiana. In 2022, 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. It 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.

To assist in this endeavor, LDEQ initiated a pilot program to provide \$168,078.16 toward approved programs. Pursuant to La. R.S. 30:2418(O)(5), LDEQ collects late fees from waste tire generators who have been delinquent in remitting monthly



*Jennifer Schatzle, LDEQ Brownfields Program Technical Liaison; Rebecca Otte, LDEQ Brownfields Program Coordinator; Roger Gingles, LDEQ Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Assessment; Demetric Mercadel, Congressman Troy Carter's District Director; Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, LDEQ Secretary; Dr. Earthea Nance, EPA Region 6 Administrator; Chonya Davis Johnson, Congressman Troy Carter's Chief of Staff; and Ashlyn Holmes, LDEQ Brownfields Program Project Manager celebrate LDEQ's \$2 million Brownfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes award.*

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tire fees to the Department. The state of Louisiana also experiences promiscuous disposal of waste tires, which poses a threat to public health and the environment. It has been well established that exposed waste tire piles serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes facilitating transmission of various illnesses, harbor other vectors such as rodents, snakes, etc., and also pose potential fire hazards.

It is also known that many municipalities/parishes are also experiencing issues arising from congestion of tire collection centers arising from their own efforts at addressing promiscuous disposal of tires in their respective parishes. In order to assist some of those government entities in combating waste tire problems within their jurisdictions, the Department has entered into intergovernmental agreements with some of these entities to carry out a waste tire disposal pilot program.

The purpose of the program is to provide specifically allocated funding to a limited number of municipalities to address unauthorized waste tire disposal issues. Potential uses for these funds may include, but are not limited to, purchase of equipment, payment of overtime salaries, or installation of roadway barriers, installation of surveillance video equipment, etc. 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.

Based on the success of these piloted proposals, additional funding to additional municipalities/parishes may be provided in future years. Proposals vary between municipalities but all detail how the funds would be utilized to address unauthorized waste tire disposal issues. The Department provides checks and balances regarding reimbursements by reviewing invoices and additional support/documentation provided by the parishes/municipalities.

### Bayou Lafourche Pumping Station

In 2022, the Bayou Lafourche Pump Station broke ground at the Mississippi River levee in Donaldsonville. The project is the linchpin of a series of public works designed to achieve multiple water quality and other environmental improvements by tapping into the Mississippi River to restore fresh water flow to Bayou Lafourche. "The new pump station will triple the amount of fresh water that flows down the bayou," Gov. John Bel Edwards said. The \$96 million facility will help control erosion, improve navigation and, most importantly, protect the drinking water supply for Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. Part of the funds for the project came from a loan from LDEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) – \$65 million.

"Sixty-five million dollars is the largest loan we have given to an institution," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said at the event. "We want to have a generational impact on the way we manage drinking water and waste water in the state."

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*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.*



*LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown speaks at the Bayou Lafourche Pump Station groundbreaking ceremony as Gov. John Bel Edwards listens.*





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## Governor's Task Force on Statewide Litter Abatement and Beautification

Formed in January, this Task Force will work to find policy solutions for Louisiana's litter problem, to educate the public and promote community litter abatement activities. The Task Force, created by executive order, will be managed by the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Program (KLB) in the Lieutenant Governor's Office. LDEQ will be a part of the Task Force with Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown being a member. In the Executive Order, Gov. Edwards also declared that the fourth Saturday of each month be designated as a Love the Boot - Don't Pollute Day across the state. On these Saturdays, officials, individuals and neighborhood groups will be encouraged to find ways and sponsor events to pick up litter in their communities. "I am announcing a statewide effort to find solutions for Louisiana's litter problem, which is detrimental to health, safety, wildlife, economic development and tourism," Gov. Edwards said. "Our state is truly a beautiful place, the Sportsman's Paradise, but too often litter sullies Louisiana's landscape."

"Keep Louisiana Beautiful (who will be managing the program) was put under my office last legislative session. I look forward to working with the Governor's team, elected officials, civic organizations and every Louisiana ambassador who loves this great state," Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser said.

These are a few of the endeavors and projects that made 2022 an outstanding year for the environment and the wellbeing and quality of life of the citizens of Louisiana.





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## Message from the Secretary

*Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*

This is my last message of the year, so I want to take a minute to tell all of you how proud I am of the work the agency has done this winter. I'm not just talking about the flashy things like big contributions to infrastructure projects or acquisition of new technology.

I am talking about the day-to-day work done at a high level of productivity: the meticulous assembly of a challenging permit application response, the endless legal footwork to defend the actions of this agency, the emergency responders who go out in any weather at any time, the outreach staff who pour their creativity into things like non-point source displays, inspectors out at plants doing scheduled inspections, anyone and everyone who is caught in the cycle of meeting after meeting. Don't lose sight of how important your routine activities are. I appreciate the big things -- those get us noticed. But it's the extraordinary attention to the ordinary duties of every person here that keeps us running at an efficient and reliable level.



*Dr. Chuck Carr Brown*

Now the year is nearly done. I am looking forward to the challenges 2023 will bring. I hope all of you are too. If we all keep pulling together the way we did in 2022, we will be just as successful in the coming year.

If December marked the beginning of the holiday party season, then January marks its culmination. New Year's parties can be rowdy and spirited to say the least. I hope you will all have a great time ringing in the New Year. Just be careful. Don't drink and drive. Leave the driving to a designated driver and party hardy. Happy New Year!

I hope you all came through the December cold spell with little or no damage. The freezing temperatures are a good reminder to be prepared to wrap exposed pipes, have a place indoors to shelter your pets and protect your tropical plants. I suspect some of us lost some plants, but I hope no one had damaged pipes. Winter is not over. We may go through this same thing again. I hope everyone will take advantage of this week's warm weather to get prepared for possible cold weather later in the year. Maybe we can all cut our losses in the next cold snap.

As always, stay safe. Keep in mind the hazards cold weather brings to outside workers. Plan your outside work with frequent warming breaks. Keep yourself fueled up, eat regular meals. Dress appropriately. Layer your clothes -- it's often the wind that is the main threat for hypothermia. If you layer your clothes, you can remove a layer if you get too hot while working. Things take longer when it's cold, so give yourself enough time to complete a task without having to hurry because that's when mistakes are made.

See you in 2023.



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## LDEQ Mobile Air Monitoring Labs serve Louisiana in emergency and everyday situations

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has three Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAMLs) to enhance the Department's ability to monitor air quality in Louisiana. Two of the MAMLs were acquired in late 2019 and joined an older version commissioned in 2006. These MAMLs allow LDEQ to deploy monitoring anywhere in the state. Using the MAMLs allows access to near real-time air quality data.

The two new MAMLs are equipped with everything the older model has and more. For more information about the specifics and the capabilities of the new MAMLs, [click here](#).

Proactive monitoring and protection of Louisiana's air is a priority for the MAMLs. This ensures Louisiana's compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). To see the NAAQS go to [www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table](http://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table).

- Routine Air Monitoring
- Emergency Response monitoring and support
- Investigating past and present complaints and concerns
- Investigating the cause of air quality exceedances
- Conducting any other air quality issue ordered by the LDEQ Secretary

When the MAML is deployed, data can be accessed at [airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/data](http://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/data).

The oldest LDEQ MAML is a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time sampling and analysis. The vehicle, a 2006 Winnebago RV, was equipped with almost everything that the new MAMLs have.

The MAMLs have been deployed for emergency situations to monitor air quality, deployed to monitor for complaints, such as odor and many other issues that come up for LDEQ to investigate.

However, when not in use for those kind of events, the MAMLs are assigned to areas around the state, many that are not routinely monitored. This process allows LDEQ to get a more accurate picture of air quality in the entire state and allows LDEQ to get baseline in areas that do not have stationary monitors.



LDEQ MAMLs

### Places MAMLs Have Been Deployed In 2022

- Jan. 6 - Jan. 10: Tire Fire in Scott (MAML 1 & MAML 2)
- Jan. 16 - Jan. 23: Tire Fire in Cottonport (MAML 1)
- Jan. 20 - Jan. 27: Tire Fire in Cottonport (MAML 2)
- Feb. 21 - Feb. 22: Nine Mile Point (MAML 1)
- Feb. 22 - Feb. 24: Nine Mile point (MAML 2)
- March 16 - March 17: LSWA Conference in Lafayette (MAML 1)
- March 18: Cabrini High School Career Day Demonstration in New Orleans (MAML 1)
- April 26 - April 27: Dutchtown (MAML 1)
- May 3 - May 5: Dutchtown (MAML 1)
- May 24 - May 26: St. James (MAML 1)
- June 28 - June 30: Luling (MAML 1)
- July 25 - July 29: St. James, Romeville (MAML 1)
- Sept. 12 - Sept. 16: Alexandria MAML 1
- Oct. 17 - 19: Grand Isle
- Nov. 14 - 16: Ironton
- Dec. 5 - present: Jonesville Soybean Silo Fire.

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Deploying the MAMLs in this way, assures that the equipment is working well, allows continuing training of the crews and gives the Department a more comprehensive look at the State. The MAMLs are placed in secure locations that are decided upon considering many factors. They are usually on location from 3 to 5 days but are able to respond to other events as needed. When they are deployed the public can access real time data at [airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/data](https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/data).

LDEQ is fortunate to have the state of the art scientific monitoring equipment available and the Department is making an effort to make the best use of it.

## Keep Louisiana Beautiful says “less is more”: reduce waste this holiday season

The holiday season has arrived! From Thanksgiving through the new year, we love to gather with friends and family to celebrate and express our gratitude for all the good in our lives. This year, as you make your holiday plans, Keep Louisiana Beautiful encourages you to think “less is more.” With big meals, parties, decorations, and gifts, the excess can cause our environment to suffer. Here are a few ways you can be a friend to the planet and reduce your waste:

1. When you can, use non-plastic and non-paper napkins, dishes, cups, and silverware. Single-use products often end up in the trash and then in a landfill. Recycling is not always an option due to food contamination and/or lack of availability, but recycle when you can. Compostable plates and utensils are another route to consider.
2. Utilize your leftovers instead of throwing them away. Ways to reduce your food waste include:
  - Plan and cook for the right number of guests
  - Freeze your food for future use
  - Give leftovers to friends and family
  - Use leftovers in other recipes
  - Compost food scraps
3. Skip the plastic décor and inflatable lawn displays and try DIY decorations using existing items from around your house (vases, lights, candles, snowflakes cut from newspaper, etc.) and/or your yard (pinecones, flowers, leaves, etc.). Making décor is fun for all ages!
4. When shopping for groceries and gifts, use a reusable grocery bag. Less plastic bags = less plastic bag litter. Plastic bags are lightweight and blow into ditches and waterways. This can cause harm to fish and wildlife and contribute to clogged storm drains.
5. Be a conscientious gift buyer. Here are a few examples of environmentally friendly gift giving:
  - Give experiences, not things. Take your friend or loved one to a concert or purchase an annual pass to Louisiana’s State Parks.
  - Shop locally to eliminate the need for packaging. If you do shop online, combine your deliveries to lessen your impact.
  - When it comes to wrapping your gifts, remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle! You can reduce your impact by wrapping items in newspaper, posters, or comics. Reuse bows, ribbons, and gift bags.

These tips courtesy of Keep Louisiana Beautiful – Thank you!



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## LDEQ supports local charitable campaigns this holiday season

**L**DEQ participates in two charitable campaigns in the months leading up to the holiday season – the Louisiana State Combined Charitable Campaign (LA SCCC) and the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank (GBRFB).

In 2022, LDEQ held its ninth year of fundraising for LA SCCC, Sept. 1 to Dec. 1. The campaign is the only state-approved charitable activity that enables payroll-deducted donations from employees of state agencies. This program allows LDEQ employees to designate an ongoing or one-time contribution to their choice of up to four health and human service charities participating in the LA SCCC. Fifty-six charities participated in 2022. LDEQ collectively donated \$3,478.36 for LA SCCC this year.

LDEQ employees also collected monetary and food donations for the GBRFB, Oct. 4 to Dec. 15. Donations were collected through a variety of ways, including LDEQ's "Snack Shack" sales, \$20 Casual Dress days, "Gratitude is the Best Attitude" sales, individual contributions and Holiday Meal food donations. LDEQ employees raised \$2,452.51 (equivalent of 7,350 meals).

Thanks to all that donated this holiday season!



*Karyn Andrews, LDEQ Undersecretary, presents a check to Tracy Ritchie, GBRFB Development and Philanthropy Manager.*





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## LDEQ In 2022





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## Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

### Third Quarter 2022 Enforcement Actions:

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

### Third Quarter 2022 Settlement Agreements:

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

### Third Quarter 2022 Air Permits:

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

### Third Quarter 2022 Water Permits:

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

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

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

