

# ADEM UPDATE

The official newsletter of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management

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## Water Quality Signs Being Posted Across State

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is taking steps to ensure that boaters, anglers, and swimmers will be better informed regarding water quality this summer.

ADEM has installed signs around the state at various rivers, bays, boat ramps, and beaches to inform the public of the condition of those water bodies. The signs contain information to direct people to the latest news and updates regarding fish consumption advisories, coastal beach monitoring, treated water discharge points, and sanitary sewage spills.

Safeguarding Alabama's natural resources is a priority at ADEM, and notifying the public of changes in water quality is a key component.

The signs have a link to the Department's website where the latest water quality information can be found along with any recent changes and feature a QR code that can be scanned with a smart phone to easily access this information.

Obtaining timely and accurate updates will enable the public to make informed decisions on their recreational activities. Many of the links contain data where individuals can click on a map of interest and see a display of incidents in their area and the information available, then follow a course of action to better ensure their safety.

**IMPORTANT**  
BOATERS, ANGLERS, PADDLERS, SWIMMERS

TO VIEW STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY INFORMATION FOR:

- CURRENT SEWAGE SPILLS
- TREATED SEWAGE DISCHARGE POINTS
- FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY LOCATIONS
- COASTAL BEACH MONITORING

VISIT:  
ADEM.ALABAMA.GOV/WATER-INFO

OR SCAN BELOW



OR CALL ADEM AT 334-271-7700  
(PARA ASISTENCIA LLAME)



## Recycling Challenge Rewards Schools

In an effort to raise awareness and provide an educational experience on the merits of recycling, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management invited three area high schools to participate in the "Recycling Challenge."

The event was designed to motivate students to do their part to increase recycling in Alabama.

As part of the program, the schools sign up to earn cash, challenge each of their students, teachers, and neighborhoods to join their cause, and then report their total recycling effort to ADEM.

This spring, students from Carver High School, Lanier High School, and Park Crossing High School participated in the challenge. At the end of the competition, Carver was the clear winner. They had the largest amount of recycled materials (over 4,300 pounds), and received a check for \$812.87 for their efforts, Lanier was second and received \$520.35, and Park Crossing got \$303.80.

ADEM Director Lance LeFleur made the check presentations as part of ADEM's Earth Day activities in Montgomery in April.



Carver High School won the 2018 Recycling Challenge

## ADEM Celebrates Earth Day

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management hosted a special Earth Day event on April 19 with 123 middle and high school students visiting the Central Offices on Coliseum Boulevard in Montgomery. The celebration enabled the students to visit ADEM and learn about the environmental programs implemented on a daily basis to protect and preserve Alabama's natural resources.

The students watched up-close demonstrations and learned about a wide-range of environmental programs including fish tissue monitoring, water quality sampling, air monitoring, recycling, hazardous waste disposal, and efforts to ensure that Alabamians are provided with safe drinking water.

ADEM employees worked hard to make the effort a success illustrating that at ADEM, "every day is Earth Day." The Department's staff gave the students opportunities to learn about careers at ADEM, and encouraged the students to pursue careers in the science-related fields. The following schools were represented this year: CAMO Kids from Bullock County, Capitol Heights Middle School, Carver High School, Goshen High School, Lee High School, and Pike County High School. The Earth Day event lasted from 9 a.m. until noon.

Also in April, ADEM employees participated in an Earth Day Safari at the Montgomery Zoo along with the Montgomery Clean City Commission, and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. People visiting the zoo on those two days were able to learn about various aspects of water treatment, recycling, plant and animal conservation, and air quality protection. The event allowed students and teachers to roam the zoo exploring and collecting valuable information using a fun and educational scavenger hunt. As they answered questions, their passport was stamped earning points to win a prize when completed. ADEM had an Earth Day trivia game exhibit that was popular with the children.



Students get up close look at ADEM's Earth Day event

## ADEM Hosts Smoke School



ADEM's "Smoke School" was held in April

The Air Division at ADEM hosted its Visible Emission Certification program, also known as "smoke school" in Montgomery. More than 300 people participated in the three-day training event.

ADEM typically conducts the program in the spring and fall. The smoke school is open to Departmental personnel, other regulatory officials, consultants, and members of the regulated community. The purpose of the program is to certify participants in their ability to meet federal requirements for making visible emissions determinations.

The training by ADEM is designed for persons who work for a regulated source that is required to complete visible emissions observations as a condition of their air quality permit. Facility personnel who control any part of an

operation where air pollution is a concern are encouraged to take the class to help recognize potential issues and take action to enhance compliance.

The smoke school consists of one day of lecture followed by a written exam and two days of field training and testing. The lecture session is required for those certifying for the first time, and once every three years thereafter, and the field certification is valid for a period of six months.

## ADEM Recognizes Energy Efficiency Efforts



Lance LeFleur and Kenneth Boswell speak as part of the Alabama Energy Efficiency Workshop on May 23

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs have recognized a dozen wastewater utilities for their efforts to improve overall utility operations, conserve energy, and save money.

ADEM Director Lance LeFleur and ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell presented the awards in May in Prattville as part of the Alabama Wastewater Energy Management Initiative.

The public and private wastewater utilities were honored for their efforts to optimize wastewater utility operations. The 12 systems participated in a voluntary program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, ADECA, and ADEM. As a result of their participation, these utilities are successfully operating their wastewater plants with notably lower energy use.

These utilities have demonstrated a commitment to optimize electrical efficiency to the highest practical degree and have achieved significantly lower energy consumption for an extended period of months or years. They are not only being good stewards of the environment by using less energy resources and generating less greenhouse gas emissions, but they are also demonstrating financial accountability by incurring lower operating costs. In optimizing their utility operations, these award recipients have also voluntarily lowered the levels of nutrients being discharged to Alabama's waterways to levels below permit requirements.



ADECA's Kenneth Boswell and ADEM's Lance LeFleur (center / front) with award recipients

### 12 Award Recipients:

City of Alexander City  
 American Water Enterprises, LLC  
 Eufaula Water Works and Sewer Board  
 City of Fort Payne  
 Hanceville Water Works and Sewer Board  
 Hartselle Utilities

Monroeville Water Works and Sewer Board  
 Muscle Shoals Utility Board  
 City of Pell City  
 Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard  
 Sheffield Utilities  
 City of Wetumpka Water Works and Sewer Board

# ADEM UPDATE Available Online

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management publishes the *ADEM UPDATE* quarterly to inform Alabamians on the latest news and activities of the Department. As a cost-savings measure, the *ADEM UPDATE* is no longer printed. It is distributed electronically and available online through the publications link on the ADEM website at [adem.alabama.gov](http://adem.alabama.gov).



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