

# LDEQ

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.  
*Secretary*



# TOPICS

- Department Organization
- Initiatives and goals
- Ongoing Issues
- Landfills
- Looking Ahead



# Make-up Of The Department

- **Office of the Secretary**
  - Includes Legal, Communications, Business, Community Outreach and Incentive Division and Criminal Investigation Division
- **Office of Management and Finance**
- **Office of Environmental Compliance**
  - Includes Enforcement and Inspection (Mike Algero)
- **Office of Environmental Services**
  - Includes Air Permits, Waste Permits, Water Permits and Public Participation Support Group
- **Office of Environmental Assessment**
  - Includes Remediation Division, Underground Storage Tanks Division, Air Planning and Assessment Division, Water Planning and Assessment Division
- **Regional Offices**
  - Capital Region (Baton Rouge), Acadiana Region (Lafayette), Southwest Region (Lake Charles), Southeast Region (New Orleans), Northwest Region (Shreveport) and Northeast Region (Monroe)



# LDEQ's Areas Of Responsibility

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Laboratory accreditation
- Hazardous wastes
- Asbestos, mercury, lead programs
- Radiation protection
- Remediation of contaminated sites
- Regulations development
- Permitting
- Groundwater protection
- Surveillance
- Criminal investigations
- Underground storage tanks
- Environmental impact assessment
- Planning and performance tracking
- Complaints
- Legislative Support
- Compliance assistance
- Solid waste
- **Economic Development**
- Beneficial environmental projects
- Environmental monitoring
- Environmental education
- **Environmental Equity**
- Emergency response
- Accident prevention
- **State revolving loan fund**
- **Brownfields projects**
- Enforcement
- Economic development assistance
- Emissions inventories
- Contractor certifications
- Training programs
- Environmental research



# Goals

- Our goal is to protect human health and the environment by:
  - Being accessible
  - Being transparent
  - Listening
  - Informing and empowering the public
  - LDEQ will use social media, traditional media, web applications, meetings, hearings, news releases, e-news and other means to impart information to the citizens of Louisiana
  - Engaging the public –EJ (Equity Advisory Panel) All of Agency Approach
  - Adhering to environmental laws and regulations while using our authority in a fair and equitable way



# Ongoing Issues

- **Air Issues**

- **The carbon reduction challenge**, landfill emissions including methane. **Louisiana's Pie Chart**
- Landfill odor issues

- **Water Issues**

- Unpermitted discharges into state waters remain one of top environmental problems in Louisiana.

- **Debris mission post-Ida**

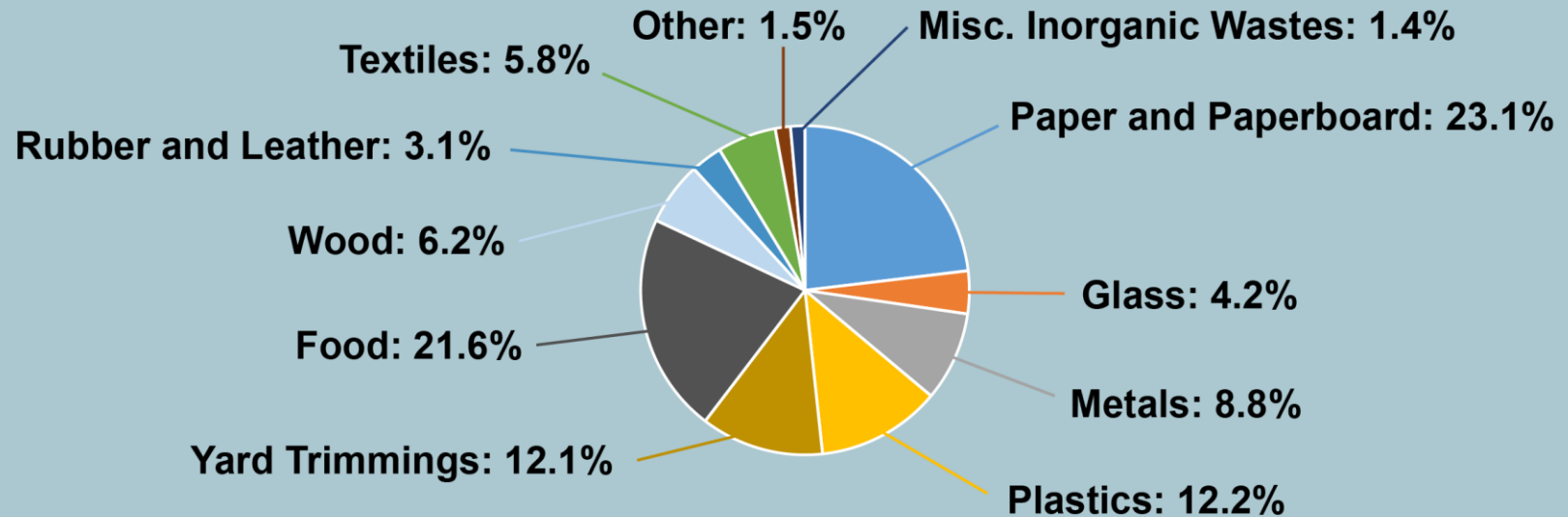
- Some C&D, large amount of vegetative material (**13MM Cy generated**)
- A couple of areas were flooded, LaPlace and Jean Lafitte
- Grand Isle suffered heavy damage from storm surge
- **Lengthy power outages** affected industry and public and point to need to harden power grid, seek alternative power generation sources. **Harden the Grid. \$60 Billion**



# Waste Generation

The total generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) in 2018 was **292.4 million tons** (U.S. short tons, unless specified) or **4.9 pounds per person per day**. Of the MSW generated, approximately 69 million tons were recycled and 25 million tons were composted. **Food and Yard Waste approx. 34%**

## Total MSW Generated by Material – 2018 292.4 million tons



Source EPA



# Landfill odors - Subtitle D

- Leachate issues compound gas recovery and lead to odors – gas lost to environment worsens carbon problems
- **It is imperative that operators maintain one foot of head in collection systems**
- Odor patrols can help pinpoint the cause by showing cycle of odor emissions
- Engagement with the community in service area allows operators to get early notice of problems and complaints





# Looking ahead

- **What to do with landfills after closure?**
  - One possibility is to **install solar panels** and turn the site into an energy source
- How do we continue to provide reliable energy for consumers and at the same time reduce CO2 emissions?
  - We have to employ bridge fuels like natural gas and explore more alternative fuels like **Blue hydrogen**. Use of hydrogen/natural gas blends can provide a cleaner burning mix. Renewables like solar, wind and hydroelectricity will have to play a larger role. **We should not rule out any solution.**



# Looking ahead- Climate Initiative Task Force

- More reductions in carbon emissions must be achieved.
  - A monetary value for carbon will be established.
  - Some sort of tax may be levied on carbon emissions
  - A cap and trade system for carbon will likely evolve
  - Some mechanism for removing the existing carbon load from the atmosphere is a goal as well, to reduce carbon levels we must emit less and remove as much of the existing carbon from the atmosphere as possible
  - Building codes will be modified to make buildings more energy efficient and to incentivize solar systems





**“Who Determines Compliance?  
We do.”**

-- LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown

# Contact Information

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