

ADEM UPDATE

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ADEM Works with Transformation Montgomery

Department educates local children on the importance of recycling

Employees with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management visited Transformation Montgomery in February to educate children and their staff on the importance of recycling and how they can make a difference in their homes, schools, and communities.

During the visit, ADEM presented various examples of the Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, along with a demonstration of how recycling works using a replica of a recycling facility.

Following the presentation, ADEM staff gave out educational materials including recycling coloring books, pencils, rulers, and more. The Department staff also discussed creative ways to reuse materials around their homes for a recycled purpose.

"It was a great opportunity to spread awareness about the importance of recycling," said Blake Schmidt, environmental scientist in ADEM's Recycling Unit. "I always enjoy educating citizens, especially children, on how a simple act such as recycling can have a major impact on the future of the environment."



ADEM's Blake Schmidt teaches children about recycling



Children learn about recycling using ADEM coloring books

Transformation Montgomery is a faith-based, non-profit organization that focuses on changing and transforming local neighborhoods for the better as well as life skills training and community renewal. The group works to improve neighborhoods in the Chisholm area in north Montgomery, and areas surrounding ADEM's main office building on Coliseum Boulevard.

ADEM's mission is to continue safeguarding the environment and educating the citizens of Alabama on the importance of keeping a healthy and productive environment for tomorrow's generation, and to remember the importance that recycling plays in that overall picture.

ADEM Employees Participate in Diversity Training

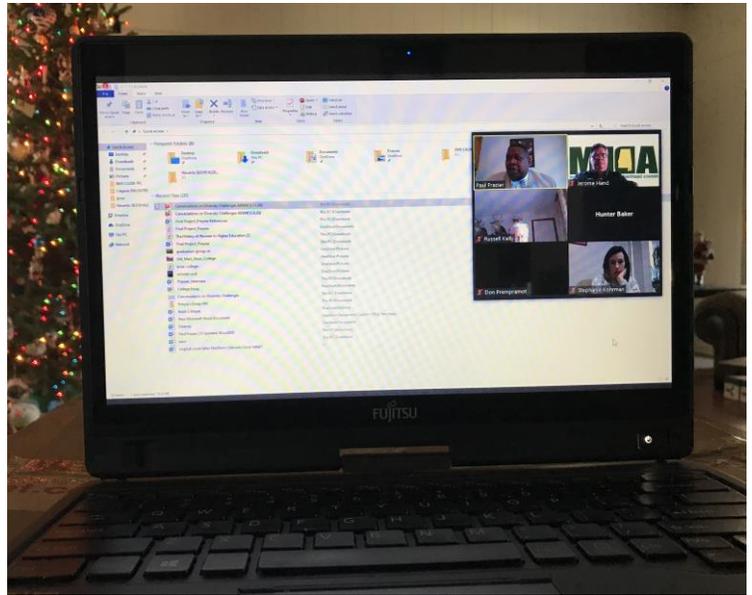
Employees at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management recently participated in diversity training. The two-hour course was provided via Zoom by Dr. Paul Frazier from the University of South Alabama.

All ADEM employees took the class in mid to late December in morning or afternoon sessions. The training was designed to promote strategies that result in a culture desiring diversity as evidenced by attitudes, policies and practices within the Department and beyond. The program also promotes ADEM's goal to cultivate inclusion by encouraging access, equity, and respect for all persons.

The training was well received by ADEM employees, and the online Zoom platform enabled instruction to take place whether workers were in the office or working remotely. The open format also allowed for question and answer segments.

Dr. Paul Frazier is the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at the University of South Alabama. He has served as an adjunct instructor at Texas Tech University, teaching both undergraduate and graduate level education courses. Dr. Frazier holds a Doctorate in Education Leadership, a Masters in Educational Mid-Management, a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction and a Bachelor of Science degree.

He served in public education for 24 years and is a member of the Mobile Area 100 Black Men. He has previously served as a board member for the Texas Diversity Council and is board member for the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education.



ADEM employees recently participated in diversity training online

CPM Program Boosts ADEM Managers



CPM participants were recognized at Feb. 12 EMC meeting

For years now, numerous ADEM employees have participated in the Certified Public Manager (CPM) program offered through Summa Source at Auburn University at Montgomery.

The CPM program is a dynamic and engaging opportunity to develop and enhance the skills of managers, and it helps them explore methods to achieve efficiency gains and cost-savings for their agencies. It utilizes projects and course material to inspire new ways of thinking and innovative approaches to problem solving. Recently, a dozen ADEM employees completed the classroom and comprehensive project work in the CPM program. At the February 12 meeting of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission meeting, ADEM Director Lance LeFleur recognized the

following employees for completing CPM I: Donna Adams, Pam Ballentine, Carrie Blanton, Todd Carter, Jared Kelly, Joe Kelly, Ashley Lockwood, Sharon Moses, Blake Pruitt, and Jennifer Youngpeter, and special recognition for Shawn Lagrone, who completed the nationally accredited CPM II program. The employees achieved this important career milestone after completing classroom work and numerous out-of-class activities.

“A lot of hard work went into this,” said LeFleur. “We appreciate your dedication, hard work, and I congratulate each of you.”

ADEM Recycling Outreach Reaches Millbrook

A weekend Mardi Gras event in Millbrook served as a great outreach opportunity for ADEM’s Recycling and Scrap Tire Programs.

Despite cold, rainy, and windy conditions, a pretty good crowd turned out at the event and were able to learn more about recycling. ADEM staff provided outreach regarding recycling at a local, state, and national level by passing out information pamphlets and giveaways such as pens, huggers, and gaiter masks.

ADEM’s recycling and scrap tire program staff also met with officials from the City of Millbrook to assist them in grant writing and discussed moving their recycling forward and possibly aiding with some scrap time marketing funds on new athletic fields that are under construction.

Alabama’s recycling fund grants promote local efforts in recycling by providing reimbursement grants to local governments to develop, implement, and enhance recycling programs, including the recycling of aluminum, paper, plastic, cardboard, and glass. Proposed recycling projects must be consistent with the approved local Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), and the funding can also be used for any revisions to the existing SWMP.



ADEM’s recycling outreach in Millbrook was a big success

Calendars Assist Dry Cleaners in Alabama

PERC Dry Cleaner Air Quality
Compliance Calendar
2021



Contact Information:

Air Regulations – Rebecca Arthur
Phone: (334) 271-7884
E-mail: rebecca.arthur@adem.alabama.gov

Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch – Bailee Dykes
Phone: (334) 279-3061
E-mail: bailee.dykes@adem.alabama.gov

Trust Fund – Ashley Powell
Phone: (334) 271-7703
E-mail: ashley.powell@adem.alabama.gov

Ombudsman’s Office – James W. Grassiano
Phone: (334) 279-3071
E-mail: jgrassiano@adem.alabama.gov

EPA ID No. – Adrian Corbitt
Phone: (334) 274-4163
E-mail: acorbitt@adem.alabama.gov

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Physical Address: 1400 Coliseum Blvd., Montgomery, AL 36110-2400
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 301463, Montgomery, AL 36130-1463
Website: adem.alabama.gov
Phone: (334) 271-7700

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Phone:	<input type="text"/>
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For the 21st consecutive year, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management is providing free compliance calendars to dry cleaners that use perchloroethylene (PERC) as their primary cleaning solvent. The 2021 calendars provide logs for documenting the storage and use of dry cleaning chemicals and also feature monthly tips to explain compliance requirements.

The Department will provide this compliance

assistance tool to more than 70 dry cleaners whose use of perchloroethylene requires compliance with specific record-keeping guidelines. In the past, the calendars have proven to be a valuable asset in tracking the use of dry cleaner chemicals, and in meeting regulatory obligations.

The calendars are a compliance tool to help small businesses and can be utilized to enhance compliance efforts, which is a tremendous benefit for small businesses. The calendars also address additional requirements for PERC usage established by EPA, and contain contact information that dry cleaner owners can use to answer questions they may have regarding environmental regulations, record-keeping, or adding new machines.

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.



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Alabama Department of Environmental Management
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, AL 36130-1463
(334) 271-7700
www.adem.alabama.gov