

ADEM UPDATE

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ADEM's Nutrient Program Praised by EPA

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the State's success with its Nutrient TMDL program.

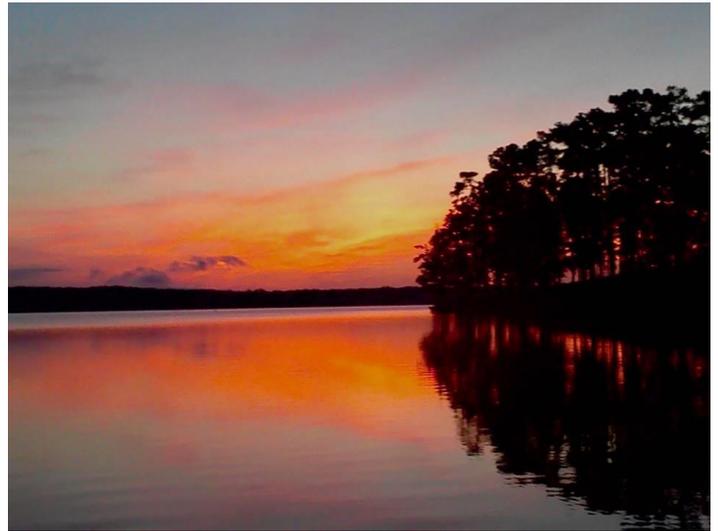
Stacey L. Bouma, Chief of the Water Quality Standards Section at EPA Region 4, singled out ADEM for its performance in water quality protection and management. She referred to it as "very impressive."

ADEM's Water Quality Branch Chief, Chris Johnson, made the Nutrient Success presentation to representatives of all 10 EPA Regions in January. The webinar was sponsored by the Water Quality Standards Managers Association.

"It's clear that there were lessons learned along the way that informed your evolving approach to reduce nutrient impacts," said Bouma. "It was also interesting to listen in on the discussion from the follow-up questions you got from around the country. I'm sure others will want to learn more about your approach."

According to Johnson, Alabama has nutrient TMDLs established for 32 segments on 16 different waterbodies across the state. ADEM has a very robust monitoring program in support of water protection programs to identify and mitigate nutrient impacts. The Department has also enhanced data management and analysis capabilities and developed a more robust assessment and listing methodology.

ADEM's Water Quality Branch emphasized that its adaptive management strategy is working and that stakeholder involvement is key. The Department plans to continue fostering and building collaborative partnerships to manage and protect Alabama's water resources.



EPA Region 4 singled out ADEM for its nutrient program

Commission Meeting Live-streamed



June's Commission meeting included social distancing

The June 12 meeting of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission was live-streamed and held under social distancing guidelines. The meeting was available in real time through the ADEM website and visitors attending were provided hand sanitizer and masks due to Covid-19 concerns.

ADEM staff opened doors at the main entrance and explained meeting procedures with all visitors. In the main hearing room, chairs were placed six feet apart in accordance to CDC guidelines, and all Commissioners, ADEM employees, and court reporters wore masks.

ADEM employees from the Information Technology Branch and the Public Relations Unit operated laptops and a video camera for the live-streaming. Following the meeting, the video was uploaded to ADEM's website and remains available at www.adem.alabama.gov.

ADEM Works to Reduce Diesel Emissions

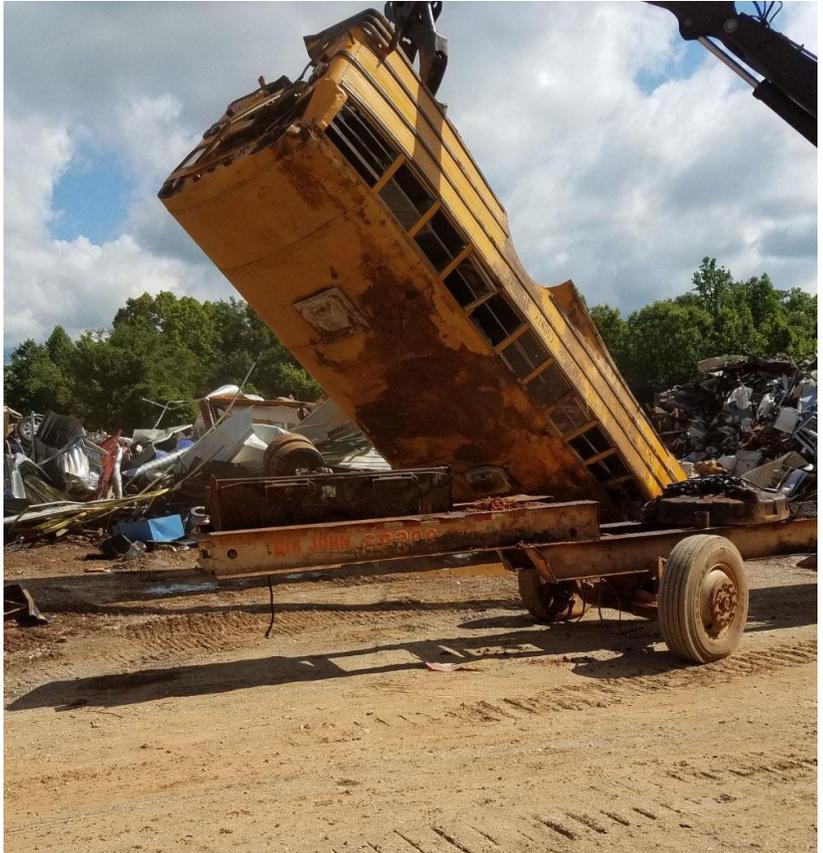
The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is partnering with Piggly Wiggly Alabama Distributing Co., Inc. in Bessemer to reduce diesel emissions through an idle reduction project. ADEM is also working with the Randolph County Board of Education and the Winston County Board of Education to reduce diesel emissions through a school bus replacement project. All participants will utilize funding under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act.

Piggly Wiggly is replacing 12 refrigerated trailers equipped with diesel-only transport refrigeration units with new, more efficient trailers equipped with hybrid-electric units. The new hybrid-electric units will benefit from a DERA-funded project in which 51 electrified parking spaces were installed. The electrified parking spaces give the hybrid-electric transport refrigeration units the ability to refrigerate the trailers using electricity, which will reduce approximately five to ten hours per day of diesel engine idling per trailer.

The Randolph County and the Winston County boards will replace a combined 17 older diesel school buses with new, cleaner diesel school buses. Clean diesel school bus fleets have been shown to reduce the amount of air pollution that school children are exposed to, improve lung function, and reduce hospitalizations due to asthma and pneumonia.

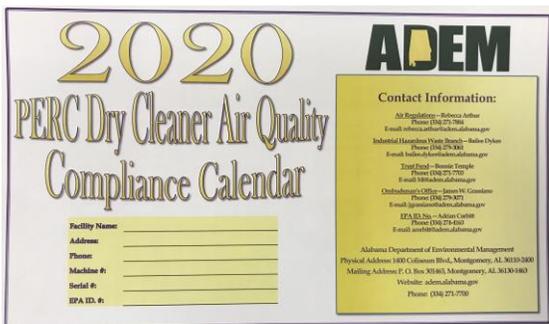
The DERA national grants program funds projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions and exposure, particularly from fleets operating in areas designated as poor air quality areas.

ADEM has set aside 2020 DERA funding for all three eligible participants. Piggly Wiggly was awarded \$230,588, the Randolph County Board of Education \$291,612, and the Winston County Board of Education was awarded \$70,371. All projects were partially funded through the DERA.



This bus - and 16 others - will be replaced thanks to a DERA grant

Compliance Assistance Calendars Available



As a courtesy to the dry cleaning community, ADEM is providing complimentary compliance calendars again this year. This offer marks the 20th year of distribution for this compliance assistance tool. The calendars support ADEM’s efforts to assist small businesses in their efforts to comply with environmental regulations.

Dry cleaners that utilize the chemical perchloroethylene, or PERC, are required to comply with strict control device standards to minimize air emissions. In addition, these facilities are required to comply with specific monitoring and record-keeping

requirements as set forth by the EPA.

ADEM has made a compliance calendar available, which includes charts to document pertinent monitoring data to assist with record-keeping requirements and overall compliance to regulations. The calendar also features monthly tips to remind small businesses of these requirements and the frequency at which their machines should be monitored.

Burn Ban Protects Air Quality

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management recently announced a burn ban to protect air quality in 12 Alabama counties.

The burn ban runs from May 1 through October 31 each year and covers Baldwin, DeKalb, Etowah, Jefferson, Lawrence, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, Morgan, Russell, Shelby and Talladega counties. Its purpose is to combat the formation of ground-level ozone and the generation of fine particulate matter during warm weather months.

“Prohibiting the open burning of wood, tree trimmings, brush and debris generated by land clearing and construction or demolition activities is an effective way to reduce the formation of ground-level ozone, which is formed when volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides react in the presence of heat and sunlight,” said Ron Gore, chief of ADEM’s Air Division. Though beneficial in the upper atmosphere, ozone is a respiratory irritant when found at ground level.

State law says “only vegetation and untreated wood” can be burned, according to Gore. Non-vegetative materials, such as oils, plastics, vinyl, paper, garbage, trash and treated and painted wood, cannot be burned anywhere in the state at any time, he said.

The burn ban is one of many efforts the ADEM uses to maintain air quality. The environmental programs administered by ADEM under the federal Clean Air Act support the over-arching goal of ensuring that all Alabamians have clean air to breathe.

Gore said that the 12-county burn ban is separate from the no-burn orders that are declared by the Alabama Forestry Commission to reduce the dangers of wildfires during dry periods. A fire alert means the Forestry Commission restricts issuing permits for outdoor burning.

ADEM Awards \$1.4 Million in Recycling Grants

ADEM recently announced it has awarded more than \$1.4 million in recycling grants to 16 local governmental agencies for 2020. The grants will be used to purchase equipment such as balers, compactors, recycling trailers, recycling bins and collection vehicles, along with educational and promotional items to encourage recycling and educate the public.

The funds are made possible through the Solid Wastes & Recyclable Materials Management Act, which was passed by the Alabama Legislature in 2008. The legislation imposed a \$1-per-ton fee on all solid wastes disposed of in Alabama landfills. A portion of the proceeds generated by the fee supported the creation of the Alabama Recycling Fund, which provides the foundation for ADEM to award the recycling grants on an annual basis.

The 16 recycling grants awarded this year brings the total amount of recycling grants awarded by ADEM to more than \$20 million and the number of grant recipients to nearly 200.

“These funds will not only benefit local communities, but will boost Alabama’s recycling rate,” said Stephen Cobb, chief of ADEM’s Land Division. “A recycling rate of 25 percent was set in legislation, and that goal has been met and maintained over the past two years. The grants will re-energize stale recycling programs, further enhance other flourishing recycling programs, and support education and outreach activities to promote the importance of recycling throughout the respective communities.”

Here are the 2020 recycling grant recipients:

City of Huntsville	\$200,000	Clay County Commission	\$25,302
Madison County Commission	\$200,000	Lawrence County Commission	\$48,926
City of Madison	\$100,000	City of Northport	\$151,474
City of Montevallo	\$38,313	Montgomery Clean City Commission	\$7,500
Scottsboro Solid Waste Department	\$146,535	East Alabama Recycling Partnership	\$40,377
City of Florence	\$113,208	City of Alexander City	\$20,334
West Alabama Recycling Partnership	\$207,898	City of Millbrook	\$20,587
Athens-Limestone Recycling	\$116,014	City of Eufaula	\$30,907

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. It is distributed electronically and available online through the publications link on the ADEM website at adem.alabama.gov.



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