

ADEM UPDATE

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Health Fair Promotes Health and Wellness



ADEM employees distributed a variety of educational items in Montevallo

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management along with Health Services, Inc., have been working together to continue educating Alabamians on the importance of health and wellness. In August, HSI hosted a health fair and back to school giveaway in Montevallo, with ADEM staff participating to distribute educational materials and other items.

ADEM distributed a variety of handouts and pamphlets for both children and adults. The Department also distributed items for school such as pencils, crayons, and rulers. Adults that attended the health fair at the HIS Family Health Center in Montevallo were given a number

of education and outreach materials on health, wellness, and environmental awareness. ADEM also made information available related to the Department's recycling program, permitting information, and guides to the ADEM website.

The Department also provided free binders that were collected from ADEM staff after use, to encourage others to reuse and recycle. Each binder included a reminder inside encouraging reuse, and with several binders left over, ADEM was able to donate those to the nearby Montevallo Boys and Girls Clubs.

ADEM Helps Schools Systems Reduce Emissions

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has partnered with four school systems to reduce diesel emissions through school bus replacement projects. The projects are utilizing funding under the federal Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA).

While new school buses must meet tougher emission standards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, many older school buses continue to emit harmful diesel exhaust. Diesel exhaust from older buses has a negative impact on human health, especially for children, who have a faster breathing rate than adults and whose lungs are not yet fully developed.

ADEM, using its 2020 DERA funding, has awarded \$496,795 to the Clay County Board of Education, the Lauderdale County Board of Education, the Randolph County Board of Education, and the Winston County Board of Education to assist in the purchase of new, cleaner school buses to replace some of their older buses.

In the last 13 years, more than \$2.49 million has been made available for grant projects and programs to reduce air pollution in Alabama. The projects have involved school buses, trains, as well as on-road and off-road vehicles. Many of the projects included the installation of retrofit devices such as diesel oxidation catalysts on vehicles and anti-idling devices installed on trains in order to reduce particulate emissions.

ADEM Awards Grant for New Pier

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management recently awarded \$183,000 to construct a new boat docking facility at Roland Cooper State Park near Camden in Wilcox County.

The new “T” shaped pier is 160-foot long and 128-foot wide, and considerably expands the available dockage for recreational boaters and visitors, and it is the park’s first handicap-accessible dock.

Gov. Kay Ivey helped unveil the new T-pier at a ribbon-cutting ceremony along with ADEM officials and representatives from

the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Local elected and business leaders joined the Governor at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the pier, as did ADEM Director Lance LeFleur, ADCNR Commissioner Chris Blankenship, and Pam Swanner from Alabama Black Belt Adventures.

“This project is an excellent example of the partnering among state agencies,” said LeFleur. “It also is an excellent example of the commitment both these agencies have to the Black Belt. We invested about 90-percent of our funds in this program to this one project. That shows you how important it is to ADEM.”

The funding comes from ADEM’s Boating Infrastructure Grant through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It provides funds to construct, renovate, and maintain facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length, and to distribute information and educational materials about the program.

“ADEM is committed to the Black Belt,” said LeFleur. “Whether it is helping find funding for waste water treatment facilities or the clean-up of unauthorized dumps or reducing diesel emissions. We are committed.”



Gov. Kay Ivey cuts the ribbon for the new pier at Roland Cooper State Park

Environmental Justice a Priority at ADEM

Since 2007, practically all employees at ADEM have been trained in the basics of Environmental Justice. E.J. classes have been held over the last 14 years providing ADEM staff with a comprehensive view of the many issues and factors associated with this subject.

Environmental Justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

The most recent training for ADEM employees took place in June in an online setting. The classes were conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 representatives, included electronic presentations, computer updates, printed handouts, and a review of Title VI. The training will enable ADEM staff to take advantage of opportunities to enhance Environmental Justice efforts and activities.

Although state involvement with the federal environmental justice activities is totally voluntary, ADEM has embraced the concept of E.J. to facilitate the Department’s continued efforts to provide environmental equity. ADEM is consistently interested in the various components of EPA’s environmental justice programs and in how those programs may be applied to strengthen its efforts to improve on the work it is doing statewide.

The ongoing commitments by ADEM to address E.J. issues and concerns include, developing air, land, and water standards based on science to protect human health and the environment. The Department is looking to incorporate these standards in all permits regardless of a potential facility’s location, and ADEM remains steadfast regarding the fair and meaningful engagement of all groups that may be impacted by Departmental rulemaking, or permitting in a manner tailored to that groups individual needs.

ADEM Funds Road Projects at Two State Parks



Check Presentation - Alabama State Capitol

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced an \$829,080 grant to repave roads at Lake Guntersville and DeSoto State Parks using asphalt containing rubber from recycled tires.

In July, at the State Capitol, ADEM Director Lance LeFleur presented a check to Gov. Kay Ivey and ADCNR Commissioner Chris Blankenship.

The grant will cover the costs of repaving parking areas and 4.8 miles of roads at Lake Guntersville State Park as well as DeSoto State

Park’s access road to DeSoto Falls with the rubber-modified asphalt. In addition, ADCNR will pay for additional roads to be repaved at Lake Guntersville State Park using the special asphalt.

The money for the demonstration project comes from the state’s Scrap Tire Fund. One dollar from the sale of each tire in the state goes into the fund, which is used to remove scrap tires from illegal dumps, along roadsides and other places, as well as to promote the recycling of discarded tires.

LeFleur said the project and partnership with the parks is “a win, win, win.”

“This is a good demonstration project that we hope will build demand for scrap tires by creating a beneficial, environmentally sensitive use for them,” LeFleur said. “It avoids having to dispose of old tires in landfills, and it provides a real value to the parks that benefits everyone who uses them.”

Triennial Review Public Hearing Held at ADEM

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management held a public hearing at 10 a.m. on August 19 to allow concerned citizens, environmental groups, and other interested parties an opportunity to provide comments or suggestions regarding Alabama’s water quality standards.

The public hearing, which was held at the ADEM Central Office building in Montgomery, was part of the Department’s *Triennial Review of Alabama’s Water Quality Standards*. ADEM conducts the Triennial Review at least once every three years as a formal review of the designated uses of Alabama’s vast surface water resources and the water quality standards that protect those waters. As part of the triennial review process, ADEM holds a public comment period as well as a public hearing to give interested persons the opportunity to submit comments on the existing water quality standards rules.

The Department will review all comments and data submitted during the triennial review process and make decisions based on scientific knowledge, experience, and best professional judgment in its efforts to protect Alabama’s water quality.



Members of the general public express their concerns at the Aug. 19 public hearing

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. The ADEM website also has links to videos related to the Department's programs, public hearings, and recent events of interest.



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