

ADEM UPDATE

The official newsletter of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management

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ADEM Provides Water Quality Information



Representatives from 67 counties received water quality information cards

statewide meeting of officials that work with each county's probate judges offices. These cards are available in all 67 counties where individuals go to get boat licenses, fishing licenses, and at other courthouse locations, boat ramps, and marinas.

The cards contain ADEM's phone number, website address, and a QR code. When scanned on a mobile device, people can view information about specific water bodies. The data that is available 24/7 includes coastal beach monitoring, fish consumption advisories, sewage spills, and treated discharges.

ADEM's Dylan Hurst and Jerome Hand helped county officials carry and load boxes of the cards at the probate judges meeting in October at the River Market on the banks of the Black-Warrior River in Tuscaloosa. Hand thanked the officials for taking the cards back to their individual counties and explained their importance.

"If you want to find out about water quality information this is a great way to do so," said Hand. "It's so easy to do with your smart phone and it is updated regularly. It's a really good system."

The cards are also useful because if people run into an environmental problem on the water they can contact the proper authorities to report the issue, and get it addressed in a timely manner.

For more information on the program, or the latest data regarding current sewage spills, treated discharge points, fish consumption advisory locations, or coastal beach monitoring, visit www.adem.alabama.gov.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management continues to help make the state's waterways safer.

ADEM is working with two other state agencies and all 67 counties to provide information that boaters, paddlers, anglers, and swimmers need to know about the rivers, streams, and lakes they visit.

ADEM along with the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency have teamed up to make water quality information available to people in whatever part of the state they live in, or where they enjoy water recreation.

Recently, ADEM distributed more than 200,000 water information cards at a

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)



Unified Strategic Plan Approved by Commission

The Alabama Environmental Management Commission voted unanimously to approve a new Unified Strategic Plan at its regular meeting in December. As part of ADEM’s regulations, the Department is required to develop and update its strategic plan every five years, with the previous plan being approved in 2019.

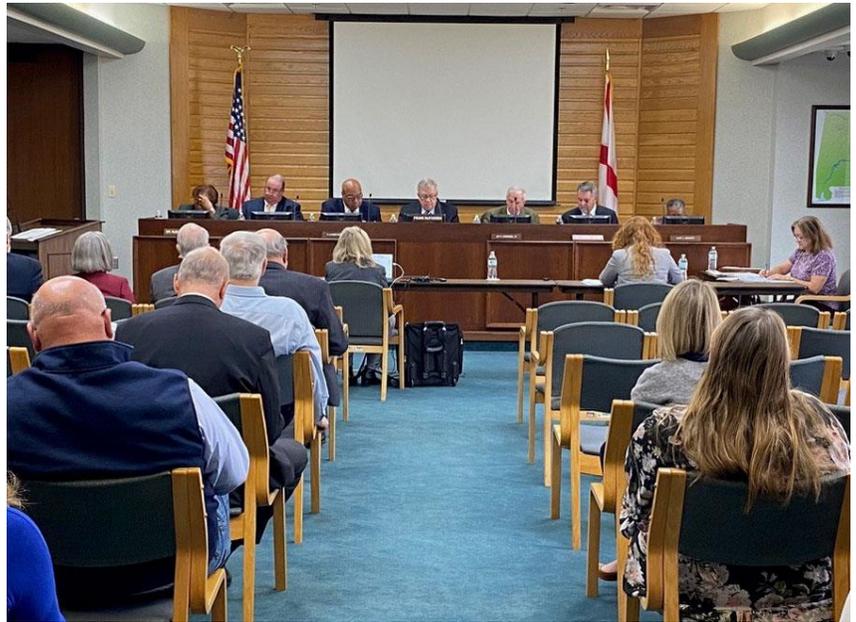
The revised Unified Strategic Plan, written in conjunction with the Department, lays out a challenging vision and direction for ADEM over the next several years.

ADEM Director Lance LeFleur submitted a draft copy of the Unified Strategic Plan to the EMC Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee earlier in 2023. The plan contains five key goals to guide ADEM in carrying out its mission to assure for all people of the state a safe, healthful, and productive environment.

The multi-year and unified strategic plan guides the Department, helps to ensure an effective and responsive Commission along with a goal-oriented work environment for everyone at ADEM. The plan helps create and sustain credible relationships between the Department and external stakeholders, and promotes efficient and effective operations within ADEM.

The Commission and the Department together work with the following values in an effort to guide their operations, fulfil their missions, and safeguard the state’s environment. The first is to make clear, science-based decisions to protect human health and the environment, and to respect each other’s roles, along with seeking transparent communications.

Both the Commission and ADEM want to respect the wise and productive use of resources to gain the greatest return on limited resources and to achieve agreed upon goals, and get results that will have meaningful effects on the environment and all Alabamians.



The EMC unanimously approved the new Strategic Plan on December 8

State Combined Campaign Reaches Goal at ADEM

More than 800 United Way charities in Alabama and around the world benefit from the annual State Combined Campaign.

All participating organizations that receive funds from the campaign are certified by a state employee committee as meeting legal requirements as charitable and legal non-profit agencies. State employees can specifically designate the charities they wish to contribute to and are encouraged to spread their donation over the year by using payroll deduction.

Since the kickoff of fund-raising efforts in September, employees at the ADEM have pledged \$19,253 to the campaign, which is 115-percent of its overall goal of \$16,753.

This year’s fundraisers at the Department have included a hotdog sack lunch, jeans pass donations, “Bucks for Beans” drop-off boxes, and a bake sale.



ADEM Donates Recycled Binders to Local Schools

“Reduce, reuse, and recycle,” is not just a slogan, but something that the Alabama Department of Environmental Management puts into practice.

For years now, ADEM staff has collected used binders from all divisions and sections for reuse and to be given away statewide. They are gathered by ADEM employees, sorted and cleaned, and each binder includes a flyer with a reminder to always recycle.

The binders are made available for assemblies at schools, teacher conferences, health fairs, and other events. ADEM targets low-income communities and families to receive the binders with drop-offs at various places across the state.

ADEM’s most recent deliveries of binders took place in Alabama’s black belt with stops in Dallas County and Sumter County. The schools that received the binders were Selma’s Clark Elementary School and B.K. Craig Elementary School, along with Selma High School. In York, ADEM personnel dropped off boxes of binders at Sumter Central High School and West End Junior High School.

The Department donates the binders to help educate children (and teachers) on the importance of re-using everyday materials. This reuse - along with recycling - reduces materials going into landfills, helps the environment, and provides jobs.



Selma High School received binders in 2023

Break to Educate Completes a Successful Year



ADEM’s Air Division hosted “Break-to-Educate” in January

For more than a year now, ADEM employees have participated in “Break-to-Educate,” which has been highly successful. The educational series began in October of 2022 and has continued ever since.

The “Break-to-Educate” format was designed for all employees with an emphasis on those who have worked at ADEM for less than a year. The sessions have been conducted by ADEM employees for other employees, and has provided employees with well-rounded knowledge about the responsibilities of the Department to help them provide useful information when interacting with the public.

Employees have taken advantage of the opportunity to learn more about ADEM’s divisions, sections, units, and multiple programs,

and how all of them work together to further the goals of the Department, safeguard the environment, and assist all Alabamians.

“Break-to-Educate” sessions have been planned in advance, publicized within ADEM by word-of-mouth and by emails to all employees. The informative gatherings have typically taken less than an hour and have been very educational for attendees and presenters. Each of ADEM’s five divisions have conducted sessions with a full main conference room for most “Break-to-Educate” gatherings. The topics have varied from environmental careers, training, and professional development to boots-on-the-ground sampling and inspections, to permits, compliance assistance, funding efforts, recycling, and air quality forecasting.

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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