



The mission of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of present and future generations of Mississippians by conserving and improving our environment and fostering wise economic growth through focused research and responsible regulation.

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# Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Environmental News

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## Gov. Bryant Announces RESTORE Projects for Mississippi

On December 9, Governor Phil Bryant addressed the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council) at its meeting in Biloxi and announced several projects for the State of Mississippi designed to help restore and protect the environment and economy of the state following the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

The RESTORE Council, consisting of representatives from the five Gulf states and six federal agencies, met to vote on approval of the *Initial Funded Priorities List* and the Spill Impact Component Rule pursuant to the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). Included in that vote were four projects recommended by Mississippi.

“We continue to propose and implement projects to support the economic and natural resource recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the entire Gulf region resulting from the oil spill,” Governor Bryant said. “We have formed effective partnerships with the other states and the federal agencies to ensure funds are spent in the most effective and strategic ways to restore and enhance our natural resources and our economy.”



The four projects recommended by Mississippi focus on ecosystem restoration and are funded under the RESTORE Act:

***Strategic Land Protection, Conservation, and Enhancement of Priority Gulf Coast Landscapes (\$15.5 million)*** -- This project will protect lands through acquisition and conservation easement programs in areas across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Priority areas include the Gulf Islands National Seashore, Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the DeSoto National Forest.

***Enhancing the Opportunities for Beneficial Use of Dredge Sediments (\$2.18 million)*** -- This project will provide funding for planning, engineering and design, and permitting to use dredge material for coastal restoration.

***The Mississippi Sound Estuarine Program: A Programmatic Vision for Bridging Coastal Restoration (\$2.27 million)*** -- The Mississippi Sound Estuarine Program will act as a coordinating body to ensure Mississippi restoration success is maximized. The program will look across the Gulf to leverage existing restoration efforts to the benefit of Mississippi.

***SeaGrant Education and Outreach – Undertake education and outreach activities to describe the values of land protection for habitat, water quality improvement and for securing the future of the Gulf of Mexico in Mississippi (\$750,000)*** -- This project will establish an education and outreach program in Mississippi. The program will provide grants to fund education activities focused on restoration activities such as land conservation, habitat stewardship, and water quality.

The four ecosystem restoration projects total \$20.7 million and are in addition to over \$180 million of oil spill related funds for ecosystem restoration projects received to date.

In addition, Governor Bryant also announced at a press conference that same day Mississippi's Initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MIP) which includes nine proposed projects totaling more than \$54.1 million. The projects were proposed to the Governor by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

GoCoast 2020 was established by Governor Bryant in 2012 to serve as the official advisory body for the allocation of funds received by the state under the RESTORE Act. The RESTORE Act requires the state, through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), to prepare the MIP for Direct Component Funding which is administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.



Press conference with Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, Governor Phil Bryant, and MDEQ Executive Director Gary Rikard.

Some of the eligible activities that can be included in the state's MIP include: restoration and protection of natural resources; mitigation of damage to natural resources; workforce development and job creation; improvements to state parks; infrastructure projects, including ports; coastal flood protection; and promotion of tourism and Gulf seafood. The projects have to be approved by the U.S. Department of the Treasury after a 45 day public comment period.

The proposed economic development projects include:

***Stennis International Airport Hangar (\$2 million)*** -- The proposed hangar facility will increase the capability of Stennis International Airport to provide aeronautical services to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

***Port Bienville Trans-Loading Dock Completion (\$8 million)*** -- The proposed Port Bienville Trans-Loading Dock Completion Project would improve the terminal use for trans-loading, become functional for containers on barge operations, extend an existing rail line, and be used to support supply vessels in the offshore industry.

***Affordable Ultra-High Speed Internet Access (\$5 million)*** -- The proposed project would improve access to ultra-high speed internet, one-gigabit or more, by advancing fiber optic networks along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

**Mississippi Aquarium (\$17 million)** -- The proposed Mississippi Aquarium is envisioned as a family and education and research-centered tourism facility for the Gulf Coast market.

**Jackson County Corridor Connector (\$10.2 million)** -- The proposed Jackson County Corridor Connector will provide a critical link between major commercial developments in the St. Martin/D'Iberville area.

**Work-Ready Community Program (\$4 million)** -- The proposed Mississippi Gulf Coast Work-Ready Community Program is designed to aid coastal citizens in the attainment of basic skills, employability skills, and specific industry skills that are needed in high-demand industry sectors.

**Support for William Carey University School of Pharmacy (\$1 million)** -- The proposed project will support William Carey University in establishing its School of Pharmacy on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

**Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program (\$1 million)** -- The proposed project would establish a program to provide training on the ecological, economic, and business components of off-bottom aquaculture to support the seafood workforce.

**Project Management System (\$900,000)** -- The proposed project management system would assist MDEQ in the management of projects that restore or protect the Gulf Coast Region.

Additionally, Direct Component Funding will also include \$5 million for Strategic Stream Restoration. This project would undertake various aspects of stream restoration such as engineering and design, planning, and implementation and is designed to improve the water quality that empties into the Mississippi Sound and reduce the amount of beach closures due to water quality.

Comprehensive information about these projects and all of Mississippi's restoration efforts can be found at [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms).



## Tips for Going **Green** While Cooking (And Eating) this Holiday Season

Jennifer Milner, Environmental Permits Division

It's that time of year again--special days of spending time with family, watching a little football on TV, and lots of dinners and treats. That's right, the holidays are here, and the MDEQ Solid Waste staff have tips for going green as you prepare those favorite holiday dishes and goodies this year.

No, "going green" is not a term for the reaction to your aunt's mystery meat casserole! Instead these are ways to reduce, re-use, and recycle. Let's begin with source reduction. In other words, don't cook so much food! This year make an effort to prepare only enough food to eat and to have leftovers for you and your guests for the next few days. When such an abundant amount of food is prepared, the potential outcome is that these leftovers go bad before they can be eaten and get thrown in the trash resulting in waste.

The next step is re-use. This can be accomplished by avoiding the use of disposable materials such as paper plates, napkins, plastic cups, and disposable utensils. Instead, prepare and serve your meals in reusable containers. Go ahead and bring out Grandma's cloth napkins, the fine china, fancy flatware and stemware and those serving dishes you have been saving for a special occasion. What better time than the holidays to pull out all the stops? Yes, there will be dishes to wash but just think of it as a way to burn all those calories you just consumed. Also, your house is full of people so put them to work. Another way to re-use is to send everyone home with a doggie bag (a reward for helping with the dishes). Still have food left? Contact a local charity or soup kitchen. Many of these organizations would be happy to take your donation as most provide meals to the homeless during the holiday season. Feeding hungry tummies is even better!

The final step is recycling. Even if the above advice is heeded, chances are you will still have items that you cannot eat or reuse. Food scraps accumulated during the preparation of meals and some leftovers can be added to a backyard compost bin. Flowers from the table centerpiece can be placed into the compost pile as well as long as the flowers are real.



Here is a list of items to compost and not to compost:

**Compost:**

Egg shells  
 Vegetables  
 Salad (*minus the dressing*)  
 Fruits  
 Coffee grounds  
 Bread and crackers  
 Nutshells  
 Rice  
 Herbs and spices  
 Flowers (real only) from centerpiece  
 Soiled paper napkins and paper towels

**Do Not Compost:**

Meat  
 Dairy products  
 Fats, oils, and grease  
 Bones  
 Non-organic material like plastic or metal

Items not suitable for the compost bin such as aluminum cans, plastic bottles, paper, and cardboard can be recycled. Check with your city or county solid waste department on the specific items accepted for recycling. To make collecting compostable and recyclable items easier make sure your guests know which materials can be composted and recycled and in which bin these items should be placed. Also, make composting and recycling more convenient by placing bins in appropriate areas. For example, place a compostable collection pail in the kitchen for food scraps. After the pail is full, then transport the contents to your backyard composter. Place recycling bins in the kitchen and other gathering areas such as near Dad's recliner. He might get thirsty watching all that football.

Hopefully, these tips will help you in your efforts to go green this year.

**Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!**

For more information on waste reduction visit the MDEQ Solid Waste Management webpage: [www.deq.state.ms.us/solidwaste](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/solidwaste).

## MDEQ Raises Funds to Fight Cancer in 2015

During November MDEQ observed No-Shave November and raised more than \$6,100 to fight prostate cancer. A raffle, wild game lunch, and a beard and mustache contest all were used to fund-raise. In addition, the agency raised \$2,700 for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in October. In May staff contributed \$950 for the American Lung Association's LungForce event that raises awareness of lung cancer. In all, a total of more than \$9,800 was raised in 2015 to fight cancer.



MDEQ's Executive Director Gary Rikard presents a check to Michelle Hill of the American Cancer Society for \$6,160.50 raised during No-Shave November.



Photo: MDEQ's Kay Whittington addresses the summit on groundwater issues in the Delta.

## Governor's Task Force Hosts Irrigation and Water Conservation Summit

The Governor's Delta Sustainable Water Resources Task Force hosted an Irrigation and Water Conservation Summit at the Capps Center in Stoneville on December 15. A crowd of approximately 200 attended the event to hear presentations on ways to better manage water resources to achieve both personal water management goals and regional goals for more efficient water use and reduced groundwater pumping in the Delta.



The Task Force, which includes the Yazoo Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District, Delta Council, Delta F.A.R.M., Mississippi Farm Bureau, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, was formed to develop and implement actions to sustain water resources for agriculture, fisheries, and wildlife in the Delta.

For any questions or additional information, please contact Kayra Johnson, Data Administration Branch, at 601-961-5106 or via email at [Kay-ra\\_Johnson@deq.state.ms.us](mailto:Kay-ra_Johnson@deq.state.ms.us).

## NetDMR Training Offered

To comply with the NPDES e-Reporting rule, MDEQ has implemented the use of EPA's NetDMR for the submittal of Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs). Any permittee in the State of Mississippi that is required to submit DMRs must begin submitting them electronically by December 20, 2016. To help with the transition several training classes are being offered throughout the state.

Classes are limited to 25 people, and registration is required. To register, please contact Annette Brocks at 601-961-5252 or at [Annette\\_Brocks@deq.state.ms.us](mailto:Annette_Brocks@deq.state.ms.us), and please include name, phone number, and class. If more than one person is attending from a company, each person must register separately.

### **Class # 19**

#### **Participants need to bring their own laptops**

Date: January 20, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ offices, 515 East Amite Street, Jackson.

### **Class # 20**

#### **Participants need to bring their own laptops**

Date: January 20, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ offices, 515 East Amite Street, Jackson.

### **Class # 21**

Date: January 26, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: Delta State University, Ewing Hall Room 238, Cleveland.

### **Class # 22**

Date: January 26, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: Delta State University, Ewing Hall Room 238, Cleveland.

### **Class # 23**

Date: January 27, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: Delta State University, Ewing Hall Room 238, Cleveland.

### **Class # 24**

Date: January 27, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: Delta State University, Ewing Hall Room 238, Cleveland.

### **Class # 25**

Date: February 17, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ Offices, 515 East Amite Street, Jackson.

## MDEQ ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION LINKS



- Draft permits currently at public notice, <http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/publicnotice.aspx>
- Permits and certificates issued in the last 90 days, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_permits.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_permits.aspx)
- General permit coverages issued in the last 90 days, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_gnp\\_issued.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_gnp_issued.aspx)
- Notices of Intent for coverage under a Statewide General permit received by the Environmental Permits Division, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_gnp\\_notice.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_gnp_notice.aspx)
- List of the 401 Water Quality Certifications currently at public notice, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_wqc\\_public\\_notice.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_wqc_public_notice.aspx)
- List of the compliance inspections recently conducted, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_eced\\_tasks.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_eced_tasks.aspx)
- Orders issued by the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality, [http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report\\_orders.aspx](http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_orders.aspx)

## CONNECT WITH MDEQ

### MDEQ SOCIAL MEDIA

MDEQ on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/MDEQ/118172664880239?v=wall>

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@MDEQ



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### PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Cypress and Tupelo  
Gum Swamp or Brake  
near Hamilton.

Taken by Ron Porter,  
Office of Geology

