



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
Tate Reeves, GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Chris Wells, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MDEQ Recognizes 2024 enHance Members
September 9, 2024

Jackson, MS- The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality recognizes the members of the agency's 2024 *enHance* Environmental Stewardship program.

MDEQ's *enHance* program has awarded seven organizations distinction as top environmental leaders during an annual workshop and awards ceremony, hosted by MDEQ. *enHance* is a voluntary stewardship program that recognizes committed environmental leaders who accomplish goals beyond the standard regulatory requirements.

The *enHance* Class of 2024 has seven renewing members (see attached *enHance* member summaries), including: Baxter Healthcare Corporation (Cleveland), Hunter Douglas, Inc. (Shannon), Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc. and General Recycling of Mississippi, LLC (Flowood), Super Sagless, Leggett & Platt Inc. (Tupelo), US Air Force, Columbus Air Force Base (Columbus), Nouryon Pulp and Performance Chemicals LLC (Columbus) and Mississippi State University (Starkville).

"Our *enHance* program provides our agency with a unique opportunity to work with companies and communities in a non-regulatory role and recognize those which are actively working to reduce their waste and their environmental impacts," said Chris Wells, MDEQ Executive Director. "Each *enHance* member is to be commended for their efforts which have yielded strong evidence of the value and impact of this environmental stewardship program, and both individual and collective efforts, to reduce pollution and enhance sustainability in our state."

Since 2009, *enHance* members have implemented projects that have produced the following impressive results:

- The elimination of over 1.7 million pounds of hazardous waste
- The reduction, reuse or recycling of over 1.6 million tons of solid waste
- The conservation of more than 369 million gallons of water per year
- The reduction of more than 6 billion kilowatt hours of annual energy use and over 21 million MMBTUs of total annual energy savings
- Significant reductions in air emissions, with a CO2 reduction of almost 11 million tons
- Total costs savings of over \$9 million

enHance is a program that is open to manufacturers, local governments, institutions and other eligible organizations. The application process for the *enHance* Class of 2025 is open until November 30, 2024, and interested organizations are invited to apply. More information on MDEQ's *enHance* program can be found at [enhance.ms](https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/enhance).

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MDEQ is responsible for protecting the state's air, land, and water. Our mission 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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