

2026 enHance Annual Workshop and Awards Luncheon

“Smart Sustainability: Stewarding AI to Achieve Environmental Excellence”

Friday, August 21, 2026

The Sheraton Flowood – The Refuge Hotel and Conference Center

2200 Refuge Blvd, Flowood, Mississippi

Agenda	
8:00-8:30 am	Registration
8:30-8:45 am	Welcome and Introductions Trent Jones – Chief, Waste Division, MDEQ Brent Bailey – Vice President, EPL Advisors
8:45-9:15 am	“Ole Miss Sustainability” John Brugge –Director of Sustainability, University of Mississippi
9:15-9:45 am	“TMMMS Paint Non-Potable Water Kaizen” Rachel Parks – Senior Engineer, Environmental Operations, Toyota Mississippi
9:45-10:00 am	Networking Break
10:00-10:30 am	“Shipyard of the Future” Kevin Kowalewski – Environmental Manager, Ingalls Shipbuilding
10:30 -11:00 am	“AI, Infrastructure, and Mississippi’s Future: Innovation, Stewardship, and Responsible Growth” Dr. Kollin Napier – Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer (CAIO), Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN)
11:00 am – 11:45 am	“Smarter Stewardship: Practical AI Use Cases for Environmental and Operational Improvement” Dr. Kollin Napier – CAIO, Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN) John Brugge – Director of Sustainability, University of Mississippi Dr. Julie Jordan – Senior Advisor for AI and Data Governance, Mississippi State University
11:45am – 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 – 1:15 pm	MDEQ Regulatory Update Carrie Barefoot – Land Disturbance Division Jaricus Whitlock – Air Division Brad Justice - Hazardous Waste Division
1:15-2:00 pm	Awards Presentation for 2026 enHance Members Chris Wells – Executive Director, MDEQ Mike Freiman – Director, Office of Pollution Control



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY