

# Empower Dashboard Help File

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The purpose of this file is to give the Empower Dashboard user a guide on navigating the Geographical Information System (GIS) on which the dashboard is based. If the user is already familiar with GIS structures, click [here](#) (or scroll down to Using Empower Dashboard) to read a brief overview of the specifics of this site.

## *General GIS Information*

A Geographical Information System (GIS) is a way to *organize* and *present* data that can be tagged to a location on a map. Rather than displaying tabular data in a spreadsheet in which location is simply another field, a GIS displays icons on a map. The data associated with each icon is accessed by clicking on the icon. A typical GIS also will allow the user to select a subset of the data to be displayed on the map. No further data management software or expertise is needed. This lends a more intuitive and accessible approach to gathering the information necessary for use in any needed analysis or reporting purpose.

Empower Dashboard is an integrated GIS and data management system to facilitate access to the data for various LDNR grant programs that are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

## *Accessing the Empower Dashboard Site*

Empower Dashboard is accessible to anyone with an internet connection and a compatible browser (Internet Explorer). To obtain an account and user password, click on the *register* link on the login screen and follow the prompts.

## *Basic Structure of the System*

Once you are logged onto Empower Dashboard, you will see a screen as below (Figure 1):

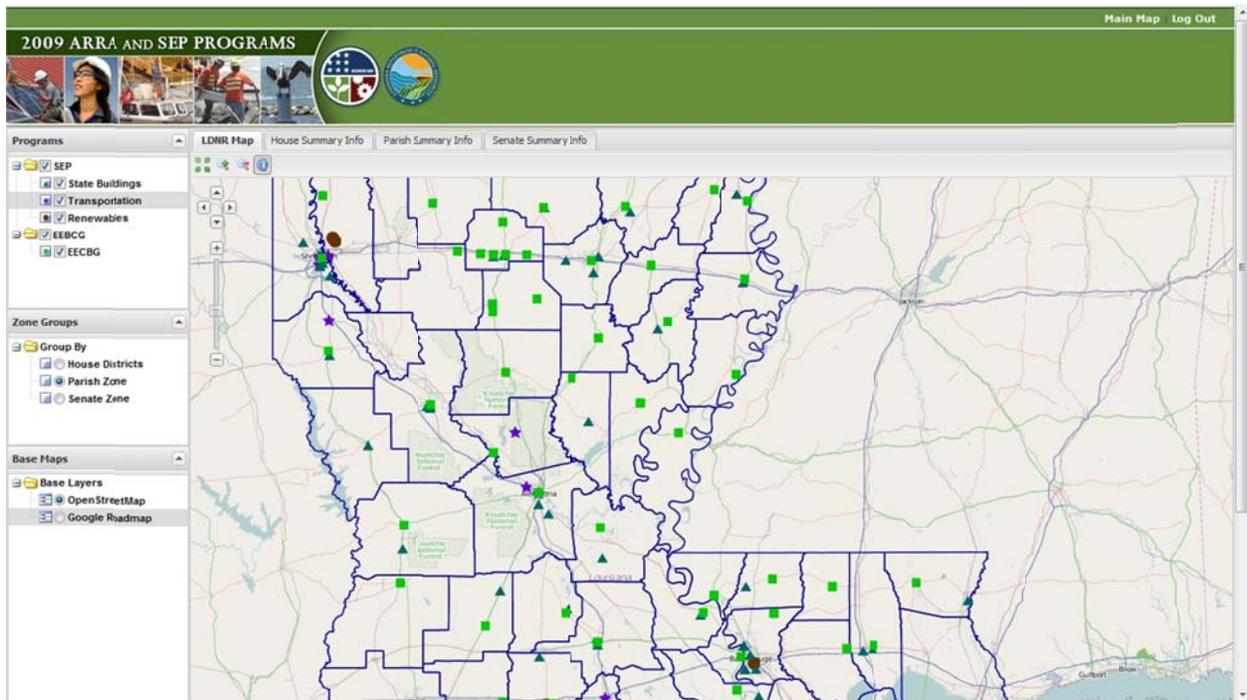


Figure 1 - Empower Dashboard main display

The screen is separated into two main panels, the selection panel on the left and the map displaying the selected information on the right.

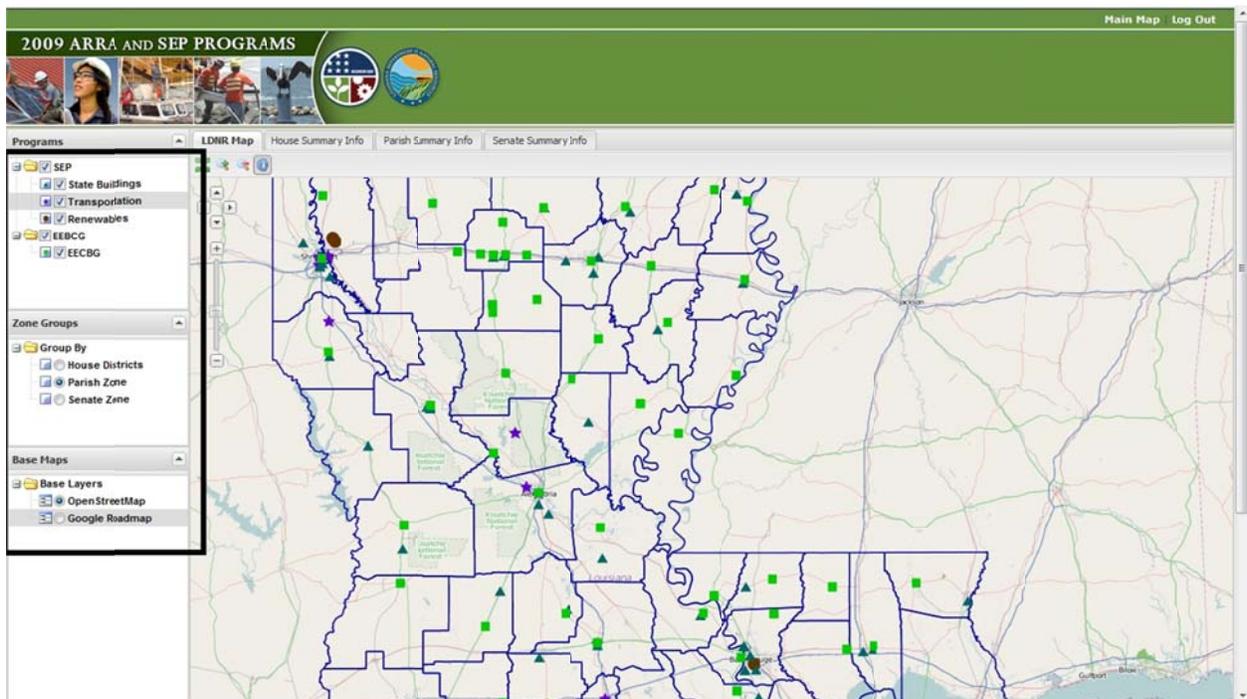


Figure 2 - The highlighted rectangle at left encloses controls for filtering map icons by Grant Program, changing the Zone Group, and changing the Base or Background Map.

### Selection Panel

In the top of the left panel (See Figure 2 above) are checkboxes for selecting one or more grant programs. When a grant program is selected (checked) an icon will be displayed on the map for each project funded by that grant program.

Below the *Program* checkboxes is a radio control labeled *Zone Groups*. One can select one of three kinds of Zone Groups including “House”, “Parish”, or “Senate”. Selecting a zone group tells Empower Dashboard what type of overlay to display on the map. For example, selecting “Parish Zone” will display parish boundaries on the map. Similarly, selecting “House Districts” will display the House district boundaries for the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Finally, below the Zone Group selections is a radio control labeled *Base Maps*. You may use this to change the background map that is displayed.

### GIS Controls

On the top left of the map side of the screen (see figure 3 below) , you will see four selectable icons.

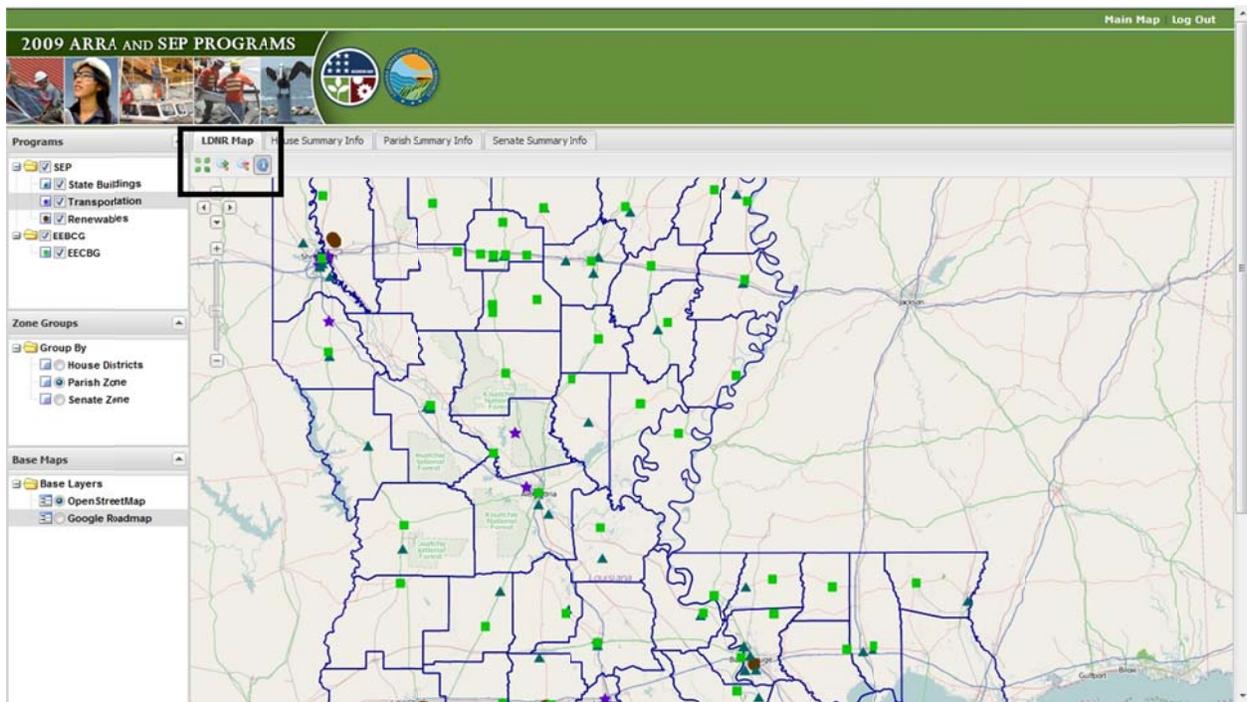


Figure 3 - Highlighted rectangle in upper left corner of map includes the main GIS Controls

These icons, from left to right are as follows (if you hover over each, a tag with its description will appear):

- Zoom to Max Extent
- Zoom In
- Zoom Out

- Get Feature Info.

The first three affect the zoom of the map. The fourth icon, **the blue circle with the lower case 'i'**, is the main button for accessing the data stored in the GIS.

Just below these four icons are standard panning and zooming controls for the map.

### *Using the Empower Dashboard*

There are three levels of Empower Dashboard information.:

1. Information at the level of an individual project,
2. Information for a specific Zone Group (e.g., for a Parish, Senate District, or House District), or
3. Information for the entire state aggregated by Parish, Senate District, or House District.

#### *Accessing information about an individual project*

1. Use the checkboxes in the Programs panel at the upper left to choose which icons appear on the map. For example, if you want to get information about projects funding by the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) program, check the EECBG selection and uncheck all of the others. Projects not funded by EECBG will be hidden from the map making it easier for you to find the EECBG project in which you are interested.

Note the icons next to the program choices. Each program has a unique icon (e.g., triangle, star, etc) which represents it on the map.

2. After making your Program selection, activate the *Get Feature Info* tool by clicking on it. The *Get Feature Info* tool is the exclamation point enclosed in a blue circle (see Figure 3 above).

Note: the *Get Feature Info* tool is a toggle; The *Tool* will remain active until you click it again.

3. Finally, click on any icon on the map to get information about that specific project. A popup table will appear displaying information about the project represented by the icon. If you want to move the popup table out of the way, for example to see what is behind the table, you must first click on the thumb tack in the upper right corner of the table and then drag the table to another location. To close the popup table, click the "X" at the upper right corner of the table.

#### *Accessing information for a specific Zone Group*

1. Select a Zone Group. For example, if you want to access information by Parish, then select Parish as the Zone Group.
2. If it is not already active, click the *Get Feature Info* tool to activate it. The *Get Feature Info* tool is the exclamation point enclosed in a blue circle (see Figure 3 above).

3. To view summary information for the selected zone (e.g., for the selected parish) click anywhere within the zone you are interested in; do not click on an icon as that will display data for the individual project represented by the icon. After clicking in the zone of interest, a popup table containing totals for the zone will be displayed. For example, if you selected Parish as the Zone Group and clicked in Orleans Parish, the popup table would display total ARRA funds allocated for all projects in Orleans Parish, as well totals for other project related information. If you want to move the popup table out of the way, for example to see what is behind the table, you must first click on the thumb tack in the upper right corner of the table and then drag the table to another location. To close the popup table, click the "X" at the upper right corner of the table.

*Accessing information for the entire state aggregated by Parish, Senate District, or House District*

There are 4 tabs above the map area labeled *LDNR Map*, *House Summary Info*, *Parish Summary Info*, and *Senate Summary Info*. The *LDNR Map* tab displays the clickable state map from which you access information as described above. The *House Summary Info*, *Parish Summary Info*, and *Senate Summary Info* tabs take you away from the map and display statewide tabular information aggregated by House District, Parish, and Senate District, respectively. Simply click on a tab to view the tabular information. To return to the map, click on the *LDNR Map* tab.