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# Louisiana Energy Briefs

Department of Natural Resources

Technology Assessment Division

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## **Louisiana Project for Industrial and Academic Cooperation**

Louisiana Project for Industrial and Academic Cooperation is a new project that will be designed to provide a mechanism to facilitate technology transfer from Louisiana's Academic Institutions and National Laboratories to Louisiana industries in order to assist Louisiana's industries to become more effective by decreasing costs, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing waste. Through this cooperative endeavor, statewide goals and technology maps will be developed for Louisiana's industry that will facilitate academia's and government's activities to meet Louisiana's industrial needs by directing university and government research activities to meet these needs. This partnership of Industry, Academia, and Government will identify industry's needs and exchange ideas, seek funding from outside sources for the industries, and provide research as needed. The five energy and waste intensive industries included in this project are agriculture, chemicals, forest products, oil and gas production, and petroleum refining. Louisiana Project for Industrial and Academic Cooperation is a Louisiana Department of Natural Resources sponsored project based upon the award of a competitive grant from U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Industrial Technology.

## **Engineering Students at UNO Place in Solar Competition**

In June, students at the University of New Orleans competed in both national solar car and boat competitions. These projects were developed in an effort to provide engineering students the opportunity to design, test, and race a solar powered vehicle as part of a national investigation on the use of solar power as an alternative to internal combustion engines. The Sol of Mardi Gras, UNO's solar powered boat, recently participated in Solar Splash with much success. The team placed first in sprint, slalom, and solar array design, fourth in technical report and visual display, and sixth out of nineteen entries in overall points. Although successful in the race, the team ran into a significant road block when the endurance manufacturer failed to deliver an extra motor and motor controller, leaving the team with no backup motor. The Sol of New Orleans II, UNO's solar powered car, participated with 40 other universities in Sun Rayce '99, a solar race from Washington, D.C. to Orlando, FL. The race which began June 20, occurred over 9 days and was over 1200 miles in length. Although they did not place, the team reached several milestones in car design over the previous year.

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*The Sol of New Orleans II*

## **Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) Offers Cash At Closing**

The new Home Energy Loan Program offers financial incentives in the form of low-interest loans or actual cash payments for Louisiana residents who build new homes to high levels of energy efficiency. The HELP program will offer the homebuilders and home buyers two options: a reduced interest rate on a portion of the house loan or a one-time cash payment. Both the amount eligible for low-interest financing and the amount of the one-time cash payment are determined by a Home Energy Rating that must be performed on all houses participating in the program. The amount eligible is called the energy efficiency premium, and will vary from house to house based on their relative level of energy efficiency. Each new home built or improved under the program will save the home owner over \$600 annually in energy costs and at the same time reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7,300 lbs/yr. There is tremendous potential in this program considering there are 1.4 million homes in Louisiana. The Energy Section has provided training and education throughout the state to builders interested in the program. Widespread enthusiasm for the program has been apparent by the number of individuals trained since the initiation of the program. During June alone, 524 builders attended these programs with 485 receiving continuing education credits. As evidenced through the ardent support experienced, this program has proven to be extremely successful and well needed.

## **Rebuild Louisiana**

Rebuild Louisiana is part of a multi-state U.S. Department of Energy effort called Rebuild America. All across the nation, hundreds of Rebuild partners are working together to assist each other in a time tested way of improving business operations. In Louisiana, partners are encouraged to improve energy efficiency, reduce waste by participating in an audit of their facility which will help identify and prioritize the areas of greatest savings potential.

This Fall, the DNR Energy Section will launch the new “Student Building Efficiency Program” by providing funding for four universities to offer energy audits to the public. Patterned after the Department of Energy funded Rebuild America program, and authored by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories, this innovative course will provide students with the tools necessary to conduct onsite energy audits. Utilizing Facility Energy Decision System (FEDS) 4.0 software, a comprehensive analysis, along with suggestions for energy savings, will provide valuable information for decision makers. These services and others will be provided to communities statewide free of charge with the most immediate impact expected to be felt by the municipalities, K-12 schools, and our colleges and universities.

