SERVICESTEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

DEQ Guide

STEWARDSHIP   SERVICE   PARTNERSHIP
Dan Wyant currently serves as the director of the DEQ. In this role, he charges the agency to be leaders in environmental stewardship, partners in economic development, and providers of excellent customer service. He previously served as president and chief operating officer of the Edward Lowe Foundation, which promotes entrepreneurship and helps second-stage business owners accelerate growth for their companies, a position he held from 2005 to 2011. Prior to that, he served as director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture under both Governor John Engler and Governor Jennifer Granholm. Dan holds a bachelor’s degree in food systems management from Michigan State University and an MBA from American University in Washington, D.C.
Divisions and Offices

Air Quality Division
The Air Quality Division (AQD) staff works with business, industry, air pollution sources, and with the public to maintain clean air and minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment. Staff work to reduce existing outdoor air pollution problems and to prevent deterioration of air quality through air emission control programs, air monitoring, control strategy planning, permit issuance, and inspection of air emission sources. [www.michigan.gov/air](http://www.michigan.gov/air)

Office of Environmental Assistance
The Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) promotes environmental stewardship and enhances customer service across the DEQ. OEA’s primary services are compliance assistance, pollution prevention, environmental education, permit coordination, financial assistance, incentive programs, training, and outreach. Additionally, the OEA manages metrics, process improvement, Freedom of Information Act requests, and professional development initiatives. [www.michigan.gov/deqoea](http://www.michigan.gov/deqoea)

Office of the Great Lakes
The Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) was created by the Michigan Legislature in 1985 under the Great Lakes Protection Act to lead policy development and implement programs to protect, restore, and sustain the Great Lakes ecosystem. The OGL is responsible for Michigan’s Great Lakes Areas of Concern, Lakewide Action and Management Plan programs, and Michigan’s Coastal Zone Management Program. The OGL director also represents the state in a number of international and interstate organizations, including the Asian Carp Coordinating Committee, Great Lakes Commission, International Joint Commission, and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. [www.michigan.gov/deqogl](http://www.michigan.gov/deqogl)

Remediation and Redevelopment Division
The Remediation and Redevelopment Division (RRD) administers two cleanup programs – the Environmental Remediation program and the Underground Storage Tank program – and coordinates DEQ’s implementation of brownfield redevelopment financing for environmental response activities. In addition, the RRD manages portions of the federal Superfund program, established under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. These programs guide RRD’s efforts in the remediation and redevelopment of contaminated properties in Michigan. [www.michigan.gov/deqrrd](http://www.michigan.gov/deqrrd)
Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals
The Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals (OOGM) oversees the development of fossil fuels and minerals to ensure protection of natural resources, the environment, property, and public health and safety. The OOGM regulates the locating, drilling, operating, and plugging of wells used for exploration and production of oil, gas, brine, and minerals, as well as for underground storage and waste disposal. It also regulates mines for metallic minerals and industrial sand. Additionally, the OOGM maintains a variety of maps and data on Michigan geology, fossil fuels, and minerals for industry and public use. www.michigan.gov/deqoilgasminerals

Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection
The Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection (OWMRP) includes the solid and hazardous waste programs as well as work related to some radioactive materials. It oversees solid waste disposal areas and county planning, the transportation and collection of scrap tires, the transportation and disposal of liquid industrial and hazardous waste, electronic waste collection and recycling, and the storage and disposal of medical waste. The office also is responsible for developing a more comprehensive strategy for residential, commercial, and industrial recycling and finding beneficial uses of waste materials. Activities in the radiological arena include coordinating with nuclear power plants, local emergency responders, and the federal government to ensure that Michigan has sufficient resources in the event of a radioactive material release. The state’s radon awareness program is also managed from this office. www.michigan.gov/deqwaste

Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
The Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance (ODWMA) oversees Michigan’s 11,000 public water supplies to ensure safe drinking water. The office is involved in source water protection, operator certification and training, water well construction, registration of water well drilling contractors, assisting local health departments in conducting drinking water quality investigations in areas of known or suspected environmental contamination, administering drinking water replacement activities, approving and licensing the handling of domestic septage including land application and registration of haulers, and oversight of the on-site wastewater program. The office is also responsible for the design approval and licensing of campgrounds and public swimming pools. In addition, the office’s revolving loan programs provide grant and loan assistance for eligible drinking water, wastewater, and water quality improvement projects. www.michigan.gov/deqwater

Water Resources Division
The Water Resources Division (WRD) protects and monitors Michigan’s waters by establishing water quality standards, assessing the health of aquatic communities, issuing permits to regulate wastewater discharges, and overseeing aquatic invasive species concerns and significant water withdrawals. The WRD also processes permit applications and provides technical assistance to local soil erosion and sedimentation control programs as well as activities like dredging or filling water bodies; constructing or dismantling dams; constructing marinas, seawalls, or docks; building in a designated critical sand dune, wetland, or floodplain; and protecting underwater shipwreck resources. www.michigan.gov/wrd

36,000 miles of rivers and streams in Michigan
11,000 inland lakes
5.5 million acres of wetlands

Divisions and Offices
Strategic Goals

- Protect public health
- Improve the quality of air, land, and water
- Increase recycling and reuse of waste
- Secure long-term stable funding
- Reduce untreated sewage discharges to waters of the state
- Employ effective risk management and increase redevelopment at contaminated properties
- Reduce uses and releases of mercury and other harmful contaminants
- Reduce the introduction of aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes

Working side by side with partners at the local, regional, and state levels, the DEQ safeguards our state's environment while supporting the economic growth and development crucial for Michigan's future.

As part of providing expert technical and pollution prevention assistance to businesses and individuals, the DEQ annually performs approximately 30,000 site visits and inspections.

The DEQ employs about 1,100 scientists, engineers, geologists, toxicologists, inspectors, technicians, managers, biologists, and support staff across the state.