

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Dan Wyant Director

Dan Wyant was named Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in January, 2011, by Governor Rick Snyder.

The appointment marked a return to public service for Wyant, who was director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) for nine years before he departed in 2005 to be President and Chief Operating Officer for the Edward Lowe Foundation.

Wyant's work with the Edward Lowe Foundation involved setting the strategic vision for the organization, which promotes entrepreneurship and helps second-stage business owners accelerate growth for their companies.

During his tenure at the MDA, Wyant was appointed to the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council, a bipartisan task force that developed innovative programs for land use and farmland preservation.

Prior to directing the MDA, Wyant provided policy expertise for the Senate Majority Office and was associate director of Governor John Engler's Office of Legislative Affairs. He began his career in the private sector, as a marketing manager for the Ralston Purina Co. and then as an export trade consultant for Lowe's International.

In addition to extensive state government experience, Dan Wyant brings a clear strategic vision to the DEQ and a proven track record for helping opposing interests find common ground.

His vision for the DEQ stems from Governor Snyder's vision for Michigan. Wyant is committed to supporting the agency's advancement on the following fronts:

- **Environmental stewardship:** The department's mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and carefully permitting activities that impact our air, water and soils.
- **Being full partners in Michigan's economic recovery:** Business development and environmental stewardship can and should co-exist, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will lead the effort to demonstrate how.
- **Providing unmatched customer service:** As public servants, agency staff at every level are encouraged and expected to deliver customer service that reflects professionalism and courtesy.

Part of Wyant's appointment as DEQ Director includes chairing the Quality of Life group for the Snyder Administration – a trio of state agencies that includes DEQ, the Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The group works to find ways to make three agencies with similar missions and constituents run more efficiently and effectively through coordination at the headquarters, administrative, and field levels.

Wyant holds a bachelor's degree in food systems management from Michigan State University and a master's in business administration from American University in Washington, D.C. A native of southwest Michigan, Wyant and his wife live in East Lansing.