

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

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Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Pollution Prevention Partnership Presents Award to Port of Corpus Christi

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Pollution Prevention Partnership at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has recognized the Port of Corpus Christi as a local leader in volunteer programs to reduce ozone-causing air emissions. Corpus Christi is the largest industrial based city in the United States still in attainment of ozone standards.

The Port has been a significant partner with the Pollution Prevention Partnership, hosting and promoting numerous AutoCheck events. AutoCheck detects polluting vehicles, informs vehicle operators if their vehicle is polluting and provides repair assistance. The program also checks gas caps for leaks and inflates the tires of participating motorists.

“Pre-repair and post repair emission readings as a result of the Port of Corpus Christi events led to a significant reduction in air emissions that will be most helpful in Corpus Christi’s continued attainment of ozone standards,” said Gretchen Arnold, director of the Pollution Prevention Partnership. “At a time when ozone levels are increasing throughout the country and areas are slipping into non-attainment, through voluntary programs and initiatives such as those being recognized at the Port, Corpus Christi is actually experiencing declining levels of ozone.”

Using AutoCheck, all Port vehicles have screened for emissions and follow-up maintenance activities conducted. A total of 647 port personal and public vehicles have been screened for emissions, leaking gas caps and tire pressure. Of those, 77 vehicles were detected as polluting.

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The drivers of 46 polluting vehicles took advantage of the AutoCheck repair assistance and had their vehicles repaired to clean status. Another 17 vehicles had leaking gas caps that were replaced.

Other examples of the Port's leadership in reducing emissions includes participation in energy consumption reduction initiatives, propane powered yard equipment, idling reduction, and the Port's Environmental Management System.

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