



PORTCORPUSCHRISTI

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PORT CORPUS CHRISTI EARNED RECOGNITION BY THE TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI POLLUTION PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

Corpus Christi, TX - The Texas A & M University - Pollution Prevention Partnership (PPP) of Corpus Christi presented recognition to Port of Corpus Christi and its employees for its leadership in proactive environmental activities supporting the PPP efforts of maintaining acceptable levels of ozone in Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend region. The recognition will be presented to the Port Commission *Tuesday, July 14 at 9:00 a.m.* at the Solomon P. Ortiz International Center located at 402 Harbor Drive.

Port Corpus Christi earned the recognition for being a significant partner. Through the Port Corpus Christi's Environmental Management System (EMS), the port is a community leader for its proactive efforts and voluntary emission reductions. Along with the PPP, the port hosted and promoted numerous AutoCheck events to detect pollution vehicles, inform vehicle operators if their vehicle is polluting and provides repair assistance for polluting vehicles. The Program also checks gas caps for leaks and inflates tires of participating motorists. Port Corpus Christi also earned this significant recognition because its voluntary leadership in energy consuming reduction initiatives, propane powered yard equipment and idling reductions all overseen by the port's EMS program. *"The Port is proud of doing its share to make sure Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend region stay in attainment of air quality standards,"* said John LaRue,

Executive Director. *“Although, the region is growing and the air standards have been toughened, we are the only industrial based region in United States that can claim that.”*

The Port’s EMS program is in its 3rd year of ISO 14001 certification and its 5th year of implementation. Each year, the program must undergo a detailed external audit to get ISO 14001 certified. The EMS program is overseen by a team of port employees from different departments and manages all environmental issues. In the 5 years of implementation, the program has identified 28 significant aspects. Of those 28 significant aspects, 15 have been managed to the point that the impact has been reduced significantly. Employees are continuing to come up with better ideas to manage and reduce our environmental footprint. *“Significant reductions are being made because employees have come together, thought of great ideas, and implemented them. It is refreshing all the ideas that employees have come up with to prevent pollution and how much the employees want to protect our natural resources”* says Sarah Garza, Environmental Compliance Manager for the port.

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