

## Seaports and the Environment

### **Seaports are working to identify solutions that enhance our coastal resources and reduce environmental impact**

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) and its members are committed to delivering prosperity through environmentally sustainable seaports by improving the coastal environment, managing their environmental impact and engaging stakeholders and community members.

#### **Enhancing the Coastal Environment**

AAPA's members are proactively working to enhance the air, water and land of the coastal environment. Through partnerships and independent projects, seaports are working to reduce air emissions, find solutions to the challenge of aquatic invasive species, and protect and create wildlife habitats.

- AAPA-member seaports are engaged in a wide range of projects and programs to preserve and enhance the environment including voluntary air emissions reductions, habitat restoration, community education and outreach, beneficial reuse of dredged material, and advancing ballast water treatment technology. For example:
  - The Port of Houston Authority has used dredged material from the Houston Ship Channel to create/enhance environmental habitats that include a six-acre bird nesting island, an underwater berm to attract fish, access channels and anchorages for recreational boaters, and reconstruction of two islands.
  - The Maryland Port Administration, working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pioneered beneficial uses of dredged material for restoring eroding islands and developing upland and wetland habitats in the Chesapeake Bay.
  - San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission is working in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps to restore the former Hamilton Army Airfield and North Antenna Air Field back to a natural tidal wetland.
  - Many seaports have implemented programs for reducing or eliminating soil and groundwater contamination from entering waterways around their facilities through increased tree planting, soil testing and storm drain filtering.

#### **Managing Environmental Impact**

Seaports are comprehensively managing their environmental impact on an ongoing basis by developing policies and goals that address the seaports' commitment to the environment.

- Many seaports have implemented Environmental Management Systems (EMSs) based on an international standard to thoroughly address all aspects of their environmental performance. An EMS enables port authorities to identify environmental realities and risks and to implement realistic solutions to create a healthy environment for their communities.
- The Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma and Port Metro Vancouver (British Columbia) jointly unveiled the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy, a key portion of which addresses reducing truck emissions.
- The Massachusetts Port Authority has adopted Sustainable Design Standards and Guidelines for use by all seaport planners, architects and engineers.

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## **Engaging Stakeholders and Communities**

Seaports are including stakeholders in planning and problem-solving while also informing community members and involving government agencies to help find solutions and craft a vision for the future that benefits seaports, their neighbors and port workers.

- Many seaports are partnering with their local communities to control emissions by retrofitting legacy equipment, using cleaner fuels, improving operational efficiency and purchasing new electric and battery-powered equipment. Some port authorities – such as Los Angeles, Long Beach, New York and New Jersey, Virginia, Houston, Seattle and Tacoma – have clean truck programs aimed at reducing harmful emissions within the surrounding port area in response to community concerns.
- The Maryland Port Administration utilized a community-led process to evaluate and select the placement site for dredged material from Baltimore harbor.
- The Port of Portland (OR) has developed an Environmental Outreach and Communications Program to share information with stakeholders and provide a means of feedback to program and project decision-makers.
- The South Carolina State Ports Authority supported the formation of the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities are working with civic leaders to create a community mitigation plan for one of its container terminals.