

What is the Pledge for Growth?



PORTCHARLESTON

The "Pledge for Growth" is a new initiative by the South Carolina State Ports Authority (SPA) designed both to educate the public on the diverse environmental and community programs the SPA is leading, as well as to challenge local business and community leaders to make a positive impact.

The SPA's own Pledge for Growth brings under one umbrella the various environmental and community programs—both voluntary and related to port expansion at the former Navy Base—all related to four main areas. The examples below are just highlights of the overall initiatives. To learn more, visit www.PledgeforGrowth.com.

Land

As an example of the SPA's land conservation efforts, the SPA is contributing \$3 million to restore 22 acres of tidal marsh along the southern tip of Drum Island in lower Charleston Harbor. While the state requires a ratio of 1:1 for the replacement of filled marsh, this project will restore more than double the acreage that will be affected by development of the new terminal. The project offers the rare opportunity to create new tidal marsh in the middle of Charleston Harbor, invigorating the area with indigenous plants and creating a critical marsh ecosystem.

Air

As one part of a voluntary agreement with SCDHEC to reduce air emissions, the SPA agreed to evaluate the use of cleaner fuels, such as biodiesel and ultra-low sulfur diesel. Last September, the SPA switched all of its on-terminal equipment to ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD)—three years ahead of federal mandate. Seven tenants on SPA facilities will be switching to the cleaner fuel by this fall. Emissions reduction from affected equipment is 10 percent.

Water

Among the water-related efforts in the Pledge for Growth, one program involves funding to protect the endangered Northern right whale. In order to reduce the risk of ship strikes along the whales' migratory path, the Port is donating up to \$1 million for a 5-year agreement with Wildlife Trust to protect the Northern right whale. The funds contribute to additional aerial surveys along the South Carolina coast to spot, track and alert mariners of the location of the whales.

People

Through a more than \$4 million community mitigation plan, the SPA has created a long-term partnership with North Charleston leadership and the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC). As one aspect of the plan, the SPA will contribute \$1 million to help establish a housing trust for the creation of affordable housing.

TAKE the PLEDGE

carpooling, or utilizing more efficient energy sources, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

How else is the port thinking beyond its own growth?

Visit www.PledgeforGrowth.com

To truly enhance our communities, the SPA cannot do it alone. It needs responsible executives and organizations each willing to do their own part. That's why the cornerstone of the Pledge for Growth is the website's interactive component, where members of the community may Take the Pledge, if just in a small way. Examples could be establishing a company-wide recycling program, encouraging employee

