



News Release

Green Flag Program Improves Air For 11 Years

Port offers discounts for ships that slow, reduce emissions

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Shipping lines calling at the Port of Long Beach cut thousands of tons of air pollution last year by voluntarily participating in the Port's Green Flag Program, which offers financial rewards for ships that reduce their speed near the harbor to decrease emissions.

The program, initiated 11 years ago as part of Long Beach's Green Port Policy, gives participants a Green Flag to celebrate their environmental accomplishments and dockage rate breaks to shipping lines slowing to 12 knots or less within 20 or 40 nautical miles of the Port. In 2015, 154 vessel operators met or exceeded the program's required 90 percent participation rate at either 20 or 40 nautical miles.

The Green Flag Program has been highly successful in reducing air pollution from ships, the leading port-related source of emissions. Since 2005, the Port has targeted emissions from ships, trucks, trains, harbor craft and yard equipment. As a result, diesel particulates are down 85 percent, smog-forming sulfur oxides are down 97 percent, nitrogen oxides are down 50 percent and greenhouse gases are down 21 percent.

"We have a lot of help in building the Port of the Future," said Harbor Commission President Lori Ann Guzmán. "The Green Flag Program is a great example of our partnership with stakeholders to reduce our environmental impacts while continuing to provide more than 316,000 jobs in Southern California."

The ambitious and landmark Green Port Policy also includes other programs aimed at reducing vessel emissions, including the Green Ship Program to encourage newer vessels with cleaner engines to come to Long Beach. Also, the Port encourages vessel operators to use shore power, or "cold ironing," which reduces air pollution by enabling ships to tap into landside



electricity while at berth instead of running diesel fueled engines to run crucial systems.

“Our voluntary environmental initiatives have led to dramatic improvements in air quality,” said Port of Long Beach CEO Jon Slangerup. “We have surpassed our clean air goals for 2014 and nearly all of them for 2023. We continue to aspire to be the world’s first zero emissions port.”

[Click here for an overview of the Green Flag Program and 2015 statistics.](#)

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