



L.A., Long Beach Ports Executive Directors Speak at C40 World Ports Climate Conference

Representatives of 40 ports gather to set global environmental agenda

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Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D., and Port of Long Beach Executive Director Richard D. Steinke joined with port leaders from around the globe this week in Rotterdam, Netherlands, to declare their commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gases and the improvement of air quality at ports worldwide.

Southern California's San Pedro Bay Ports and other participants at the C40 World Ports Climate Conference endorsed a declaration saying that because there is evidence that greenhouse gases are tied to global climate change, ports have a responsibility to cut emissions from oceangoing ships, port operations and hinterland goods movement, and to promote renewable energy. Ports were also called upon to take stock of their own carbon footprints and develop goals to shrink them.

The conference featured representatives from ports that had already taken action to reduce greenhouse gases and other air pollutants.

"This conference illustrated that change is afoot among leading seaports in terms of recognizing what we can do to contribute to cleaner air and more sustainable operations – all for the benefit of our cities and the global community," said Dr. Knatz.

Dr. Knatz, 2009 chairwoman elect of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), gave presentations on innovative climate initiatives like the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, and carbon footprint reduction efforts underway at various US ports in conjunction with their local and state governments. In Los Angeles, these efforts include the "Green LA" plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent below 1990 levels over the next two decades. In addition, L.A.'s "Zero Emissions Port" initiatives include the Port's funding of a prototype all-electric heavy duty short-haul drayage truck and plans to initiate a 10 megawatt solar electrical power generation program in 2009.

At a panel discussion on oceangoing vessels, Steinke spoke on Port of Long Beach programs that target vessel-related emissions, including greenhouse gases.

For example, the Port's pollution-cutting Green Flag Vessel Speed Reduction program has achieved more than 90 percent participation, cutting more than 24,000 tons of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide) and reducing air pollution by 600 tons a year.

The Port of Long Beach and neighboring Port of Los Angeles just launched an incentive program to encourage ships to switch to cleaner, low-sulfur fuel at berth and when transiting within 40 miles from the ports.

"This conference is important for the Port of Long Beach's efforts to clean the air. When ports around the world join together to commit to environmental stewardship and reducing greenhouse gases, it strengthens local clean air programs like ours," Steinke said.

Along with leaders of ports and port cities, members of the shipping industry participated at the conference. The conference was organized to ensure the broadest possible support for clean ports and clean shipping.

For more information about the conference, go to <http://wpccrotterdam.com/>.

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