

LATEST NEWS

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Houston-Galveston area to get \$36M to reduce air pollution

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has awarded the Houston-Galveston area \$36 million in grants for 43 projects designed to reduce air pollution.

The local slice of \$36 million is part of \$80.89 million initiative that includes 203 such projects statewide to remove more than 13,000 tons of ozone-producing nitrogen oxide from Texas air. That is equivalent to removing nitrogen oxide emissions from 182,500 cars per day.

The grants are funded under the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan, a program created by the Texas Legislature to provide financial incentives for voluntary reductions in nitrogen oxide emissions from vehicles and equipment. These reductions will help ensure that Texas will meet upcoming federal Clean Air Act deadlines.

In the Houston-Galveston area, TERP will fund 43 projects that will remove an estimated 3.72 tons of NOx per day, and a total of 5,690 tons over the life of the grants.

As part of the initiative, Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday presented a check for \$1.8 million to Buffalo Marine Services Inc. of Houston to help repower old tug boats.

Nitrogen oxide is one of the primary components of ground-level ozone. When NOx reacts with volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight and low-wind levels, ozone is formed. NOx is usually a by-product of high-temperature combustion.