North American Growth Project continues to make progress

The Baytown Olefins Plant continues to make great progress in building our new ethylene unit. The plant is growing, and we are excited about what this investment brings to our community in terms of economic growth, good jobs and opportunity.

In February, we announced mechanical completion of our project. As we are preparing for startup, we are blowing air and steam to clear the new equipment of any debris. This activity will continue until May. You may notice intermittent noise associated with this activity. Please note that every effort is being made to keep the noise to a minimum.

Beginning this month, we will also start testing our multi-point ground flare system. Benefits of this leading-edge technology to our community include clean, efficient and smokeless combustion operations designed to reduce noise and flame visibility. During testing, you may observe controlled safety flaring from a distance.

Although our skyline has changed, our commitment to safety and the environment is still unwavering and continues to be our highest priority. As we anticipate to complete start-up during summer, thank you for your patience as we continue to make progress.
Have you ever seen, smelled, or heard something at an industrial facility that concerned you? The East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) CAER OnLine offers easy access to information about industrial operations that may have community concern.

In late November 2017, the CAER system was upgraded to a new, simpler and more robust platform paving the way for the use of smart technology such as iPhone and Android devices to keep informed on alerts and events that occur at EHCMA member facilities in East Harris County.

Visit the CAER (Community Awareness Emergency Response) Line at www.ehcma.org/caeronline to get plant activity information about an industrial facility in the Baytown Area. Download the app today by searching “EHCMA CAER Online” in the Apple and Google Play stores.

ExxonMobil hosts 2018 Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day in Baytown

On February 23, about 180 eighth grade girls from Baytown Junior High, Barbers Hill Middle School and Cedar Bayou Junior High visited ExxonMobil for the 2018 Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.

The event provides the students with a unique opportunity to interact with successful women who work in engineering, math and science and provide a sneak peek – through fun activities – into everyday problem-solving work. With U.S. jobs growing most rapidly in areas that require science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) knowledge and skills, the goal of the program is to promote curiosity among female middle school students and ultimately shrink the gender gap in STEM fields.

The students participated in several hands-on activities throughout the day. During “Prosthetic Hand Engineering,” the girls were tasked with creating hands out of straws, modeling clay, and string. They were able to manipulate their designs to bend and flex the straws like fingers on a prosthetic hand. In addition to biomedical engineering, the girls also tried their hand at chemical engineering by making fizzy bath bombs with a variety of scents and colors. The girls also observed various science experiments and demonstrations put on by the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Their final activity introduced an element of friendly competition. The girls teamed up to build a tower that was not only tall but could also support weight. Not only were the girls tasked with engineering a soaring yet sturdy tower, they also were challenged to produce the most cost-effective design.

Since ExxonMobil began participating in the Introduce a Girl to Engineering program more than a decade ago, more than 11,000 students have participated in activities conducted at ExxonMobil facilities or classroom demonstrations.

At left: ExxonMobil volunteer Taylor Henley assists students during the bath fizzies activity. The girls are adding color and scent. Below: ExxonMobil employee volunteers Diana Rodríguez (left) and Vennela Pothugunta (right) pose with the winners of the Team Challenge Activity.

Harvey impact update

Recently, the Baytown Sun reprinted an article written by the Associated Press titled Harvey’s Toxic Impact. This article erroneously characterized one of our environmental reports to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as a spill at our Baytown Olefins Plant. We want to clarify that no spill occurred at the ExxonMobil Baytown Olefins Plant during Hurricane Harvey. A TCEQ report was submitted to notify that excessive rain during Harvey limited our ability to segregate different streams of water and disrupted the normal drainage pathways to designated outlets. Per our procedure, we took samples of the water, and it met all required discharge standards. At ExxonMobil we strive for world class operations integrity. Our number one focus is always the safety of our neighbors, our workforce and the environment.

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ExxonMobil participates in Women in Industry Conference

The Community College Petrochemical Initiative (CCPI) recently hosted its third annual Women in Industry Conference to their largest crowd of more than 700 attendees. The forum, held at Moody Gardens in Galveston, gave women, including high school and college students to unemployed or underemployed, from the area an opportunity to discover a wide variety of career options available in the petrochemical and construction trades industries. College representatives also provided the latest information on degree and certificate options for related fields, financial aid processes and more.

In addition to learning about careers by visiting booths from industry and colleges, the highlight of the conference was hearing directly from powerful women who have been successful in industry. Kym Richards, ExxonMobil Baytown Olefins Plant Machinist, encouraged the attendees during the morning’s panel session. “Never stop learning,” Richards said. “I wanted career, a home, benefits and to be independent in order to take care of my family so I went back to school to better myself.” Kym further urged the ladies in the crowd to “set long-term goals and know there is nothing that you can’t do once you put your mind to it.”


ExxonMobil Baytown Complex Receives Greenbelt Recertification

The ExxonMobil Baytown Complex was recently recognized by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) for its commitment to environmental stewardship by achieving WHC Conservation Recertification.

“ExxonMobil Baytown Complex is recognized as meeting the strict requirements of WHC Conservation Certification,” said Margaret O’Gorman, WHC President. “Companies achieving WHC Conservation Certification, like ExxonMobil are environmental leaders, voluntarily managing their lands to support sustainable ecosystems and the communities that surround them.”

Starting in 1992, the company began to purchase adjacent residential properties on a volunteer basis to form a greenbelt area surrounding the Baytown operations. This collection of properties progressed from individual lots to larger tracts of land which are suitable for return to wildlife habitat in their natural condition.

The re-vegetation of these areas has included the planting of thousands of trees of various types including pine, live oak, water oak, bald cypress, wax myrtle, and elm, which are native in the area, to create a wildlife habitat. Coastal prairie grass and wildflowers have also been planted in the area. Tree survival and growth is monitored, and a bird nest box monitoring project was installed through a partnership with employees and the Baytown Nature Center.

Wildlife Habitat Council promotes and certifies habitat conservation and management on corporate lands through partnerships and education. WHC Conservation Certification programs take corporate sustainability goals and objectives and translate them into tangible and measurable on-the-ground actions. Through a focus on building collaboration for conservation with corporate employees, other conservation organizations, government agencies and community members, WHC programs focus on healthy ecosystems and connected communities. WHC-assisted wildlife habitat and conservation education programs are found in 47 states, the District of Columbia and 22 countries.
$1 billion
spent since 2007 to improve environmental performance

As a community partner for nearly 100 years, we remain dedicated to improving air and water quality, making positive contributions to the Baytown area. Our mission is clear: Protect tomorrow. Today.

Energy lives here®