

## **Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi**

### **AutoCheck**

#### **Project Description:**

This Project involves testing vehicle exhaust emissions, including hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. The AutoCheck system consists of remote vehicle emissions and tailpipe emissions sensors that identify polluting vehicles and alert the vehicle operator if the vehicle is polluting. The remote vehicle emissions testing is performed by an infrared beam, and the tailpipe emissions check is performed by a probe unit. AutoCheck screens vehicles at public events and work sites. Motorists voluntarily have their vehicles tested and receive information about their emissions and the clean air benefits of well-maintained vehicles.

When a vehicle is found to have high exhaust emissions, the vehicle operator is given a voucher for a vehicle checkup and repair at one of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's ("TAMU-CC") approved certified automotive repair shops. The vehicle operator may choose to use an approved automotive repair shop from a list maintained by TAMU-CC. Mechanics at the shop check the vehicle to determine the problem causing high emissions. The shop will repair the vehicle and conduct pre- and post-repair emissions tests to document the reduction in emissions. These services will be performed at no charge to the vehicle operator. The shop will be reimbursed with SEP Funds for the services for up to \$600 per vehicle.

TAMU-CC shall organize at least one vehicle emission testing event each month. TAMU-CC shall create and maintain a list of automotive repair shops based on factors such as location, number of service bays, number and type of certified technicians, years in service, diagnostic rate per hour, repair rate per hour, ability to perform emissions testing and equipment used, and average duration of time for emissions-related repairs. TAMU-CC shall not use SEP Funds for emissions testing of fleet vehicles.

TAMU-CC shall use SEP Funds to pay the salary of a Program Operator whose position is devoted to the AutoCheck program. TAMU-CC shall not use SEP Funds to pay for any fringe benefits for the Program Operator beyond any benefits that are legally required. TAMU-CC shall also use SEP Funds for maintenance, repair, and calibration of the AutoCheck equipment by a contractor, for replacement of equipment if necessary, for fuel to transport the equipment to event sites and for generators necessary to operate the equipment during events, and for printer ink and card stock to print emissions test results to provide to participating motorists.

#### **Environmental Benefit:**

According to local emissions inventories of the Corpus Christi area, approximately 35% of air pollution is caused by vehicles. The vehicle operator may not know that the vehicle is polluting or may not have the resources to have emissions-reducing repairs performed on the vehicle. This Project addresses emissions by informing motorists that their vehicles are polluting, providing them with information regarding the clean air benefits of a well-maintained vehicle, and providing resources to repair polluting vehicles to bring them up to clean emissions standards.

#### **Eligible Areas and Counties:**

This project may receive contributions from the following:

Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Calhoun, DeWitt, Duval, Goliad, Jackson, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria Counties

#### **Minimum Contribution Amount:**

\$600