



## Initiative will create greener ports

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CAMDEN The region's port authorities will be tasked with greening their operations by creating environmentally viable projects that would minimize the port's impact on the Delaware River.

Monday morning, representatives from the Delaware River Port Authority, the South Jersey Port Corporation and the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority stood before the Broadway Terminal here to sign the "Green Ports" initiative.

"All three agencies share the same waterway and as a result share the responsibility of maintaining a clean environment," explained John Estey, DRPA chairman designee. "By banding together, we can leverage our capabilities to improve the environment and the surrounding community."

Under the agreement, a consultant will investigate the operations of the three port authorities and make suggestions as how to lessen their impact on the environment.

Energy and water conservation, electric and alternative fuels and renewable sources of energy are among the solutions that will be investigated by the consultant.

The DRPA is in charge of hiring a consultant to develop greener alternatives for the regional port industry using some of the \$19.25 million in funds previously allocated to Delaware River dredging to float the project.

Together the alternatives could minimize or negate any environmental impacts the ports have on the environment.

"Today's announcement is the culmination of discussions between our agencies that recognize we have a regional responsibility to be good stewards of the environment," explained Joseph Balzano, executive director of the SJPC.

The SJPC already operates a new electric-powered crane at its Broadway Terminal in Camden that

reduces the port's reliance on fossil fuels and eliminates some 80,000 truck moves annually between the SJPC's two Camden ports.

Other green alternatives, like installing emission control devices on diesel equipment, developing green buffers between the community and the port and the use of energy-saving green concepts in new construction will also be worked into the pending Port of Paulsboro.

"We can continue... to expand our facilities with projects like Paulsboro while at the same time we seek and implement more environmentally beneficial methods of operating our ports," explained Balzano.

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