



PRESS RELEASE

Mothers for Clean Air, 3100 Richmond, Ste. 309, Houston, TX 77098
Phone: 713.526.0110 Fax: 713.526.0550
www.mothersforcleanair.org

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Ozone Theater Wins Clean Air Excellence Award



Beth Hayes, Ozone Theater leader, Cheryl Kaplan, UTMB, and Jane Laping, MfCA, traveled to Washington, DC to accept the 2007 Clean Air Excellence Award for Ozone Theater.

Ozone Theater, an interactive, theater-based game that teaches children about the importance of clean air and explains how our actions can prevent air pollution, won a national 2007 Clean Air Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Representatives from Mothers for Clean Air and the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), the two organizations which created the program, accepted the award at a ceremony in Washington, DC on May 9.

To date, the free program has been provided to more than 10,000 students in the Houston area. It includes two games. In "Pesky Polluters," for kids in pre-K through grade 2, children learn about the air pollution in their community by acting out various sources, such as a bus, a plane, a ship, and a factory. In "Good Ozone, Bad Ozone," for grades 3-5, students learn about the EPA's Air Quality Index and act out activities that are safe during different ozone pollution levels.

The Clean Air Excellence Awards recognize programs, projects, or technologies that directly or indirectly reduce emissions of criteria pollutants or hazardous/toxic air pollutants; are innovative and unique; provide a model for others to follow; and result in positive outcomes that are sustainable. There are five categories of awards - Clean Air Technology; Community Action; Education/Outreach; Regulatory/Policy Innovations and Transportation Efficiency Innovations. Ozone Theater is one of two winners for Education/Outreach.

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