

# Discovering Oil in a Big Way

Coastal Bend refineries and related businesses fuel local economy



From the tall stacks at the refinery plants to the offshore oil rigs, evidence of the large role oil plays in the Coastal Bend is prominent on the area's landscape.

Corpus Christi is home to three large refineries and a host of businesses related to the industry.

One of those is Flint Hills Resources, which has a processing capacity of about 300,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

Rich Tuttle, director of regional public affairs at Flint Hills Resources, says the refinery, where more than 1,000 people work, has an annual payroll of \$72 million and makes annual purchases totaling \$170 million.

"The location of Corpus Christi on the Gulf, along with good quality of life, is well-placed for the refining industry," Tuttle says.

In the past five years, Flint Hills Resources has provided \$3 million for various community organizations and projects, Tuttle says.

Flint Hills and the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce established the Mano a Mano Scholarship Empowerment Program that gives scholarships to local students planning to work in the Corpus Christi area following graduation.

Valero Energy Corp., the largest oil refinery in North America, employs more than 1,000 people in Corpus Christi.

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*Oil plays a large role in the Coastal Bend region. The area is home to three large refineries.*

