



**COMMISSION  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Item No.** 11b

**BRIEFING ITEM**

**Date of Meeting** May 13, 2025

**DATE:** May 6, 2025

**TO:** Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

**FROM:** Sandra Kilroy, Senior Director, Environment and Sustainability  
Sarah Cox, Director, Aviation Environment and Sustainability  
Sarah Ogier, Director, Maritime Environment and Sustainability  
Mallory Hauser, Sustainability Reporting and Communications Manager

**SUBJECT: 2024 Environment and Sustainability Annual Report**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2024 the Port of Seattle achieved significant progress on our ambitious environmental and sustainability goals. We're building a greener, more resilient port through a comprehensive strategy focused on five key pillars:

1. Leadership: Influencing environmental policy and actions locally, nationally, and internationally.
2. Partnerships: Collaborating with stakeholders to tackle complex challenges.
3. Data-Driven Decisions: Utilizing clear information to guide our actions.
4. Investment: Directing resources toward sustainable practices.
5. Community Engagement and Equity: Working closely with our neighbors to ensure a just and sustainable future.

The Port boasts a comprehensive set of environmental and sustainability initiatives across air, water, land, and community. We work to influence change locally and globally, establishing ourselves as a leader in the aviation and maritime sectors. We recognize our work contributes to global change and our strategies support progress toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

As an organization focused on opportunity, sustainability, and equity, we achieve this by working collaboratively with others who share our vision. It is also critical that we share our progress publicly.

This annual report presentation serves a dual purpose:

1. Celebrating Achievements: We'll showcase our comprehensive environmental and sustainability programs, highlighting significant accomplishments made in 2024.

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2. Tracking Long-Term Goals: We've documented progress towards long-term goals through a set of performance metrics (both qualitative and quantitative). These metrics, tracked annually, demonstrate our commitment towards goals outlined in the Century Agenda, regional agreements, and our own programmatic initiatives.
3. A complete formal annual report detailing our progress will be available on the Port's website.

This report highlights some of our accomplishments, but it's not exhaustive. Sustainability is a collaborative effort, and we're grateful for the contributions of our Port leadership, teams, tenants, and community partners.

***Background***

In 2024 we released the Port's first comprehensive Environment and Sustainability Annual Report – showcasing 2023 progress. An annual report allows us to 1) share our comprehensive environmental and sustainability programs, highlighting significant accomplishments; and 2) track long-term goals through a set of performance metrics (both qualitative and quantitative). These metrics, tracked annually, demonstrate our commitment towards goals outlined in the Century Agenda, regional agreements, and our own programmatic initiatives.

This Port's commitment to the environment is reflected in the Port's ambitious goals outlined in the Century Agenda, a 25-year strategic plan adopted in 2012. The Century Agenda serves as a compass, guiding decision-making and setting a clear course for a greener future. Notably, Goal 4 focuses on environmental leadership, with the Port aiming to become the greenest and most energy-efficient port in North America.

***Century Agenda Goal 4: Be the greenest and most energy-efficient port in North America***

- Objective 9: Meet all increased energy needs through conservation and renewable sources
- Objective 10: Meet or exceed agency requirements for stormwater leaving Port-owned or operated facilities
- Objective 11: Reduce air pollutants and carbon emissions
- Objective 12: Restore, create, and enhance 40 additional acres of habitat in the Green/Duwamish habitat

***Key Accomplishments***

Outlined in the 2024 annual environment and sustainability report are twelve key areas with quantitative and qualitative data points demonstrating our progress toward environment and sustainability goals.

Category	Summary	2024 Highlights
<p><b>Charting the Course to Zero (Climate)</b></p>	<p>The Port of Seattle takes a multi-pronged approach to tackling climate change and improving air quality. Decarbonization is a core focus, with initiatives like switching to renewable natural gas for buildings and partnering on clean fuel research for maritime and aviation industries. The Port actively explores alternatives to traditional fossil fuels, aiming to reduce reliance on them across its operations. Additionally, electrification is a key strategy. The Port is constantly seeking innovative solutions to minimize air pollution and contribute to a cleaner future.</p>	<p>We verified Scope 1 and 2 GHG inventory through The Climate Registry.</p> <p>Increased our renewable natural gas energy use by 6% (Scope 1 &amp; 2).</p> <p>Became the first port to require shore power usage by homeport cruise vessels in 2027.</p> <p>Pier 66 shore power project completed.</p> <p>47% of cruise calls connected to shore power.</p> <p>Decreased APU emissions by 15% compared to 2023, our lowest since 2018 (excluding 2020).</p> <p>53 light duty electric vehicles in our fleet.</p> <p>Completed research on SEA's Ground Transportation Emission Reduction Strategy.</p> <p><i>Note: 2024 emissions data will be available in early Q3 of this year.</i></p>
<p><b>Stewarding Healthy Lands and Habitat</b></p>	<p>The Port is voluntarily taking action to restore critical habitat and increase public access for our communities. We are creating a lasting legacy of stewardship that fosters the health of our communities and region for generations to come. Our work supports the survival and recovery of critical species like salmon and</p>	<p>We adopted the SEA Land Stewardship Plan and Tree Replacement Standards.</p> <p>Reached a landmark deal to sell 500 habitat mitigation banking credits.</p>

	<p>orcas, while also enhancing the health of our communities through improved environmental quality and enriching recreational opportunities like waterfront parks, inland creeks, and marinas.</p>	<p>We've also restored kelp beds, stabilized shoreline, and planted 2,444 trees and shrubs.</p>
<p><b>Cleaning Up Contaminated Lands</b></p>	<p>The Port of Seattle transforms historically polluted areas into healthy lands near our airport and waterfront, fostering economic growth and environmental stewardship.</p>	<p>Became the first U.S. airport to use cleaning technology to remove PFAS-containing foam from firetrucks. This equated to 3,795 gallons removed from SEA.</p> <p>Significant progress was made with investigations at seven Port locations, including East Waterway, Terminal 25, and Terminal 91. We also tested new soil treatment technology at Terminal 25.</p>
<p><b>Reducing Waste</b></p>	<p>Operating a major airport and seaport means there can be a lot of waste. The airport alone is a 24/7 operation that serves over 50 million passengers a year and has 20,000 employees who work there. It is akin to managing a city, including the need to manage all the waste. The Port actively works to embrace the call to “reduce, reuse and recycle” in all our facilities.</p>	<p>We are close to our 60% diversion goal for SEA Airport terminals (49%) and maritime facilities (58.6%), both increasing since last year.</p> <p>New SEA requirements mandate reusable or compostable options at all retail and dining locations, took effect in July 2024, and has already led to a 14% increase in waste diverted to composting.</p>
<p><b>Building Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>Building infrastructure that is sustainable and resilient in the long term is important for financial stewardship, community affects, and environmental protection. We need to stop the causes of climate change while at the same time we can control and prepare for the possible impacts. The Port of Seattle aims to build and maintain its facilities in a smart, sustainable way to ensure they function for our community well into the future.</p>	<p>Through the Sustainable Evaluation Framework process, we reviewed 137 capital projects, resulting in two completed sustainable design strategies.</p>

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<p><b>Environmental Permitting and Planning</b></p>	<p>Securing the necessary environmental approvals and permits often requires innovative solutions and a deep understanding of the complex and dynamic regulatory landscape. Port of Seattle staff navigate these challenges, integrating environmental considerations into every stage of project development.</p>	<p>The draft NEPA document for the SAMP NTPs was released by FAA and we held public events for community awareness and engagement.</p> <p>Efficiently handled environmental reviews and permits, supporting 280 active maritime and aviation projects in 2024.</p>
<p><b>Protecting Water Quality</b></p>	<p>Port of Seattle implements programs and processes, collaborates with our tenants, and invests in innovative treatment technologies to ensure we avoid or minimize any effects on the health of Puget Sound and foster a clean and vibrant marine environment.</p>	<p>We protected water quality through stormwater management and met all seaport permit requirements in 2024.</p> <p>Maritime parks retained its Salmon-Safe certification, and we made significant progress (42%) toward our 75% target for rehabilitating our maritime stormwater system.</p>
<p><b>Lessening the Impact of Aircraft Noise</b></p>	<p>Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) was one of the first airports in the country to establish a noise mitigation program. Since 1985 the Port has been delivering a comprehensive Airport Noise Program to minimize noise pollution around the airport. The program has three main components: residential sound insulation projects, airline collaboration and recognition, and community engagement.</p>	<p>Initiated Part 150 study which included three public workshops.</p> <p>Launched a Sound Insulation Repair and Replace Pilot Program and completed a comprehensive assessment.</p> <p>Completed or made progress in insulating three single-family homes, 9 apartment buildings, and 3 places of worship.</p>
<p><b>Engaging Our Community</b></p>	<p>Recognizing that a healthy environment is vital for both the port and surrounding communities, the Port of Seattle prioritizes collaborative environmental stewardship. Through education and outreach programs, the Port empowers near-port residents and regional communities to participate</p>	<p>We hosted or participated in over 75 community stewardship events and learning opportunities, including 50+ habitat events and tours, and 18 tour showcasing our PFAS transition.</p> <p>The Port awarded \$226,631 in funding for the fourth cycle of the</p>

	<p>in decision-making and advocate for environmental well-being. This commitment to community engagement fosters trust, empowers informed decision-making, and harnesses the power of collective action for a more sustainable future.</p>	<p>South King County Community Impact Fund to six organizations serving communities around SEA.</p>
<p><b>Practicing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion</b></p>	<p>The Port actively advances Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) through its environmental programs. This includes prioritizing business inclusion programs that empower diverse-owned businesses, fostering green job creation, and providing a pathway to economic opportunity for residents, with a particular focus on under-represented communities. Additionally, the Port champions environmental justice initiatives that address historical disparities in environmental burdens.</p>	<p>Supported strong WMBE contracting goal.</p> <p>Utilized the equity index in environmental program planning, including Part 150, the Land Stewardship Plan, and the sound insulation pilot.</p> <p>Port-funded pre-apprenticeship training programs trained and placed 23 community members into apprenticeships focusing on clean and renewable energy, including the construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of these systems.</p>
<p><b>Awards and Recognition</b></p>	<p>Throughout the year, we've strived to implement innovative solutions and collaborate with stakeholders to achieve our sustainability goals. These awards and acknowledgements represent the dedication and hard work of our team and partners, and further motivate us to continue on the path of environmental stewardship and community engagement.</p>	<p>We participate in Green Marine, a program for continuous improvement in environmental performance within the maritime industry, ranking 5 (the highest score) in nearly all categories.</p> <p>The Seattle 2030 District has awarded the Port of Seattle its Leadership Vision Award for the Port's Sustainable Evaluation Framework.</p>

A complete annual report detailing our progress will be available on the Port's website.

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**ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING**

(1) Presentation slides

**PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS**

June 11, 2024 – The Commission was briefed on new reporting process and the 2023 annual report.