



**COMMISSION**  
**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Item No.** 11a

**BRIEFING ITEM**

**Date of Meeting** June 11, 2024

**DATE:** May 24, 2024

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

**FROM:** Sandra Kilroy, Senior Director, Environment and Sustainability  
Mallory Hauser, Sustainability Reporting and Communications Manager

**SUBJECT: 2023 Environment and Sustainability Annual Report**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This year, 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.

As an organization focused on opportunity, sustainability, and equity, we achieve this by working collaboratively with others who share our vision.

Several factors influence how we approach sustainability. Environmental challenges are becoming increasingly complex which demand innovative solutions. It is critical to engage our communities and focus on environmental justice. Partnerships are crucial for tackling these challenges. Climate change requires urgent action.

These drivers inform our overall strategy, which emphasizes leadership, partnerships, data-driven decision making, investments, environmental justice, and community engagement. 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 for the entire aviation and maritime sectors. We recognize our work contributes to

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global change and our strategies support progress toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

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 2023.
- (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. Starting this year, a 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. We remain committed to driving positive change throughout the maritime and aviation sectors, ensuring a healthy environment for all.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Port of Seattle's employees are a powerhouse of expertise. Teams work together to develop and maintain programs tackling critical issues like decarbonization, habitat restoration, remediation, water quality, waste reduction, noise reduction and sustainable infrastructure.

This commitment 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 2023 annual environment and sustainability report are eleven key areas with quantitative and qualitative data points demonstrating our progress toward environment and sustainability goals.

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Category	Summary	2023 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 achieved a 50% reduction in Port-wide Scope 1&amp;2 GHG emissions from the 2005 baseline -- - meeting our 2030 goal seven years early thanks to the purchase of renewable natural gas for both our aviation and maritime facilities.</p> <p>Signed Pacific Northwest to Alaska Green Corridor project charter and developed scope for green methanol feasibility study.</p> <p>Completed the MSW to SAF study with King County.</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 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 formalized land management practices through the adoption of Land Stewardship Principles.</p> <p>Over 2,500 chum and chinook salmon returned to the Duwamish River's Peoples Park, a testament to our restoration efforts.</p> <p>We've also restored kelp beds, stabilized shoreline, and planted over 13,000 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>Significant progress was made with investigations at seven terminals and Port locations, including East Waterway, Terminal 25, and Terminal 91. SEA Airport’s former United-Continental Fuel Farm Site clean-up was completed.</p>
<p><b>Reducing Waste</b></p>	<p>Operating a major airport and seaport means there can be a lot of</p>	<p>We are close to our 60% diversion goal for SEA Airport terminals</p>

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	<p>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>(48%) and maritime facilities (56.5%).</p> <p>New SEA requirements mandate reusable or compostable options at all retail and dining locations, taking effect in July 2024.</p> <p>We've further bolstered our waste reduction efforts by implementing AI-powered waste sorting machines.</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>Efficiently handled environmental reviews and permits, supporting 266 active maritime and aviation projects in 2023.</p> <p>Through the Sustainable Evaluation Framework process, we reviewed 140 capital projects, resulting in three completed sustainable design strategies.</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 permit requirements in 2023. SEA Airport retained its Salmon-Safe certification, and we made significant progress (33%) 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</p>	<p>Completed or made progress in insulating 8 single-family homes, 320 apartment units, 3 places of worship, and the final 3 units in a condominium complex. Additionally, we partnered with the FAA and a local school district to upgrade schools for noise</p>

	<p>sound insulation projects, airline collaboration and recognition, and community engagement.</p>	<p>reduction, with the 11th school receiving voter approval in 2023.</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 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>We hosted or participated in over 60 community stewardship events and learning opportunities, including Duwamish Alive!, NWSA Truck and Bike Safety Fair, and StormFest.</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. Created an environmental justice manager. Awarded \$150,000 in environmental grants. Utilized the equity index in environmental program planning.</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</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>

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	motivate us to continue on the path of environmental stewardship and community engagement.	The Duwamish River People’s Park and Habitat and Shoreline Habitat was a finalist for the IAPH Sustainability Award in the environmental care category.
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**ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING**

- (1) Presentation slides

**PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS**

None