




**PORT of OLYMPIA**  
Serving All of Thurston County

## Environmental Policy Updates

Jonathon Wolf, Environmental Manager  
Shawn Gilbertson, Director of Environmental Planning and Programs  
November 17, 2025




1



## Today's Presentation

*Briefing Only – No Action Required*

- Summary of Port of Olympia environmental policies
- Updates requested by Commission in May 2025
- New and updated policies
- Status of policy updates
- Next steps and goals for completion



2



3

## Port Environmental Policies

- Policy 1301 – Environmental Stewardship and Compliance
  - “The Port recognizes the value of the natural environment in which it operates, and is committed to fulfilling its mission of economic development within Thurston County in a manner that promotes long-term environmental sustainability in the region.”



3

## Port Environmental Policies

- Policy 1301 – Environmental Stewardship and Compliance
  - Compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local environmental statutes, regulations, enforceable agreements, and environmental permit requirements.
  - Clarity and consistency in the Port’s environmental management efforts.
  - Transferable institutional knowledge.
  - Continuous improvement in environmental performance.



4

4

## Environmental Policies

### *Operational Policies Summarized*

- Air Quality and Dust Suppression
- Contaminated Property Discovery, Reporting, and Cleanup
- In-Water Work, Wetland, and Aquatic Area Pollution Prevention
- Hazardous Materials Handling, Storage, and Transport
- Waste Material Minimization, Characterization, and Handling



5

5

## Environmental Policies

### *Operational Policies Summarized*

- Environmental Incident Response
- Fuel Storage Management
- Lighting Practices and Impact Minimization
- Noise and Vibration Mitigation
- Soil and Sediment Management



6

6



## Environmental Policies

### *Permit-Driven Policies Summarized*

- Wastewater Discharges to Sewer
- Construction Stormwater Management
- Industrial Stormwater Management
- Municipal Stormwater Management
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Response
- Integrated Pest Management



7



7

## SEPA Policy

- Resolution 2015-12 (SEPA Resolution/Policy)
- Adopts Chapter 43.21C RCW (State Environmental Policy Act) and Chapter 197-11 WAC (SEPA Rules)
- Revisions for Port-specific terminology and mission

### **43.21C.020 RCW (SEPA)**

(a) Foster and promote the general welfare; (b) create and maintain conditions under which human beings and nature can exist in productive harmony; (c) and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Washington citizens.

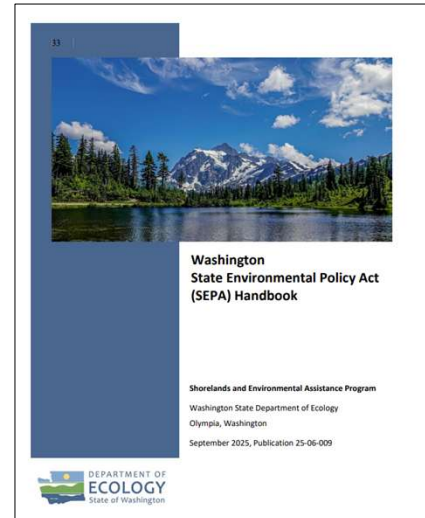
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8

## SEPA Policy Potential Updates

- Integrate WA Climate Change requirements
- Adjust review periods for consistency with State regulations
- Change from administrative appeal process to Superior Court appeal option
- Align response to comments section with State regulations



9

9

## Climate Change Policy (draft)

- Recognizes the urgent need to respond to climate change and ensures the Port is committed to minimizing environmental impacts
- Goals
  - Reduce greenhouse gases
  - Prepare/adapt to climate change impacts including sea level rise
  - Collaboration and partnerships
  - Improve air and water quality

PORT of OLYMPIA POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL		Page:
Section:	100 EXECUTIVE POLICY & PROCEDURE	Revision Date:
Policy:	CLIMATE POLICY	Policy No.:
Approver:	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Resolution:

**POLICY:** The Port of Olympia recognizes the need to respond to climate change with a sense of urgency. The Port is committed to fostering a sustainable and resilient port operation that minimizes emissions where possible and builds resilience to climate change impacts, including sea level rise.

According to the US EPA, transportation is the largest contributor of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Though the Port is not a major source of transportation related greenhouse gases directly, as the owner of an airport and a marine terminal, as well as a collaborative county partner, the Port is well positioned to influence emissions reductions and build resilience against climate change impacts.

**GOALS:** The Port has multiple goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise. Those goals include the following:

1. Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, focusing on the marine terminal, airport, and administrative processes.
2. Prepare for and adapt to sea level rise by supporting the Sea Level Rise Collaborative and creating strategies specific to the peninsula.
3. Improve air and water quality at all Port facilities through proactive management.
4. Collaborate with community partners, including Thurston County governments and pseudo governmental agencies, community groups and institutions to deliver comprehensive greenhouse gas reductions programs and resilience building.

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:** The following strategies will aid the Port in preparing for climate change.

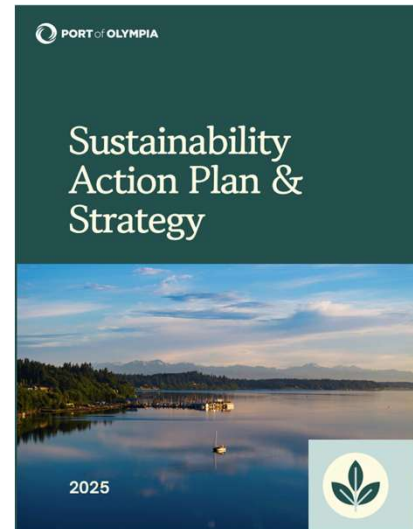
1. Electrification of Port Infrastructure, including the use of electric vehicles by Port staff. As practicable, transition to alternative fuel sources on the marine terminal, such as propane forklifts. Encourage the growth of electric planes at the airport, including electric "taxi" that can contribute to the greater air travel infrastructure. If possible, investigate using shore power so ships need not run engines while berthed.

10

10

## Sustainability Plan Draft

- Implement Port Climate Change Policy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions reductions
- Build resilience to Climate Change
- Focus on Partnerships and Collaboration with local governments and tribes
- Tenant incentivization: green leases and collaborations
- Eligibility for Federal and State grants



11

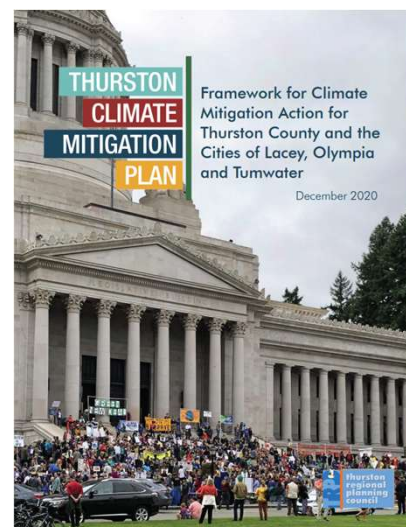


11

## Regional Approach

*Success depends on Collaboration*

- Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan – resolutions
- Olympia, Tumwater, Lacey, Thurston County, and WA State have the regulatory authority, but we can partner with them on regional efforts
- Tribes are vital partners



12

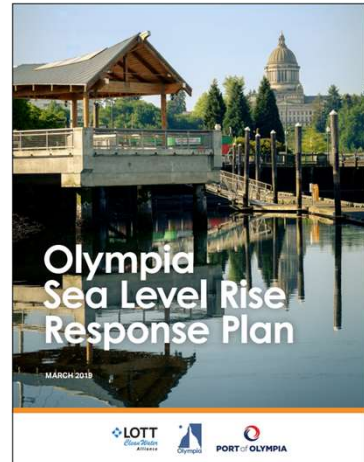


12

## Example Goal: Climate Change Resilience

### *Sea Level Rise Response*

- Collaborative between the Port, LOTT, and City of Olympia
- Short, medium and long-term SLR actions
- Trackable metrics include
  - Rate of sea level rise
  - Flooding frequency
  - Erosion rates
- Supporting activities:
  - LiDAR to track erosion
  - Adaptation measures through the Master Plan



13

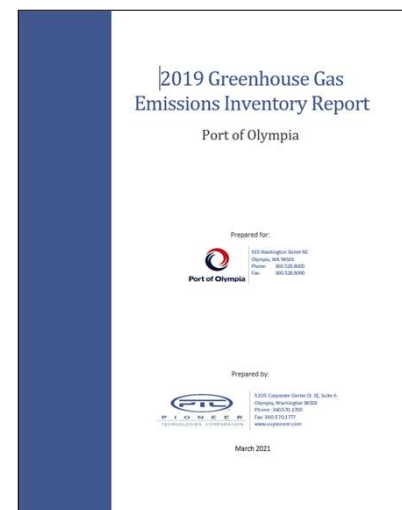


13

## Example Goal: Decarbonization

### *Activity: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update*

- Previous inventories in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019
- Consultant getting ready to complete for 2025
- Offers trackable metrics to compare results over the long term, allowing us to view reductions in emissions and plan for future reductions
- Desired outcome is a reduction in gas emissions



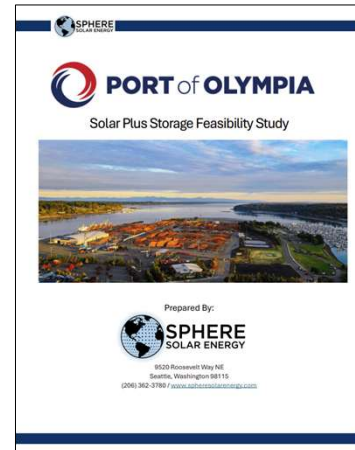
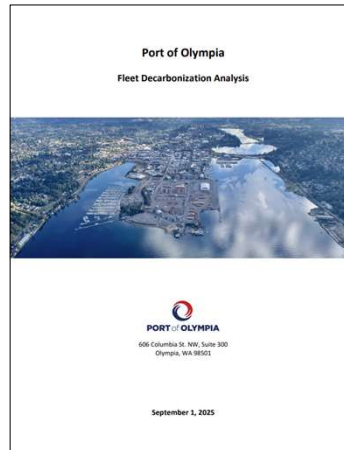
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14

## Decarbonization Efforts for Port Operations

- Clean Energy Fund grant
- Solar feasibility
- Fleet decarbonization
- Implementation



15

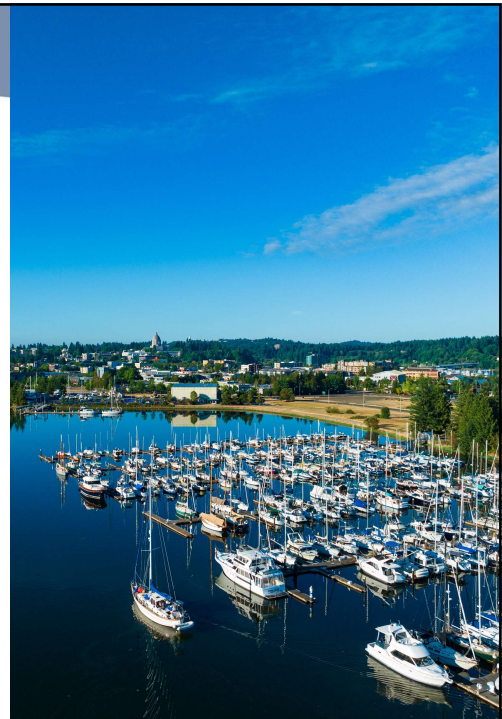


15

## Policy Update Schedule

- Finalize drafts based on Commission input Q4 2025
- Port internal and legal review Q1 2026
- Make necessary edits to operational environmental policies Q1 2026
- Commission advisory on final draft Q1 2026
- Adopt updated policies Q2 2026

16



16



## Questions and Comments

We want these policies to reflect Commission priorities.

Are there items missing from this preliminary planning effort?

What other focus areas would the Commission like to see?

Thank you!