

Sustainability Action Plan & Strategy

2026





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Message from our Commission

It is vital that we recognize the environmental threats posed by previous practices and future climate change

The residents of Thurston County had the foresight to establish the Port of Olympia more than 100 years ago, on November 7, 1922. In that time, the Port of Olympia has been a hub of economic activity, facilitating trade, and supporting local businesses. It has been a gateway for imports and exports, transportation, tourism, recreation and fostering growth and prosperity in our community.

Throughout its history, the Port of Olympia has also been a symbol of resilience and adaptability. As we move into the 21st Century, it is vital that we recognize the environmental threats posed by previous practices and future climate change. This Sustainability Action Plan and Strategy is just one of multiple tools the Port will use to continue as a leader in best environmental practices to the economic benefit of all.

Building a “Green” Port

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Creating economic opportunities and building community for all of Thurston County through responsible resource use.



Sustainability planning looks different for every entity, but studies show that the most sustainable operations are also the most profitable in the long term.

Becoming a sustainable port requires dedicated planning and long-term thinking and this action plan is our blueprint to get there.

As global environmental and social challenges intensify, the Port of Olympia is committed to balancing operational performance with environmental and social responsibility, integrating all three for greater impact and efficiency.

Our Path Toward Sustainability

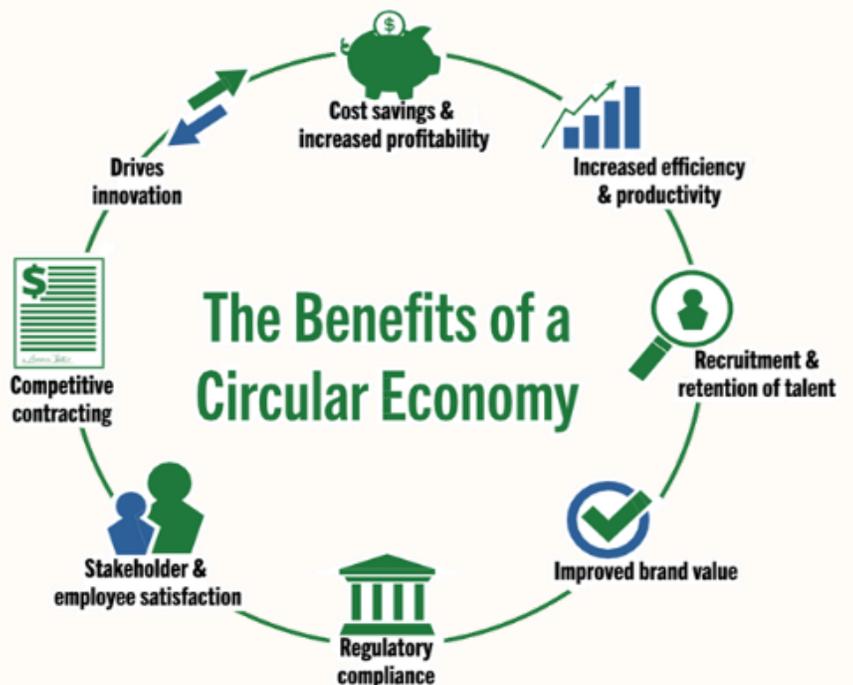


We care about sustainability because it's about protecting what we all value—our community, our environment and our future.

This action plan shows how we are:

- Tracking and reducing our environmental impact, waste and consumption
- Implementing more sustainable businesses practices and operations
- Advancing long-term goals that move us toward a more sustainable port

The Port is taking steps to sustainability by measuring our carbon footprint and promoting a circular economy, and supporting industrial processes and economic activities that are restorative or regenerative.



Source: <https://instituteofsustainabilitystudies.com/insights/news-analysis/study-finds-sustainable-business-to-be-a-more-profitable-business/>

Our Strategy & Vision

Concepts and considerations that have shaped the Port of Olympia's long-term sustainability strategy and vision:



The Benefits of Sustainability

- Meets local, state and federal environmental standards
 - Demonstrates responsible use of public tax dollars
 - Builds community and positive relationships
 - Plans for long term resilience and adaptability
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Community and Environmental Concerns

- Air quality
 - Water quality
 - Marine health
 - Public access to nature and open spaces
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The Port's Sustainability Goals

- Invest in "green" eco-friendly infrastructure
 - Electrify port operations
 - Improve air and water quality
 - Protect and increase biodiversity
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The Port's Long-term Vision

- An electric vehicle fleet and electric planes at the airport
- Solar and renewable energy to power port operations
- A healthy Budd Inlet that supports sustainable cargo and jobs
- Clean air and water sources

Top Four Sustainability Goals

In line with our overall strategy and vision, the Port has identified four focus areas to track specific, measurable and time-driven data.



Build Climate Resilience

We will strengthen port infrastructure to withstand the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, extreme weather, wildfire smoke, flooding and heat.



Reduce Carbon Emissions

Through close monitoring and reporting, we will make measurable progress each year towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions across our operations and facilities.



Work with Regional Partners

Sustainability starts in our own backyard, and partnering with local organizations helps us build a stronger, more resilient community.



Foster Environmental Stewardship & Community Engagement

We are committed to responsible environmental stewardship and involving the community in our climate action.

Steps To Reach Our Goals

Build Climate Resilience

- Perform climate risk assessments to inform capital planning, asset management and emergency preparedness.
- Incorporate climate considerations and adaptive design standards into all new construction and rehabilitation projects to ensure long-term durability, operational continuity and public safety.

Reduce Carbon Emissions

- Pursue energy efficiency improvements, transition to low- and zero-emission vehicles and equipment when feasible.
- Expand the use of renewable energy and cleaner fuels and technologies.
- Explore net-zero carbon emissions for the airport and “green leases” to encourage environmentally sound practices by tenants.

Work with Regional Partners

- Collaborate with local organizations, government agencies, tribes, partners, tenants and neighboring ports to identify shared energy projects and funding opportunities.
- Make port-owned land available for transportation electrification initiatives and work with local agencies to strengthen climate resilience across transportation networks.

Foster Environmental Stewardship & Community Engagement

- Prioritize projects and pursue certifications that improve air quality, restore and protect natural habitats and enhance environmental health.
- Continue to provide public transparency and seek stakeholder input to guide our climate initiatives and ensure accountability.

Implementation Strategies

Establish Environmental Performance Best Practices

- » Integrate concepts from the Sea Level Rise Monitoring Strategy to help prioritize capital investment projects
 - » Maintain environmental certifications, such as Green Marine and Clean Marina, and aspire beyond the minimum standards for addressing climate change
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Support Electrification As a Path to Energy Efficiency

- » Continue to transition to hybrid and electric vehicles for port operations
 - » Invest in interlocal partnerships and tenant incentive programs to be eligible for transportation electrification initiatives
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Partner with Local Jurisdictions on Adaptation Investments that Benefit the Community

- » Involve Sea Level Rise partners in Peninsula Master Plan engagement
 - » Establish performance metrics and targets to measure success of programs and provide regular reports and updates to the commission and to the public
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Protect and Restore Healthy Aquatic Habitat

- » Maintain port access and infrastructure through beneficial reuse of dredged materials
- » Work with watershed partners to reduce sediment and contamination at the source to make the most of taxpayer resources dedicated for the environment



Tools To Get Us There

Sustainability is a shared responsibility, and we're grateful to partner with environmentally conscious organizations while leveraging support, services and resources from federal and state agencies.

Working Together Toward Sustainability



Federal Resources	State and Public Resources	Partnerships
US Department of Transportation Infrastructure Development Program	Washington State Recreation and Conservation Grants	Watershed Resources Inventory Area 13
US Department of Transportation Protect Grant	US Department of Transportation Electrification Program	The Squaxin Island and Nisqually Indian Tribes
NOAA National Coastal Resilience Fund	Washington Department of Ecology Water Quality grants	Thurston Regional Planning Commission
US Department of Transportation Infrastructure Development Program	Department of Ecology Remedial Action Grants	Olympia Sea Level Rise Collaborative

Commitment to the Future

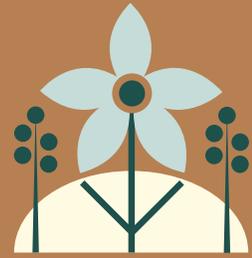


This sustainability plan marks a major step forward in building a more resilient, environmentally responsible, and prosperous port.

It's not the finish line but the foundation for lasting progress. Achieving a truly sustainable port ecosystem depends on collective action—from our organization, partners, stakeholders, and community.

By prioritizing decarbonization, investing in green infrastructure, and improving operational efficiency, we're reducing our environmental impact while strengthening long-term economic competitiveness.

As we move ahead, the Port of Olympia remains committed to innovation, collaboration, and transparency, ensuring we continue to thrive as both a vital economic engine and a responsible environmental steward.



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