RESOLUTION NO. 3768  
(As Amended: November 19, 2019)


WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle in the Century Agenda commits to create economic opportunity for all, steward our environment responsibly, partner with surrounding communities, institutions, governments and businesses, to promote social responsibility, to conduct ourselves transparently, and to hold ourselves accountable; and

WHEREAS, the urgency of the climate crisis drives the need for innovative and far-reaching solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle Commission is committed to reducing our carbon footprint by in vesting in solutions to become the greenest and most efficient port in the nation and we are further committed to assisting and incentivizing those we do business to reach these goals; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle has been a leader in assessing greenhouse gas emissions associated with capital projects and operations, and implementing mitigation strategies that reduce emissions that contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle Commission unanimously chartered the Energy and Sustainability Committee by motion on January 26, 2016 tasking the Committee primarily to develop and propose policy directives to guide the Port of Seattle’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions effort, with a focus on energy efficiency and alternative energy generation; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle Commission set ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with the Paris Climate Agreement and other regional governments; and

WHEREAS, by 2050, the port committed to make its directly controlled emissions carbon neutral and to reduce its indirectly controlled sourced by 80 percent. We also have a short-term goal in 2020 to reduce direct emissions by 15% and a medium-term goal to reduce direct and indirect emissions by 50. We are currently negotiating the purchase of renewable natural gas that could get us to our 2030 goals in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle Commission adopted recommendations of the Committee on December 19, 2017, directing staff to develop a Sustainability Project Framework to assist the port in meeting its greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability goals by integrating sustainability considerations into key Port decisions is essential to achieving the Port’s long-term environmental and sustainability goals; and
WHEREAS, integrating sustainability into capital and operational decisions early in the process can reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts, and can create positive impacts on our climate and natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Project Framework is also intended to increase transparency for the public and port leadership regarding energy- and sustainability-related decision-making on port projects; and

WHEREAS, transparency for the public is a bedrock principle of this policy, the commission will review in public alternatives and trade-offs that describe how a project can meet its GHG and sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, to further support transparency the commission will review in public how those sustainability goals are being accomplished and annually review upcoming large projects that will likely come for authorization in any given year; and

WHEREAS, the policy will give the port commission the ability to transparently authorize sustainability decisions for capital, operational decisions, procurement, and leases by considering short-term financial implications and long-term environmental and societal benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle’s focus on equity issues obligates the port to consider its impact on society and to collaborate with communities to promote diversity, inclusion, and equity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Port of Seattle Commission as follows:

The Port of Seattle hereby adopts and directs the Executive Director to implement the Sustainable Evaluation Framework Policy Directive attached as Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the Port of Seattle Commission at a duly noticed public meeting thereof, held this 28th day of January, 2020, and duly authenticated in open session by the signatures of the commissioners voting in favor thereof and the seal of the commission.

Resolution 3768, Sustainable Evaluation Framework Policy Directive