



2020 MARITIME ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Port of Seattle advanced its commitment to protecting the region's natural environment and supporting near port communities throughout the 2020 global pandemic and economic crisis. Our dedicated staff delivered innovative programs that went above and beyond what was required while ensuring compliance with the most stringent regulations. The Port's environmental efforts are notably ambitious and proactive — 2020 efforts were no exception.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

- 1 Completed the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy 2020 Update – continuing strong international partnership to reduce greenhouse gasses and improve air quality
- 2 Received Washington Public Ports Association Environmental Stewardship award for our collaboration in developing Quiet Sound, a program to reduce underwater noise from large vessels
- 3 Maintained Green Marine, Clean Marinas and Salmon-safe Certifications
- 4 Secured over \$30 Million of outside revenue through insurance claims, settlements, grants, and rebates to support our environmental actions
- 5 Signed three new agreed orders to start contaminated site cleanup processes at maritime properties
- 6 Implemented the new Sustainable Evaluation Framework to assess environmental features as part of capital project delivery
- 7 Broke ground on construction at Duwamish River People's Park and Shoreline Habitat to create a 13-acre habitat restoration and public access site
- 8 Became the first port to join the International Ocean Acidification Alliance
- 9 Improved stormwater education and outreach of Port employees and tenants through new handouts and signs, field visits, and on-line training
- 10 Completed a GIS analysis that identifies land cover and habitat conditions on over 1,500 acres of property and 15.1 miles of shoreline

WHAT WE DO



STORMWATER

We are the only Port in North America with a stormwater utility, allowing us to directly invest in stormwater infrastructure, maintenance, and best management practices to protect water quality and the Puget Sound.



HABITAT

With 15 miles of shoreline, we are restoring habitat to support Chinook salmon and Orca recovery. At the same time we provide valuable shoreline public access to our near-port communities.



PLANNING AND PERMITTING

We conduct robust environmental permitting and compliance to ensure Port development projects meet and exceed local, state, and federal requirements.



CLIMATE/AIR/ENERGY

The Port has set an ambitious goal to be carbon neutral by 2050. Our air quality, carbon reduction, and energy efficiency programs help protect community health and address climate change.



REMEDIATION

Historic unregulated industrial activity has left legacy contamination in our waterways. Our team focuses on investigating and cleaning up contamination on Port properties.



WASTE DIVERSION

Our team knows how to handle waste. We ensure proper solid waste reduction and recycling at Port operations. We manage hazardous waste disposal and protect water quality by handling derelict vessels.

2020 FEATURED PROJECTS

CHARTING THE COURSE TO ZERO

In 2020 the Port completed a renewal of the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy, a collaborative effort of the Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, and Northwest Seaport Alliance. The Strategy sets a bold vision to phase out emissions from seaport-related activities by 2050. And the associated action plan outlines how the Port will reduce air pollutants and carbon emissions to 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. It includes the Port's first ever comprehensive maritime climate change and air quality action plan, and a sustainable fleet plan. All plans will be adopted by the Port Commission in 2021



SOLAR AT THE PORT

In 2020, the Port expanded solar production by installing two new solar arrays at the Central and South Customer Service Facilities at Shilshole Bay Marina. The new arrays add an estimated annual solar production capacity of 47,000kWh to the existing arrays at the Port's Pier 69 Headquarters and Fishermen's Terminal, bringing the total solar production potential to over 183,000kWh of carbon-free electricity.



QUIET SOUND - REDUCING UNDERWATER NOISE

The Quiet Sound program aims to reduce adverse effects of acoustic and physical disturbance from large commercial vessels on Southern Resident orcas throughout their range in Washington State. The Port of Seattle, along with industry, non-profit, tribal, and other governmental partners initiated the "Quiet Sound" planning team. Over the course of the year, the planning team worked on developing an underwater noise-reduction program in Puget Sound.

Port of Seattle was named a leader in environmental stewardship by the Washington Public Ports Association.



RESTORING HABITAT IN THE DUWAMISH RIVER

The Port broke ground on developing the Duwamish River People's Park and Shoreline Habitat. This project will construct a 13-acre habitation restoration area, improve 2,050 linear feet of public access shoreline, and provide more complex habitat. The construction team often worked nights to take advantage of low tides. Almost 20 years in the making, the project is expected to be completed in 2021.



GREEN JOBS IN THE DUWAMISH VALLEY

The Port successfully launched the Duwamish River Green Jobs program. This innovative approach recruits local residents to receive training in environmental issues and be employed to conduct habitat maintenance activities that are critical for the success of our restoration projects.



2020 BY THE NUMBERS

100%

compliance for all Port properties subject to stormwater and environmental permits and energy requirements

750

lineal feet of bank armoring removed on the Duwamish as part of shoreline restoration

126,500 kWh

of carbon-free electricity produced from Port solar arrays

132,000 kWh

of energy saved by installing LEDs

10

Environmental Compliance Assessments completed

17,000

tons of contaminated soil removed

8

derelict vessels removed

130

stormwater treatment technologies reviewed from around the world

204

projects screened through the Sustainable Evaluation Framework

A PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Port is committed to leading equitable outcomes for all communities, through policies and practices that ensure racial, social, economic, and environmental justice. To respond to this call to action, the environmental department formed an internal group to support individual employee awareness and growth; improve our practices and policies; and improve the equity of environmental services to our community by bringing a focused emphasis on equity, diversity, inclusion, and environmental justice.

The environmental team partnered with the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to create an equity data mapping tool. The tool can help focus and prioritize environmental programs and investments, like implementation of the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy, in areas where environmental health disparities exist. We are also developing departmental best practices to incorporate more standardized and equitable practices into our work across the region.

