

**PORT OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION NO. 3792 (AM)**

A RESOLUTION of the Port of Seattle to adopt Charting the Course to Zero:
Port of Seattle’s Maritime Climate and Air Action Plan.

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle (Port) has set an ambitious goal to decarbonize its maritime business and Seattle’s maritime industry to urgently address environmental health disparities and climate change and spur others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, the Century Agenda states the Port will be the greenest and most energy efficient port in North America by meeting all increased energy needs through conservation and renewable sources, reducing air pollutants and carbon emissions, and restoring, creating, and enhancing 40 additional acres of habitat in the Green/Duwamish watershed and Elliott Bay; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the ports of Seattle, Tacoma, and the Vancouver-Fraser Port Authority, first developed and adopted the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy (NWPCAS) to serve as a common framework for voluntary clean air and climate action, investment, and leadership across the three port authorities and throughout the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound airshed; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2021 the Port of Seattle Commission, the Port of Tacoma Commission, and Managing Members of The Northwest Seaport Alliance voted to adopt the 2020 NWPCAS, the second update to the original NWPCAS, which sets a new joint vision to phase out emissions from seaport-related activities by 2050, supporting cleaner air for our local communities and fulfilling our shared responsibility to help limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and called for each participating port to develop its own implementation plan; and

WHEREAS, Charting the Course to Zero: Port of Seattle’s Maritime Climate and Air Action Plan (MCAAP) is the Port’s implementation plan to achieve the 2020 NWPCAS joint vision and the Century Agenda objective to be the greenest most energy efficient port in North America; and

WHEREAS, further reducing and ultimately phasing out air pollutants (such as diesel particulate matter) – especially in communities experiencing environmental health disparities as portrayed on the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map – remains an urgent priority of the Port and a central goal of the NWPCAS and MCAAP; and

WHEREAS, further reducing and ultimately phasing out climate pollution (carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions) is critical to reducing climate risk to public health and economic vitality, and staving off the worst impacts of the global climate crisis, according to scientific consensus; and

WHEREAS, to develop the NWPCAS and the MCAAP, the Port, with the Northwest Seaport Alliance and Port of Tacoma, engaged a wide range of partners, including federal, state, tribal and local government agencies, marine terminal operators and other tenants, cruise industry groups, rail companies, labor unions, residents, community-based and non-profit organizations, and members of the public and, through the NWPCAS and MCAAP, the Port commits to ongoing engagement with this wide range of partners on clean air and climate change action to advance a just, fair, and equitable transition to zero emission maritime operations; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019, the Port Commission adopted Resolution No. 3767, establishing a Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment Policy Directive to guide the implementation of the Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program and other Port operations that impact the Duwamish Valley Community, such as climate change and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Duwamish Valley Community consists of a group of people and organizations that live, work, play, study, or worship in the near-Port neighborhoods of South Park and Georgetown along the Duwamish River and have been historically or are currently impacted by economic, racial, and environmental injustices; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Cumulative Health Impacts Analysis published by Just Health Action and the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group characterizes the Duwamish Valley Community as experiencing environmental injustices including disproportionate exposure to air pollution, lack of greenspace, and high poverty rates contributing to a life expectancy in South Park and Georgetown that is 13 years lower than wealthier communities in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, after conducting over two years of public engagement on the NWPCAS and the MCAAP, feedback from community and environmental perspectives called for Ports to take an active role in helping to address community priorities like the root causes of asthma, inequity, and poor air quality in the Duwamish Valley by leading a just, fair, and equitable transition to zero-emission maritime operations, including requiring and maximizing use of shore power, actively working with utilities, tenants, and industry, and advocating for local, state, and federal policy, funding, and technology development; and

WHEREAS, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a global problem and port authorities have played, and will continue to play, a critical, multi-faceted role in facilitating and accelerating the transition to zero emissions, through a mix of direct action, collaboration with tenants and a wide range of tribal, government, industry, and labor partners, and active engagement in international, federal, state, and local policy development; and

WHEREAS, more than 90 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions from seaport-related activities are outside of Port's direct control, such that further reducing and phasing out those emissions will require significant action and investment by a wide range of partners, including government agencies, cruise lines, marine terminal operators, fishing, harbor vessel and rail companies, port authorities and others; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle engaged industry to understand priorities and included those priorities in the MCAAP, such as promoting use of renewable fuels in the interim and leaving the decarbonization pathways to industry to identify the fuel and technology options to achieve net-zero emissions and meet operational requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Port will continue industry engagement with the development of the Seattle Waterfront Clean Energy Strategy, which will provide a roadmap for port, utility, and maritime industry investments to decarbonize Seattle's working waterfront, improve environmental injustices in neighboring communities, and serve as an early implementation action of the MCAAP; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle has direct control or influence over the 6 percent of greenhouse gas emissions from Port maritime administration and, in eliminating natural gas from port-managed buildings, investing in electric fleet vehicles and renewable fuels, minimizing employee commute trips, and reducing solid waste generation, can model emission reduction efforts, pilot new technologies, and share lessons learned for its tenants, customers, and industry partners; and

WHEREAS, Port of Seattle has built upon the latest available science, emissions inventories, innovation and extensive public engagement to develop a comprehensive plan to phase out air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from its Port administrative sources and maritime activities by midcentury, implement the NWPCAS, and advance the Century Agenda.

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

1. The Port of Seattle hereby adopts and directs the Executive Director to implement *Charting the Course to Zero: Port of Seattle's Maritime Climate and Air Action Plan* as the Port of Seattle's implementation plan for the 2020 Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy attached as Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the Port of Seattle Commission at a duly noticed meeting thereof, held this 16th day of November 2021, and duly authenticated in open session by the signatures of the Commissioners voting in favor thereof and the seal of the commission.


stephanie l bowman (Dec 14, 2021 13:23 PST)


Ryan Calkins (Nov 30, 2021 12:26 PST)




Peter Steibrueck (Dec 7, 2021 14:14 PST)


Fred Felleman (Nov 30, 2021 15:28 PST)

Port of Seattle Commissioners