



Port of Vancouver USA

CLEAN AIR, SUSTAINABILITY AND PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT.



THE PORT OF / *Possibility*



Each year, the port

Handles
8 million
Tons of Cargo*

Supports
24,000 jobs

Provides
3.8 billion
in Economic Benefit

* Data from 2018

The Port of Vancouver USA is positioned at a major northwest nexus of ocean and river shipping lanes, interstate highways and the national rail network. The port connects our community to a world of commerce, opportunity and prosperity.

Environmental Stewardship

Keeping the air, land, and water around us clean is a top priority for the port, and we know that environmental stewardship and economic development can coexist. As a trustee of public lands on the Columbia River and in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands, we embrace our role in protecting the shared environment. We take pride in doing our part to reduce emissions and protect clean air.

Our Sustainability Task Force coordinates port sustainability efforts and is responsible for evaluating and improving the port's programs. We communicate the port's performance in our annual sustainability report.

Environmental stewardship at the port is guided by the goals and strategies in our Strategic Plan, which balances the three pillars of sustainability – environment, economy, community.

Environment
Healthy natural
environment



Economy
Business and
economic health



Community
Social equity
and health



Regional Air Quality

The Vancouver area is in compliance with federal and state air quality standards. The [Southwest Clean Air Agency](#) is the responsible authority for monitoring air quality in the region.

Our initiatives to reduce emissions and protect air quality are summarized on the following pages.

Clean Air Initiatives

1. Sustainable Energy Sources

While there is current demand for fossil fuel products, we recognize that a shift to renewable and cleaner energy sources is necessary. Our [Renewable/Clean Energy Policy](#) details how the port will support this global shift in energy sources.

In addition to supporting wind energy by handling wind components over our docks, we also support renewable energy with our voluntary purchases of renewable energy certificates (RECs).



RECs have been purchased since 2008.



Offset of electrical usage in port utility controlled buildings.



Metric tons of carbon dioxide have been offset by RECs.



Equivalent to removing 8,280 vehicles from our roads for one year!

In recognition of our green energy purchases, the port has been certified as a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's [Green Power Partnership](#) for over a decade.

We consider whether alternative fuels and vehicles can meet the port's needs prior to making new purchases. We recently added new service trucks with the ability to retrofit for propane use, and our new sedan is a plug-in electric hybrid model.

We are a founding member of the [Columbia River Clean Diesel Project](#), a bistate effort to reduce diesel emissions from marine, rail, and truck transportation throughout the region to protect human health, slow climate change, and improve long-term economic sustainability.

2. Reducing Energy Use

Reducing energy use reduces greenhouse gases (GHGs) and other emissions associated with the production of nonrenewable electricity.

We are upgrading our lighting fixtures to more energy efficient systems, in part through our participation in the Clark Public Utilities [Commercial/Industrial Lighting Incentive Program](#).

Our upgraded terminal lighting controllers ensure the lights only operate when necessary for nighttime operations and security. In addition to saving energy, efficient terminal lighting reduces light pollution and improves safety.

The windows on key port buildings are covered in a special LEED-tested film that eliminates reflectivity which provides a dual benefit of energy savings and reducing bird collisions.



Energy efficient lighting at the port saves over a million kilowatt hours every year.

We continue to support staff participation in our Commute Trip Reduction Program and encourage telecommuting, flex schedules, bicycling, walking, and ride-sharing.



3. Commute Trip Reduction and Anti-Idling

The port's commute trip reduction opportunities include ride match information, bike to work week, and commuting challenges. We constructed segments of the bicycle/pedestrian trail along State Route 501, connecting commuters to key transportation corridors. We provide indoor bicycle parking and showers for commuters and an outdoor bike rack for visitors.

We developed an anti-idling campaign in cooperation with Southwest Clean Air Agency, including posting no-idle zone signs throughout the port.

We distribute an [educational flyer](#) to inform drivers of the health, environmental, and monetary benefits to turning off their engines when idle.

Idling from construction contractors is reduced through the use of contract language that limits unnecessary idling. Wait times at our terminal gate are reduced during peak traffic times by assigning an additional security officer to the screening area to keep traffic moving.

4. Vehicle Fleet Modernization

We added two hybrids to our vehicle fleet and installed a two-position electric vehicle (EV) charging station. Between staff and visitor use, the station sees nearly constant use.

Vehicles and equipment are periodically assessed for upgrades and replacement opportunities. In addition to air quality benefits, assessments include opportunities for improved safety features, lower maintenance costs, less time spent on maintenance, and improved dependability.



Our vehicle charging station is available for public use. The station will be expanded as usage grows.





Terminal One LEED Gold
Neighborhood Plan

5. Green Building and Sustainable Development

As we continue to retrofit our existing buildings with more efficient lighting, roofing, window treatments, and other energy-saving upgrades, we also proactively plan for sustainable future development, whether it's a building, a master plan, a regional transportation project, or preserving natural areas.

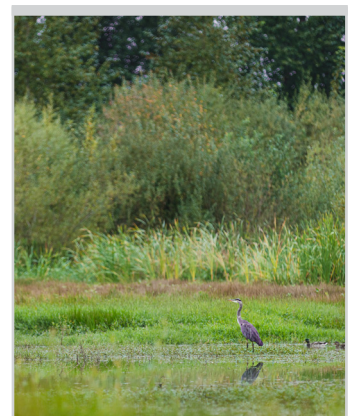
The West Vancouver Freight Access (WVFA) project demonstrates the port's ongoing investment in the future of freight rail efficiency. WVFA helps clear a bottleneck caused by trains transiting the port and alleviates the stalling of national rail lines. This results in an increase in Class 1 rail mainline velocity, reducing congestion and delays, freeing up tracks for both passenger and freight rail.

Moving freight by rail is 4 times more fuel efficient than moving freight by trucks on the highway. Trains can move a ton of freight over 470 miles on a single gallon of fuel.

Terminal 1 will be a 10-acre mixed-use waterfront development in downtown Vancouver. The port created Urban Design Standards and Guidelines that encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy, reductions in waste and water use, and designs that are bike-, pedestrian-, and bus-friendly. The US Green Building Council certified the Terminal 1 development a LEED Gold Neighborhood Plan, with all future buildings required to be LEED Gold certified.

The Centennial Industrial Building is the first core and shell building on the West Coast to be Green Globes Certified by the Green Building Initiative. Situated in Centennial Industrial Park, design details include the support of solar energy, EV charging stations, and energy-efficient and bird-safe lighting and windows.

Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank is a 155-acre wetland bank created in partnership with Clark County Mitigation Partners, LLC and Ducks Unlimited to mitigate wetland disturbances in the area. Wetland plants and soils sequester carbon (a primary component of GHGs), meaning they store excess carbon rather than release it as carbon dioxide. The protection of wetlands has been identified as an important tool in the fight against climate change.



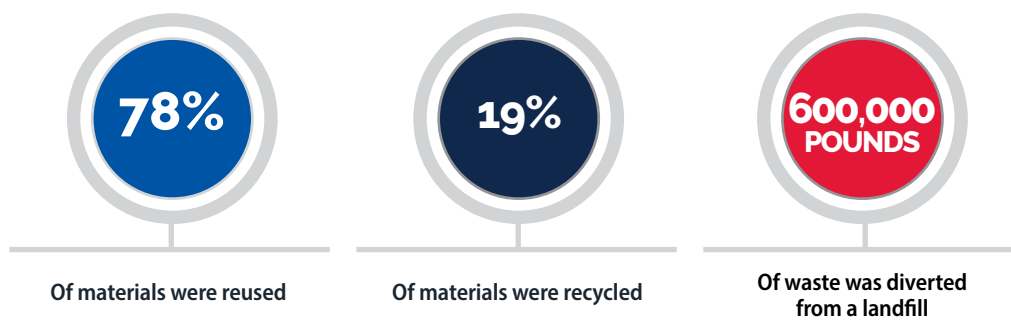
Wetlands help moderate the climate and have a positive impact on air quality because of their role in the cycling of nitrogen, sulfur, methane, and carbon.

6. Reduce/Reuse/Recycle

Waste prevention and recycling requires less energy than making goods from raw materials. It also diverts wastes from landfills, decreasing emissions - like methane - released when materials decompose. The port reduces materials in the landfill and recycling streams by purchasing materials that are refillable or reusable where feasible. Recycling bins are available for any recyclable materials that cannot be reused.

We require contractors to submit their proposals on recyclable or reusable materials, emphasizing a reduction in the volume of materials submitted.

Our efforts to reduce and reuse were on display during the deconstruction of farm buildings at Centennial Industrial Park:



7. Education and Outreach

Our Tenant Environmental Management Program is a collaborative effort to minimize environmental impacts. Program elements include tenant pre-screening, periodic audits of environmental practices, outreach and education, and inspection of property condition prior to tenant departure.

We also engage the local community to help further the stakeholder understanding of what it is we do at the port. Our free guided bus tours teach attendees about our history, operations, environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts.

We work with tenants to help them understand the importance of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Always Moving Forward

While this document provides a summary of the steps taken to date by the port to reduce emissions and protect clean air, there is more work to be done. The port is working toward the development of a climate action plan, consistent with the port's commitment to sustainability and will continue to seek opportunities for air quality and climate improvements in our operations through our ongoing stewardship and sustainability efforts.

For more information, please visit:

www.portvanusa.com/environmental-services



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