The Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy (Strategy) is a collaborative effort between the Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma, Northwest Seaport Alliance, and Vancouver Fraser Port Authority in British Columbia (Northwest Ports) that sets a vision to phase out emissions from seaport-related activities throughout the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound airshed by 2050.

The four ports built this strategy through extensive engagement and it represents an important step to catalyze collaboration across the ports, industry, government, and community towards this collective vision. The Strategy seeks to encourage environmental action above competition and created a means for the four Northwest Ports to work collectively and voluntarily to reduce air and greenhouse gas emissions.
Advancing Environmental Justice

Through the Strategy’s strategic framework, Northwest ports recognize their role in helping limit global warming and that continually reducing diesel particulate matter and other air emissions is critical for the health of local communities, especially in areas where environmental health disparities exist.

Seaport-related activities contribute to regional and local air pollutant concentrations. Lower-income communities and communities of color are often located closer to pollution sources, amplifying the importance of improving air quality to advance social equity and environmental justice in our communities.

Results-driven Collaboration

First adopted in 2008, the Strategy was the first of its kind in the Port community and has achieved significant results over the last decade. The first update to the Strategy in 2013 set targets to reduce diesel particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions per metric ton of cargo by 80 percent and 15 percent, respectively, relative to 2005 levels. The Northwest Ports achieved both targets four years early as of the 2016 Puget Sound Maritime Emissions Inventory. The reductions can be attributed to changes in international, national, and provincial regulations, industry action, and port policies and programs to accelerate the turnover of older equipment and use cleaner fuels.

Progress toward these objectives continues to be reported on and published in annual Implementation Reports and air and greenhouse gas emissions from each sector are measured every five years.

Taking Action

The Northwest Ports will each release port-specific plans to implement the 2020 Strategy vision and objectives in their own operations and will continue to report annually on the progress.

Port-specific implementation plans enable ports to identify, prioritize, and focus resources on actions in a way that is strategic and relevant to their business and policy contexts, and the regions where they operate.

For more information

Northwest Seaport Alliance
www.bit.ly/NWSAstrategy

Port of Seattle
www.bit.ly/seattlestrategy

Port of Tacoma
www.bit.ly/tacomastrategy

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
www.bit.ly/vancouverstrategy