

Comprehensive Environmental Management through the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy
Summary of Submission to the American Association of Port Authorities
2008 Environmental Awards Competition
Submitted June 12, 2008

Project Description

The project consisted of the development of a comprehensive, voluntary approach to reducing maritime and port-related diesel and greenhouse gas emissions in the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound airshed through an unprecedented cross-border, three Port collaborative process. The result of this project was the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy, which lays out a framework for achieving significant early emissions reductions that affect air quality and climate change in the Pacific Northwest.

How the Project Meets the Six Award Criteria

1) Level and nature of benefits to environmental quality and community involvement: For each of five source sectors, a core “menu” of potential emissions reduction activities is suggested with the goal of improving the environment, public health, and regional economy by improving air quality and reducing contributions to climate change in and around the Ports of the Pacific Northwest. Activities focus on reduction of the criteria pollutants of particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and sulfur oxides (SO_x), and greenhouse gases in the near-term (2010) and long-term (2015). The stakeholder process was extensive and praised by environmental organizations and industry groups.

2) Level of independent involvement and effort by the Ports: The Ports of Seattle and Tacoma, and Port Metro Vancouver (formerly Vancouver Fraser Port Authority) led this effort in cooperation with federal, state, and local air agencies.

3) Creativity of the solution:

The Strategy addresses emissions reductions with shared targets, while allowing each Port to implement its own unique and appropriate emission reduction actions. In addition, the flexibility provided by the non-prescriptive, results-based approach for achieving the emissions reduction goals of the Strategy allows for change over time as new technologies and strategies surface and allows for customers, tenants, and other stakeholders to choose the most cost-effective options available.

4) Project results: The final product of this project is the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy, which was adopted by the Port of Seattle and Port of Tacoma Commissions in January 2008 and is expected to go to Port Metro Vancouver’s Board for approval in fall 2008.

5) Cost effectiveness: It is estimated that the ports, regulatory agencies, and Port customers and tenants will all save significant amounts of money by implementing emissions reduction activities through flexible, non-regulatory means. US EPA estimates at least \$10 in public health benefits for every \$1 spent reducing diesel emissions.

6) Transferability of the idea to the port industry: The collaborative, voluntary approach that was taken in developing the Strategy serves as a model for other regions nationally and globally. The core menu of options listed for each sector in the Strategy as a means of achieving emissions reductions are applicable throughout the marine and port sector.



Port Contact Information

Port of Seattle

Stephanie Jones
Senior Manager, Seaport
Environmental Programs
2711 Alaskan Way
Seattle, WA 98121
Phone: 206.728.3818
jones.s@portseattle.org

Port of Tacoma

Sue Mauerman
Director, Environmental Programs
P.O. Box 1837
Tacoma, WA 98401
Phone: 253.428.8659
smauermann@portoftacoma.com

Port Metro Vancouver

Darrell Desjardin
Director, Environmental Programs
100 The Pointe
999 Canada Place
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3T4
Phone: 604.665.9334
darrell.desjardin@vfpa.ca