Sustainability provides future generations with a tomorrow that’s better than today.

Sustainability is a core mission at Sound Transit. The agency encourages sustainability by providing affordable, environmentally-friendly travel options that connect people to where they live, work and play. Delivering transit projects and services also helps foster a healthy environment, community and economy.

To reflect these values, the agency’s Sustainability Plan and annual targets are built around the pillars of people, planet and prosperity. In 2015, Sound Transit will carry out a wide range of sustainability projects. This year’s efforts focus on integrating sustainable design into early planning processes, final design and construction. The decisions made today will keep sustainability part of Sound Transit’s system for years to come.

**Sustainability Priorities**

- Make informed decisions that consider environmental and social impacts.
- Advance sustainability in early planning and design.
- Increase system resilience to climate change and extreme weather.
- Reduce construction pollution.
- Increase revenue fleet fuel efficiency and reduce vehicle pollution.
- Optimize facility energy efficiency and clean energy generation.
- Procure and use green products and services.
- Foster a staff culture of sustainability.

**Environmental and Sustainability Management System**

The Sustainability Plan is implemented through the agency’s internationally certified Environmental and Sustainability Management System (ESMS). Since 2007, Sound Transit is one of a select number of transit agencies nationwide to achieve and retain certification to the international ISO 14001 standard. This system holds the agency accountable for identifying and controlling environmental impacts, setting and achieving objectives and targets and demonstrating continual improvements in performance.
Make informed decisions that consider environmental and social impacts
- Integrate sustainability into project and procurement reporting
- Develop and propose a decision path for including optional sustainable strategies into capital projects

Advance sustainability in early planning and design
- Ensure that system plan project cost estimates address sustainable design and green infrastructure, system access and TOD readiness
- Evaluate optional sustainability approaches for inclusion in final design
- Prioritize pedestrian, bicycle and transit access in draft System Plan language
- Customize sustainability design criteria for preliminary engineering

Increase system resilience to climate change and extreme weather
- Finalize and adopt an agency Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Integrate climate adaptation approaches into project development
- Evaluate design criteria to address projected climate change impacts

Reduce construction pollution
- Survey small contractors, disadvantaged business enterprises and rental companies about sustainability best management practices
- Implement three pilot projects to test sustainability best management practices for construction

Increase revenue fleet fuel efficiency and reduce vehicle pollution
- Initiate ST Express Fuel Efficiency Strategy Update

Procure and use green products and services
- Finalize Green Procurement and Utilization procedures and provide agency training
- Revise guide specifications to reflect greener concrete mixes where possible

Foster a staff culture of sustainability
- Develop staff outreach to improve recycling and composting rates