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 built its Sustainability Plan and annual targets around the pillars of people, planet and prosperity. In 2021, Sound Transit will carry out a wide range of sustainability projects. This year’s efforts focus on integrating sustainability into capital project design, construction, and operations. The decisions made today will keep sustainability part of Sound Transit’s system for years to come.

Environmental and Sustainability Management System

Sound Transit’s internationally certified Environmental and Sustainability Management System implements the agency’s Sustainability Plan. Since 2007, Sound Transit has been among a select number of transit agencies nationwide to achieve and retain certification to the 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.

For more information visit soundtransit.org/sustainability.
Evaluate alternatives for delivering ST3 parking investments and explore joint development opportunities in the Everett Link Extension corridor.

Evaluate affordable homeownership potential on at least one surplus property site.

Finalize revolving loan fund business plan.

Refine sustainability guidelines and goals for transit-oriented development projects.

Develop and initiate implementation of an agency anti-racism strategy.

Create implementation plans for the Racial Equity Tool, Equitable Engagement Tool, and Equity and Inclusion Policy.

Launch three training initiatives to address implicit bias, racial equity and anti-racism.

Develop a technical assistance program for veteran and disability-owned businesses.

Implement a methodology for applying equity criteria in alternatives and environmental evaluation processes for all capital projects.

Initiate new construction apprenticeship programs in Snohomish and Pierce counties.

Award and implement the first round of System Access Funds.

Identify key Operations staff to pursue sustainability professional accreditations.

Develop workplan to establish internal agency green team.

Implement work plan to create standards for a hybrid workforce of office-based, job site and teleworking staff.

Finalize Station Experience Design Manual to guide and standardize passenger experience.

Train all Passenger Experience staff on using personas to inform decision making and employ the passenger persona approach to project development and service planning.
Renovate Union Station to operate as a carbon-free facility.
Launch regional, interagency battery electric bus working group.
Install nonrevenue fleet electric vehicle charging at Northgate Station and Union Station garages.
Revise contract specifications and project requirements for construction stormwater management, treatment and discharge.
Reduce the carbon intensity of electricity by launching Phase 2 of PSE Green Direct Program.
Evaluate carbon-free electricity purchasing options with utility partners.
Document procedures for using the environmental commitment tracking and reporting system.
Launch the Efficiency and Sustainability Program’s internal grant opportunities.
Update design criteria by determining applicability of embodied carbon in materials, electric vehicle and solar power readiness, and zero carbon green building certifications.
Update Migratory Bird Treaty Act design specifications, project requirements and plans.
Require 85% of eligible construction equipment to meet EPA’s highest standards.
Evaluate the feasibility of an advanced mitigation approach for wetlands and streams using an ST3 project as a case study.
Define customized options for performance-oriented sustainability goals on capital projects.
Develop guidelines for conducting climate vulnerability assessments for capital projects.

Integrate total cost of ownership and budget information into 90% of new IT and nonexpansion project intake processes.

Conduct gap assessment of agency capabilities against international standards for safety and asset management.

Align reporting between agency's sustainability and strategic plans.

Improve waste collection stormwater protection at OMF Central.

Initiate streamlining of IT onboarding process through the launch of the Workforce Enablement Program.

Develop and require the use of standard sustainability language for Operations & Maintenance agreements.

Include sustainability evaluation criteria in at least 75% of informal Request for Quotes with Qualifications (less than $250,000).