



2025 Sustainability Progress Report

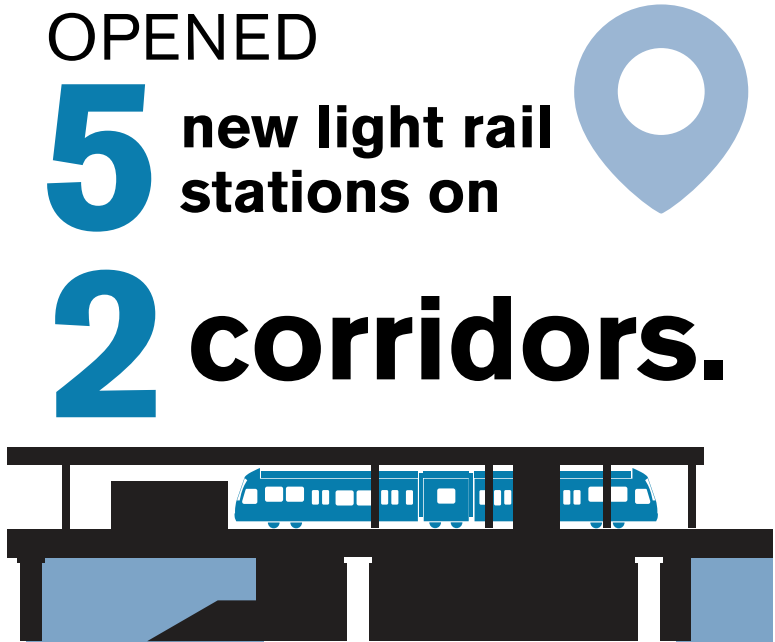
Building a better tomorrow

People getting on a light rail train.

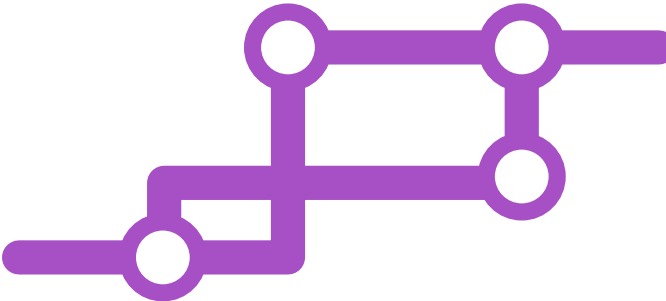
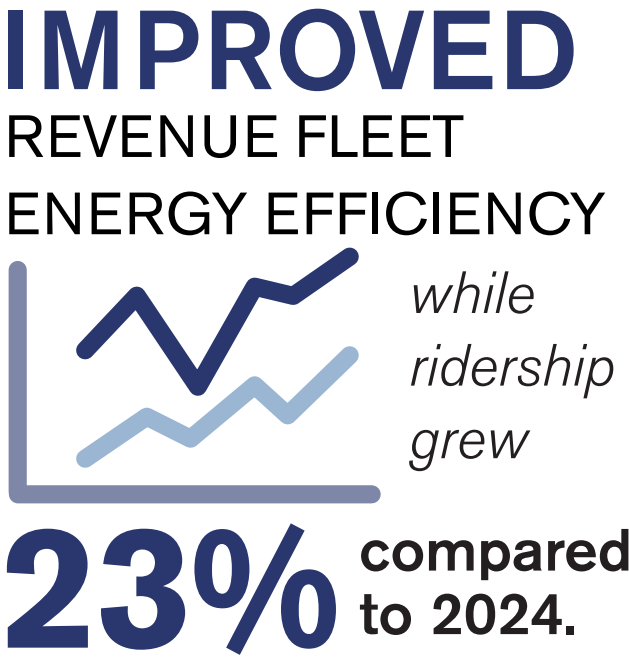
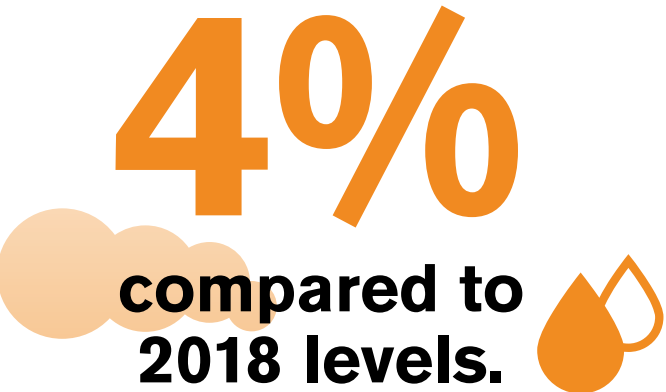
August 2026

 **SOUNDTRANSIT**

At a glance



REDUCED SULFUR
DIOXIDE EMISSIONS BY



Sustainability

Sustainability at Sound Transit

Sustainability is at the core of our mission: connecting more people to more places to improve quality of life and provide equitable opportunities for all. Transit investments build a better future by supporting a clean environment, connecting communities, and fostering vibrant economies while also serving the riders who depend on transit most.

Sustainability helps further our mission by:

- Providing affordable, safe regional transportation options.
- Promoting stewardship that conserves the planet's natural environment.
- Supporting community prosperity by helping residents and businesses save time and money.

Sound Transit uses a robust Environment and Sustainability Management System to implement our environmental and sustainability initiatives. The system holds the agency accountable for controlling potential environmental impacts, achieving annual environmental and sustainability targets, and demonstrating continual improvement in performance.

Since 2007, Sound Transit's ESMS has maintained international ISO 14001 certification for accountability in controlling environmental impacts, maintaining environmental compliance, and demonstrating enhanced sustainability performance.

About this report

This year's Annual Progress Report summarizes our efforts to achieve long- and short-term environmental and sustainability goals.

The data in this report focuses on the metrics set by Sound Transit's 2019 Sustainability Plan, which established short-term goals for the years 2019 through 2024 and extended the agency's long-term goals to 2050. The year 2018 serves as the baseline for the agency's short-term goals and key performance indicators for the 2019 plan. In February 2026, Sound Transit published a new Sustainability Plan with refreshed goals, action items, and metrics. Metrics in the new plan will continue to use 2018 as a baseline year, and reporting will begin in 2027.

Analysis and performance measures in this report focus on how Sound Transit uses its resources — from capital project planning and design to how we operate our services. (This report does not include resource use from agency construction.)

These metrics reflect multiple reporting frameworks and standards, including those used by other transit agencies and local governments, as well as the American Public Transportation Association's Sustainability Commitment and The Climate Registry.

Workers plant shrubs and plants along Redmond Way near the Marymoor Village Station, part of landscaping efforts for the Downtown Redmond Link Extension.



14001:2015

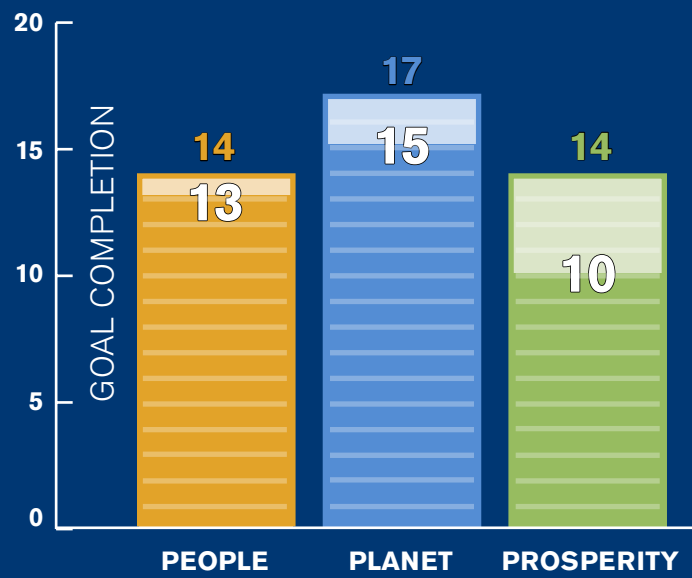
Sustainable business practices and strategies will be integrated throughout the Sound Transit organization, including planning, designing, constructing, and operating existing and new transit systems and facilities. Executive Order No. 1, 2007.



Visitors look at a map at the Tacoma Dome Link Extension open house at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center.



A light rail vehicle crosses the I-90 floating bridge during Crosslake live wire testing.



2019 Sustainability Plan status

This report includes both data on Sound Transit's operational performance from a resource-use perspective and progress on short-term goals in the 2019 Sustainability Plan. As of 2025, Sound Transit has completed 38 of the plan's 45 short-term goals, an 84% success rate. The agency published refreshed sustainability goals in early 2026 and will begin reporting on their progress next year.

TOTAL # COMPLETED

Transit is sustainable

Sound Transit's regional system expansion is essential to central Puget Sound's sustainable future. The agency promotes sustainability by developing and operating regional transit and fostering smart growth.

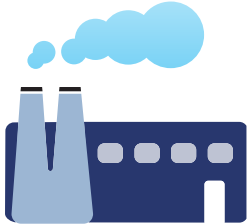
Expanding our services helps more people travel affordably and reliably on environmentally friendly buses and trains throughout the region's growing communities. Expanding mass transit benefits everyone by offering a less carbon-intensive means of travel, which decreases regional air and water pollution. Plus, transit:



SAVES TIME.



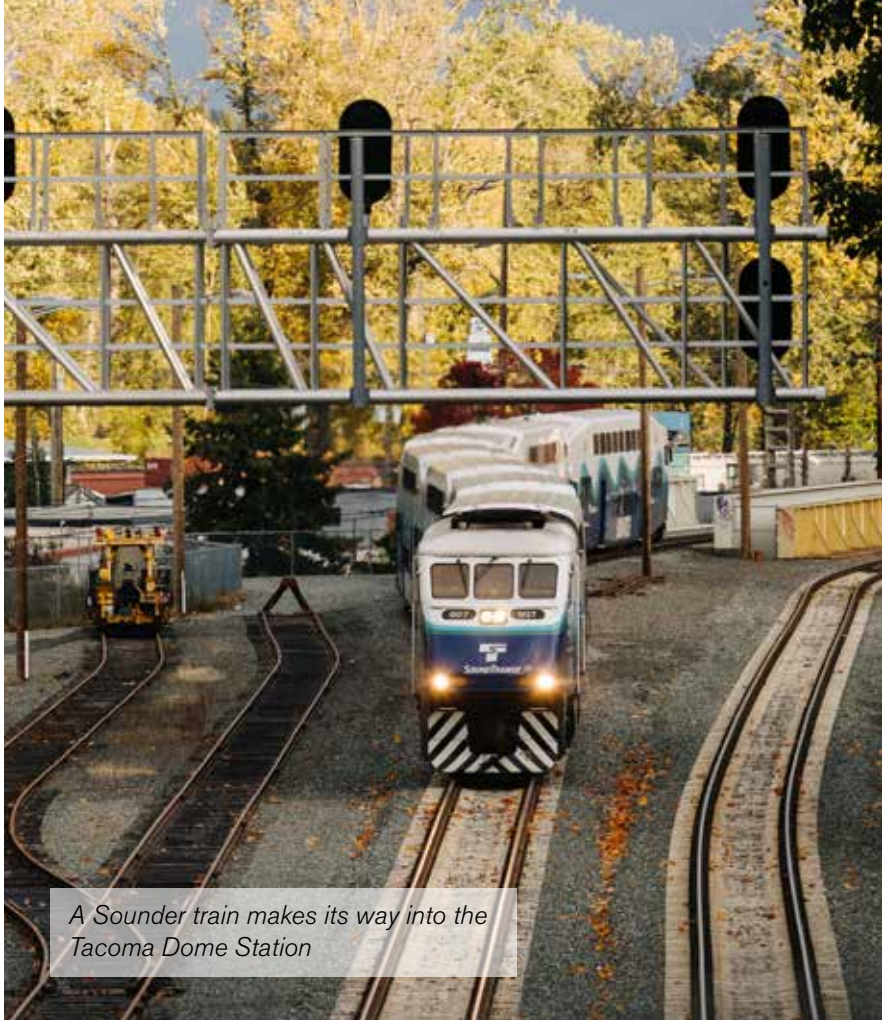
SAVES FUEL.



IMPROVES AIR QUALITY.



SAVES MONEY.



A Sounder train makes its way into the Tacoma Dome Station

Key accomplishments

The agency achieved numerous important sustainability accomplishments over the last year that leverage social, environmental, and financial benefits for the region's future. In 2025, we:

- Opened five new light rail station across two segments, expanding high-capacity transit access to the region.
- Avoided emitting over 314,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions when passengers took transit instead of driving. Additionally, continued to improve revenue fleet resource use efficiency even while service expanded.
- Saved over \$876K from 64 new and existing sustainability and resource efficiency projects and generated \$911K in revenue from the Clean Fuel Standard.
- Finalized a practical transition and implementation plan for a carbon-neutral non-revenue fleet.
- Implemented enhancements to building salvage practices, saving the agency money and allowing materials, fixtures, and appliances to avoid the landfill.
- Expanded the region's access to affordable housing by celebrating the opening of Mercy Housing NW's Connection Angle Lake, breaking ground on Spring District's transit-oriented-development project, and selecting a developer for the Federal Way TOD site.

Continuous improvement

Sound Transit is committed to improving sustainability performance year after year. Over the next year, sustainability efforts will be focused on:

- Updating the agencywide Climate Vulnerability Analysis and Climate Resilience Plan.
- Advancing zero emissions efforts for STX, Sounder, and NRVs to include implementation plans with Transit Operations.
- Finalizing sustainable design standards and specifications updates to align with LEED's newest green building requirements and advance the agency's ability to deconstruct, salvage and re-use materials.
- Continuing to educate new leadership and staff about the Sustainability Program and the Environmental and Sustainability Management System.
- Ensuring the Enterprise Initiative's Network Plan and the Efficiency and Sustainability Program's funding priorities align with the agency's Sustainability Plan.

People

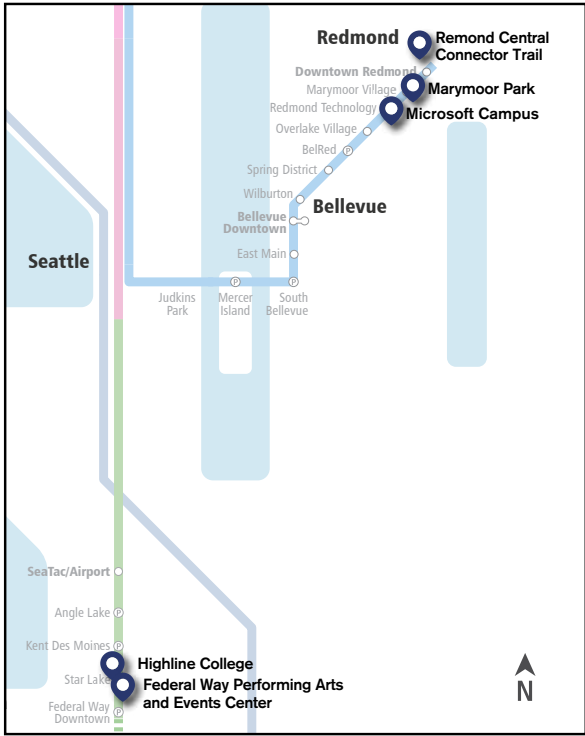
Helping people move freely, affordably, and healthily by providing regional transit service



Connecting more people to more places

Sound Transit opened two new light rail segments in 2025 — the Federal Way Link Extension and the Downtown Redmond Link Extension — creating more connections to more places and expanding fast, reliable, environmentally friendly transportation options in the Central Puget Sound.

- In 2025, passenger miles traveled on Link light rail increased by 37% compared to 2024.
- In May, the agency opened 3.4 miles of light rail on the 2 Line with 2 stations at Marymoor Village and Downtown Redmond.
- In December, the agency opened another 8 miles of light rail connecting the 1 Line to Federal Way with 3 new stations.
- These five new light rail stations expanded high-capacity transit access to nearly 23,000 residents who now live within ½ mile of a light rail station.
- Some of the local landmarks and activities now accessible by light rail include:
 - Marymoor Park.
 - Remond Central Connector Trail.
 - Microsoft Campus.
 - Highline College.
 - Federal Way Performing Arts and Events Center.



Sound Transit ambassador helps passengers at the Westlake Station.

Key performance indicators

Dollars contributed to affordable housing revolving loan fund:

- \$4 million.

Staff trained in equity and inclusion:

- 83% of staff completed Equal Employment Opportunity Training.
- 78% of staff completed Implicit Bias Training.
- 51% of staff completed Inclusion Training.
- 22% of staff completed Microaggressions in the Workplace Training.

Total hours worked on ST job sites in 2025:

- 43% by people of color.
- 7% by women.
- 12% by apprentices.

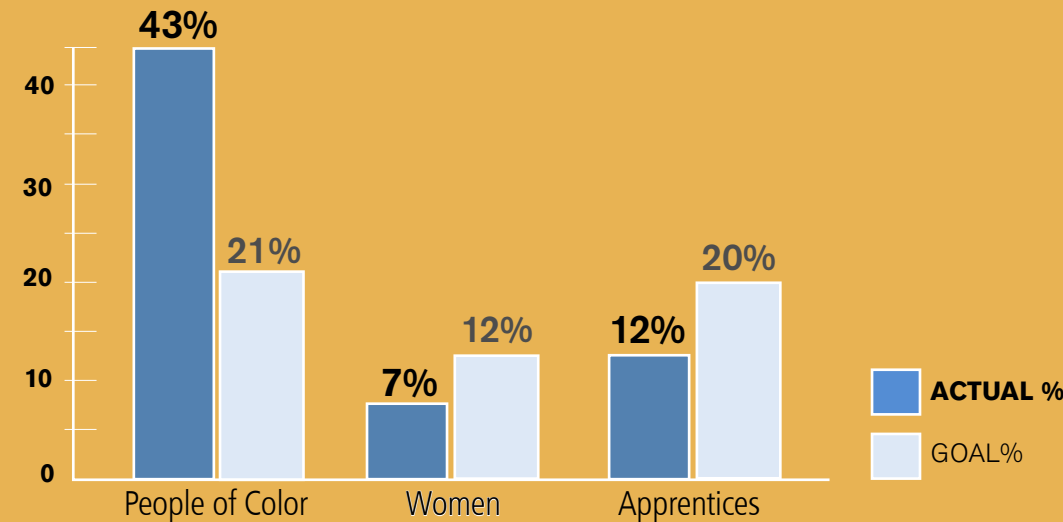
Staff who have earned sustainable professional accreditations:

- 37 Envision Sustainability Professionals.
- 13 LEED Accredited Professionals.
- 13 other sustainability certifications.

Employing Puget Sound residents

Sound Transit's capital expansion projects bring construction employment opportunities to communities across the Puget Sound region.

In 2025, Sound Transit's construction projects directly employed more than 3,995 people who worked 1.16 million hours and earned \$76 million in wages.



People

Social equity addressed and implemented as an agency value



BRIDGE Housing, Spring District (west side), Rendering: GGLO

Expanding affordable housing

Sound Transit is committed to creating diverse, vibrant, mixed-income communities around transit.

Offering surplus properties as development opportunities for affordable housing or other public benefits are managed through the agency's Transit-Oriented Development program. Some highlights from the TOD program in 2025:

- **Federal Way TOD developer selection** — Sound Transit selected Multi-Service Center and Shelter Resources Inc. to develop 230 units of affordable housing on surplus property adjacent to the Federal Way Downtown Station.
- **Grand opening of Mercy Housing NW's Connection Angle Lake** — Mercy Housing NW and Sound Transit celebrated the grand opening of their Connection Angle Lake affordable housing project. This project included 130 units directly adjacent to Angle Lake Station, serving households earning under 50% and 60% area median income.
- **Spring District transit-oriented-development project broke ground** — BRIDGE Housing began construction on their Spring District TOD project, which will bring 234 affordable homes to Bellevue.

Responding to passenger feedback for a cleaner ride

Sound Transit replaced cloth seats with vinyl across the Link light rail fleet, directly responding to consistent rider feedback on seat cleanliness. The agency conducted a three-month pilot to test vinyl seats on 10 vehicles, and collected survey responses to assess rider experience — riders consistently ranked the vinyl seats higher. Additionally, vinyl seats will save the agency labor costs as they are easier to clean and longer lasting. The rollout — paired with new embroidered ADA logos on priority seating — reflects Sound Transit's commitment to using rider feedback and real-world testing to improve the daily experience of riding Link light rail.

All staff champion sustainability

Empowering the next generation of transit leaders

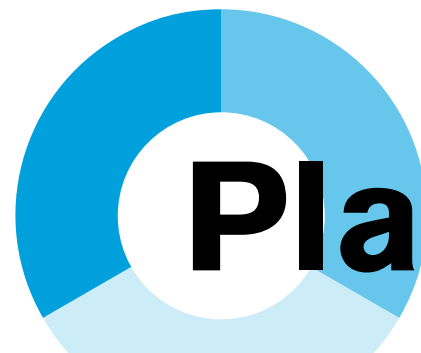
Sound Transit's Youth Conference welcomed about 90 young people aged 15-22 for a day dedicated to exploring how transit shapes our region and how the next generation can shape transit's future. Students, community partners, and Sound Transit staff came together to discuss shared values of sustainability, equity, and access. Participants learned how light rail expansions are planned and built; discovered career paths in engineering, community engagement, and construction trades; and received a behind-the-scenes look at the agency.



Nadia Anderson speaks at the Sound Transit Ride Transit 2025 Youth Conference in Union Station.



A woman and a man chatting on a train.



Planet

Promoting stewardship to conserve the planet's natural environment

Increasing environmental benefits

Sound Transit and our partner services provide tangible environmental benefits for the region's growing communities. When residents choose to ride transit instead of driving alone, they reduce air and water pollution.

Passengers taking Sound Transit services avoided over 314,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. In 2025, Sound Transit avoided over five times the amount of emissions it produced, even while significantly expanding the agency's footprint with five new stations. This represents a 23% increase in avoided emissions since 2024.

The avoided emissions are equivalent to:



Burning over **35 million gallons** of gasoline.

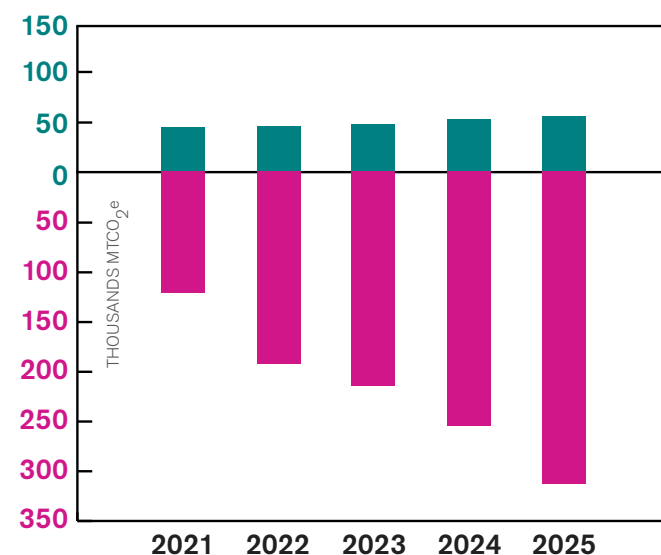
Providing electricity for **nearly 65,000** homes for a year.

The carbon captured by growing **over four million tree seedlings** for 10 years.

Greenhouse gas emissions

Every year the benefits of Sound Transit's service far exceeds the emissions from operations.

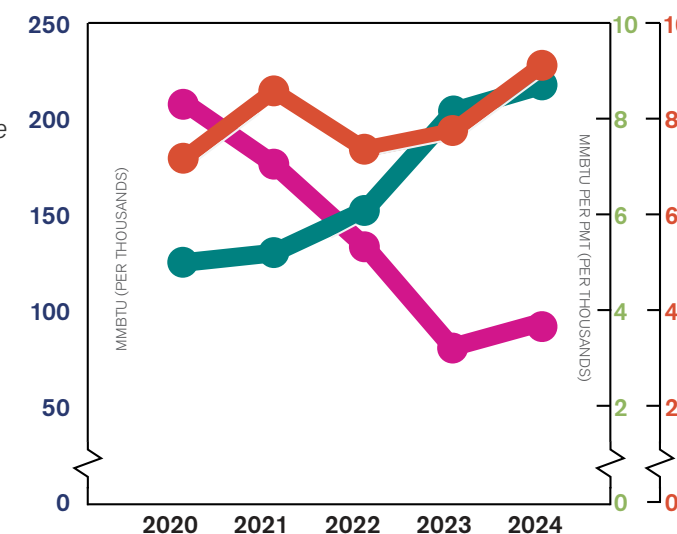
- Agency emissions from operations
- Regional emissions avoided when residents take transit



Reducing air pollution

Updates to Sounder engines, phasing out older ST Express diesel buses, and transitioning to renewable diesel have reduced Sound Transit's PM10 and SOx emissions.

- Carbon monoxide
- PM10
- Sulfur oxide



Key performance indicators

Greenhouse gas emissions:

- 5% reduction.

Criteria air pollutants:

- Particulate matter: 38% decrease.
- Volatile organic compounds: 20% decrease.
- Nitrogen oxides: 1% decrease.
- Carbon monoxides: 22% increase.
- Sulfur oxides: 4% decrease.

kWh renewable energy production:

- 251,289 kWh produced in 2025.
- 554 KW solar generating capacity.

Energy used in facilities built before 2018:

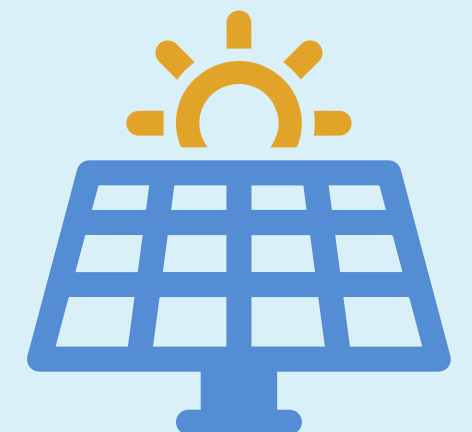
- 3% increase.

Number of fineable environmental compliance violations:

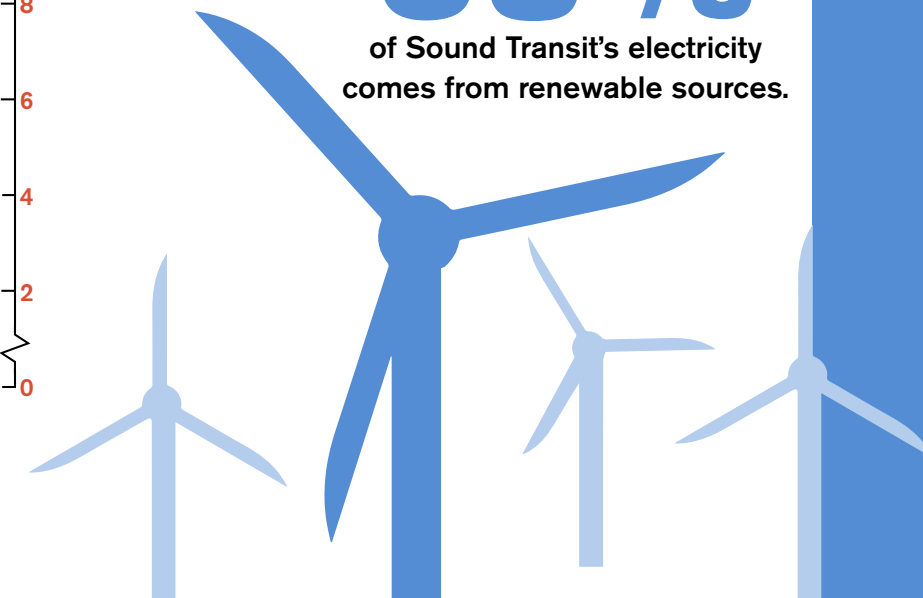
- 0 violations in 2025.

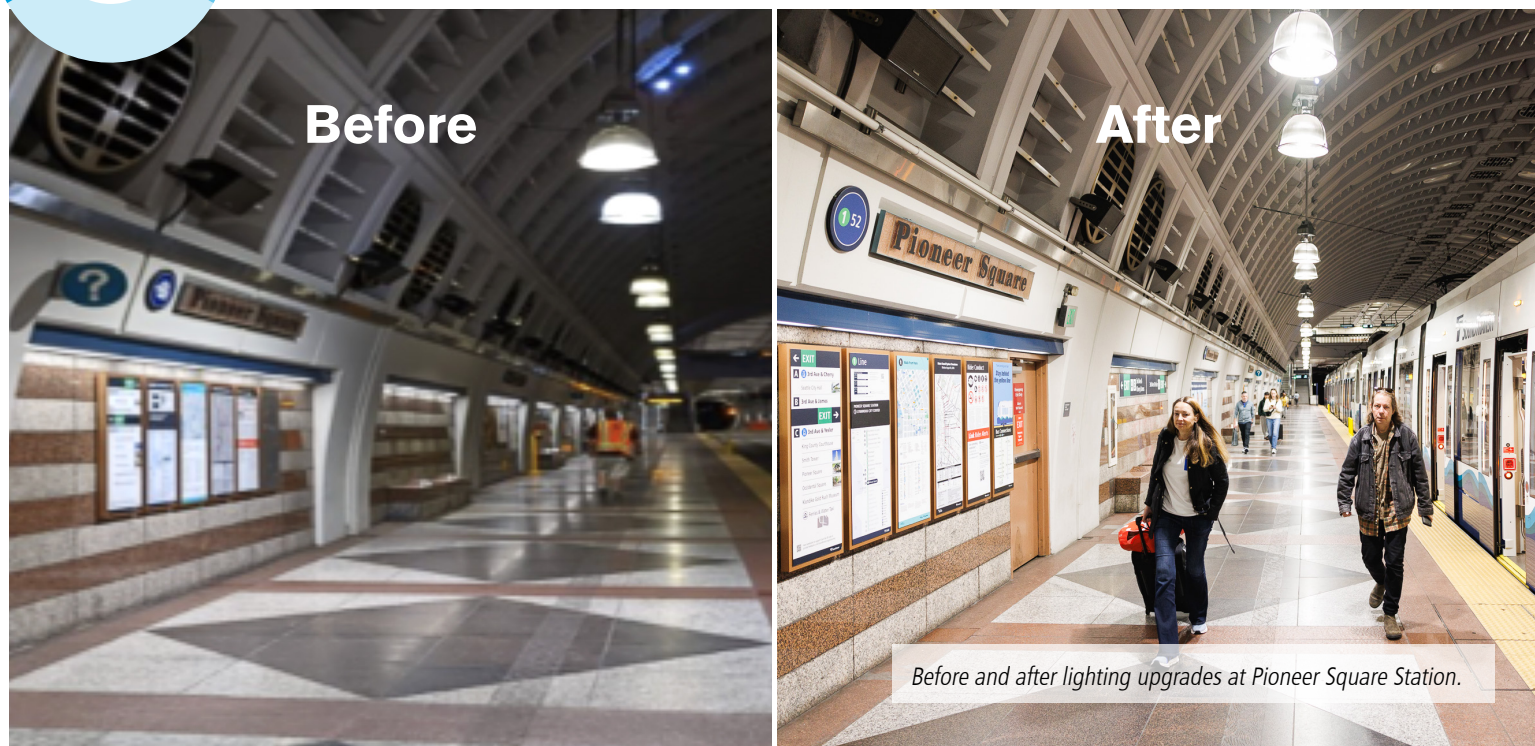
Agency water use:

- 73% increase.



83%
of Sound Transit's electricity comes from renewable sources.





Before and after lighting upgrades at Pioneer Square Station.

Achieve carbon-free operations

Improving efficiency and safety at light rail stations

Sound Transit completed lighting upgrades to three of our legacy underground stations built in the 1980s: Pioneer Square, Symphony, and Westlake stations. By swapping out older fixtures and bulbs for more energy efficient, longer-lasting LED options, Sound Transit will save energy and maintenance costs in the long term, while also improving visibility, safety, and creating a more welcoming environment.

Enhance ecosystem functions



An interpretive sign at Ronald Bog in Shoreline.

Protecting environmentally critical areas with signage

An example of Efficiency and Sustainability Program funded interpretive signs. They are educational panels used around mitigation sites to inform the public of ecosystem benefits, wildlife, and cultural significance.



An electric vehicle charging in the Union Station parking garage.

Planning for non-revenue vehicle fleet electrification

As part of Sound Transit's commitment to achieving zero emission fleets by 2050, the agency developed a practical transition and implementation to a carbon-neutral non-revenue fleet. The plan supports agency NRV fleet management, determines feasible EV replacements, identifies infrastructure needs and develops a financial roadmap. With this plan, the agency is now committed to achieving 30% electrification of the NRV fleet by 2030, putting this fleet well on its way towards the long-term 2050 goal.





Prosperity

Supporting local economic prosperity by helping residents and businesses save time and money

Saving taxpayer dollars

Sound Transit invests in sustainability, and sustainability pays us back. Over the past 10+ years, the agency has invested in many projects that save natural resources and money. These projects include operational improvements, such as using electric wayside power units on Sounder trains to reduce the idling of diesel engines and completing a building tune-up on Union Station. This sample of the agency's resource conservation projects saved Sound Transit over \$876,000 in 2025 alone and over \$10.2 million over project lifetimes.



\$485K	\$70K	\$56K	\$23K	\$243K
Fleet upgrade projects	Irrigation projects	Facilities upgrade projects	Solar installations	LED lighting upgrade projects

	2025 savings	Savings to date
Fleet upgrade projects	\$484,831	\$7,309,344
Irrigation projects	\$70,024	\$569,130
Facilities upgrade projects	\$56,054	\$407,439
Solar installations	\$22,983	\$127,465
LED lighting upgrade projects	\$243,073	\$1,866,401

Refer to Appendix B for more details on sustainability cost savings.



An ST Express bus at Lynnwood Transit Center.

Key performance indicators

Staff trained in emergency preparedness:

- 279 staff trained in core safety training.
- 336 staff trained in a non-revenue vehicle safe driving course.
- 154 staff certified in First Aid/CPR/AED.
- 30 staff trained in Stop the Bleed.
- 1,391 staff trained in Safety Management Systems.

Projects that include Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments:

- 100% of eligible projects.

Waste diverted:

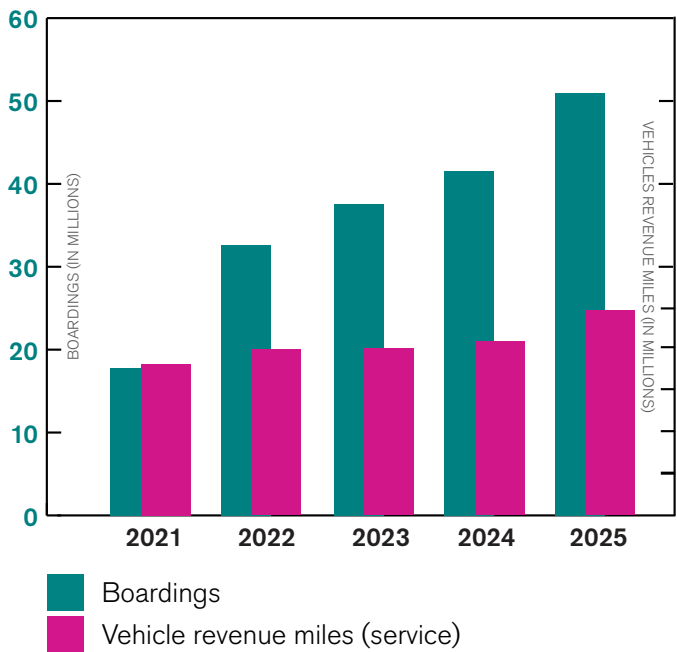
- 30%.

Percentage of and increase in dollar value of green procurements:

- 17% of procurements included green methods, a 1076% increase in green procurements dollar value from 2018.

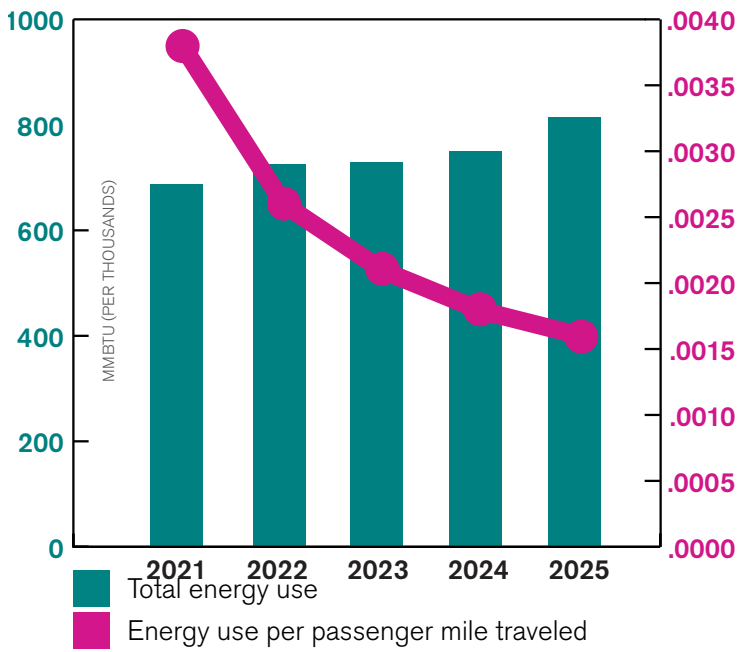
Boardings and service

Passenger counts are rising faster than service levels, meaning our vehicles are using resources more efficiently even as we add service.



Revenue fleet energy use

All services continued to operate efficiently by carrying passengers further while using less fuel.





Maximize operational efficiency

Avoiding landfills and saving money

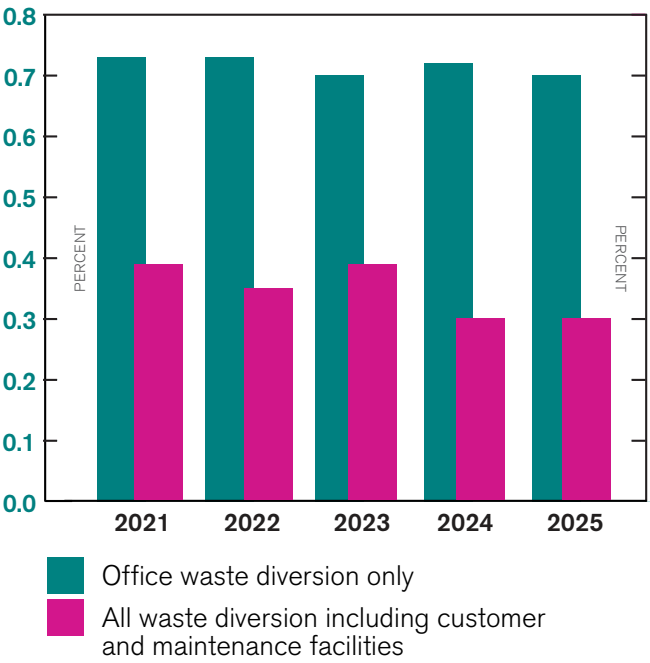
Sound Transit expanded the number of No-Cost Salvage Contracts in 2025 by adding one new vendor. These contracts are with licensed, insured businesses who salvage materials, fixtures, and appliances instead of disposing of them in landfills. These vendors do not charge for labor, equipment, or transportation for the salvaged materials, and landfill disposal fees are avoided.

Maximizing clean energy tax credits

In 2025, for the first time, Sound Transit pursued tax credits for its investments in electric vehicles and solar energy generation. Finance and Sustainability staff identified eligible vehicles and the 90 kW capacity solar photovoltaic, renewable energy array at the Kent Des Moines parking garage that were eligible for clean energy tax credits from 2024. As a government entity, Sound Transit does not pay taxes, so this means that the tax “credit” became a direct payment of over \$245,000 dollars that the agency can reinvest in sustainability.

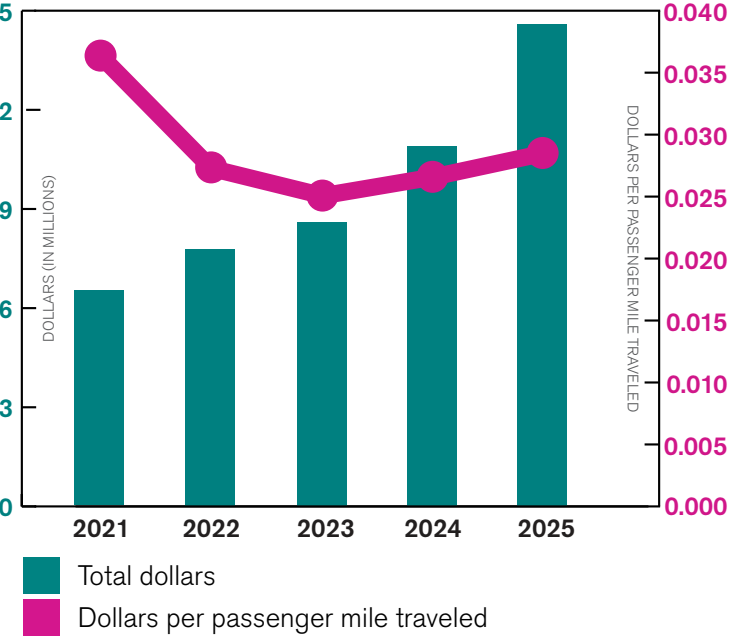
Waste diversion

Sound Transit continues to maintain a high waste diversion rate in our office buildings and is exploring ways to increase waste diversion from service operations.



Utility costs

Sound Transit is a growing agency, but has been able to keep costs per level of service relatively steady.



Investing in efficiency

Sound Transit established the Efficiency and Sustainability Program (ESP) as part of the ST3 Plan. This initiative sets aside \$25 million to invest in projects that advance the agency's strategic sustainability priorities and enhance operational efficiency within the transit system.

Projects to date have included:



8

studies focusing on topics such as zero emissions fleets and GHG reductions.



4

pilots focusing on topics such as solar-powered back-up lighting for safety and revegetation of remanent parcels.



5

asset upgrades including LED lighting at Link stations and energy-efficient retrofits for Union Station.

In 2025 we completed:

- Non-Revenue Fleet Zero Emission Transition and Implementation Plan.
- Audit of agency refrigerant use to support emissions reduction efforts.

And approved new projects:

- Mitigation site interpretive signage to support public awareness.
- Remnant parcel revegetation project to support environmental stewardship and habitat restoration.

2025 Sustainability Targets

Sound Transit Year in Review

People

- ☒ Provide LEED & Envision professional accreditation resources

Planet

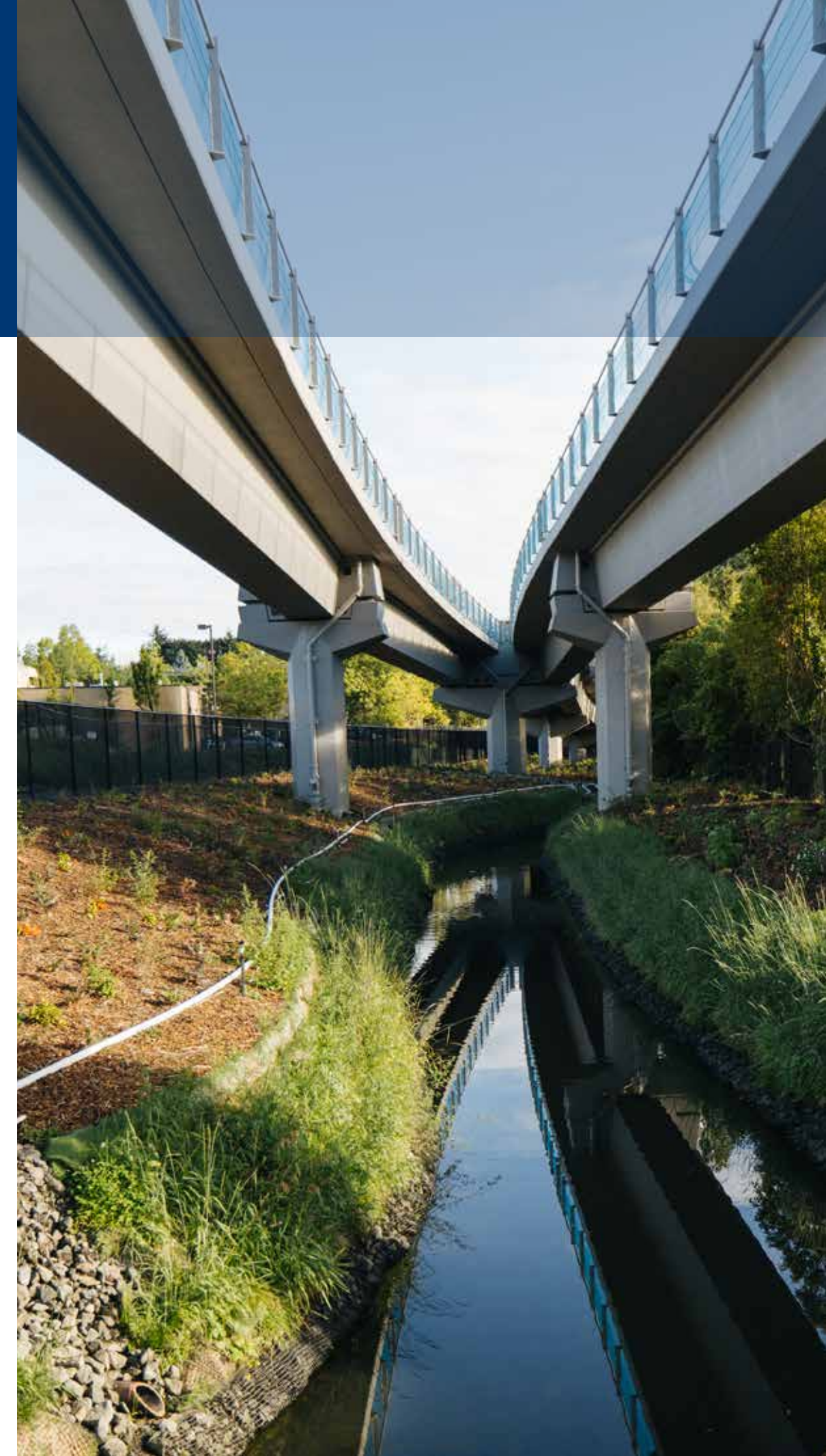
- ☐ Plan and implement a program to convert Sounder diesel fuel to renewable diesel.*
- ☒ Develop a Non-Revenue Vehicle Zero Emissions Transition and Implementation Plan.
- ☐ Procure stormwater compliance software.*
- ☒ Audit agency refrigerant use to ensure compliance with future carbon-free goals.
- ☒ Develop multi-year workplan for reducing carbon emissions in materials and construction processes.
- ☒ Increase Sound Transit's operational solar energy generation capacity by 88 kW.

- ☒ Evaluate zero-carbon building certifications for design requirements.
- ☒ Initiate environmental critical area signage program to identify and protect wetlands, streams, and their buffers.

Prosperity

- ☒ Evaluate and propose enhancements to building salvage and interim real estate uses.
- ☒ Create a sustainable design tool to use by state-of-good repair projects.
- ☒ Evaluate Social Economic Environmental Design (SEED) Certification for design requirements.
- ☒ Initiate Everett Link Extension Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis.
- ☒ Integrate Clean Fuel Standard Revenue projections into the agency's Finance Plan.

* These partially completed targets are on track for finalization by the end of 2026.



2026 Environmental and Sustainability Targets

Supporting people, planet, and prosperity



Advance equity

- Launch four new equity and inclusion trainings.



Builds sustainable infrastructure and operates resiliently

- Launch Climate Resilience Plan for the existing system.
- Establish a work plan to upgrade traction power facilities.
- Develop a Life Cycle Analysis guidance document.
- Identify a carbon emission reduction target for pour-in-place concrete.



Continually improve agency governance and business practices

- Launch agencywide psychological safety training.
- Revise Efficiency and Sustainability Program ESMS Procedure to align with Sustainability Plan.



Grow ridership and strengthen communities

- Break ground on approximately 550 units of affordable housing.
- Launch open payment to expand fare payment options.
- Support sustainability engagement activities at the Crosslake opening.
- Begin development of a coordinated cross-county paratransit system.



Protect and restore the environment

- Conduct a waste management audit across selected facilities and identify priority actions for reduction and diversion.
- Launch a pilot revegetation project on selected parcels to improve ecological function.



Reduce air pollution and GHG emissions

- Receive delivery of the agency's first battery-electric pilot bus.
- Initiate the design of a zero emission locomotive pilot project.
- Standardize technical specifications for electric vehicle infrastructure and solar power projects.
- Participate in Breaking Barriers' Fleet Electrification Accelerator to support zero emissions transition for non-revenue fleet.
- Define an energy use intensity (EUI) metric for facilities.
- Evaluate facility energy decarbonization pathways for the Building Emission Performance Standard.

