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 2022, 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/get-to-know-us/environment-sustainability.
Sound Transit
2022 Environmental and Sustainability Targets
Supporting people, planet and prosperity

People
- Create potential delivery approaches for joint-development projects integrated with new park-and-ride facilities.
- Support the opening of more than 600 affordable rental housing units.
- Finalize sustainability guidelines for transit-oriented development projects.
- Begin anti-racist strategy work plan implementation.
- Launch the Racial Equity Toolkit and Equitable Engagement Tool implementation plan.
- Host five anti-racism workshop cohorts for ST employees.
- Enhance training and technical opportunities to prepare DBEs to lead ST contracts.
- Define options for implementing flexible access improvements for delayed parking facilities.
- Expand the permit parking program’s authority to include daily permits.
- Establish agencywide sustainability networking and educational forum for all staff.
- Identify key DECM and PSO staff to pursue sustainability professional accreditations.
- Refine hybrid workforce standards and conduct trainings on hybrid best practices.
- Launch self-service resources for IT service desk.
- Support retirement readiness program.
- Launch Passenger Information Management System.
- Set up job-description platform with revised ADA requirements.

Planet
- Propose carbon-free operational design standards for new facilities.
- Draft a roadmap for achieving carbon-free operations for facilities and fleets by 2050.
- Develop zero-emissions implementation plan for agency bus fleets.
- Evaluate the potential to use renewable diesel fuel in agency bus fleets.
- Increase green building standard to LEED Gold for new facilities.
- Set low-carbon concrete requirements for three new facilities.
- Refine the cataloguing of ecosystem services to be evaluated for ST mitigation sites.
- Survey SBE/DBE contractors’ equipment inventory to determine air quality emissions.
- Evaluate two new green building standards.
- Clarify and document Tribal engagement protocols for capital projects.

Prosperity
- Initiate Snohomish County Threat Hazard Identification Risk Analysis.
- Revamp staff emergency preparedness plans for hybrid workforce.
- Standardize climate vulnerability assessment implementation for capital projects.
- Incorporate sustainability into non-system expansion projects by including screening criteria in the Portfolio Review Board and department-level pre-screening processes, as appropriate.
- Update and approve Asset Management policy.
- Prioritize and address high-risk items for safety management system ISO certification.
- Implement centralized hazard database to streamline safety and security hazard management.
- Draft operating plans to support LEED EBOM certification at Union Station.
- Expand the Green Procurement program to include all staff.
- Embed sustainability into the evaluation criteria for all Architecture and Engineering and Qualifications-Based Construction procurements.
- Develop and implement the Procurement & Contracts Division electronic contract library for all agency access.