



# 2024 Sustainability Progress Report

Building a better tomorrow | September 2025



Link light rail at the East Main Station, 2024



# At a glance

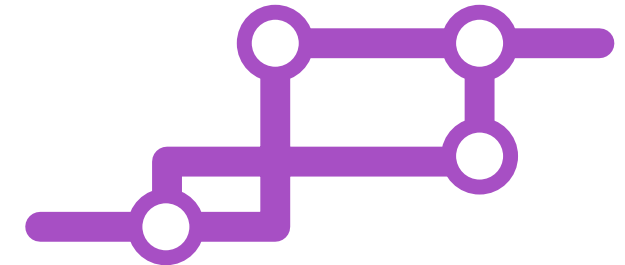
AVOIDED  
EMITTING OVER  
**255K**  
TONS OF  
greenhouse gases  
*WHEN PASSENGERS  
TAKE TRANSIT*

REDUCED SULFUR  
DIOXIDE EMISSIONS BY  
**10%**  
compared to  
2018 levels.



SIGNED THE  
**Equity in  
Infrastructure  
Pledge**

**APPROVED**  
**12** EFFICIENCY AND  
SUSTAINABILITY  
PROGRAM PROJECTS  
*to enhance efficiency in the  
operational transit system*



Reduced energy use  
IN FACILITIES BUILT  
BEFORE 2018 BY  
**9%** ↓



Certified  
Lynnwood City  
Center Station to

**LEED GOLD**

SAVED OVER  
**\$916K**  
FROM **58** new and  
existing  
*sustainability and resource  
efficiency projects.*



ENVISION™

*Certified the Federal Way  
Link Extension to*  
**ENVISION™  
PLATINUM**



# Sustainability

## Sustainability at Sound Transit

**Sustainability is at the core of our mission: connecting more people to more places to make life better and create equitable opportunities for all.** Investing in transit builds a better future by supporting a clean environment, connecting communities, and fostering vibrant economies. Sound Transit supports regional sustainability by 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 guide 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.**

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.)

The data in this report focuses on the metrics set by Sound Transit's 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.

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.

Investing in transit builds a better future by supporting a clean environment, connecting communities, and fostering vibrant economies.



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.

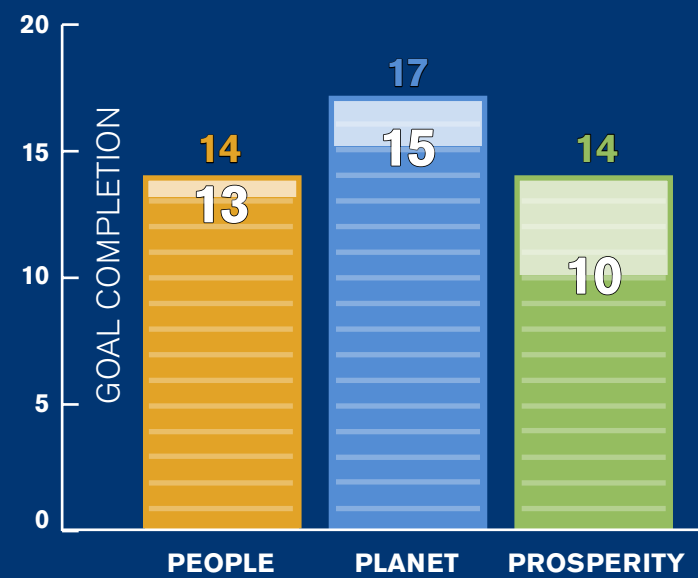


Bellevue Downtown Station.





Bellevue Downtown Station.



## 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 Sustainability Plan. As of 2024, Sound Transit has completed 38 of the plan's 45 short-term goals, an 84% success rate. The agency is in the process of drafting refreshed sustainability goals, to be published in 2026.

# 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.

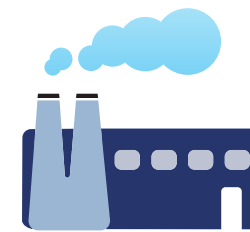
Capital expansion will help more people travel affordably and reliably on environmentally friendly buses and trains throughout the region's growing communities. Expanding mass transit services benefits everyone by offering a less carbon-intensive means of travel, which decreases regional air and water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



**SAVES TIME.**



**SAVES FUEL.**



**IMPROVES  
AIR QUALITY.**



**SAVES MONEY.**

## Key accomplishments

The agency achieved a number of important sustainability accomplishments over the last year that leverage social, environmental, and financial benefits for the region's future. In 2024, we:

- Avoided emitting over 255,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions when passengers took transit instead of driving. Emissions avoided in 2024 increased over the previous year due to station openings and associated 11% ridership increase.
- Saved over \$916K from 58 new and existing sustainability and resource efficiency projects and generated \$430K in revenue from the Clean Fuel Standard.
- Reduced sulfur dioxide emissions by 10% compared to 2018 levels, partially due to increasing renewable diesel use in the agency's bus fleet.
- Certified the Federal Way Link Extension to Envision Platinum and the Lynnwood City Center Station to LEED Gold.
- Signed the Equity in Infrastructure Pledge, committing to reducing the racial wealth gap by improving public infrastructure practices.

## Continual improvement

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

- Publishing a new Sustainability Plan to recommit and refine the agency's sustainability priorities for the next five years.
- Finalizing fleet decarbonization studies and strategies to strengthen the agency's decarbonization path.
- Incorporating sustainability assumptions about future service into agency planning and the Network Planning process.
- Continuing to educate new leadership and staff about the Sustainability Program and the Environmental and Sustainability Management System.



Boarding 510 Downtown Seattle



# People

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



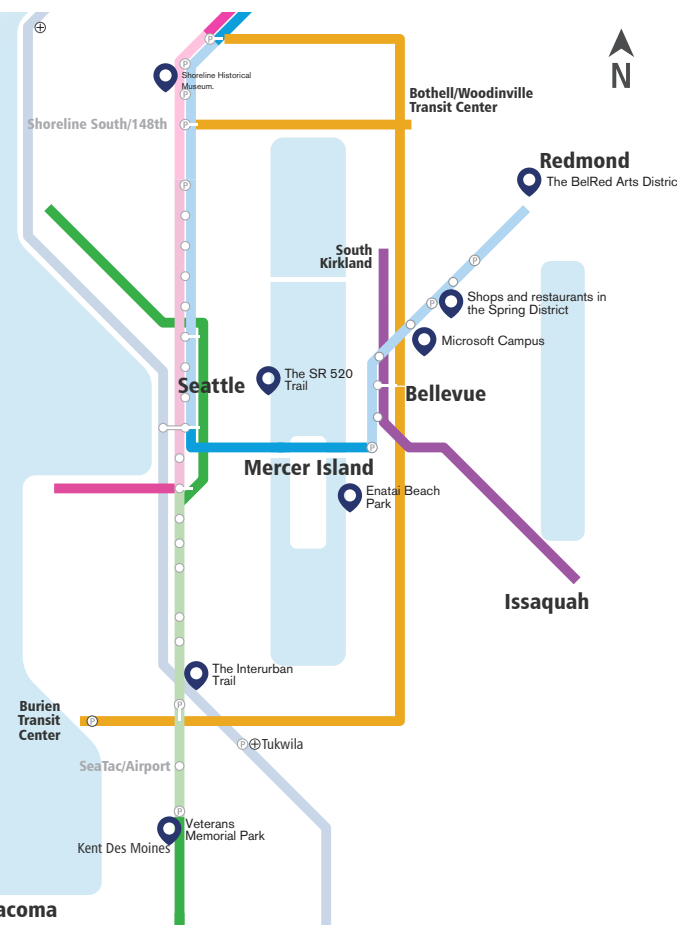
Lynnwood Link opening, August 2024

## Connecting more people to more places

Sound Transit opened two new light rail segments in 2024 — Lynnwood Link and the East Link Starter Line — creating more connections to more places and expanding fast, reliable, environmentally friendly transportation options in the Central Puget Sound.

- In April, the agency opened 6.6 miles of light rail in Bellevue and Remond with 8 stations.
- In August, the agency opened another 8.5 miles of light rail connecting the 1 Line to Lynnwood, with 4 new stations.
- Some of the local landmarks and activities now accessible by light rail include:

- Enatai Beach Park.
- The SR 520 Trail.
- Shops and restaurants in the Spring District.
- The BelRed Arts District.
- Microsoft Campus.
- Veterans Memorial Park.
- Shoreline Historical Museum.
- The Interurban Trail.



Wilburton Station

## Key performance indicators

**Dollars contributed to affordable housing revolving loan fund:**  
\$4 million.

**Staff trained in equity and inclusion:**  
97% of staff completed Equal Employment Opportunity Training.  
75% of staff completed Implicit Bias Training.  
55% of staff completed Inclusion Training.  
22% of staff completed Microaggressions in the Workplace Training.

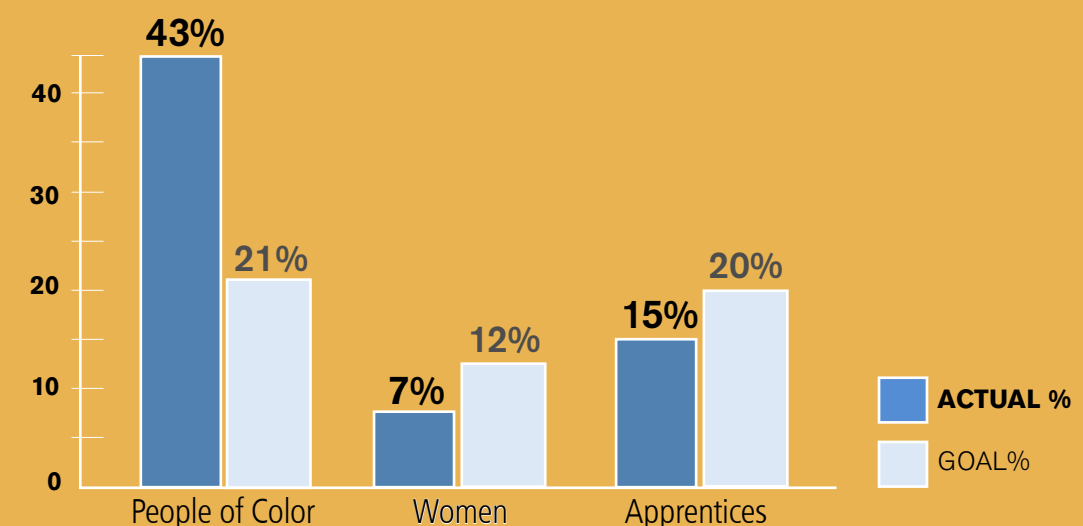
**Total hours worked on ST job sites in 2024:**  
43% by people of color.  
7% by women.  
15% by apprentices.

**Staff who have earned sustainable professional accreditations:**  
35 Envision Sustainability Professionals.  
16 LEED Accredited Professionals.  
14 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 2024, Sound Transit's construction projects directly employed more than 5,616 people who worked 2.46 million hours and earned \$149 million in wages.







## Social equity addressed and implemented as an agency value



### 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 (TOD) program. Some highlights from the TOD program in 2024:

- **U District Station TOD developer selection** — Sound Transit selected Low Income Housing Institute as the developer of a new 160-unit affordable housing project.
- **Lynnwood City Center Station TOD developer selection** — Sound Transit selected Housing Hope's proposal for a 167-unit affordable housing project.
- **Rainier Valley Affordable Homeownership Initiative groundbreakings** — Construction started on two sites that are set to become affordable homeownership opportunities. When complete the Initiative will offer 100 affordable homes.

### Ensuring accessibility

**Sound Transit strives to offer inclusive and accessible public transportation for all riders, while also using technology to improve the passenger experience.** In 2024, the agency extended its use of the GoodMaps app to a total of seven stations. GoodMaps uses mapping technologies to create highly accurate 3D maps of large public spaces' interiors. The app provides real-time, turn-by-turn directions to enable accessible wayfinding for all passengers, including those who have visual or hearing impairments, are neurodivergent, or have limited mobility. This tool also supports pedestrians who get anxious or uncomfortable in new or complex environments or want to find their way more efficiently.



# GoodMaps Connect

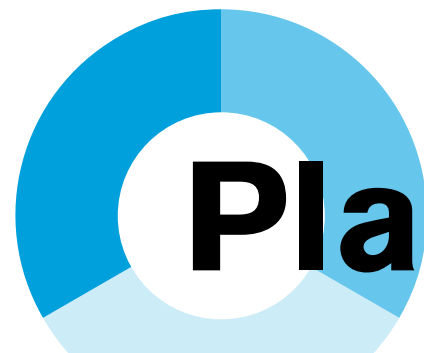
## Committing to equitable infrastructure in contracting

In August 2024, Sound Transit signed the Equity in Infrastructure Pledge along with King County, the City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, and Community Transit. The Equity in Infrastructure Pledge is a national coalition intended to build generational wealth and reduce the racial wealth gap by improving public infrastructure contracting practices to create more prime, joint venture, and equity contracting opportunities for Historically Underutilized Businesses.

## All staff champion sustainability







# 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.** For example, when residents choose transit instead of driving alone, they reduce air and water pollution.

Passengers taking Sound Transit services avoided over 255,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. In 2024, Sound Transit avoided nearly five times the amount of emissions it produced. This also represents an 18% increase in avoided emissions since 2023. These avoided emissions are equivalent to:

**The avoided emissions are equivalent to:**



Burning over 29 million gallons of gasoline.

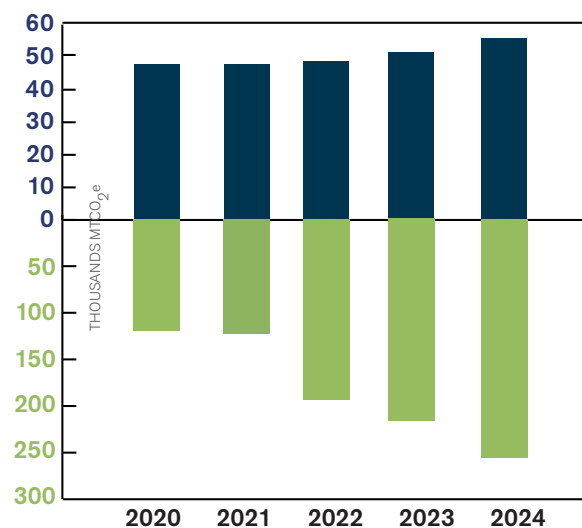
Providing electricity for nearly 53,000 homes for a year.

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.

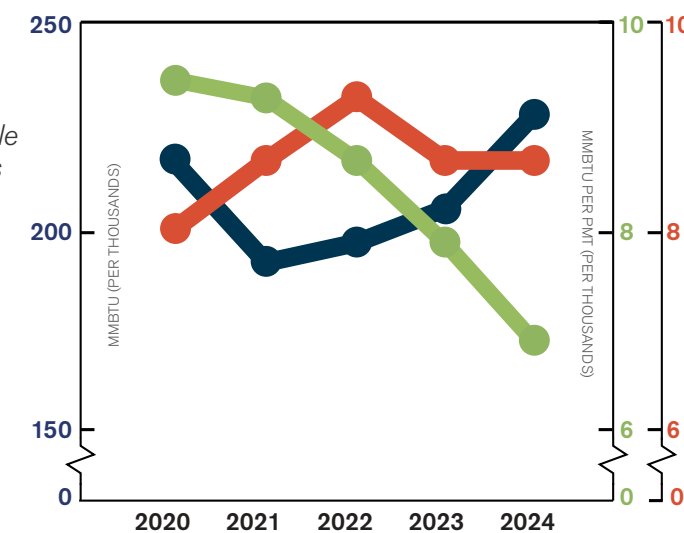
- Agency emissions from operations
- Regional emissions avoided when residents take transit



### 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



Building light rail over the I-90 floating bridge

## Key performance indicators

### Greenhouse gas emissions:

16% reduction.

### Criteria air pollutants:

Particulate matter: 37% decrease.

Volatile organic compounds: 19% decrease.

Nitrogen oxides: 5% decrease.

Carbon monoxides: 19% increase.

Sulfur oxides: 10% decrease.

### kWh renewable energy production:

176,085 kWh produced in 2024.

268 KW solar generating capacity.

### Energy used in facilities built before 2018:

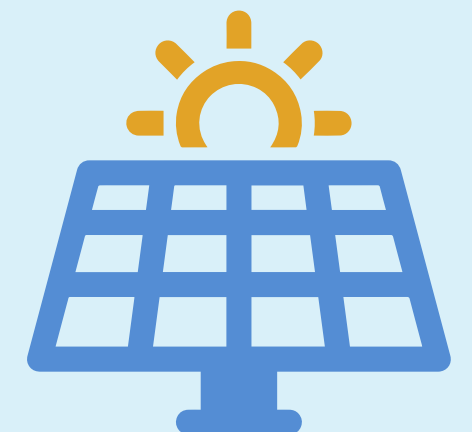
9% reduction.

### Number of fineable environmental compliance violations:

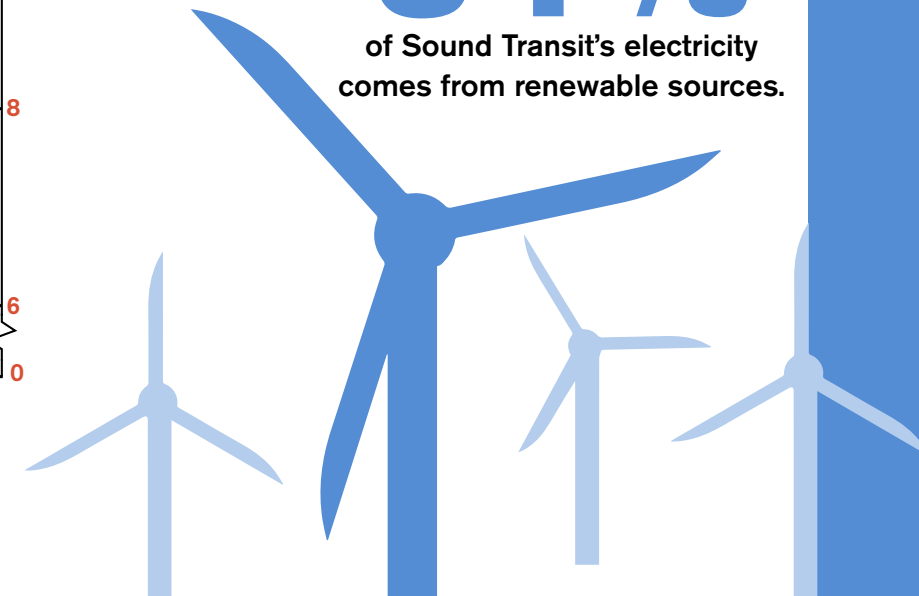
0 violations in 2024.

### Agency water use:

11% increase.



**84%**  
of Sound Transit's electricity comes from renewable sources.







## Achieve carbon-free operations

### Certifying to Envision Platinum

In 2024, when Federal Way Link Extension was awarded Envision green infrastructure certification at the Platinum level, Sound Transit became the first agency in the nation to have two transit projects to be awarded this designation. The Downtown Redmond Link Extension was previously certified to Envision at the Platinum level in 2022.

- The Federal Way Link Extension was awarded Envision Platinum by the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) in April 2024 for going above and beyond to deliver improvements to the social, economic, and environmental conditions of its community. The ISI evaluation assessed the project's performance across 64 sustainability criteria, addressing a wide range of indicators, including community, quality of life, management, planning, materials, energy, water, environmental impacts, emissions, and resilience.

### Building green

The agency achieved another notable sustainability certification in 2024 when Lynnwood City Center Station earned LEED Gold certification. LEED certification provides independent verification of sustainable design and is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement. Some of the sustainability accomplishments that earned the campus's LEED Gold certification include:

- 30% energy cost reduction.
- 34% indoor water use reduction.
- 71% reduction in irrigation water use.
- 85% of open spaces covered in vegetation.
- 81% of construction waste diverted from landfills.
- 100% of paints, coatings, adhesives, sealants, flooring, ceiling, and insulation met LEED low-VOC requirements.

## Enhance ecosystem functions

### Restoring Bear Creek

In 2024, the agency also opened the East Link Starter Line, including eight new light rail stops along 6.6 miles of track. This project included many ecosystem mitigation efforts, such as the Bear Creek stream restoration and enhancement. Restoring this stream involved:

- Removing an old creosote-treated railroad trestle, rubble, and culverts.
- Widening the channel and flood plain.
- Removing fill and rubble to improve connectivity with the creek and its flood plain.
- Improving fish and wildlife habitat by placing large woody material in the stream channel and flood plain.
- Enhancing off-channel habitat for juvenile salmonids.
- Enhancing more than four acres of riparian buffer through the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting native trees and shrubs.







# 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 upgrading inefficient lighting to LEDs. This sample of the agency's resource conservation projects saved Sound Transit over \$916,000 in 2024 alone and nearly \$9.3 million over project lifetimes.



<b>\$555K</b>	<b>\$58K</b>	<b>\$48K</b>	<b>\$12K</b>	<b>\$243K</b>
Fleet upgrade projects	Irrigation projects	Facilities upgrade projects	Solar installations	LED lighting upgrade projects

	2024 savings	Savings to date
Fleet upgrade projects	\$555,227	\$6,719,802
Irrigation projects	\$58,235	\$499,107
Facilities upgrade projects	\$47,925	\$351,385
Solar installations	\$12,004	\$83,648
LED lighting upgrade projects	\$243,073	\$1,643,329

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



## Key performance indicators

### Staff trained in emergency preparedness:

- 250 staff trained in core safety training.
- 192 staff trained in a non-revenue vehicle safe driving course.
- 1179 staff certified in First Aid/CPR/AED.
- 19 staff trained in Stop The Bleed.
- 82 staff trained in De-Escalation/Personal Safety.
- 244 staff trained in Safety Management Systems.

### Projects that include Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments:

100% of eligible projects.

### Waste diverted

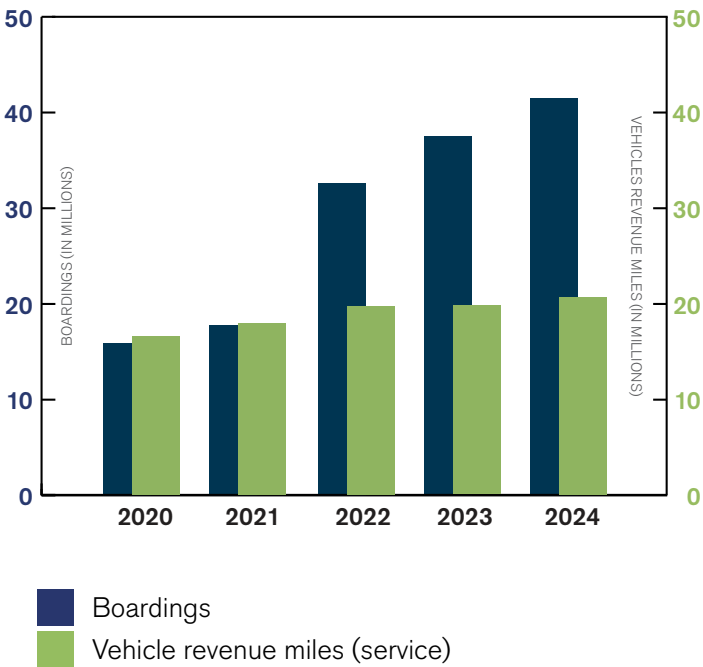
30%.

### Percentage of and increase in dollar value of green procurements:

21% of procurements included green methods, a 192% increase in green procurements dollar value from 2018.

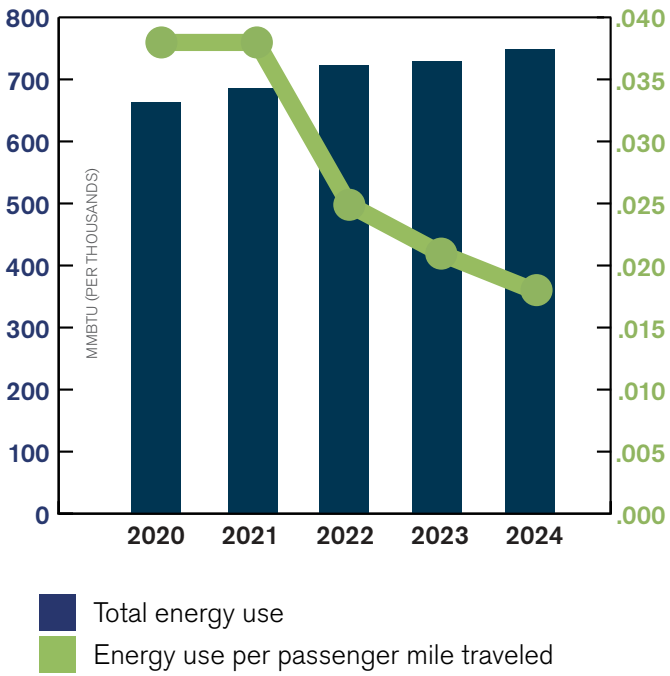
## Boardings and service

Sound Transit carries more passengers per service levels every year.



## Revenue fleet energy use

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







## Build resilience to climate change and natural or humanmade disasters

### Making resiliency work through collaboration

Sound Transit requires all major capital projects to conduct a Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis (CCVA) during early planning phases. This study brings together planners, designers, and operations staff to determine how specific effects of climate change, such as the increased intensity of rain events or sea-level rise, might affect the proposed infrastructure and operations of the Link light rail system. The analysis conducted for the Tacoma Dome Link Extension in Pierce County indicated that a few areas under the guideway are at increased risk of tidal and groundwater flooding at stations and near support columns. Operating staff working on the project determined that none of the existing operating procedures addressed this flooding issue. A procedure is being developed to ensure that station mechanical and electrical systems are protected from damage and that the columns stand for their intended lifespan of 75-100 years.

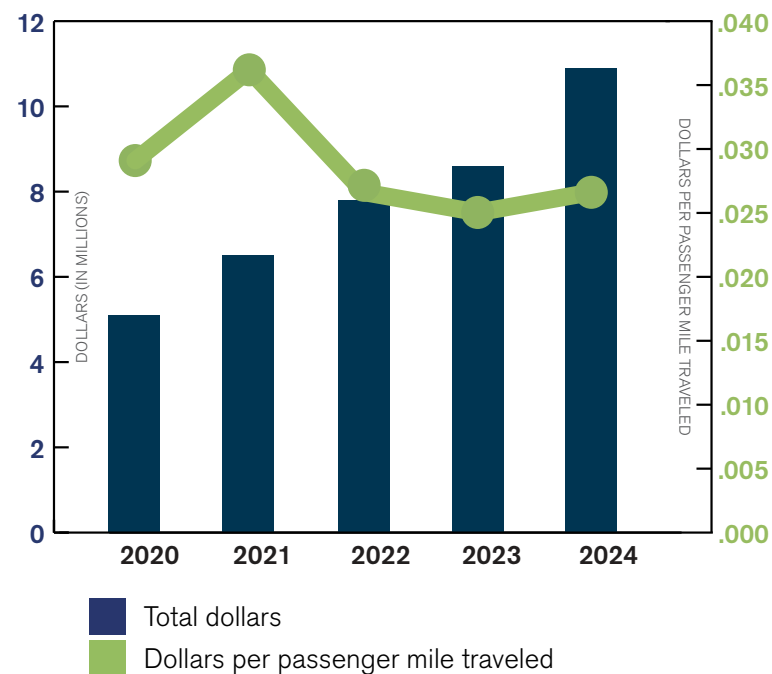
### Waste diversion

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.



## Maximize operational efficiency

### Investing in efficiency

With the passage of Sound Transit 3 in 2016, Sound Transit established the Efficiency and Sustainability Program (ESP). The program sets aside \$25 million to invest in projects that advance the agency's strategic sustainability priorities and enhance operational efficiency within the operational transit system. Since 2016, this program has enabled the agency to install solar arrays on OMF East, plan the zero-emissions transition for the non-revenue fleet and Sounder Commuter Rail fleet, and implement more than five lighting retrofit projects. Here's a snapshot of the ESP's projects to date, as they align with sustainability goals:

**Projects to date have focused on achieving carbon free operations and enhancing ecosystems function**



**6** renewable energy and zero emissions studies



**2** pilots (solar powered lighting and ecosystem monitoring)



**4** energy efficiency, electric vehicle, and solar energy projects





# 2024 Sustainability Targets

Sound Transit Year in Review

## People

- ☒ Recommend an expanded parking program for adoption by the Sound Transit Board.
- ☒ Implement family planning program to contribute to the agency's commitment to employee wellbeing.
- ☐ Implement job description changes to reflect equity audit recommendations.\*

## Planet

- ☐ Complete Snohomish County Threat Hazard Risk o Develop Zero Emissions Implementation Plan for ST Express bus services.\*
- ☒ Evaluate the feasibility of a renewable diesel pilot for Sounder.
- ☒ Evaluate solar-powered back-up generation for facility lighting.
- ☒ Launch Lynnwood Link Extension with carbon-free electricity.
- ☒ Expand Clean Fuel Standard program participation with Link light rail service openings.

- ☒ Draft technical requirement guidelines for EV charger installations.
- ☒ Evaluate feasibility of an advanced ecosystem mitigation approach for TDLE or EVLE and OMF North.
- ☒ Complete ecosystem services pilot study and determine related assessment tools for all mitigation sites.
- ☐ Prepare Union Station LEED Existing Buildings Operation and Maintenance certification documents for submission.\*
- ☐ Establish an updated program for cleaning track alignment on a quantified and routine basis.\*
- ☐ Attain coverage under the Washington State National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.\*

## Prosperity

- ☒ Complete Snohomish County Threat Hazard Risk Identification Analysis.
- ☐ Reimplement the STPrepared Program to designate and promote emergency preparedness.
- ☒ Propose a process approach to integrate sustainable design practices into state-of-good-repair projects.
- ☒ Draft a feasibility report on sustainability improvements proposed and implemented by DB contractors.
- ☐ Update Strategic Asset Management Plan and seek ISO 55001 certification.
- ☒ Establish process for Safety Management System management review.
- ☒ Implement an off-the-shelf contract management software system designed to streamline and simplify efforts to remain paperless within PCA.
- ☒ Educate new Sound Transit staff about green procurement benefits and best options possible for micro-purchases.
- ☒ Drive staff to generate incremental increases in green procurement metrics.

\* These partially completed targets are on track for finalization by the end of 2025.





# 2025 Environmental and Sustainability Targets

Supporting people, planet and prosperity



## 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-Emission 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 be used 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.