

2026-2030 Sustainability Plan



Letter from the CEO

Sound Transit is enthusiastically transforming the map of Central Puget Sound, connecting people to opportunity with clean, frequent, reliable, and friendly transit services.

The 2026–2030 Sound Transit Sustainability Plan — implemented through our nationally and internationally recognized sustainability program — reflects that vision by defining how we embed sustainability into every aspect of our work as we design, construct, and operate our regional transit system.

As our system grows to connect more people, it is also shaping how people live, work, and move around the region. Our 2026–2030 Sustainability Plan ensures we will support that progress for generations to come.

Our sustainability efforts are guided by three principles:

- 1. **Economic development is both a responsibility and an opportunity.** Our investments create jobs, catalyze affordable housing, support local businesses big and small, and strengthen the regional economy.
- 2. **Community wellbeing is at the heart of sustainability.** Building transit means building healthy, connected communities. Every Sound Transit station helps people reach jobs, schools, and essential destinations.
- 3. **The sustainability “triple bottom line” — people, planet, and prosperity — is our measure of success.** We are committed to providing affordable, accessible, environmentally friendly transit that operates sustainably and supports healthy, vibrant communities and economies.

Sound Transit stands behind these commitments, and we are dedicated to seeing them through. Sustainability guides our projects, partnerships, and daily decisions so that every investment reflects our responsibility to create a cleaner, more connected, and more equitable region.

Please take a moment to explore this plan, celebrate our progress to date, and look forward to all the good work ahead.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine, *Chief Executive Officer*

Acknowledgement of Tribal Partners

At Sound Transit, we would like to acknowledge our Coast Salish Peoples, particularly the Snohomish, Suquamish, Stillaguamish, and Tulalip tribes. At Sound Transit, we deeply respect our Tribal Nations’ right to sovereignty and are committed to listening to and lifting up indigenous voices. We want to acknowledge and offer our deep gratitude to the Tribal people who have been here since time immemorial. With our deepest appreciation, we would like to recognize their continued stewardship and advocacy for the land and our environment.





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Plan purpose

Transit is sustainable



Sustainability is at the heart of Sound Transit’s mission to improve the region by providing riders access to opportunity through clean, frequent, and reliable transit. The agency strengthens Central Puget Sound’s prosperity by connecting more people to more places, efficiently, affordably, and in an environmentally friendly manner. But sustainability isn’t just about the environment; it’s also about building a better future by supporting healthy, vibrant communities and economies.

Purpose and scope

This five-year Sustainability Plan (2026–2030) articulates our public commitment to a sustainable future and documents how the agency translates its high-level sustainability commitments into measurable goals and actions.

Who is the Sustainability Plan for?

The main purpose of the Sustainability Plan is to guide Sound Transit staff’s work toward critical sustainability outcomes. It also communicates how the agency delivers sustainability commitments and goals to our riders, elected officials, and the public.

What is the Sustainability Plan?

The Sustainability Plan is the strategic planning document that guides the entire agency’s portfolio of sustainability work across all departments for the next five years.

When is the Sustainability Plan being implemented?

This is a five-year plan. Each goal and the associated action items are intended to be completed from the beginning of 2026 to the end of 2030, unless otherwise noted.

Where does the Sustainability Plan apply?

The Sustainability Plan focuses on Sound Transit’s work throughout its Central Puget Sound service area and addresses all agency activities, from planning and design to construction and operations.

Why is there a Sustainability Plan?

The Sustainability Plan ensures that the agency is transparent and accountable in implementing measurable actions across the organization to support multiple scales of sustainability.



Continually improving

Sound Transit uses third-party certifications to demonstrate continual progress toward industry-recognized sustainability standards. The agency's sustainability program is recognized for its participation in the following standards:



Platinum-level recognition with the American Public Transportation Association's Sustainability Commitment.



Environmental and Sustainability Management System (ESMS) certified to the international ISO 14001:2015 Standard.



8 LEED facilities certified as LEED green buildings; planning 35+ more; all new facilities required to achieve LEED Gold.



2 corridors certified to Envision Platinum; planning to certify all ST3 corridors to the Envision infrastructure rating system at the Platinum level.



2018 and newer greenhouse gas inventories certified to the Climate Registry Gold Standard.

Measurable results

Sound Transit is proud of our sustainability accomplishments and our commitment to improving year over year. Since the development of the last Sustainability Plan in 2019, the agency has continued to strategically advance programs and initiatives that collectively define the agency's broad sustainability agenda.



Launched Safety and Asset Management programs.



Completed 13 transit-oriented development projects, including 1,435 rental homes, 7 homeownership opportunities, and 340,000+ square feet of retail and office space.



Signed the Equity in Infrastructure Pledge.



Reduced greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) by 16%.



Reduced energy use in facilities built before 2018 by 9%.



Reduced most criteria air pollutants by 5% or more.

Note: all data has a 2018 baseline.

Sustainability is evergreen

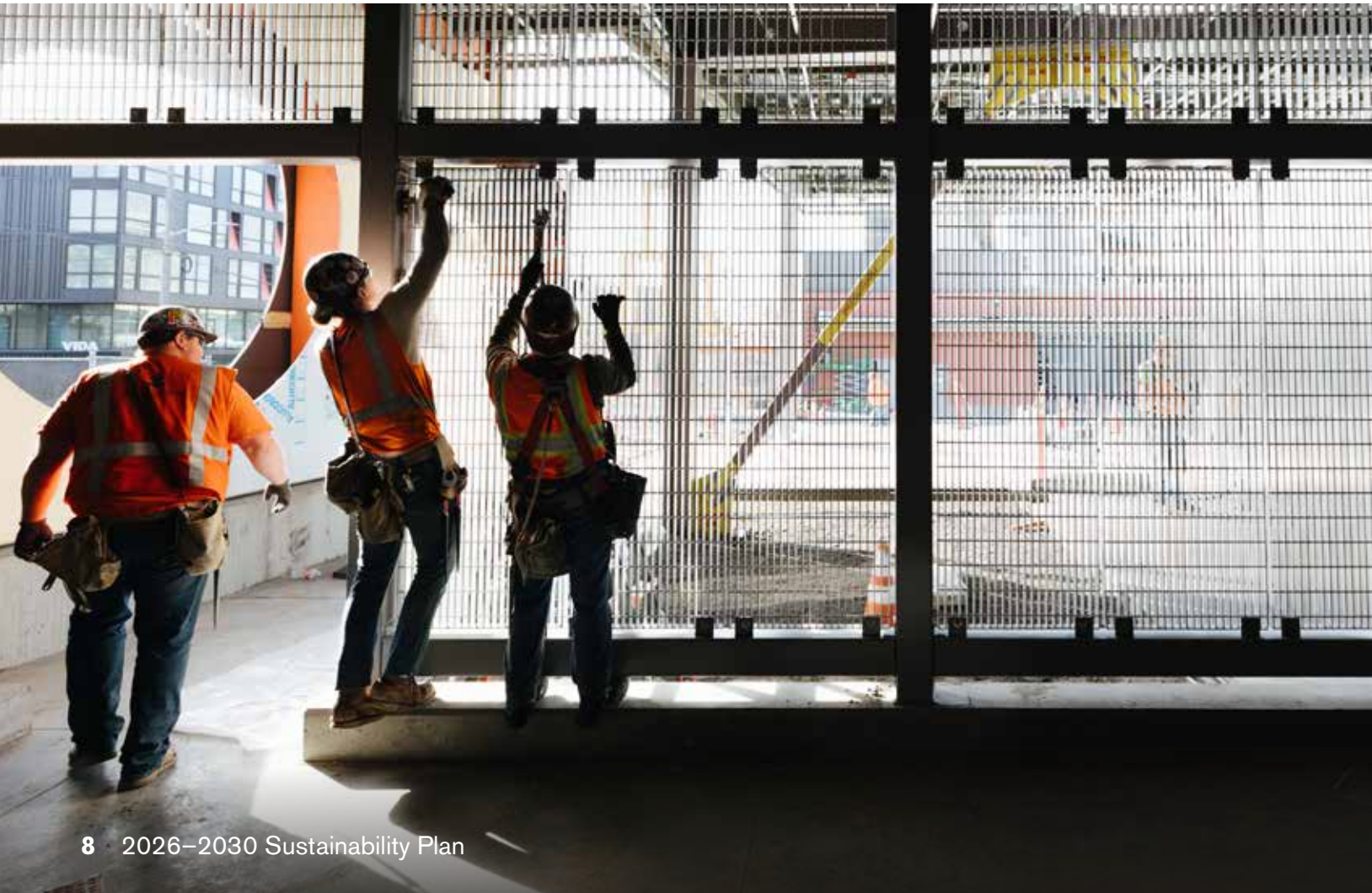
This Sustainability Plan will be implemented in 2026 as the agency determines how to deliver the greatest benefits of the voter-approved ST3 ballot measure within available financial capacity. While the agency may ultimately adopt an updated System Plan, the agency's ST3 sustainability commitments remain the same.

Funding sustainability

Sound Transit has several mechanisms to fund cost-effective sustainability initiatives. Many of the Plan’s sustainability goals are low- and no-cost items that save money over their lifecycle — such as LEED green building certifications that achieve efficient, high-performing facilities. However, some initiatives, such as transitioning revenue fleets to zero emissions vehicles, require significant capital investment before operational efficiencies can be realized.

All of the Plan’s action items will be funded through Board-adopted budgets and existing agency processes and procedures. In addition to the agency’s annual budget, the following dedicated sources of funding established in the voter-approved ST3 plan support implementation:

- **Sustainability Cost Allocation:** Sustainability measures for system expansion projects are provided by this fund to implement green building and sustainable infrastructure initiatives, as well as innovative approaches to supporting community sustainability, including third-party sustainability certifications such as LEED and Envision.
- **Efficiency and Sustainability Program:** The Efficiency and Sustainability Program (ESP) is a \$25 million fund to advance the agency’s strategic sustainability priorities within the existing transit system, with a primary focus on sustainability, resource conservation, and efficiencies in long-term operations and maintenance.



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.

- Saved the agency about \$9.3M over project lifetimes through sustainability and resource efficiency projects.
- Generated nearly \$2M in revenue from the Clean Fuels Standard in less than three years of participation.

Cost savings over project lifetimes:



\$6.7M
Fleet upgrade projects



\$500K
Irrigation projects



\$351K
Facilities upgrade projects



\$84K
Solar installations



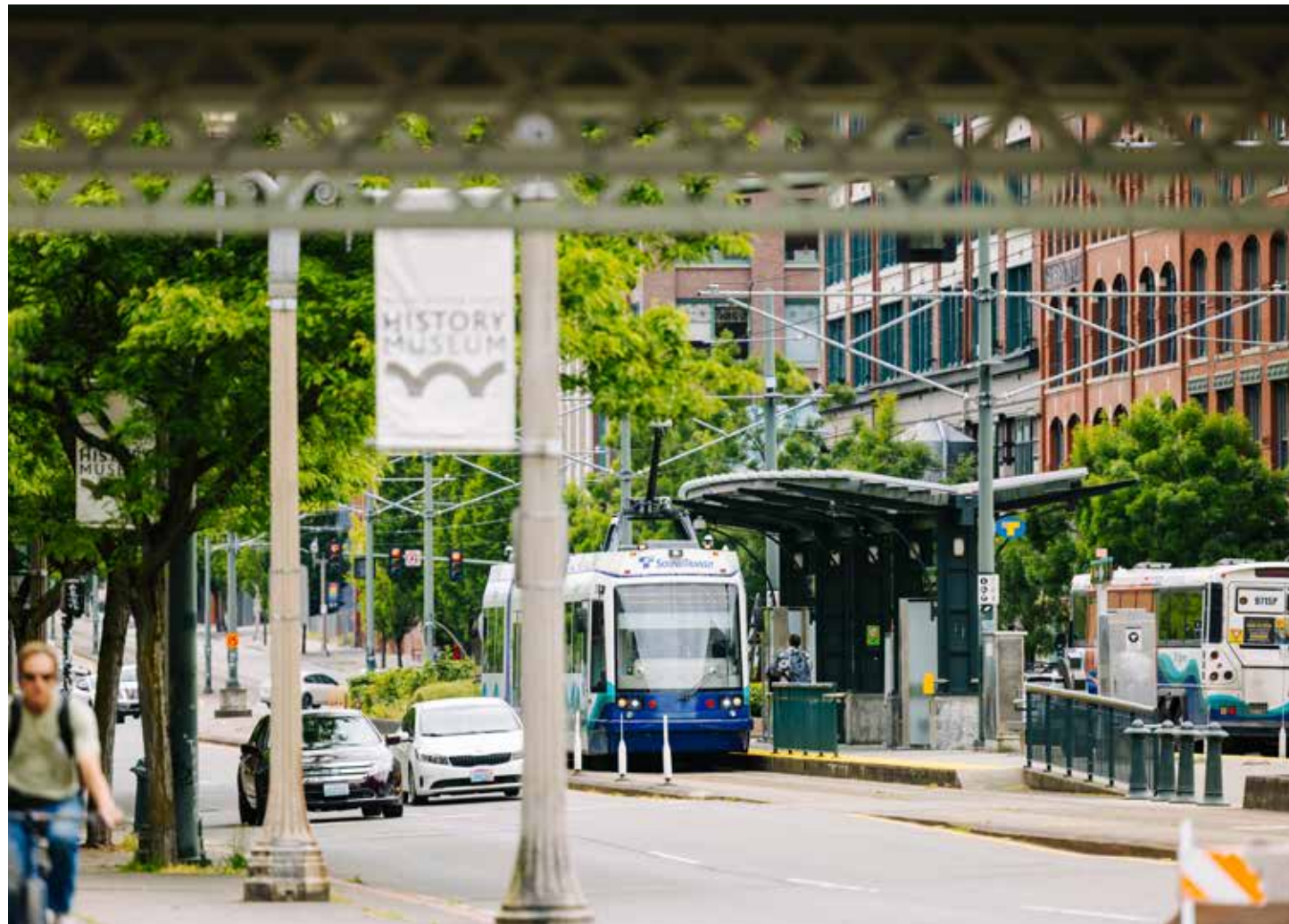
\$1.6M
LED lighting upgrade projects

Implementing the agency's sustainability vision

Sound Transit's Sustainability Plan sets the agency's high-level vision and priorities for improving regional quality of life.

- Sound Transit's Sustainability Plan is organized around six themes that represent the areas where sustainability actions can make the greatest impact.
- Each theme includes one or more goals that articulate what the agency hopes to accomplish; each goal has at least one metric to measure progress.
- For each goal, there are several action items that detail the specific work that will be undertaken to accomplish the goal.
- Each year, the subset of action items that make up Sustainability staff's annual workplan is officially adopted as the agency's Annual Environmental and Sustainability Targets.

Unless otherwise noted, all goals and action items are intended to be accomplished by the end of this plan (2030).



Sustainability themes

These themes provide the foundation for the Plan’s goals and action items and illustrate where those actions make the greatest impact.



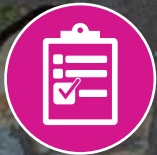
Advances equity

A sustainable transit system advances equity by intentionally dismantling racial and structural barriers, expanding access to opportunity, and ensuring all communities, particularly those historically marginalized, can meaningfully participate in building, shaping, and using the system.



Builds sustainable infrastructure and operates resiliently

Our region's transit network must be ready for changing conditions. We're designing, constructing, and maintaining infrastructure to perform reliably under operational and climate-related stress, while supporting long-term system resilience.



Continually improves agency governance and business practices

Strong agency management practices foster responsible use of taxpayer dollars. We implement improvements in procurement, reporting, and decision making so that sustainable, good-government principles are applied consistently, transparently, and efficiently across the agency.



Grows ridership and strengthens communities

Enabling access to opportunities by making transit affordable and easy to use for all residents supports our region's communities. Strengthening our communities also means creating transit-oriented development and affordable housing near stations.



Protects and restores the environment

The region's natural systems are central to our region's health and identity. We manage land, water, and habitats, emphasizing responsible construction and operations while also working simultaneously to restore natural habitats.



Reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions

We are advancing the transition to clean, zero emissions technologies, efficient operations, and long-term strategies to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. We work locally to improve air quality while also addressing the existential threat of global climate change.

Goals by theme



Advance equity

- Expand Civil Rights, Equity, and Inclusion employee trainings
- Expand fare affordability and access
- Provide support and resources for small and disadvantaged businesses



Build sustainable infrastructure and operate resiliently

- Build agency resilience to climate change and natural hazards
- Ensure safety and continuity of service during power outages
- Reduce environmental impact of construction
- Reduce embodied emissions of capital projects



Continually improve agency governance and business practices

- Attract, develop, and retain talented employees and contractors
- Improve agency safety compliance
- Reduce the environmental impact of agency procurements
- Formalize and strengthen sustainability funding portfolio to meet long-term sustainability goals



Grow ridership and strengthen communities

- Advance community development
- Refine and formalize the agency's community engagement vision and priorities
- Expand multimodal access to Sound Transit stations



Protect and restore the environment

- Improve native habitats and wildlife protection
- Reduce environmental impact of Sound Transit-owned facilities
- Minimize surface water quality impacts from Sound Transit-owned and/or maintained properties



Reduce air pollution and GHG emissions

- Achieve zero emission fleets by 2050
- Achieve zero emission facilities by 2050

How to read this plan

This structure is intended to make the plan straightforward to navigate and to help readers understand the purpose of each goal and the actions that will support it.

Every theme/goal follows this format:

Theme
One of six themes

Goals
Clear statements of the outcome we aim to achieve by 2030.

Context
A short narrative that explains why the goal is important, such as how it aligns with regional needs or how it builds on past performance.

Metric(s)
A set of measures that provide a way for us to track progress in ways that are accessible and meaningful.

Overall summary
See next page.

Action items
Specific steps the agency will take to advance the goals during the 2026–2030 period.



Reduce air pollution and GHG emissions

Goals

- Achieve zero emission fleets by 2050**

Reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from our fleets is key to the agency's mission to get more people to more places, sustainably. We're exploring multiple strategies to transition from fossil fuels to clean, non-emitting energy sources that eliminate tailpipe emissions from Sounder commuter trains, Sound Transit buses, and non-revenue fleet vehicles. The benefits include making services cleaner and healthier for passengers, operators, and our communities.

Context

A short narrative that explains why the goal is important, such as how it aligns with regional needs or how it builds on past performance.

Metric(s)

- Metrics**
- Fleet greenhouse gas emissions.
- Fleet criteria air pollutants.

Action items

- Design a zero emissions locomotive pilot project.
- Convert a minimum of 30% of non-revenue (NRV) fleet to zero emissions by 2030. 
- Conduct collaborative zero emissions planning with operating partner agencies.
- (Note: King County Metro-managed fleet not included in this number.)
- Achieve GHG-neutral electricity for light rail service by 2030. 
- Use 100% renewable diesel for revenue fleet (based on availability).
- Launch Stride Bus Rapid Transit as a fully battery-electric bus service. 
- Sunset purchases of fossil fuel-powered revenue fleet vehicles by 2030.



Generates revenue icon
Produces income for the agency through utility savings, utility rebates, or the Washington State Clean Fuel Standard.

How to read this plan, continued

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:

People	Planet	Prosperity
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Implementation complexity:

Easy	Moderate	Hard
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Funding need:

Within current capacity	New
<div></div>	<div></div>

Funding source:

ST3 program budget	Agency budget (annual)	Grants
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Triple bottom line:

People: Providing affordable, safe regional transportation options.

Planet: Promoting stewardship that conserves the planet's natural environment.

Prosperity: Supporting community prosperity by helping the agency, residents, and businesses save time and money.

Implementation complexity:

Easy: Simple to implement with minimal challenges. Staff can implement independently.

Moderate: Requires rigorous effort but still achievable. Staff need to collaborate between departments to implement.

Hard: Complex to implement due to external constraints. Staff need to collaborate with external as well as internal partners to implement.

Funding source:

ST3 program budget: Funds dedicated to voter-approved Sound Transit 3 capital projects and associated delivery.

Agency budget (annual): Core operating and capital funding approved each fiscal year to sustain service, planning, and implementation needs.

Grants or other: External funding awarded by federal, state, regional, or other partners to support eligible project or program activities.

Funding need:

Within current capacity: Can be supported with existing financial resources.

New: Requires funding for annual budgets or other sources (e.g., for a new activity).



Advance equity

Expand Civil Rights, Equity and Inclusion employee trainings

Sound Transit proactively works toward becoming an anti-racist agency where equity and racial justice are central to all we do, resulting in a transit system that is free of racism and where the full inclusion of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color is achieved so that everyone can thrive. A crucial component of this work is ensuring staff are equipped with a shared understanding and knowledge to advance equity.

Metrics

- Number of equity and inclusion trainings.
- Percentage of staff completed equity and inclusion trainings.

Action items

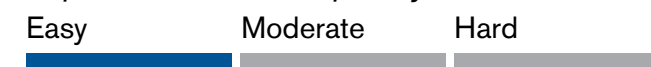
- Launch four new equity and inclusion trainings.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



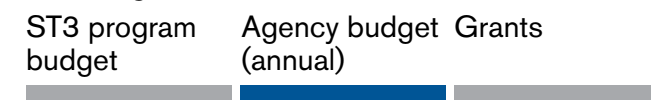
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:



Expand fare affordability and access

Sound Transit is committed to ensuring that riders can affordably travel throughout the region. Making public transit more affordable and accessible for individuals and families enables residents to more easily reach needed resources and amenities — from the places they live, work, and play to the places they worship, go to school, and seek medical care.

Metrics

- ORCA LIFT enrollments as a percent of the total ORCA LIFT market size.
- Percent of total boardings using open payment.

Action items

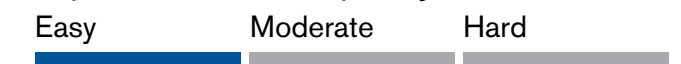
- Extend eligibility for the ORCA LIFT Program with regional ORCA partners.
- Extend the free transfer window for trips.
- Launch open payment for all regional fares, including Sound Transit.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



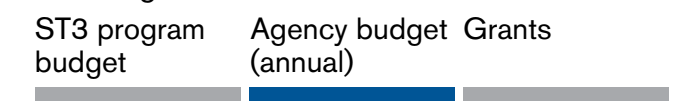
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:



Provide support and resources for small and disadvantaged businesses

Sound Transit is committed to eliminating barriers, creating opportunities, and building capacity for underrepresented and women-owned businesses to ensure that those building our regional transit system represent the communities we serve. These initiatives help develop emerging and established Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and small businesses so they can successfully compete for Sound Transit contracts while learning to implement more sustainable business practices that can save operating costs and increase competitiveness.

Metrics

- Number of businesses engaged.
- Amount of outreach provided.

Action items

- Implement the Equity in Infrastructure Pledge.
- Connect small and disadvantaged businesses to resources for upgrading equipment and reducing construction-related emissions.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:

People	Planet	Prosperity
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Implementation complexity:

Easy	Moderate	Hard
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Funding need:

Within current capacity	New
<div></div>	<div></div>

Funding source:

ST3 program budget	Agency budget (annual)	Grants
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Equity in Infrastructure Pledge: This pledge is led by a coalition of 92 public and private organizations committed to the mission of creating more competition for public contracts in the transportation and civil infrastructure industries. The pledge aims to save taxpayer dollars and deliver better value for infrastructure investments by growing Historically Underutilized Businesses.



Build sustainable infrastructure and operate resiliently

Build agency resilience to climate change and natural hazards

Sound Transit is building and maintaining a transit system to serve the region for the long term. Ensuring longevity means that the agency's infrastructure, operations, and maintenance need to be resilient to the existing and future effects of climate change and natural hazards. This means preparing to withstand extreme heat, flooding, and other climate impacts and natural hazards to ensure continuity of operations and safety for our transit system and its riders.

Metrics

- Percent of equipment classes evaluated for climate vulnerability.
- Number of facilities assessed for climate vulnerability.

Action items

- Update Climate Resilience Plan for the existing system.
- Integrate climate resilience considerations into agency design criteria.
- Establish Emergency Operations Center.
- Launch a new Agency Continuity Plan for emergency management.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



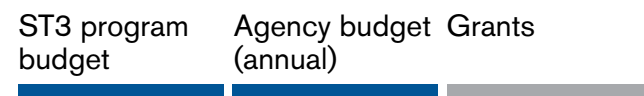
Implementation complexity:



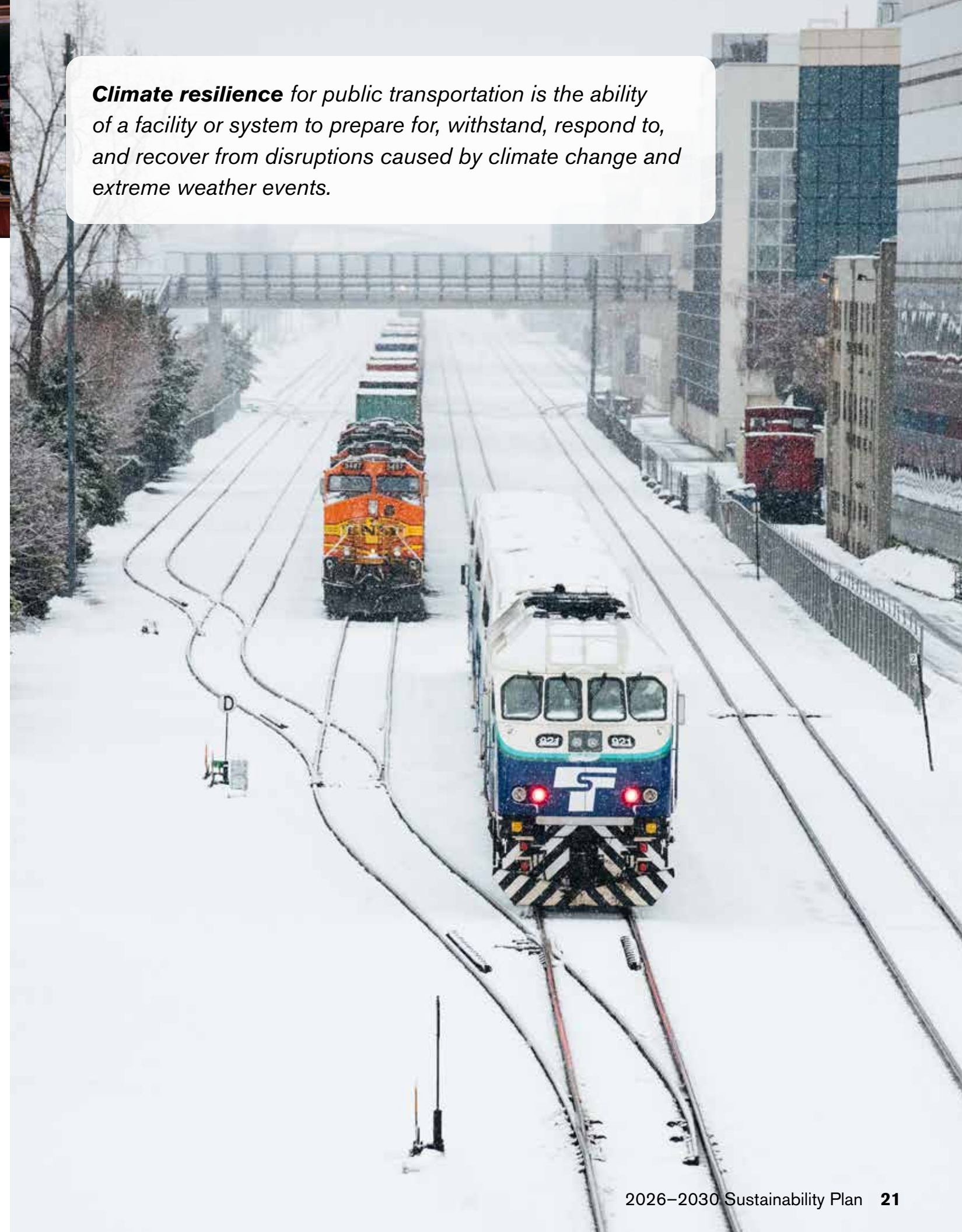
Funding need:



Funding source:



Climate resilience for public transportation is the ability of a facility or system to prepare for, withstand, respond to, and recover from disruptions caused by climate change and extreme weather events.





Ensure safety and continuity of service during power outages

Sound Transit is prioritizing improvements to operational reliability to support safe and dependable regional mobility. Upgrading key components of the network’s electrical infrastructure enhances performance, security, and safety while providing consistent, reliable service that continues to grow ridership. A central part of this broad effort focuses on reducing service disruptions caused by power outages due to extreme weather.

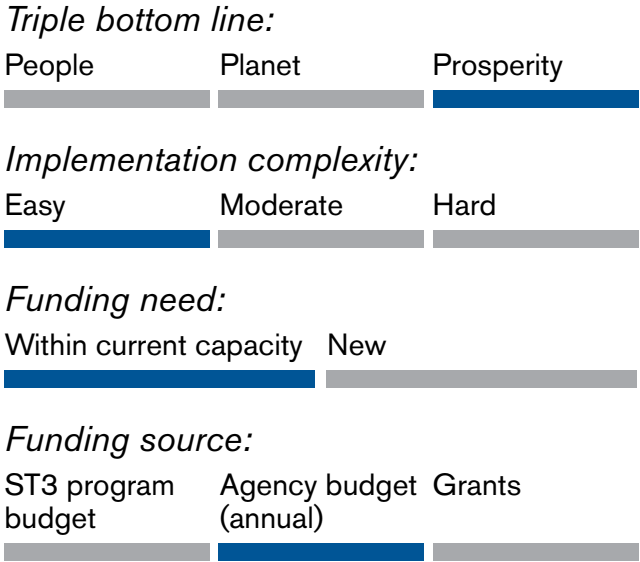
Metric

- Number of system disruptions due to power outages during extreme weather.
- Duration of system disruptions due to power outages during extreme weather.

Action items

- Update design requirements and service plans to address power outages.
- Establish a work plan to upgrade traction power facilities.
- Develop a work plan to upgrade back-up power at passenger facilities.
- Assess three asset classes for vulnerability to power outages.

Overall summary



Reduce environmental impact of construction

As the agency builds out the ST3 transit expansion plan, construction has the potential to produce a significant amount of waste and impact localized air quality. Reducing the adverse environmental impacts from construction safeguards human and environmental health while also saving natural resources and costs. Reducing the environmental impact of construction also makes the agency a better neighbor in the communities where we build.

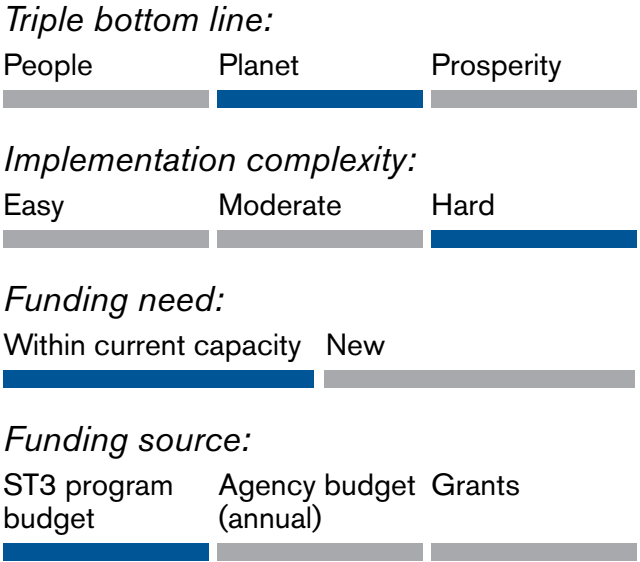
Metrics

- Construction recycling rate.
- Number of structures salvaged, relocated, or deconstructed.

Action items

- Establish building deconstruction, salvage, and relocation practices. 💰
- Track on-site construction emissions.
- Achieve a minimum of 80% recycle rate at construction sites.

Overall summary





Reduce embodied emissions of capital projects

Green building standards are evolving to focus on reducing the carbon emissions in the products used to build our transit system. Unlike carbon emitted during a facility's operations, embodied carbon cannot be decreased over time. Embodied carbon can be reduced by considering how new construction projects can limit their lifetime emissions. Optimizing design to reduce these embodied emissions can also provide significant cost savings by evaluating the type and lifecycle of materials used.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:

People Planet Prosperity

Implementation complexity:

Easy Moderate Hard

Funding need:

Within current capacity New

Funding source:

ST3 program budget Agency budget (annual) Grants

Metrics

- Whole-building global warming potential per square meter (kg CO₂e/m²) for new construction designs.
- Number of material categories included in the Buy Clean procurement strategy.

Action items

- Develop uniform Life Cycle Analysis methodology for design and construction.
- Assess and incorporate embodied emissions limits for concrete, steel, glass, asphalt, insulation, and masonry.
- Develop a robust Buy Clean procurement strategy.



Operational reliability is when passengers can count on an on-time and predictable trip, which can be quantified by performance metrics and the qualitative experience of riders.

Buy Clean policies focus on procuring building materials that disclose and contain less embodied carbon. They work in tandem with design standards and specifications that require reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the design and construction processes. Buy Clean policies can be implemented concurrently with other procurement requirements such as FTA's Buy America standards.

Embodied emissions and **embodied carbon** refer to the greenhouse gas emissions arising from the manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and disposal of building and infrastructure materials. This is the "up front" carbon emitted prior to a product's operational life.



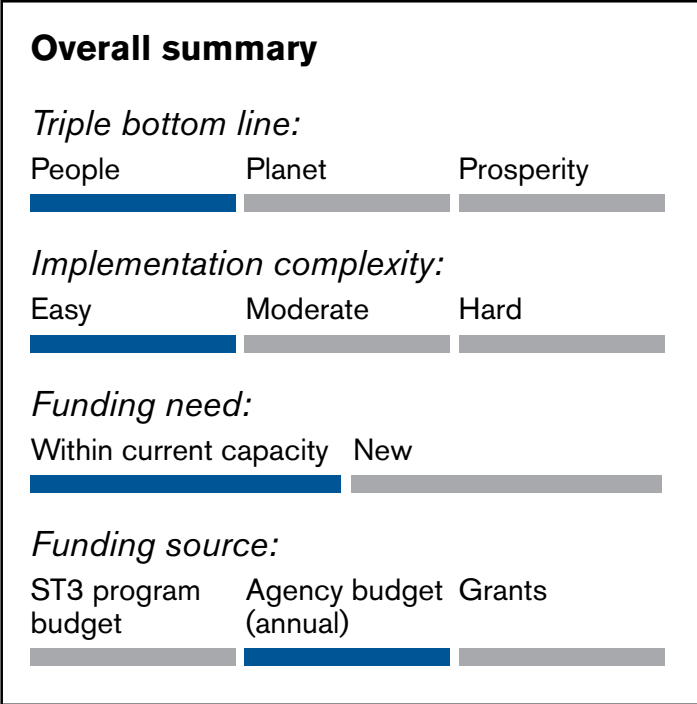
Continually improve agency governance and business practices

Attract, develop, and retain talented employees and contractors

Supporting a skilled and stable workforce is necessary to deliver reliable transit service, and a strong workforce of agency staff and contractors, in turn, supports the agency’s long-term performance. Hiring and retaining staff reflects a workplace culture where everyone feels included, empowered, and able to thrive. Equitable access to opportunity and a purpose-driven commitment to Sound Transit’s mission enables individuals and teams to perform their best work in serving our communities.

Metric

- Employee turnover rate.



Action items

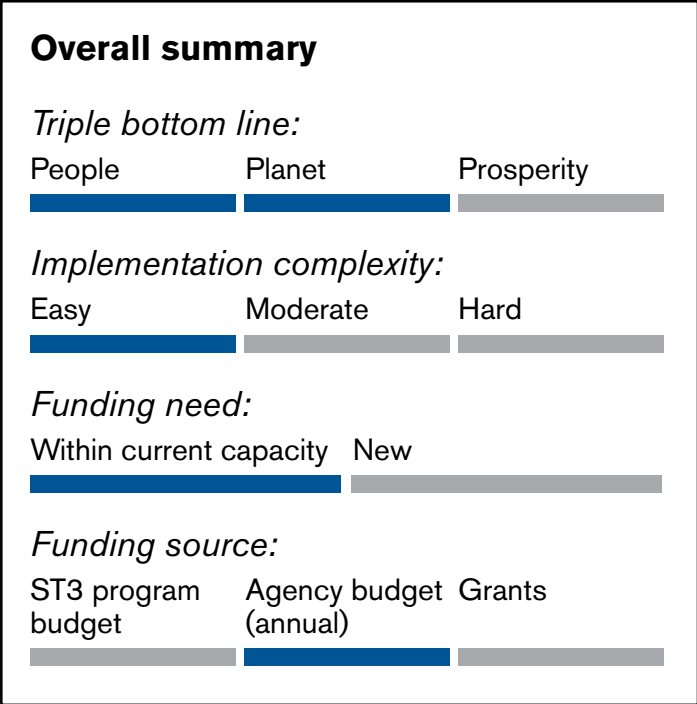
- Increase staff awareness and knowledge of agency wellness and benefits portfolio.
- Maintain equitable compensation and benefits for agency staff.
- Develop a plan to build and promote a culture of psychological safety.
- Provide LEED and Envision professional accreditation trainings.
- Launch a new green economy workforce training program.

Improve agency safety compliance

Sound Transit wants to deliver the safest transit trip and work environment for individuals and our communities. Safety is a shared responsibility — from managing emergency situations and enforcing laws and regulations to conducting investigations, risk assessments, safety trainings and developing and implementing safety protocols. Operating safely also supports reliable service and builds trust with staff and passengers to encourage continued use of the transit system.

Metrics

- Percent project compliance with Hazardous Building Material Regulations.
- Percent of completed Safety Management System (SMS) corrective actions.



Action items

- Ensure compliance with Hazardous Building Material regulations.
- Implement EPA's recommended practices for safe handling, storage, and disposal of lithium-ion batteries.
- Streamline Safety Management System corrective action plan closeout.



Reduce the environmental impact of agency procurements

Sustainable purchasing and contracting are the most effective ways Sound Transit can reduce the agency's environmental impact. The agency's green procurement initiatives and administrative policies aim to buy environmentally preferable products and services, balancing environmental impact with fiscal responsibility by considering life-cycle costs, among other strategies.

Metrics

- Number of procurements that include green methods.
- Dollar value of procurements that include green methods.

Action items

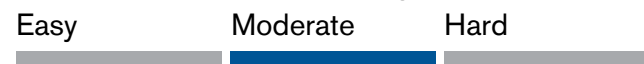
- Refine/revise green procurement methods for small purchases.
- Enhance training related to the green procurement program, including methods for small purchases.
- Establish agency standards to reduce product purchases containing hazardous materials.
- Track and ensure compliance of environmental preferred material use.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



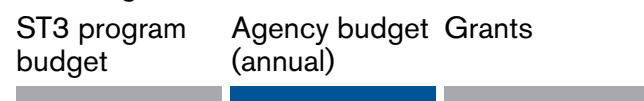
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:



Formalize and strengthen sustainability funding portfolio to meet long-term sustainability goals

Sound Transit optimizes its ability to provide transit services by effectively leveraging financial resources. Responsibly stewarding taxpayer dollars to provide sustainable outcomes requires that the agency refine the ability to accurately estimate sustainability costs for capital projects to plan ST3 sustainability funds over the long-term of the voter-approved initiative and ensure that the agency's long-range planning accounts for the cost of transitioning to zero emissions technologies.

Metrics

- Revenue generated from sustainability initiatives.
- Annual expenditure from Sustainability Cost Allocation.
- Annual expenditure from Efficiency and Sustainability Program.

Action items

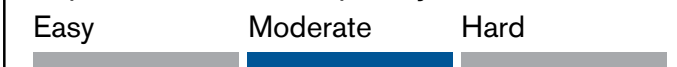
- Finalize a procedure for the Sustainability Cost Allocation.
- Build library of sustainability design and construction costs.
- Develop Efficiency and Sustainability Program long-term expenditure plan.
- Integrate zero emissions transition costs and revenues into Long-Range Financial Plan.
- Define financial targets for agency sustainability program funding.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



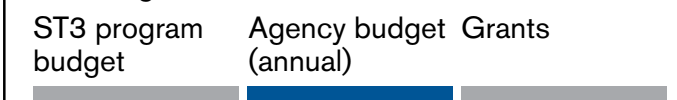
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:





Grow ridership and strengthen communities

Advance community development

Sound Transit creates livable communities centered around transit by supporting opportunities for development and affordable housing. Transit-oriented and joint development enables vibrant neighborhoods with direct access to transit. Supporting more housing, retail, and community spaces near transit and integrated into stations expands opportunities for all. Locating housing near transit also increases ridership and provides people with cost-effective, frequent, and reliable transportation access to jobs and services.

Metrics

- Number of total homes built or in process.
- Number of affordable units built or in process.
- Dollar value of public and private investment in projects.
- Number of stations with complete or planned transit-oriented development (TOD) projects.

Action items

- Develop a business plan for joint development integrated into stations.
- Develop an updated TOD strategic plan.
- Surpass 3,000 affordable units built or in process on agency surplus property.
- Advance cleanup activities on potential TOD sites with contamination.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



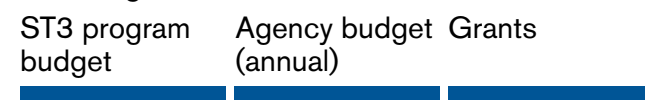
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:



Refine and formalize the agency's community engagement vision and priorities

Sound Transit's Engagement team equips the agency to be a good neighbor and partner throughout the lifecycle of planning, designing, building, and operating transit. We represent Sound Transit to the community, and we represent the community within Sound Transit. This enables Sound Transit to transform infrastructure development into a shared effort that aligns projects with community vision and needs; mitigate project risk and ensure long-term success; and meaningfully enrich communities where we operate.

Metrics

- Number of community events attended or hosted by Community Engagement staff.
- Number of people reached through Community Engagement activities.



Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



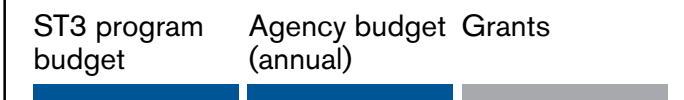
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:



Action items

- Develop a Community Engagement Strategy that defines priorities for outreach and collaboration.
- Document focus areas for engagement — from planning through operations.
- Update the Operational Engagement Strategy for neighbors and partners.
- Refine the Youth Engagement Program Strategy.



Expand multimodal access to Sound Transit stations

Sound Transit enhances access to the agency's services and integrates with that of our partners to grow ridership, increase connectivity, advance social equity, enhance passenger experience, and improve human health and safety.

Metrics

- Amount of funding invested in nonmotorized infrastructure.
- Number of funding agreements for the Nonmotorized Station Access Allowance.
- Number of funding agreements for the Station Access Fund.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



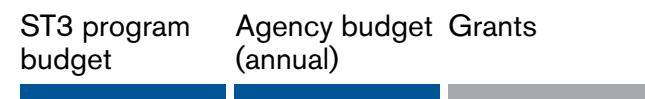
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:



Action items

- Advance public EV charging at Sound Transit facilities and participate in regional collaboration. 💰
- Create the ST System Access Funds project criteria to identify the highest-value projects.
- Revise the ST Nonmotorized Station Access Allowance screening, prioritization, and corridor weighting criteria to identify the highest-value projects.
- Fund multimodal infrastructure projects that improve walking, biking, transit, and ADA connections to Sound Transit stations.
- Create a coordinated, cross-county paratransit system for riders with disabilities.

ST Station Access Fund: A regional funding program that supports projects improving how people access Sound Transit services. It helps local partners deliver walking, biking, transit, and other connection improvements that make reaching stations and facilities safer and more convenient.

Nonmotorized Station Access Allowance: This is an ST3 funding mechanism to improve how people reach a transit station. It supports walking, bicycling, rolling, and transit connections such as sidewalks, crossings, bike facilities, lighting, and other access improvements, typically delivered in partnership with local jurisdictions.



Protect and restore the environment

Improve native habitats and wildlife protection

Protecting wildlife and conserving habitats are essential for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health, especially as Sound Transit expands our footprint. The agency is committed to mitigating environmental impacts and safeguarding and enhancing important habitats for future generations. Managing ecosystem mitigation areas is done in compliance with environmental regulations while also striving to preserve the region's unique natural character.

Metrics

- Acreage and number of sites being actively managed and monitored to improve habitat.
- Number of woody plants installed.
- Number of critical areas restored.

Action items

- Develop agency approach to revegetate unused parcels.
- Evaluate facility design approaches to reduce bird strikes.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



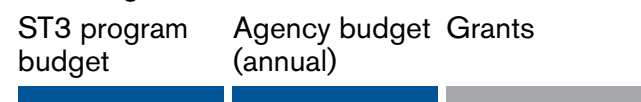
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:



Reduce environmental impact of Sound Transit–owned facilities

Conserving natural resources has long been a cornerstone of Sound Transit's sustainability efforts. Using water efficiently saves the agency operating dollars and safeguards one of our most precious regional resources. Improving public-facing waste management practices also supports waste diversion efforts and saves costs while improving the rider experience.

Metrics

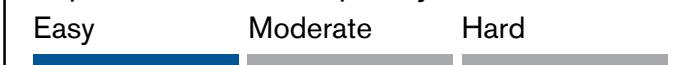
- Water use intensity.
- Office-based and agencywide diversion rates.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



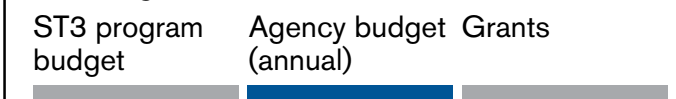
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:



Action items

- Update waste management plan with a focus on public-facing practices.
- Right-size pressure-washing approach for specific facility needs.
- Ensure 100% of irrigation sites have smart controllers.
- Establish preventative maintenance process for early identification of water leaks.
- Improve turf irrigation management practices.



Minimize surface water quality impacts from Sound Transit–owned and/or maintained properties

Sound Transit is committed to minimizing harm to wetlands, streams, native plants, and wildlife. Investing in strategies to minimize surface water quality impacts can reduce operating expenses and increase water quality. The agency champions low-impact development (LID) and other techniques to reduce the pollutants that reach local streams, lakes, and the Puget Sound via stormwater runoff.

Metric

- Number of facilities evaluated annually.

Action items

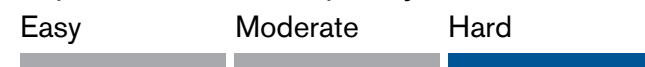
- Develop baseline facility assessment approach.
- Develop a comprehensive stormwater compliance program.
- Establish a periodic review and update schedule for facility evaluations.
- Partner with Salmon-Safe to design a pilot project and evaluate education programs for agency staff and contractors.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



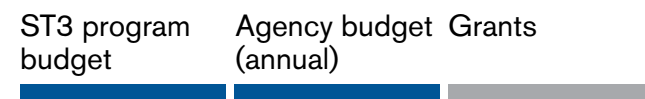
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:



Salmon-Safe is a third-party certification and ecolabel for the Pacific Northwest that verifies that land management practices protect water quality and restore habitat for salmon and other aquatic species. The certification is awarded to projects that implement rigorous standards for water conservation, erosion control, integrated pest management, and biodiversity, ensuring their operations don't harm local watersheds.





Reduce air pollution and GHG emissions

Achieve zero emission fleets by 2050

Reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from our fleets is key to the agency's mission to get more people to more places, sustainably. We're exploring multiple strategies to transition from fossil fuels to clean, non-emitting energy sources that eliminate tailpipe emissions from Sounder commuter trains, Sound Transit buses, and non-revenue fleet vehicles. The benefits include making services cleaner and healthier for passengers, operators, and our communities.

Metrics

- Fleet greenhouse gas emissions.
- Fleet criteria air pollutants.

Action items

- Design a zero emissions locomotive pilot project.
- Conduct collaborative zero emissions planning with operating partner agencies.
- Achieve GHG-neutral electricity for light rail service by 2030. 💰
- Launch Stride Bus Rapid Transit as a fully battery-electric bus service. 💰
- Convert a minimum of 30% of non-revenue (NRV) fleet to zero emissions by 2030. 💰
(Note: King County Metro-managed fleet not included in this number.)
- Use 100% renewable diesel for revenue fleet (based on availability).
- Sunset purchases of fossil fuel-powered revenue fleet vehicles by 2030.

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:

People Planet Prosperity

Implementation complexity:

Easy Moderate Hard

Funding need:

Within current capacity New

Funding source:

ST3 program budget Agency budget (annual) Grants



Zero emissions vehicles (zevs) or fleets use technology that powers vehicles without producing engine exhaust or other carbon emissions when operating.



Reduce air pollution and GHG emissions

Achieve zero emission facilities by 2050

Sound Transit aims to build and operate high-performing facilities that are energy-efficient and powered by clean energy. Eliminating fossil fuel use and reducing refrigerant emissions are key to this effort. Making Sound Transit facilities operate cleanly and efficiently also saves taxpayer dollars and natural resources while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.

Metrics

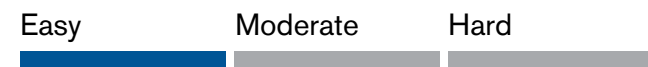
- Facilities' greenhouse gas emissions.
- Facilities' energy use intensity (EUI).

Overall summary

Triple bottom line:



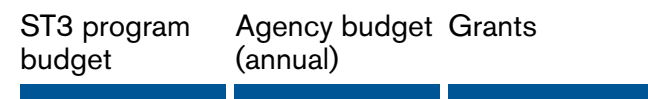
Implementation complexity:



Funding need:



Funding source:



Action items

- Define and implement Energy Use Intensity (EUI) benchmarks and performance targets for Sound Transit-owned facilities.
- Create a plan to phase out gas-powered landscaping equipment.
- Identify opportunities to reduce carbon intensity of refrigerants.
- Develop plan to eliminate natural gas usage at Sound Transit-owned facilities.
- Achieve GHG-neutral electricity for facilities by 2030.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) neutral in the context of the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act means that an electric utility's greenhouse gas emissions generated by their power supply must be balanced with emissions offsets through "alternative compliance options."

Next steps and implementation

In the coming years, teams across the agency will use the goals and actions in this Plan to inform how projects are designed, how services are delivered, and how daily operations are managed. As our transit system grows, this Plan will help keep sustainability at the center of our decisions.

The agency achieves its Sustainability Plan goals by implementing the action items for each goal. Staff across the agency are responsible for implementing specific action items. Sustainability staff work collaboratively with agency staff to track and monitor progress and provide support for implementation where needed.

Monitoring and continuous improvement

Sound Transit measures progress by annually tracking the implementation of action items as well as the metrics associated with each goal. The agency includes updates on the progress of action items and metrics as part of its Annual Sustainability Progress Report.

Sound Transit uses nationally and internally recognized standards to set its goals, action items and metrics; 2018 serves as the baseline year for data. These metrics reflect multiple reporting frameworks and standards used by transit agencies and local governments, including the American Public Transportation Association’s Sustainability Commitment, The Climate Registry, and ISO.



Sound Transit implements sustainability initiatives through a robust **Environmental and Sustainability Management System (ESMS)**. This tool helps the agency control environmental impacts, monitor compliance with environmental regulations, achieve annual environmental and sustainability targets, and demonstrate continuous performance improvement. Since 2007, Sound Transit has been among a select number of transit agencies nationwide to achieve international ISO 14001 certification of its ESMS.

Thank you for engaging with the Sustainability Plan!
Your interest supports a cleaner, healthier, more connected future for the region.





For more information:
soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/environment-sustainability

February 2026

