

The Environment, Social and Governance Strategy for Portsmouth International Port

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Introduction from the Leader of Portsmouth City Council



Portsmouth International Port is more than a gateway to our city, it is a public asset that reflects our values, our ambitions, and our responsibility to lead with purpose.

As a council-owned port, every decision it makes must balance economic opportunity with environmental stewardship and social responsibility. This ESG strategy sets out how we will continue to grow sustainably while ensuring the port remains a force for good for the people of Portsmouth.

One of the port's greatest strengths is that it generates revenue not for private shareholders, but for our city. Each year, its surplus is returned directly to Portsmouth City Council, helping to fund the essential services our residents rely on, from social care and housing to education, transport, and community support. This unique model means that every step we take to strengthen the port also strengthens the city it serves.

Our commitment is to build a port that leads the transition to cleaner, greener maritime operations; that supports high-quality local jobs and skills; and that operates with transparency, accountability, and long-term thinking.

We are investing in innovation, reducing emissions, and working closely with partners across the region to ensure our growth is sustainable and inclusive.

Portsmouth has always been a city that looks outward, confident in its role on the national and international stage. This strategy ensures that as we welcome the world, we do so in a way that protects our environment, supports our communities, and secures prosperity for generations to come.

I am proud of the progress already made, and even more proud of the ambition we set out here.

**CLLR STEVE PITT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Welcome from the Port Director



The global port and maritime sector is undergoing a period of rapid transformation. Driven by innovation, digitalisation, and sustainability, this is one of the most exciting and pivotal times in the history of ports.

Technological advancements are reshaping the way we operate, from the integration of smart port systems and automation to the adoption of clean energy solutions and real-time data analytics. These innovations are not only enhancing operational efficiency, but are also enabling ports to dramatically reduce their environmental impact and improve safety, resilience, and service to customers.

At Portsmouth International Port, we see these developments as a unique opportunity to lead by example. As a municipally-owned port, we are agile, locally accountable, and strategically positioned to embrace new technologies that support our ambition to become the UK's first net zero port by 2035. Whether it's through investment in shore power, intelligent infrastructure, or digital platforms that improve transparency and performance, we are committed to driving positive change.

Ports of the future must be more than transport hubs; they must be engines of sustainable innovation, community benefit, and climate action. With the right technology and a clear vision, we can shape a thriving, forward-looking port that delivers for the city, the sector, and the planet.

Our business strategy is built on maximising the full potential of our existing infrastructure, while developing efficient, resilient, and cost-effective supply chains that support both regional prosperity and national connectivity. By doing so, we are charting a bold course for the future, one that positions the port as a leading gateway for innovation, sustainability, and smart logistics. This journey includes growing our existing trade portfolio and expanding into new sectors that align with emerging market demands and green energy transitions.

Sustainability sits at the heart of our long-term business strategy. I am proud to introduce *Building on a Great Tradition*, the port's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy, a 25-year roadmap that reflects our deep commitment to embedding sustainability principles across all aspects of our operations.

Portsmouth Harbour is not just a working asset, it is a shared space where people live, work, and enjoy life. That's why we are committed to responsible growth that supports our economy while protecting our environment and enhancing quality of life.

Delivering this vision will require strong partnerships. We cannot deliver this alone. That's why we are bringing together our stakeholders, Portsmouth City Council, our employees, our customers, and the wider community under a shared commitment to innovation, sustainability, and long-term value creation. We believe Portsmouth International Port is uniquely positioned to lead the way in creating a smarter, greener future for port operations.

We are Building on a Great Tradition by Innovating Today for a Better Tomorrow. Thank you for taking the time to explore our ESG Strategy and join us on this exciting journey.

MIKE SELLERS
PORT DIRECTOR

About this Document

This ESG Strategy, titled *Building on a Great Tradition*, sets out Portsmouth International Port's approach to sustainable and responsible port operations. It outlines how we intend to meet our environmental and social responsibilities while maintaining strong governance as we evolve into a smart, sustainable port for the future.

The strategy is designed for both internal and external audiences. Internally, it provides a clear framework for staff, partners, and council stakeholders to align their work with our ESG priorities. Externally, it communicates our commitments to customers, regulators, investors, community organisations, and the wider public demonstrating how we are delivering value through responsible growth and innovation.

Scope of the Strategy

This strategy covers the full breadth of our operations at Portsmouth International Port, including:

- Ferry and cruise services.
- Terminal activities and infrastructure,
- Wider supply chain relationships.

It also reflects our role as a municipal port owned by Portsmouth City Council, with a unique responsibility to support the local economy, community wellbeing, and regional connectivity, while acting as a key gateway to the UK.

Our ESG Ambitions

Through this strategy, we set out our ambitions to lead in:

- Decarbonisation of port operations and infrastructure.
- Biodiversity protection and nature-positive development.
- Clean energy transition, including on-site renewable generation.
- Equitable employment and inclusive workforce practices,
- And transparent governance that builds trust and accountability.

We are committed to continuous improvement, embracing innovation, and aligning with national and international sustainability goals, including the UK's Net Zero targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Transparency and Engagement

To ensure accountability, we will publish regular updates on our progress against the commitments outlined in this document. This will include:

- Annual ESG reports.
- Stakeholder engagement sessions.
- And dedicated communications via our website and social media channels.

We welcome collaboration and feedback from all those with an interest in the port's future. Whether you are a customer, partner, policymaker, or resident, your insights and involvement are vital to helping us deliver on our shared goals.

This strategy is a living document, designed to evolve as our port grows, technologies advance, and stakeholder expectations shift. It reflects our commitment to building on Portsmouth's proud tradition of innovation, resilience, and civic leadership, while shaping a future that is sustainable, inclusive, and forward-thinking.

Sustainable Tourism



Sustainable tourism is central to our ESG ambition and reflects our responsibility as a city-owned port to support travel that benefits Portsmouth while protecting the environment.

We are already delivering industry-leading innovations that reduce emissions, improve air quality, and ensure that tourism grows in a way that aligns with the city's climate goals.

CLEANER, SMARTER FERRY AND CRUISE OPERATIONS

We have taken major steps to reduce the environmental impact of vessels visiting the port:

- **Shore power for ferries and cruise ships:** Portsmouth is the first UK port to install a large-scale shore power system that can serve both ferries and cruise vessels simultaneously. This allows ships to switch off their engines while alongside, significantly cutting emissions in the city.
- **Hybrid and low-emission vessels:** Our ferry partners have introduced hybrid ships, supported by our investment in shore power.
- **Renewable energy leadership:** Our award-winning¹ solar and battery installation powers much of our terminal operations with clean, renewable energy.

A RESPONSIBLE CRUISE STRATEGY BUILT AROUND SMALLER SHIPS

Our cruise strategy is intentionally designed around smaller, boutique and expedition-style cruise ships. This approach ensures that cruise tourism enhances the local economy while keeping environmental impact low and visitor numbers manageable.



- **Focus on smaller, lower-impact vessels:** We welcome ships that carry fewer passengers, produce fewer emissions, and create a more sustainable visitor footprint. This aligns with our commitment to responsible tourism and supports a high-quality experience for both visitors and residents.
- **The UK's greenest cruise terminal:** Our BREEAM Excellent terminal extension uses cutting-edge environmental engineering resulting in the port becoming the first in the UK to use sea water to heat and cool the building, other environmental features include wind and solar technology, and internal and external living walls to help purify the air.
- **Community-focused tourism:** Our cruise business allows us to promote shore excursions that use low-carbon transport, highlight local culture, and results in £10.8 million cruise visitor expenditure in Portsmouth.



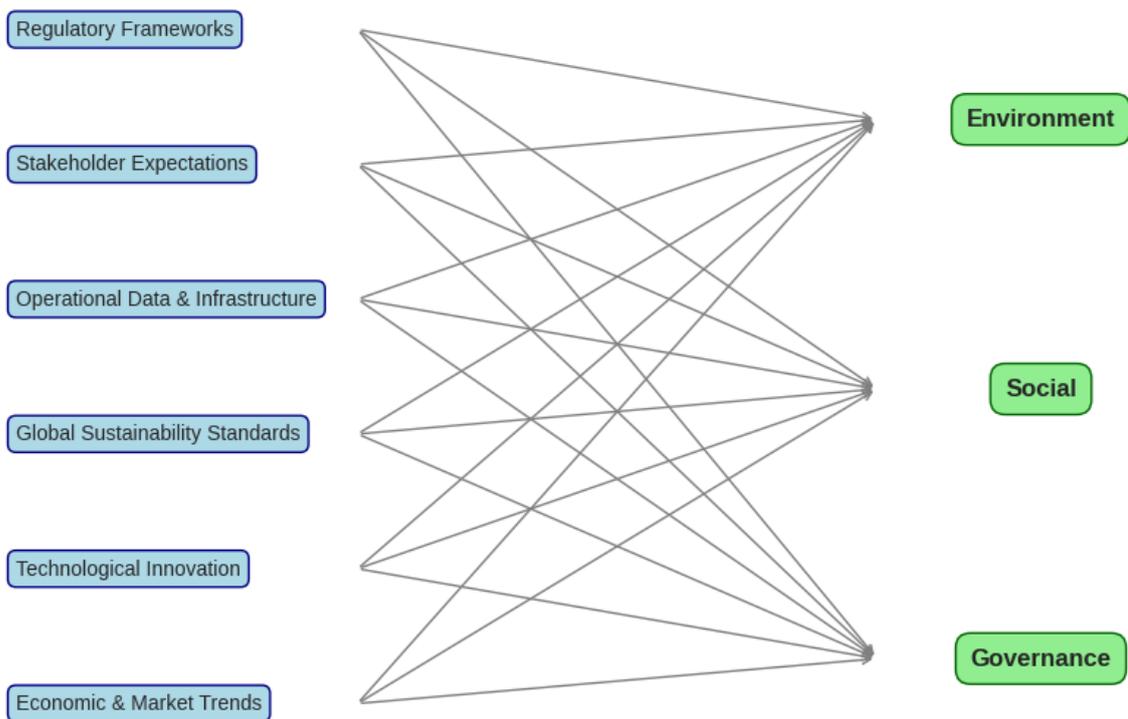
We are proud to be shaping a future where visitors can enjoy Portsmouth, and the wider region, through travel that is cleaner, smarter, and more sustainable.

¹ Commercial Solar and/or Storage Project of the Year' award at Solar & Storage Live 2022 Awards

Inputs to this ESG Strategy

The diagram illustrates how diverse inputs converge to shape the port's ESG strategy. By mapping these inputs directly to the three ESG pillars, the framework highlights the interconnected nature of sustainability planning. It shows that regulatory requirements, stakeholder expectations, operational realities, global standards, technological innovation, and market trends are not isolated considerations, they collectively inform the port's path toward responsible growth.

ESG Strategy Framework: Inputs Flowing into ESG Pillars



ESG Considerations

In addition to the key inputs detailed above, we have also considered the following when drafting this ESG Strategy.



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the environment, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030.

Established in 2015, the 17 SDGs provide a globally recognised framework for building a more sustainable and equitable world. They cover a broad spectrum of environmental, social, and economic objectives.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



As the leading sustainable UK port, we acknowledge that while all 17 goals are interlinked and important, our greatest impact lies in specific areas where our operations, influence, and strategic priorities align most closely therefore we have focussed on the SDGs where we can deliver meaningful, measurable progress:



Details of the selected SDGs

SDG 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing: *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.*

SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy: *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.*

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth: *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.*

SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.*

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities: *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.*

SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production: *Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.*

SDG 13 - Climate Action: *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.*

SDG 14 - Life Below Water: *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.*

SDG 15 - Life on Land: *Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.*

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals: *Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.*

Portsmouth International Port supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and focusing on these ensures that our sustainability efforts are strategic, locally relevant, and globally aligned.

By integrating them into the heart of our ESG strategy, Portsmouth International Port is Building on a Great Tradition to build a cleaner, fairer, and more resilient future for the city, the maritime sector, and the planet.



Understanding ESG: A Broader Lens for a Sustainable Port

ESG is more than a framework, it's a mindset shift. While sustainability strategies have traditionally focused on environmental stewardship, ESG expands the scope to include the social impact of our operations and the governance structures that ensure transparency, accountability, and long-term resilience.

Ports are complex ecosystems with numerous organisations operating at them. Our activities influence air and water quality, local employment, community health, and global trade. ESG allows us to integrate these interconnected dimensions into a unified strategy, one that reflects the evolving expectations of regulators, investors, customers, and the communities we serve.

We've chosen ESG over a traditional sustainability strategy because:

It's holistic: ESG captures the full spectrum of our responsibilities, not just environmental, but also social equity and governance integrity.

It's measurable: ESG provides clear metrics and reporting standards, enabling us to track progress and demonstrate accountability.

It's future-proof: ESG aligns with global trends in responsible investment, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder engagement.

ESG IN ACTION: BENEFITS FOR PORTS

Adopting ESG brings a wide range of benefits that go beyond environmental performance. Here are some examples of how ESG delivers value in port operations:

Environmental Benefits

- **Cleaner Air and Water:** Ports implementing ESG strategies have reduced emissions through electrification of equipment and shore power for vessels.
- **Climate Resilience:** ESG encourages proactive adaptation to climate risks, such as sea level rise and extreme weather.

Social Benefits

- **Community Engagement:** ESG promotes meaningful dialogue with local communities. Ports that engage residents in planning decisions, such as noise mitigation or traffic management, build trust and reduce opposition to development.
- **Workforce Development:** ESG supports fair working practices and training programmes. Initiatives like apprenticeships and STEM² outreach help ports attract and retain skilled talent while supporting local employment.

Governance Benefits

- **Transparency and Accountability:** ESG frameworks encourage clear reporting and ethical decision-making. Ports that publish ESG reports and engage in third-party audits demonstrate credibility to investors and regulators.
- **Risk Management:** Strong governance helps ports anticipate and manage risks, from cyber threats to climate change to supply chain disruptions, ensuring stable operations and stakeholder confidence.

² Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This umbrella term groups together related technical disciplines and is often used in educational contexts to promote an integrated approach to learning that emphasises innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills relevant to today's world.

Key ESG Priorities for the UK Ports Sector

Ports in the United Kingdom play a vital role in enabling trade, supporting regional economies, and contributing to national infrastructure. However, as gateways to global supply chains and industrial activity, ports are also associated with a range of ESG impacts that must be carefully managed to ensure sustainable operations. This chapter outlines the most pressing ESG issues currently facing UK ports and forms the basis for the priorities within our ESG strategy.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scopes 1, 2 & 3)

The maritime and port sector is under increasing scrutiny to reduce its carbon footprint in line with national and international climate targets, including the UK Government's net zero commitment by 2050. Ports contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across three scopes:

- **Scope 1** includes direct emissions from port-owned or controlled sources such as diesel-powered terminal equipment, port vehicles, and backup generators.
- **Scope 2** comprises indirect emissions from purchased electricity and heat used in port facilities.
- **Scope 3** includes all other indirect emissions that occur in the value chain, such as emissions from ships at berth, cargo handling by third parties, staff commuting, and supply chain logistics.

Addressing these emissions requires a multifaceted approach, including electrification of equipment, renewable energy procurement, shore power infrastructure for vessels, and collaboration with tenants, shipping lines, and transport providers.

Air quality

Ports are often located in or near densely populated areas, making air quality a critical environmental and public health concern. Emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur oxides (SO_x), and particulate matter (PM) from ships, heavy goods vehicles, and machinery can contribute to localised pollution.

We recognise the importance of aligning with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines, which provide science-based thresholds for key pollutants. These guidelines set more stringent limits than current UK legal standards and are increasingly viewed as the benchmark for responsible operators. Continuous monitoring, transitioning to cleaner fuels, electrification of port operations, and traffic management are key components of our response to air quality challenges.

Climate change and adaptation

Ports are inherently exposed to the physical risks of climate change, including sea level rise, extreme weather events, and flooding. These risks pose threats to infrastructure resilience, service continuity, and personal safety. A proactive climate adaptation strategy is essential to protect critical assets and maintain operations under future climate scenarios. This includes investment in flood defences, infrastructure design that accounts for climate impacts, and incorporating climate risk into long-term asset management planning.

Environment, health, and safety

Maintaining the highest standards of environment, health, and safety (EHS) performance is fundamental to port operations. Ports must manage a wide range of risks including hazardous cargo, marine operations, heavy machinery, and industrial activity.

Our EHS objectives include a strong safety culture, regulatory compliance, incident prevention, and a zero-harm approach to both people and the environment. Ongoing training, transparent reporting, and continuous improvement are core to our EHS governance framework.

Surface access and transport integration

Surface access is a major environmental and logistical consideration for ports. The movement of goods and people to and from port facilities contributes to congestion, emissions, and community disruption.

Integrating with low-carbon transport modes and facilitating modal shift are central to reducing the environmental impact of freight movement. Port access planning must also account for the needs of local communities, ensuring that development does not exacerbate traffic, noise, or air quality issues.

Biodiversity and natural capital

Port developments and operations can have significant impacts on marine and terrestrial biodiversity. Activities such as dredging, land reclamation, and construction can disrupt habitats and species. However, ports also have an opportunity to enhance biodiversity through responsible land management and habitat creation.

Our ESG strategy supports a net positive approach to biodiversity, in line with the UK's Environment Act 2021, and is guided by the principles of ecosystem stewardship, habitat connectivity, and restoration. We are committed to ecological assessments, biodiversity action plans, and stakeholder collaboration to deliver measurable conservation outcomes.

Community and economic responsibility

Ports are integral to the economic life of surrounding regions, generating employment, investment, and growth. However, they can also be sources of community concern, particularly around noise, visual impact, and traffic.

Engaging with local communities is central to our licence to operate. We are committed to transparent dialogue, sharing development plans, responding to local concerns, and investing in community benefit initiatives. Creating inclusive employment opportunities, supporting local supply chains, and contributing to regional skills development are all pillars of our socio-economic responsibility.

Waste management and circular economy

Port operations generate a wide variety of waste streams, including packaging, dredging spoil, maintenance waste, and waste from vessels. Effective waste management is essential to protect the environment and meet regulatory obligations.

Our approach is based on the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle. We are committed to minimising waste generation, improving segregation, and recycling rates, and exploring opportunities to support the circular economy, including reusing dredged material where safe and appropriate. Engagement with tenants, contractors, and visiting vessels is critical to implementing sustainable waste practices across the port estate.

Conclusion

The ESG issues set out in this section reflect both the unique responsibilities and opportunities facing the UK port sector. By recognising the material challenges and acting decisively to address them, we can play a leadership role in the transition to a more sustainable maritime economy. This strategy sets out how we intend to respond to these issues, deliver measurable progress, and create long-term value for all stakeholders.

Why have we called this ESG Strategy ‘Building on a Great Tradition’?

We have named this ESG Strategy Building on a Great Tradition to reflect Portsmouth’s proud identity as a city rooted in history, innovation, and civic ambition and as we celebrate 50 years of Portsmouth International Port, we can be proud of our achievements so far and looking to the future, we dedicate ourselves to a sustainable future for all.

As one of the UK’s most significant maritime centres, Portsmouth has continually adapted to meet the needs of each era, driven by a spirit of enterprise, resilience, and public service that continues to shape our future.

From the ingenuity of the Mary Rose and HMS Victory to the city’s pivotal role in the D-Day landings, Portsmouth’s maritime legacy is one of global significance. These milestones are more than historical achievements, they represent a longstanding culture of innovation, craftsmanship, and strategic thinking that has defined our place in the world.

Today, that tradition continues through Portsmouth’s leadership in sustainable port operations, clean energy initiatives, and smart infrastructure. Portsmouth International Port is at the heart of this progress, investing in:

- **A carbon-neutral terminal extension**, designed with sea water heating and cooling, natural ventilation, living walls, and water-flushing toilets, a showcase of low-impact, high-performance design.
- **A large-scale photovoltaic (PV) array** that enables the port to operate off-grid on certain days when meteorological conditions allow, demonstrating a bold step toward energy independence.
- **Advanced digital systems that optimise operations**, reduce emissions, and support smarter decision-making.

Equally important is Portsmouth’s role as a growing centre for research, learning, and innovation. Academia plays a vital role in supporting our ESG ambitions, partnering with the port and wider city to advance:

- **Climate Action.**
- **Sustainable Engineering.**
- **Marine Science.**
- **Social Impact.**

This close collaboration between academia, industry, and the public sector is a powerful example of how Portsmouth continues to innovate with purpose, building knowledge and creating solutions that serve both local and global needs.

We are also a city of people, diverse, creative, and deeply connected to place. From our award-winning green spaces to our vibrant cultural life and growing clean tech sector, Portsmouth exemplifies the balance of heritage and forward thinking that defines modern sustainability.

This ESG strategy reflects all of that. It builds on the values and achievements of the past while looking firmly ahead, strengthening our environmental performance, creating positive social outcomes, and upholding the highest standards of governance. In doing so, we are continuing Portsmouth’s legacy as a city that leads with integrity, innovation, and ambition.

We are Building on a Great Tradition to shape a future we can all be proud of.

Introduction to Planet Portsmouth



Portsmouth International Port is proud to align *Building on a Great Tradition* with Portsmouth City Council's *Planet Portsmouth* initiative. *Planet Portsmouth* is a city-wide commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions and building climate resilience. As a municipally owned port, we recognise our unique role in helping deliver the council's climate ambitions and ensuring Portsmouth becomes a greener, healthier, and more sustainable city.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The *Planet Portsmouth* strategy outlines six key priority areas for climate action: transport, energy, waste, nature, buildings, and community engagement. *Building on a Great Tradition* directly supports these priorities through the following actions:

Clean Energy at Berth: We are installing a pioneering shore power system that allows vessels to plug into clean electricity while docked, significantly reducing emissions from vessels in port. This supports the council's goal of reducing transport-related emissions and improving air quality.

Carbon Neutral Operations: We are committed to becoming carbon net zero by 2035 and zero-emission ports by 2050. This ambition mirrors the council's own net zero targets and contributes to city-wide decarbonisation.

Green Infrastructure and Innovation: The port works with academia, industry and UKRI to trial and develop new technologies and approaches that can be scaled across the sector. This includes collaboration with local universities and businesses to foster innovation and support the green economy.

Community and Partnership Engagement: As a signatory of the Portsmouth Green Partnership Charter, we work alongside other city stakeholders including the University of Portsmouth, NHS Trusts, and community organisations to promote environmental sustainability and empower residents to make greener choices.

CONTRIBUTION TO A CLIMATE-READY PORTSMOUTH

We are helping Portsmouth become climate ready. Our efforts contribute to:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Improving air and water quality.
- Supporting local biodiversity.
- Enhancing infrastructure resilience.
- Promoting sustainable transport and logistics.

WHY PORTSMOUTH INTERNATIONAL PORT IS A FORCE FOR GOOD

Unlike privately owned ports, our profits do not leave the city, they go straight back into it. Every pound we earn is reinvested into essential public services such as schools, social care, local infrastructure, and community wellbeing. This means that a successful port directly contributes to a successful city thus creating a tangible, lasting impact on the lives of Portsmouth residents.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building on a Great Tradition is not just about compliance, it's about leadership. We will continue to work closely with Portsmouth City Council and other partners to ensure our actions support the delivery of the *Planet Portsmouth* strategy. Together, we aim to create a thriving, low-carbon port that serves as a model for sustainable maritime operations and contributes meaningfully to the future of our city.

We are Building on a Great Tradition because when the Port prospers, so does our city.

A Brief History of Portsmouth International Port and the Camber Docks

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, let's consider what our journey to the present day has taken us. Portsmouth International Port, originally known as the Portsmouth Continental Ferry Port, was officially opened in 1976 following a strategic decision in the late 1960s to develop a dedicated ferry terminal.

The site was chosen for its proximity to the newly constructed M275 motorway, offering direct access for freight and passenger traffic. Initially built with just two berths, the port launched services with vessels such as the Earl William operated by Sealink to the Channel Islands, Viking Victory of Townsend Thoresen to Cherbourg, and the Brittany Ferries vessel *Armorique* to Saint-Malo.

Over the decades, the port expanded significantly, becoming a key hub for ferry, cruise, and cargo operations. Today, it boasts seven berths, handles nearly 7 million passengers annually, and supports a wide range of destinations across France, Spain, the Channel Islands, and beyond. Key Objectives in the port's development include:

- 1980s–1990s: Rapid expansion of ferry routes, primarily with Brittany Ferries and Condor Ferries.
- 2000s: Investment in terminal facilities, freight capacity, and improved access infrastructure.
- 2010s: Increasing focus on sustainability, digital port operations, and diversification of cargo handling.
- 2020s: Major upgrades including shore power infrastructure, solar energy systems, and a new Border Control Post (BCP) to support post-Brexit requirements.

Recent developments have included a carbon-neutral terminal extension, investment in shore power, and a large-scale photovoltaic array that allows the port to operate off-grid on certain days, showcasing its leadership in sustainable port operations.

The Camber Docks: Portsmouth's Oldest Commercial Harbour

Long before the international port was built, maritime trade in Portsmouth centred around the Camber Docks in Old Portsmouth. Dating back to the 12th century, the Camber was established by Jean de Gisors, a Norman merchant who saw the sheltered harbour as an ideal base for trading with Normandy.

The Camber has historically served as a hub for fishing vessels, merchant ships, and small-scale commercial activity. It was also home to local boatbuilders, such as the Feltham family, who crafted wooden vessels for the Admiralty during World War II and later adapted to modern materials like Glass-Reinforced Plastic/Polymer in the 20th century.

Today, the Camber remains a vibrant part of Portsmouth's maritime landscape. It hosts the city's inshore fishing fleet, a quayside fish market, and facilities for pleasure craft and small commercial vessels. It continues to reflect the city's deep connection to the sea, blending heritage with modern use.

Together, Portsmouth International Port and the Camber Docks represent the evolution of Portsmouth's maritime identity from its historic roots in trade and shipbuilding to its modern role as a sustainable, forward-looking gateway to the world. Our operations contribute significantly to the economic vitality of Portsmouth, the wider Solent region, and beyond, enabling businesses across the South of England to access international markets and thrive in an increasingly globalised economy.

Growth and Development

The port contributes significantly to regional economic development, supporting thousands of jobs both directly and indirectly, including roles in logistics, tourism, maritime services, and supply chain sectors.

Present-Day Role and Area of Influence

Today, Portsmouth International Port serves as a strategic multipurpose port that handles:

- Passenger ferries to France, Spain, and the Channel Islands.
- Freight operations including unaccompanied trailers, project cargo, and containers.
- Cruise calls, with a growing profile as a turnaround and transit cruise port.
- Bulk and general cargo including fresh produce, machinery, and construction materials through our sister organisation, Portico.

Area of Influence

The port's commercial influence extends well beyond the city of Portsmouth:

- Primary catchment areas: Hampshire, West Sussex, Dorset, and the Isle of Wight.
- Secondary catchment: South Central England, including Surrey, Berkshire, and Greater London.
- Freight and logistics reach: National and pan-European, due to excellent motorway and rail links (M27, A3(M), and connections to the M3 and M25).
- Cruise market: Growing influence in the south of England as an alternative to Southampton and Dover for mid-sized and boutique cruise lines. The major airports of London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Southampton, and Bournemouth are all within two hours travelling time.

Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA) Status

Portsmouth International Port operates as the Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA) for its designated harbour limits, under the Harbours Act 1964. This legal designation grants the port responsibilities for:

- Navigational safety within the SHA boundaries.
- Pilotage and marine traffic control.
- Environmental management within port waters.
- Harbour dues and regulation enforcement.

Looking Ahead to the Future

From its historic roots in the Camber Docks to its modern role as a gateway to Europe and beyond, Portsmouth International Port represents a powerful example of how public ownership, strategic investment, and a clear ESG vision can drive long-term value not just for businesses and travellers, but for the entire community. Current and future strategic objectives include:

- Expanding green shore power capability for ferries and cruise vessels.
- Growing its profile in the cruise sector with terminal enhancements.
- Supporting modal shift to sea freight for more sustainable logistics.
- Continuing to generate revenue for public reinvestment, ensuring that every success at the port translates into broader benefits for the city of Portsmouth.

We are Building on a Great Tradition by Honouring the Past and Embracing the Future.

Portsmouth International Port Key Statistics

Who We Are

- Owned and operated by Portsmouth City Council.
- Britain's most successful municipal port.
- Known as Britain's Best-Connected Port.
- Opened in 1976.

Economic Impact

- Contributes £400 million to the national economy
- Supports 5,200 jobs nationally
- Contributes £195 million to the local economy in Portsmouth
- For every £1 million generated by the port locally, a further £1,7 million is stimulated through indirect and induced impacts
- Supports 2,410 jobs locally (direct and supply chain)
- £10.8 million cruise visitor expenditure in Portsmouth

Key Trade Figures

- The 3rd largest international short-sea passenger port in the UK.
- The 2nd largest port on the South Coast by volume.
- Over 90% of trade is with the EU and Channel Islands
- Handles £700 million value of non-EU trade
- Handles almost 4 million tonnes of cargo annually
- Handles £7.5 billion in cargo value through the port
- 674,000 tonnes of exports

Passenger and Freight Figures

- Serves 1.4 million passengers to France and Spain
- Harbour authority that services 5.6 million domestic passengers
- The 2nd largest passenger port to France
- 60% of UK ferry passengers to Spain
- Handles 131,000 cruise passengers through the new terminal since October 2023
- Brittany Ferries, DFDS and Brittany Ferries Guernsey operate scheduled services from the port.

Future Development

- The "Sea Change" project aims to be shore-power ready in 2026
- Approved a 20-year Masterplan (2022)
- The Masterplan aims to double employment to 11,333 jobs
- The Masterplan aims to contribute £801 million to the national economy.

Materiality and Community Feedback Summary

Employee feedback

Understanding what matters most to our stakeholders is at the heart of our ESG strategy. Materiality ensures that our efforts are focused on the environmental, social, and governance issues that have the greatest impact on our operations, our community, and our long-term resilience. By identifying and prioritising these key topics, we can allocate resources effectively, set meaningful targets, and report transparently.

The materiality assessment began with an internal review of our current operational practices and ESG-related activities, allowing us to take stock of existing initiatives and to identify where gaps may exist. This provided an honest appraisal of our current ESG maturity and served as a baseline for improvement.

In parallel, we carried out an external benchmarking exercise to review the ESG approaches of comparable ports, recognising the value of sector-specific insights and best practices. We also examined the sustainability priorities and disclosures of our key customers, ensuring that our strategy is aligned with the wider value chain and supportive of their ESG goals. This alignment strengthens our commercial relationships and positions us as a partner of choice for responsible trade and logistics.

To strengthen this further, the Port has implemented a multi-channel feedback system that actively engages both internal and external stakeholders:

- **Staff Ideas & Feedback System:** Employees are encouraged to contribute ideas and raise concerns through a dedicated platform that captures frontline insights. This system helps surface operational challenges, sustainability opportunities, and innovative solutions from those closest to the work.
- **Port Strategy Day – Interactive Event:** During our recent Port Strategy Day, an interactive materiality mapping session was held. Leaders from across departments participated in identifying priority ESG topics, fostering cross-functional dialogue and alignment on strategic goals.

The key areas of feedback received related to decarbonisation, air quality and climate change with an appreciation that there are not just the environmental considerations to consider but also the work of the port with educational outreach, innovation and, due to the unique ownership of the port, its ability to pioneer developing technologies.

Community and industry feedback

Between 4 August and 18 September 2025, the port conducted an online survey that generated 444 responses from residents, people who work in and visit the city, students, and maritime-industry stakeholders.

The results confirm that local air quality, climate impacts, and transparent communication about the port's sustainability work are material issues that must shape our ESG priorities, decision-making and external engagement.

Headline community findings:

- **Air quality and local health:** Nearly three quarters of respondents are concerned about air pollution; 62% feel their neighbourhood air is polluted all or some of the time; 60% say the port contributes to poor air quality (17% a lot); road traffic is seen as the leading cause and freight traffic at the port is the second most cited source.

- **Climate change:** 89% agree climate change is happening (57% strongly); three quarters are concerned about local effects; 55% report having experienced extreme heat; over one third report health and wellbeing impacts.
- **Awareness and trust:** Only 16% feel very knowledgeable about the port's sustainability work while 28% know nothing; awareness varies by group (students lowest, maritime workers highest); the sustainable terminal has the lowest profile.
- **Demand for visibility:** 89% want the port to promote sustainability work more; 74% prefer social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn); 64% are most interested in long-term strategy and the target of zero emissions by 2050.

Materiality implications:

- **Elevate air quality and public health** as top-tier material topics because of high community salience, reputational risk, and direct local wellbeing impacts.
- **Treat climate mitigation and adaptation as co-equals** within material priorities to reflect strong public concern and lived impacts.
- **Recognise communications and transparency as a material issue:** poor awareness undermines trust and the port's licence to operate.
- **Apply stakeholder-weighted scoring** in the materiality matrix so resident and vulnerable-group concerns (health, neighbourhood impacts) carry greater influence on mitigation and engagement decisions.

Strategic responses and commitments:

- **Evidence and transparency:** Publish near-real-time monitoring outputs from pilot sensors with plain-language context comparing port and city-wide sources; maintain a public actions and response log showing how community inputs are used.
- **Targeted mitigation and partner measures:** Accelerate operational interventions with hauliers, ferry operators and tenants (shore power, low-emission vehicle incentives, timed movements) and prioritise interventions in neighbourhood hotspots identified by the survey.
- **Adaptation and wellbeing:** Implement visible local adaptation measures and worker/community protections against heat events and other climate impacts.
- **Communications and awareness:** Deliver a social-first communications programme tailored by audience, raise the profile of lower-awareness initiatives (for example the sustainable terminal) and produce simple resident-facing explainers and dashboards.

Incorporating the feedback into this ESG strategy

The findings of this materiality process were synthesised and used to inform the focus areas of our ESG strategy. The result is a strategy that reflects not only our regulatory and operational realities but also the voices of our stakeholders, including employees, customers, regulators, and the communities we serve.

By placing materiality at the core of our ESG approach, we are better equipped to deliver transparent, accountable, and impactful outcomes that support sustainable growth and long-term value for all.

Our ESG Strategic Objectives

At Portsmouth International Port, we are steadfast in our commitment to sustainable development, recognising our pivotal role in facilitating global trade while protecting the environment and contributing positively to society.

This ESG Strategy sets out a 25-year vision for integrating responsible practices into every aspect of our operations. It is aligned with our broader strategic goals set out in the *Portsmouth International Port Masterplan 2022 - 2042*³, the *Portsmouth City Council Corporate Plan 2024 - 2026*⁴, UK government policy, the Maritime Decarbonisation Strategy and the expectations of our stakeholders ensuring long-term value creation for the people of the city of Portsmouth, our customers, employees, and future generations.

We are committed to becoming the UK's most sustainable port, delivering not only economic growth but also environmental resilience and social value; we want to be seen as a force for good for the city of Portsmouth.

OUR KEY ESG STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Accelerate the transition to net zero maritime operations

Support the UK's commitment to net zero by reducing port-related greenhouse gas emissions through clean energy adoption, electrification, and enabling shore power infrastructure for vessels.

2. Champion innovation and green growth in maritime logistics

Act as a regional hub for sustainable maritime technology trials and deployment, contributing to the government's ambition to make the UK a global leader in clean shipping and port innovation.

3. Strengthen community and regional economic resilience

Generate inclusive economic opportunities by promoting high-quality employment, skills development, and supply chain engagement across Portsmouth and the Solent, reflecting levelling-up priorities.

4. Enhance environmental stewardship and coastal resilience

Protect and enhance the natural environment around Portsmouth Harbour by supporting biodiversity initiatives, reducing air and water pollution, and investing in climate adaptation measures.

5. Promote global connectivity and sustainable trade

Enable growth in sustainable trade and passenger services while ensuring alignment with the UK's security, connectivity, and resilience objectives as a leading maritime nation.

³ <https://portsmouth-port.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Masterplan-web.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/56.308-Council-Plan-2024-accessible-aa.pdf>

ESG Workstreams as the Drivers of our Strategy

Our ESG workstreams are the driving force behind the delivery of our ESG Strategy and the achievement of our strategic objectives. Each workstream translates our overarching ESG commitments into targeted actions, measurable outcomes, and accountable ownership across the business.

Through these workstreams, we embed ESG principles into our day-to-day operations, decision-making, and culture—ensuring that our environmental, social, and governance priorities are not separate initiatives, but integral to how we conduct our business.

Each workstream has a clear mandate, defined scope, and leadership accountability. Together, they will:

- Integrate ESG considerations into business planning, risk management, and investment decisions.
- Drive continuous improvement through innovation, collaboration, and knowledge sharing across teams.
- Measure and report progress against defined ESG targets and performance indicators.
- Foster accountability and engagement at every level of the organisation.

By empowering our ESG workstreams to lead implementation, we ensure that our strategic objectives are translated into tangible, lasting impact, delivering value for our stakeholders while supporting a more sustainable and responsible future.

Our ESG workstreams are as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

We are dedicated to minimising our environmental footprint through proactive measures that support local national and international sustainability goals.

- **Climate Action**

We aim to achieve **Net-Zero carbon emissions by 2035**, and **Zero Emissions by 2050**, in line with local, national, and international climate commitments.

The implementation of **shore power systems** at the Port will reduce emissions from docked vessels, improving local air quality and contributing to decarbonisation.

- **Resource Efficiency**

We will adopt **smart technologies and digital innovations** (including Digital Twins and the Internet of Things) to enhance efficiency, reduce energy consumption, conserve potable water, and minimise waste across our facilities.

- **Biodiversity Protection**

Our operations will actively promote biodiversity by **preserving and enhancing local ecosystems**, ensuring compliance with rigorous environmental standards.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

As a port embedded in its local community, we understand our role as both a regional employer and a public asset. Our social responsibilities include:

- **Community Engagement**

We will seek to improve community engagement by fostering **open dialogue** with the community, supporting local initiatives, and contributing to Portsmouth's economic and social development. By adopting the concept of 'banked goodwill⁵', we want to be viewed as a force for good locally, nationally and internationally.

- **Employee Wellbeing**

We are committed to providing a **safe, inclusive, and diverse workplace**, offering opportunities for learning, professional development, and wellbeing.

- **Stakeholder Collaboration**

We **work in partnership** with customers, suppliers, and transport providers to embed sustainability into supply chains and encourage shared responsibility.

GOVERNANCE EXCELLENCE

Strong governance is the foundation of trust and long-term performance. We are committed to:

- **Transparency and Accountability**

We will publish regular ESG updates, **set measurable targets**, and participate in third-party audits and benchmarking tools to ensure our performance is transparent and credible.

- **Ethical Conduct**

Our operations adhere to the highest **ethical standards**, with full compliance to legal requirements, promotion of a Just Culture, and zero tolerance for misconduct. As Local Authority Officers, our people are expected to uphold the **highest standards of conduct**, including selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

- **Continuous Improvement**

ESG risks and opportunities are actively monitored and integrated into decision-making. Regular materiality assessments and stakeholder feedback will guide updates to this strategy and our action plans.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

We are committed to ensuring Portsmouth International Port is equipped for the future and in support of this, innovation and technology are key aspects of our ESG mission:

- Deployment of **shore power** systems to reduce ship emissions while docked.
- Use of **Digital Twins** and the **Internet of Things (IoT)** to optimise operations and uncover system-wide efficiencies.
- Exploration of **clean energy logistics** (e.g. hydrogen and renewable fuels) to support the wider decarbonisation of the maritime sector.
- Collaborating with the industry, government, academia, the private sector, and our local stakeholders to **identify solutions** to the issues we face.

MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS & EMISSIONS METRICS

To deliver this strategy, we will implement a series of detailed Management Action Plans, each outlining:

⁵ Banked goodwill in the context of community engagement refers to the consistent and genuine effort an organisation makes to build trust, support, and positive relationships with a community over time regardless of immediate goals or intentions. Rather than engaging only when seeking approval, resources, or to bolster its reputation, the organisation concerned maintains a standard of respectful, meaningful involvement. This sustained commitment "banks" goodwill, creating a reservoir of trust and credibility that can support future initiatives and foster long-term mutual benefit.

- Specific ESG initiatives
- Timelines and Objectives
- Roles and responsibilities across departments

We will also define and publish **clear emissions reduction metrics**, allowing us to track progress transparently and hold ourselves accountable to our goals.

BASELINES AND MONITORING SYSTEMS

A foundational component of the Port's ESG strategy is the establishment of robust environmental baselines, long-term monitoring systems and corporate oversight. These are critical to understanding current performance, setting meaningful targets, and tracking progress over time. Accurate, transparent, and comprehensive data enables better decision-making, fosters accountability, and supports engagement with stakeholders, regulators, and the broader community.

Carbon Emissions: Scope 1, 2, and 3

To effectively manage greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the Port will adopt a full-spectrum approach across Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 emissions, in alignment with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol:

- **Scope 1:** Direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the Port, such as fuel combustion in port-owned vehicles, on-site generators, and terminal equipment. Also refrigerant losses from HVAC and refrigeration systems,
- **Scope 2:** Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity consumed by the Port's facilities.
- **Scope 3:** All other indirect emissions that occur across the value chain, including those from tenant operations, shipping activities, surface access to and from the port, outsourced services, employee commuting, and waste disposal.

Understanding the full range of carbon emissions, particularly Scope 3, which often represents the majority of a port's carbon footprint, is essential to crafting a decarbonisation pathway that is realistic, science-aligned, and inclusive of all stakeholders.

A key aspect of Scope 3 emissions for the Port will be those associated with vessels operating into and out of the port. While these emissions fall outside the Port's direct control, they represent a significant share of the overall environmental impact and must be considered within the ESG framework to develop effective, collaborative mitigation strategies.

To consistently account for and monitor vessel-related emissions, it is essential to establish a clear and operationally relevant boundary. For these purposes, it is proposed that the starting and ending point of the vessel emissions monitoring zone be defined as the moment a vessel passes the Outer Spit Buoy⁶, both on arrival and departure. This boundary reflects a practical and recognized maritime navigation point that offers consistency and clarity for emissions tracking.

By using the Outer Spit Buoy as the baseline for vessel emissions accounting, the Port can:

- Establish a clear emissions responsibility zone for incoming and outgoing vessel traffic.

⁶ The Outer Spit Buoy marks the southern limit of the Portsmouth Harbour approach channel. It's positioned to guide vessels entering or leaving Portsmouth Harbour and is a key navigational aid in the Solent. Vessels approaching from the east or west need to request permission to enter Portsmouth Harbour before reaching the Outer Spit Buoy.

- Facilitate transparent and comparable data collection on fuel use, vessel type, and engine operation modes (e.g. speed, idling, manoeuvring).
- Engage with shipping lines on decarbonization initiatives such as slow steaming, fuel switching, and future use of zero-emission vessels within port approach limits.
- Model emissions impacts on surrounding communities and sensitive environmental areas, particularly in the approach channel and anchorage zones.

This defined boundary will also support alignment with international reporting standards and enable future integration with digital monitoring platforms, Automatic Identification System (AIS) data, and emissions modelling tools.

By proactively incorporating vessel emissions into its Scope 3 strategy and setting a clear monitoring framework, the Port will be better positioned to drive meaningful emissions reductions across its maritime value chain while encouraging a broader transition to low-carbon shipping.

Broader Environmental Metrics

In addition to carbon emissions, the Port is committed to establishing baselines and continuous monitoring for other key environmental metrics:

- **Air Quality:** Monitoring pollutants such as NO_x, SO_x, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀ from ships, trucks, cargo-handling equipment, and other sources. An enhanced air quality monitoring programme will inform mitigation strategies, such as the use of cleaner fuels, electrification of equipment, and shore power deployment.
- **Water Quality:** Tracking discharges, run-off, and potential contaminants, including hydrocarbons, heavy metals, and wastewater. Water quality monitoring supports the protection of marine ecosystems and compliance with regulatory standards.
- **Waste Management:** Establishing baselines for waste generation, segregation, recycling rates, and disposal practices across all port operations and tenants. This includes both hazardous and non-hazardous waste streams.

Monitoring and Transparency

A centralised environmental data management system will be developed to support consistent data collection, analysis, and reporting. The Port will also explore the use of sensor technologies, satellite monitoring, and data-sharing platforms to enhance transparency and enable real-time responsiveness. Regular public disclosures and third-party verifications will be key to building trust and demonstrating accountability.

ESG Roadmap: 2025, 2035, and 2050 Targets, Metrics and Anticipated Outcomes

To ensure our ESG strategy is actionable and measurable, we have translated our high-level objectives and workstreams into specific targets, supported by key performance indicators (KPIs). These targets reflect our commitment to sustainability, social responsibility, and strong governance, and are aligned with recognised standards and stakeholder expectations.

The following section outlines our ten long-term ESG roadmaps classified by subject area and the Objectives we aim to achieve by 2025 (short-term), 2035 (mid-term), and 2050 (long-term). These actions reflect a balance between urgency, feasibility, and ambition.

Our ESG roadmap areas are as follows:

1. **Decarbonisation**
2. **Air Quality**
3. **Utilities Management**
4. **Waste Management**
5. **Environment, Health & Safety**
6. **Climate Change (Risk & Resilience)**
7. **Community**
8. **Economy**
9. **Surface Access to the Port**
10. **Biodiversity**

Each subject area is paired with measurable metrics that allow us to track progress, assess impact, and continuously improve. We will report on these metrics regularly, using them not only to demonstrate accountability but also to inform future decisions and strategic direction.

1. Decarbonisation

Aligned SDGs:



Overview: Decarbonisation is a cornerstone of our ESG strategy, reflecting the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with national and international climate commitments. As a vital node in the supply chain and a significant energy user, the port has a unique opportunity and responsibility to lead by example in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Target: Achieve net zero port operations by 2035 and zero emissions status by 2050 through a phased programme of emissions reduction, energy transition, and strategic investment in low-carbon infrastructure and technology, in line with national and international policy.

Metrics:

- Annual reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions (target: minimum 7% year-on-year).

- Implementation of Port Energy Management Action Plan (PEMP) with verified carbon accounting.
- Percentage of port vehicles and equipment transitioned to electric or low-carbon fuels (target: 100% by 2030).
- Reduction in port operational energy consumption per tonne of cargo or per vessel call or on a per passenger metric.
- Percentage of electricity from on-site renewable sources (solar PV, wind, etc.).
- Energy storage capacity deployed (kWh).
- Percentage of vessel calls using shore power (goal: 50% by 2035, 100% by 2050).
- Estimated CO₂ reduction from shore power use (tonnes/year).
- Number of calls by vessels using alternative fuels (e.g., LNG, hydrogen, ammonia).

2025 anticipated outcomes:

- Install shore power infrastructure for key berths to support zero-emissions berthing.
- Electrify port-owned fleet and trial low-carbon fuels.
- Complete carbon footprint baseline and publish annual carbon reporting.

2035 anticipated outcomes:

- Transition all port operational vehicles and equipment to zero-emission alternatives.
- Collaborate with shipping lines to support net zero-ready vessel infrastructure.
- Achieve a 75% reduction in port scope 1 and 2 emissions from 2020 levels.

2050 anticipated outcomes:

- Reach net zero carbon emissions across all port-controlled scopes.
- Be a hub for green maritime fuel innovation (e.g., hydrogen, ammonia, electrification).
- Provide shore power to 100% of berths for compatible vessels by 2035.

2. Air Quality

Aligned SDGs:



Overview: Air quality is a critical environmental and public health concern, particularly given our port's location adjacent to residential communities, a major motorway, and downwind from several industrial zones. These factors create a complex air quality profile in which the port is both a contributor and a stakeholder in broader regional impacts.

Target: We are committed to understanding and then reducing our contribution to local air pollution through proactive emissions management, cleaner technologies, and transparent monitoring. We will achieve this through collaboration with local authorities, industry partners, and community groups to mitigate cumulative impacts. We aim to go beyond regulatory compliance by adopting best practices in operational controls, equipment upgrades, and traffic management.

Metrics:

- Full air quality inventory produced annually.
- Reduction in PM_{2.5} emissions from port operations (%).
- Reduction in NO_x emissions from port operations (%).
- Percentage of port equipment that is zero-emission.
- Number of real-time air monitoring stations installed.
- Percentage of infrastructure projects using low-emission standards.
- Number of community complaints related to air quality.
- Annual air quality impact report published.

2025 anticipated outcomes:

- Complete baseline emissions inventory for PM_{2.5}, NO_x, and SO₂.
- Identify options for the replacement of diesel-powered port handling equipment.
- Initiate the design of a formalised continuous air quality monitoring programme at the Port.

2035 anticipated outcomes:

- Achieve a 50% reduction in NO_x and PM_{2.5} emissions (vs 2024 baseline).
- Real-time port-wide air monitoring system operational and data published.
- All new port vehicles and handling equipment meet zero- or ultra-low-emission standards.
- Full adoption of clean construction protocols for port projects.
- Offer incentives for cleaner vessels, vehicles, and logistics operators.

2050 anticipated outcomes:

- Achieve 90% reduction in key pollutant emissions from port operations.
- All on-site mobile and stationary equipment is zero-emission.
- Verified contribution to improved local air quality in adjacent residential zones.
- Continued active collaboration with regional clean air initiatives.

3. Utilities Management

Aligned SDGs:



Overview: Effective utilities management is central to our ESG strategy, as it directly impacts our environmental footprint, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability. As a critical infrastructure hub, the Port has a responsibility to manage energy, water, and other utility resources responsibly while supporting growth and resilience.

Target: To reduce the Port's overall utility consumption and associated emissions through efficiency improvements, smart infrastructure investments, and continuous monitoring while supporting a transition to cleaner and more sustainable utility sources.

Metrics:

- Total electricity consumption per year.
- Total potable water consumption per year.
- Percentage of the entire port estate covered by water metering.
- Number of water leaks identified and repaired.

2025 anticipated outcomes:

- Commence the development of a Port Utilities Management Action Plan.

2035 anticipated outcomes:

- Reduce port-wide energy consumption per tonne of cargo/passenger handled by 30%.
- Introduce smart grid and renewable energy storage systems.
- Conduct a comprehensive energy and water efficiency audit.
- Install smart meters for electricity and water usage across key assets.

2050 anticipated outcomes:

- Operate entirely on renewable electricity for port facilities and infrastructure.
- Achieve closed-loop water reuse systems in key operations.

4. Waste Management

Aligned SDGs:



Overview: Effective waste management is essential to minimising the Port's environmental impact and supporting a circular economy. As a major logistics and industrial hub, the Port generates a variety of waste streams, from operational and construction waste to marine and tenant-related materials. Managing these responsibly is critical to environmental stewardship, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency.

Target: To significantly reduce waste generation, maximise recycling and recovery, and eliminate avoidable waste to landfill, through improved processes, stakeholder engagement, and the adoption of circular economy principles.

Metrics:

- Total waste generated (tonnes/year).
- Waste generated per unit of throughput (vessel movement, passenger etc.).
- Percentage of total waste recycled or recovered.
- Diversion rate from landfill.
- Volume of hazardous waste safely treated/disposed.
- Percentage of hazardous waste treated.
- Percentage of Cat 1 International Catering Waste treated.
- Percentage of waste streams tracked digitally.
- Frequency and scope of public waste reporting.
- Tonnes of marine litter collected and processed.
- Reuse, donation or upcycling initiatives implemented in port construction and operations.

2025 anticipated outcomes:

- Eliminate single-use plastics across port operations.
- Embed waste reporting processes.
- Implement waste segregation infrastructure for staff, tenants, and visitors.

2035 anticipated outcomes:

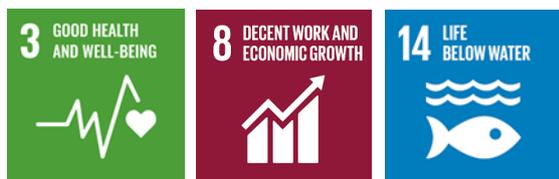
- Achieve a 75% waste recycling rate.
- Zero untreated waste to landfill.
- Develop circular economy partnerships with port tenants and cruise/ferry lines.

2050 anticipated outcomes:

- Operate a zero-waste-to-landfill port.
- Annual waste reporting with breakdown by type and treatment
- Establish on-site recycling and resource recovery hub.

5. Environment, Health, and Safety

Aligned SDGs:



Overview: Our approach to EHS is rooted in the internationally recognised management system standards ISO 45001 and ISO 14001. These standards provide the framework for systematic, risk-based, and continual improvement in both occupational health & safety and environmental performance.

We recognise that excellence in EHS is foundational to broader ESG success. Through understanding the context of the Port, engaging with relevant interested parties, and embedding risk-based thinking, we aim to proactively prevent harm, minimise environmental impact, ensure legal and other requirements are met, and drive a culture where every individual feels responsible and empowered.

The Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle is the operational backbone: establishing clear objectives and controls, implementing them effectively, monitoring and evaluating performance, and acting on lessons learned to continually raise the bar.

Target: Develop a Just Culture⁷ with zero harm to people, and zero environmental breaches, every day.

Metrics:

- Total Lost Time Injury Frequency rate (LTIFR).
- Number of fatalities or life-altering incidents.
- Number of Incidents.
- Number of Accidents.
- Number of Near Misses reported.

⁷ A just culture in the port sector's EHS (Environment, Health, and Safety) framework is a balanced approach to accountability that encourages open reporting of incidents and near misses without fear of unfair punishment. It recognises that while human error is inevitable, there is a clear distinction between honest mistakes, risky behaviour, and wilful negligence. By fostering trust and learning rather than blame, a just culture helps port organizations improve safety performance, enhance environmental compliance, and build a proactive safety culture across all levels of operation.

- Percentage of legal and other EHS requirements in compliance.
- Percentage of high-risk activities with documented operational controls.
- Percentage of managers/supervisors with ISO-aligned EHS leadership training.
- Percentage of relevant personnel trained to competence standards (ISO 45001/14001).
- Number of internal management reviews conducted per year.
- EHS corrective/preventive action closure rate.

2025 anticipated outcomes:

- Complete baseline legal compliance evaluation under ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 frameworks.
- Conduct gap analysis against certification requirements and implement corrective actions.
- Implement digital management system to track compliance, audits, and improvement actions in real time.

2035 anticipated outcomes:

- Sustain certification with zero major non-conformities in external audits.
- Demonstrate year-on-year reduction in incident rates and environmental non-compliances.
- Fully embed risk-based thinking into strategic planning and operational decision-making.
- Review the port Environmental Management System (EMS).
- Devise an EHS Champions programme and enhanced training modules.

2050 anticipated outcomes:

- Maintain continuous certification with exemplary audit performance.
- Industry-leading EHS culture with strong workforce engagement and measurable environmental and safety improvements.
- Recognised as a benchmark port for integrated ISO 45001 and ISO 14001 management.

6. Climate Change (Resilience & Resilience)

Aligned SDGs:



Overview: The Port faces growing exposure to the physical and transitional risks associated with climate change. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and evolving regulatory expectations all present potential threats to operational continuity, asset integrity, and long-term viability. Building resilience to these risks is essential for safeguarding the Port's infrastructure, supporting future growth, and protecting the communities and businesses that rely on us.

Target: To assess, prepare for, and adapt to the risks of climate change by embedding resilience into planning, infrastructure, and operations thus ensuring the Port remains secure, functional, and forward-looking in a changing climate.

Metrics:

- Percentage of critical assets assessed for climate risk.

- Frequency of climate risk reviews.
- Percentage of new projects incorporating climate resilience design standard.
- Climate-related capital investment as a percentage of total capital expenditure.
- Presence of a climate-adapted emergency response plan.
- Number of climate-related incident simulations conducted.
- Inclusion of climate scenario modelling in strategic planning.
- Disclosure aligned with TCFD (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures)
- Number of climate adaptation measures implemented (e.g., flood defences, heat mitigation).
- Annual risk reviews integrated into operational planning.

2025 anticipated outcomes:

- Conduct full climate risk assessment for port infrastructure.
- Integrate resilience planning into port development projects.

2035 anticipated outcomes:

- Upgrade critical infrastructure for climate resilience (e.g., sea-level rise, flooding).
- Embed climate scenario modelling into long-term planning.
- Establish a 'Stable Operations' function to oversee resilience planning and incident management.

2050 anticipated outcomes:

- Ensure all port infrastructure is climate-resilient by design.
- Be recognised as a climate-adaptive UK port leader.

7. Community

Aligned SDGs:



Overview: As a key part of the local landscape, the Port is committed to contributing positively to the communities in which we operate. Our activities have both direct and indirect social impacts, and we take our responsibility seriously to ensure that local people benefit from the Port's presence not only economically, but socially and environmentally as well.

Target: We aim to build strong, inclusive, and mutually beneficial relationships with our local communities by listening to their needs, supporting local initiatives, creating employment and training opportunities, and minimising negative impacts from port operations.

Metrics:

- Response time to community queries, complaints, and feedback (Target: 95% within 5 working days).
- Number of community engagement events.
- Number of attendees at community engagement events.
- Other community outreach events (includes virtual)
- Number of community events supported.
- Number of work experience placements facilitated.

- Number of apprentices recruited.

2025 anticipated outcomes:

- Launch regular community engagement forums and feedback mechanisms.
- Partner with local schools and colleges to promote maritime and environmental careers.
- Conduct a community survey.

2035 anticipated outcomes:

- Establish a community benefit fund supported by port revenue.
- Co-develop social initiatives in areas such as health, education, and green skills.

2050 anticipated outcomes:

- Establish a formal port consultative committee.
- Be recognised as a national model for port-community integration and shared value.
- Create a Portsmouth Port foundation to issue grants and support to local causes and not for profit organisations.

8. Local Economy

Aligned SDGs:



Overview: Our commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles includes a strong focus on strengthening the local economies in which we operate. We recognise that supporting local businesses, investing in community development, and fostering inclusive employment practices are essential to long-term sustainability and regional resilience. By aligning our operations with the needs of local stakeholders, we aim to create shared value that drives both business performance and socioeconomic progress.

Target: Our strategy references a preference for local procurement where feasible, workforce development, partnerships with local organisations, and inclusive growth. We are particularly focused on ensuring our impact benefits underrepresented groups, small businesses, and sharing the economic benefits of the port with economically disadvantaged communities.

Metrics:

- Percentage of procurement spend directed to local suppliers.
- Percentage of spend with SMEs, social, or diverse suppliers.
- Percentage of employees residing in the PO/SO postcode areas.
- Percentage of local hires (within 50 km of operations).
- Number of individuals trained in workforce programmes.
- Amount of profit returned to Portsmouth City Council for reinvestment in public services.
- Number of supported community initiatives.

2025 anticipated outcomes:

- Prioritise local procurement and support small business engagement.
- Formalise the engagement programme with local schools, colleges, and academia.

- Participate in local engagement forums.

2035 anticipated outcomes:

- Ensure that 25% of procurement spend is with small and medium enterprises.
- Increase port-related local employment by 25% through direct and indirect job creation.
- Develop a skills and training programme in partnership with educational institutions.
- Development of an ethical procurement policy ensuring all suppliers to the Port are aligned with this ESG Strategy.
- Internal skills 'pipeline' created.
- ESG clauses in contracts.

2050 anticipated outcomes:

- Ensure long-term, inclusive economic growth rooted in innovation and sustainability.
- 50% of procurement spend is with local businesses where feasible.
- All suppliers to the Port have robust and verifiable ESG credentials.
- Establishment of a '*Port Leaders of the Future*' programme in conjunction with local academic and education institutions.

9. Surface Access to the Port

Aligned SDGs:



Overview: As a key logistics and trade hub, our port depends heavily on road transport for moving goods and connecting to national networks, including the rail system. While we currently lack direct rail access, we are committed to improving surface connectivity in a way that reduces environmental impacts, enhances efficiency, and supports future modal shift where feasible.

Target: This strategy focuses on optimising road-based access in the near term, while exploring long-term infrastructure and policy changes to enable lower-emission freight movements. We will work with national and regional transport authorities to reassess future rail interconnectivity options, while actively supporting the transition to zero-emission road freight and smarter traffic management. We also aim to improve access for port employees via public transport and active travel, reducing congestion and emissions from commuter traffic.

Metrics:

- Percentage of port cargo forwarded to rail via intermodal hubs.
- GHG emissions from port-related road freight (tonnes CO₂e).
- Percentage of HGVs accessing port that are zero/low-emission.
- Percentage of EVs accessing port.
- Percentage of port workforce with viable public/active transport access.
- Implementation of smart traffic systems (key corridors).
- Average road freight dwell time at the Port (minutes).
- Average private car dwell time at the Port (minutes).
- Percentage of port staff using sustainable transport solution to commute to work.
- Passenger mode-share.

2025 anticipated outcomes:

- Conduct staff travel survey.
- Encourage vehicle anti-idling while waiting at the Port.
- Investigate the use of digital technologies to optimise port operations.
- Development of a Port Surface Access Management Plan.

2035 anticipated outcomes:

- Implement a port-wide sustainable travel plan for staff and visitors.
- Integrate local bus services to call at the Port itself.
- Support electrification infrastructure for HGVs and passenger vehicles.
- Partner with logistics providers and freight terminals to increase the share of port cargo forwarded to rail terminals.
- Achieve 25% of outbound cargo volume forwarded to rail via intermodal connections by 2050.
- Incentivise clean shipping and logistics corridors to and from the port.
- Reduce road freight related GHG emissions by 30% (baseline 2024).
- Implement intelligent traffic and scheduling systems by 2030 to reduce congestion and idling.

2050 anticipated outcomes:

- Transition to a fully low-emission transport network servicing the port.
- Develop an off-Port consolidation centre for freight.
- Reduce road freight-related GHG emissions by 90% by 2050 (baseline: 2024).
- Ensure 90% of port employees have access to regular public transport or safe cycling/walking infrastructure by 2035.
- Integrate real-time traffic data into port operations and delivery slot management.

10. Biodiversity

Aligned SDGs:



Overview: Ports are often situated in ecologically sensitive coastal, estuarine, or wetland environments, and their operations can have both direct and indirect impacts on local biodiversity. Portsmouth International Port is somewhat unique given its relatively small size both in terms of shoreside infrastructure and quaysides and berths, its operational 'footprint' and proximity to the city of Portsmouth. Despite the limited size of the Port, we are committed to preserving and enhancing the natural habitats within and around the port estate wherever we can.

Aligned SDGs: 14, 15

Target: Our biodiversity ambitions are built on the themes of protection, enhancement, and integration. We will work to prevent habitat degradation, actively restore and enhance local ecosystems, and integrate biodiversity considerations into all planning and development activities. We also aim to contribute to regional biodiversity targets and align with the principles of the UK Biodiversity Net Gain framework. We will also introduce a port cleanliness plan to ensure no foreign object debris enters local terrestrial or marine ecosystems.

Metrics:

- Number of pollution incidents.
- Percentage of new projects delivering at least 10% biodiversity net gain.
- Hectares of habitat restored or enhanced.
- Number of protected species identified/monitored annually.
- Number of nature-based solutions implemented.
- Percentage of port developments with integrated green infrastructure.
- Community events or partnerships focused on biodiversity.

2025 anticipated outcomes:

- Conduct a biodiversity baseline survey of port-owned and adjacent habitats.

2035 anticipated outcomes:

- Restore or enhance 30% of port-owned green or blue spaces.
- Develop a port cleanliness plan and monitoring regime (sweepers, scrubbers and FOD removal).
- Collaborate with local conservation organisations on habitat creation projects.
- Ban smoking within the Port restricted area (cigarette butts are a commonly-found plastic in the world's oceans).

2050 anticipated outcomes:

- Be a net-positive biodiversity contributor, with measurable ecological benefits.
- Integrate green infrastructure and pollinator-friendly landscaping.

ESG Roadmap and Alignment Summary

Subject	Metrics	2025 Outcome	2035 Outcome	2050 Outcome	United Nations SDG Supported
Decarbonisation	Annual reduction in Scopes 1&2 per year.	Baseline established, ESG Strategy published with Management Action Plan.	Reduction in Scopes 1 & 2 by 75% and achieve net zero status	Zero Emissions	  
Air Quality	Full air quality inventory produced annually.	Baseline established, ESG Strategy published with Management Action Plan.	50% reduction in NO _x and PM _{2.5} emissions (vs 2025 baseline)	90% reduction in key emissions from port operations.	  
Utilities Management	Electricity, gas, road fuels and water usage	Baseline established, ESG Strategy published with Management Action Plan.	Reduce port-wide energy consumption per tonne of cargo/passenger handled by 30%.	Operate entirely on renewable energy. Closed-loop water systems in key operations.	  
Waste Management	Total waste, recycling rate, diversion from landfill.	Baseline established, ESG Strategy published with Management Action Plan. Improved recycling processes.	75% recycling rate, no untreated waste to landfill.	Zero waste to landfill. Onsite recycling and resource recovery facility.	  

<p>Environment, Health, and Safety</p>	<p>Total Lost Time Injury Frequency rate Number of incidents / accidents.</p>	<p>Baseline established, ESG Strategy published with Management Action Plan.</p>	<p>Zero major non-conformities in external audits. Year-on-year reduction in incident rates.</p>	<p>Zero major non-conformities in external audits. Demonstrate year-on-year reduction in incident rates and environmental non-compliances.</p>	
<p>Climate Change</p>	<p>Disclosures aligned with TCFD. Climate adaptation measures, risk reviews.</p>	<p>Baseline established, ESG Strategy published with Management Action Plan. Climate risk assessment.</p>	<p>Embed climate scenario modelling into long-term planning.</p>	<p>Ensure all port infrastructure is climate-resilient by design.</p>	
<p>Community</p>	<p>Community events, education engagement, compliments / complaints statistics.</p>	<p>Baseline established, ESG Strategy published with Management Action Plan. Community survey.</p>	<p>Establish a port staff volunteering programme. Co-develop social initiatives in areas such as health, education, and green skills.</p>	<p>Establish a formal port consultative committee. Create a Portsmouth Port foundation to support to local causes.</p>	

<p>Local Economy</p>	<p>Percentage of procurement spend directed to local suppliers.</p> <p>Percentage of employees residing in local postcode areas.</p>	<p>Baseline established, ESG Strategy published with Management Action Plan.</p> <p>Formalise the engagement programme with SMEs, local schools, colleges, and academia.</p>	<p>Ensure that 25% of procurement spend is with SMEs.</p> <p>ESG clauses in contracts.</p>	<p>50% of procurement spend is with local SMEs.</p> <p>All suppliers to the Port have robust ESG credentials.</p>	
<p>Surface Access</p>	<p>Staff travel mode-share. Low and zero emissions vehicles' statistics.</p>	<p>Baseline established, ESG Strategy published with Management Action Plan.</p> <p>Staff travel survey.</p>	<p>Implement a port-wide sustainable travel plan. Integrate local bus services to call at the Port.</p>	<p>Reduce road freight-related GHG emissions by 90% by 2050 (baseline: 2025).</p>	
<p>Biodiversity</p>	<p>Pollution incidents, BNG, habitat restoration activities, community partnerships.</p>	<p>Baseline established, ESG Strategy published with Management Action Plan.</p> <p>Commission a biodiversity baseline survey of port-owned and adjacent habitats.</p>	<p>Restore or enhance 30% of port-owned green or blue spaces</p> <p>Develop a port cleanliness plan and monitoring regime (FOD avoidance).</p>	<p>Be a net-positive biodiversity contributor, with measurable ecological benefits.</p> <p>Integrate green infrastructure and pollinator-friendly landscaping.</p>	

Our Commitment to Transparency: Governance and Reporting

At Portsmouth International Port, transparency is a cornerstone of our ESG strategy. We recognise that open, honest, and consistent communication is essential to building trust with our stakeholders, including employees, partners, regulators, and the communities we serve.

Governance

We are committed to embedding robust governance structures that ensure accountability, integrity, and ethical conduct across all levels of our organisation. Our ESG governance framework includes:

- **Port Advisory Board Oversight:** ESG matters are overseen at the highest level by our Port Advisory Board which regularly reviews progress against our ESG objectives and ensures alignment with our strategic goals.
- **Dedicated ESG Leadership:** Our ESG Implementation Steering Group comprising cross-functional leaders, is responsible for driving the implementation of our ESG strategy, monitoring performance, identifying opportunities for continuous improvement and delivering key messages to the Port Advisory Board.
- **Policies and Standards:** We maintain a comprehensive suite of policies that guide our approach to environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and ethical governance. These policies are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect evolving best practices and stakeholder expectations.

Reporting and Disclosure

We are committed to transparent, accurate, and timely reporting of our ESG performance. Our approach includes:

- **Annual ESG Reporting:** We will publish an annual ESG report.
- **Data Integrity and Assurance:** We will prioritise the accuracy and reliability of our ESG data. Where appropriate, we seek third-party assurance to validate our disclosures and enhance stakeholder confidence.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** We will continue to engage with stakeholders to understand their expectations and incorporate their feedback into our ESG priorities and reporting practices.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Transparency is not a one-time achievement but an ongoing commitment. We will regularly assess our reporting processes and governance mechanisms to ensure they remain effective, relevant, and responsive to emerging ESG risks and opportunities.

Through these measures, we aim to foster a culture of openness and accountability, ensuring that our ESG journey is both credible and impactful.

Summary of the ESG Strategy and Next Steps

Over the course of this ESG strategy, we have articulated a vision for embedding our ESG strategic objectives into the port's operations, culture, and long-term planning. The strategy is built on a recognition that ports are not only gateways for global trade but also anchors of local communities, custodians of sensitive coastal environments, and stewards of critical infrastructure.

At Portsmouth International Port, this means we are focussing on actions that support:

 **Environment:** Reducing emissions, improving resource efficiency, and enhancing climate resilience.

 **Social:** Supporting workforce wellbeing, strengthening community relations, and ensuring equitable opportunities.

 **Governance:** Promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical decision-making across all levels of the organisation.

Our ESG strategic objectives are supported informed by six key workstreams: environmental stewardship, social responsibility, governance excellence, innovation and technology, baselines and monitoring systems and management action plans and emissions metrics. Together, these workstreams ensure that the strategy is not only compliant but also forward-looking, competitive, and credible.

The driving force behind these workstreams are the roadmaps with their anticipated outcomes that cover decarbonisation, air quality, utilities management, waste management, environment, health and safety, climate change, community, local economy, surface access and biodiversity.

Next Steps for Implementation

To translate this strategy into action, the port must move from vision to execution. The following next steps outline how we will operationalise the ESG commitments:

Step 1: Establish Governance Structures

- Form an ESG Steering Committee with representation from senior leadership, operations, finance, and community engagement.
- Define clear roles and responsibilities for ESG oversight at board and management levels.
- Integrate ESG metrics into performance reviews and procurement processes.
- Establish verified baseline metrics for a range of subjects

Step 2: Develop Measurable Targets

- Set emissions reduction targets aligned with international maritime decarbonisation pathways.
- Establish KPIs for a range of subjects
- Define social impact metrics, such as local employment rates, training hours delivered, and community investment levels.

Step 3: Enhance Data Collection and Reporting

- Invest in digital monitoring systems to track energy use, emissions, and resource flows.
- Align reporting with recognised frameworks to ensure transparency and comparability.

- Publish annual ESG reports to communicate progress to stakeholders.

Step 4: Engage Stakeholders

- Launch a structured stakeholder engagement program, including regular consultations with shipping companies, tenants, and community representatives.
- Create feedback mechanisms to ensure stakeholder concerns are integrated into decision-making.
- Collaborate with industry peers to share best practices and drive collective progress.

Step 5: Invest in Innovation and Infrastructure

- Prioritise electrification of port equipment and expansion of shore power facilities.
- Explore partnerships for pilot projects in alternative fuels such as hydrogen and ammonia.
- Upgrade infrastructure to withstand climate risks, ensuring long-term resilience.

Step 6: Build Workforce Capacity

- Develop training programs focused on sustainability skills, digital literacy, and innovation.
- Foster a culture of sustainability by embedding ESG awareness into daily operations.
- Ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to workforce development.

Step 7: Monitor, Review, and Adapt

- Conduct annual reviews of ESG performance against targets.
- Adjust the strategy in response to evolving regulations, technologies, and stakeholder expectations.
- Maintain flexibility to seize new opportunities in the rapidly changing maritime landscape.

A Long-Term Vision

The ESG strategy is not a static document but a living framework that will evolve over time. Our long-term vision is to position the port as:

- A Green Gateway: A hub for low-carbon shipping corridors and sustainable logistics.
- A Community Partner: A trusted contributor to local prosperity and wellbeing.
- A Transparent Operator: A leader in governance, accountability, and ethical practices.

By pursuing this vision, the port will strengthen its competitiveness, secure its license to operate, and contribute meaningfully to global sustainability goals.

Conclusion

This concluding section underscores that the ESG strategy is both a roadmap and a commitment. It provides clarity on where we are heading, why it matters, and how we will get there. The next steps outlined above ensure that the strategy moves beyond aspiration into measurable action.

The port stands at a pivotal moment: global trade is shifting, climate pressures are intensifying, and stakeholder expectations are rising. By embracing ESG principles, we are not only safeguarding our future but also shaping it. This strategy positions the port as a leader in sustainable maritime operations, ready to meet the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow.

As this strategy matures, we will take further steps to reinforce its credibility through external certification and independent data verification. These measures will help us demonstrate, objectively and consistently, that our actions match our commitments, and that our ESG performance is measurable, trustworthy, and impactful.

We also recognise that ESG progress is a collaborative endeavour. We welcome engagement, feedback, and partnerships with all those who have a stake in our success, from local communities and employees to regulators, customers, academia, and industry peers.

This strategy is not the end; it is the beginning of a new phase in our evolution. We are building on a great tradition to create a port that is not only commercially successful but also environmentally responsible, socially inclusive, and resilient for generations to come.

We invite you to join us on this journey.

For further information or to share your feedback, please contact us:

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