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# Sustainable Century Awards

# Information Packet

## Maritime Division

This annual awards program encourages continuous support for sustainability initiatives by recognizing accomplishments that demonstrate environmental sustainability and equity leadership at Port of Seattle Maritime properties and support the Port’s [Century Agenda](https://www.portseattle.org/page/century-agenda-strategic-objectives) goals.

Between **January 5 and February 12, 2026**, the Port of Seattle will accept nominations for the annual Maritime Sustainable Century Awards for actions completed in 2024 and 2025.

See award category details for intent, criteria, and examples.

### How to apply

Complete and submit the attached ***nomination form with supporting documentation*** via email to [enviroawards@portseattle.org](mailto:enviroawards@portseattle.org). ***All nominations must be submitted NO LATER THAN 5:00 pm PST on February 12, 2026.*** Late nominations will not be considered eligible.

### Background

The Port of Seattle recognizes outstanding environmental accomplishments of Maritime customers, tenants, non-profits and partners with the Sustainable Century Awards. Award recipients demonstrate environmental leadership in the maritime industry and are crucial partners in helping the Port achieve its environmental stewardship, sustainability, and equity goals.

The Port will announce recipients during a Port Commission meeting in April 2026, to coincide with Earth Day. Recipients will receive a commemorative plaque, recognition through Port press and website announcements, and additional publicity through Port media channels.

### Submit questions and nominations to:

Jane Dewell

Port of Seattle, Maritime Environment & Sustainability

2711 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA 98121

E-mail: [enviroawards@portseattle.org](mailto:enviroawards@portseattle.org)

(206) 475-8079

# Frequently Asked Questions

### What types of activities are eligible?

The Port will accept nominations for any project, process or activity that demonstrates environmental sustainability and equity leadership in the maritime industry. Customers, tenants, non-profits and partners operating or providing services or supplies to the maritime industry at the Port’s maritime facilities are eligible to apply. Interested parties may nominate themselves or others. *Please note that projects or initiatives funded by the Port through a competitive procurement are NOT eligible.*

### What Award Categories are available?

* **Environmental Performance**: The nominee’s activity results in a direct measurable benefit to the environment
* **Environmental Education and Outreach:** The nominee’s activity increased awareness of environmental stewardship and/or raised awareness of environmental issues and practices, and is expected to accrue future direct benefits to the environment, economy and community
* **Environmental Innovation:** The nominee’s activity highlights a creative approach to identifying and/or solving an environmental issue and results in a measurable direct or projected benefit to the environment
* **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:** The nominee’s activity results in a direct, measurable benefit to historically marginalized communities (e.g., communities of color and immigrant and refugee communities).

Award category descriptions, examples, and evaluation criteria are listed on pages 7 through 11. A panel of Port staff will review nominations and select award recipients. The Port may select one or more award recipients depending on the quality and quantity of nominations.

### What award types are available?

The Port may issue two award types to allow specific recognition opportunities for small businesses. In either case, awards recognize accomplishments in at least one category (listed above):

* ***Sustainable Century Award***  
  Our traditional award for medium or large businesses, non-profits, and partners.
* ***Small Business Award***  
  This award is for small, minority/women-owned or disadvantaged businesses, non-profits, and partners.

The Port may also recognize nominations with an Honorable Mention to highlight notable accomplishments that demonstrate meaningful support for Port sustainability objectives but do not receive top honors.

### Who can be nominated?

The Port encourages nominations from eligible businesses of all sizes, including small, minority-owned, women-owned or disadvantaged businesses. Customers, tenants, non-profits and partners operating and/or providing services or supplies to the maritime industry at the Port’s maritime facilities are eligible. Anyone can submit a nomination on behalf of themselves or another organization. *Please note that projects or initiatives funded by the Port through a competitive procurement are NOT eligible.*

### How do I submit a nomination?

Complete and submit the attached ***nomination form with supporting documentation*** via email to [enviroawards@portseattle.org](mailto:enviroawards@portseattle.org). ***All nominations must be submitted NO LATER THAN 5:00 pm on February 12, 2026. Late nominations will not be eligible for award.***

### When and where will award recipients be announced?

The Port will announce award recipients in April 2026 and recognize their accomplishments during a public Port of Seattle Commission Meeting near to Earth Day, April 22, 2026.

# Nomination Form

## Maritime Sustainable Century Awards

1. Check all appropriate award categories for your nomination. Category descriptions, award criteria and examples are shown in the following pages:

Environmental Performance

Environmental Education and Outreach

Environmental Innovation

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

1. Provide your contact and business information:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Name of nominee business/organization:* | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | |
| *Type of maritime-related business in which the nominee is engaged:* | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | |
| *Nominee street address:* |  | *City, State:* | | |  | *Zip:* |
|  |  |  | | |  |  |
| *Nominee e-mail address:* |  | *Nominee location at Port of Seattle Maritime Facility (if applicable):* | | | | |
|  |  |  | | | | |
| *Nominee contact (first and last name, pronouns):* | | |  | *Nominee phone number:* | | |
|  | | |  |  | | |
| *Nominee contact position and/or title:* | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | |
| *Name, organization and phone number of person submitting nomination (if different from above):* | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | |

*Small, minority-owned, women-owned or disadvantaged business classification (if applicable):*

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1. Describe accomplishments and provide supporting documentation:

Using the form below, describe the nominee's accomplishments and why they should receive recognition through these awards. Please limit your description to two (2) pages. You may attach supporting documentation of up to four (4) additional pages.

For nominations in the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) award category:

* Describe the nominee’s efforts to engage a diversity of communities and stakeholders in this project. In other words, what is the nominee’s approach to community engagement, and what did the nominee do to include the voices, feedback, and ideas of historically marginalized communities and stakeholders in this project?
* Describe how the nominee incorporates EDI into their work and specifically into this project/activity. Why is EDI important to environmental sustainability?

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# Award Categories

## Maritime Sustainable Century Awards

### 1 - Category: Environmental Performance

The nominee’s activity results in a direct measurable and sustainable environmental benefit.

### Criteria:

* Demonstrates benefit to the environment and improvement in the nominee’s environmental performance through quantitative “before and after” data
* Improves the quality of the air, water, land, shoreline and/or aquatic resources
* Reduces or remedies environmental impacts and pollution on communities and sensitive habitats
* Is not required by law, regulation or permit, and is not undertaken simply to bring the nominee up to minimum compliance standards
* Will result in economic, employment, and community benefits, and contribute to making the nominee’s operation a sustainable enterprise
* Can be transferred or taught to staff at other organizations or the Port

### Example activities:

Energy/Climate

* Reduced energy use and/or increased renewable energy sources in region
* Reduced greenhouse gas emissions in region
* Decreased greenhouse gas emissions or vehicle trips from employee commuting
* Adoption of construction methods or materials with documented reduction in embodied carbon
* Completed a plan for implementing energy conservation, fuel efficiency, renewable resource transition, or greenhouse gas reduction over a set timeline
* Switch to renewable fuels or electric models for equipment or fleet vehicles
* Conduct a greenhouse gas or air pollution emissions inventory to determine a baseline and set reduction targets
* Meets a threshold of 50%, 75% or 100% use of renewable energy or fuels in local or regional operations

Water

* Reduced water use
* Improved quality of water discharged to surface streams

Waste

* Reduced waste generation
* Increased recycling or other waste diversion strategies
* Increased food waste recovery through prevention, donation, or composting/anaerobic digestion
* Eliminated or reduced single-use plastics
* Prioritized reusable products or packaging to prevent waste
* Reduced hazardous/universal waste generation

Pollution/Remediation

* Completed a voluntary environmental cleanup project
* Enhanced air quality by decreasing airborne particulates

Natural Resources/Habitat

* Completed an environmental restoration or enhancement project
* Installed native riparian or upland vegetation with habitat value that also filters storm water
* Achievements that meet independent environmental certification programs such as EnviroStars, Salmon-Safe or Green Marine

### 2 - Category: Environmental Education and Outreach

The nominee’s activity increased awareness of environmental stewardship and/or raised awareness of environmental issues and practices, and is expected to accrue future direct benefits to the environment, economy and community.

### Criteria:

* Will result in potential long-term benefits to the environment
* Contributes to environmental education and awareness with emphasis on youth participation
* Informs and educates others about environmentally responsible practices, or empowers others to enhance the quality of the environment for local and regional communities
* Is not required by law, regulation or permit, and is not undertaken simply to bring the tenant, business or organization up to minimum compliance standards
* Will result in measurable and sustainable economic and community benefits
* Promotes public awareness or education, or the activity includes employee training or technology transfer of new techniques, practices and initiatives
* Can be transferred or taught to staff at other organizations or the Port

### Example activities:

* Exemplary employee training program, incentive structure, or outreach to encourage adoption of sustainable commute benefits
* Public education awareness programs
* Public outreach programs that emphasize environmental sustainability within tenant leased spaces or directed at improving maritime industry practices
* Involvement in groups that support community, watershed management, schools, youth or equity/diversity/inclusion
* Involvement with the Port on key environmental projects or activities

### 3 - Category: Environmental Innovation

The nominee’s activity highlights a creative and/or ‘first-of-its-kind’ approach to identifying and/or solving an environmental issue and results in a measurable direct or projected benefit to the environment.

### Criteria:

* Displays leadership and innovation and shows success in the context of how, where, what, or when it was applied on maritime properties
* Contributes to the nominee’s environmental performance. Note that the innovation might not have been primarily applied to improve environmental performance, but ultimately did, or is projected to result in a benefit to the environment
* Results in a measurable direct or projected benefit to the environment, and improvement in the nominee's environmental performance through quantitative “before and after” data
* Demonstrates new, effective and potentially scalable techniques or actions to improve the quality of the air, water, land, habitat, and/or natural resources, and/or achieve decarbonization
* Reduces negative effects and disruption of sensitive habitats and at-risk plants and animals
* Reduces environmental impacts and pollution on communities and sensitive habitats
* Is not required by law, regulation, or permit, and is not undertaken simply to bring the tenant, business or organization up to minimum compliance standards
* Will result in economic and community benefits, and contributes to making an organization or tenant’s operation a sustainable enterprise
* Can be transferred or taught to staff at other organizations or the Port

### Example activities:

* Launch a zero-emission technology or maritime fuels demonstration project
* Design or develop a zero-emission building or facility
* Construction techniques
* Operational procedures or changes
* Material uses
* Technologies or practices that demonstrate new, effective and scalable innovative techniques to reduce noise pollution and other negative operations in underwater or sensitive habitats
* Involvement with community stakeholders that resulted in an innovative business approach
* Design or use of equipment or supplies
* A change in a typical business procedure or process
* A new commute benefit or program that helps employees get to work more sustainably

### 4 - Category: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The nominee’s activity results in a direct, measurable benefit to historically marginalized communities (e.g., communities of color and immigrant and refugee communities).

### Criteria:

* Displays specific, strategic community engagement plan to involve historically marginalized communities in some or all the activity/project and can articulate why the level of community involvement was chosen.
* Results in a measurable, direct benefit to historically marginalized communities.
* Historically marginalized communities were involved, in some capacity, in the planning, creation, and/or execution of the project.
* Is not required by law, regulation, or permit, and is not undertaken simply to bring the nominee up to minimum compliance standards
* Will result in economic and community benefits, especially for historically marginalized communities, and contributes to making the nominee’s operation a sustainable enterprise
* Contributes to the nominee’s internal efforts to model and practice equity, diversity, and inclusion

### Example activities:

* Ways to engage diverse communities (e.g., community outreach strategies, translated materials, community input and involvement in the project)
* Operational procedures or changes to make activities more accessible and inclusive
* Involvement with community stakeholders that resulted in a community-drive approach
* A change in data collection to understand community vulnerabilities across different demographics, especially race
* A change in business procedure or process to build awareness, understanding, and analysis among nominee’s employees regarding the connecting between environmental sustainability and racial equity