The Pacific Northwest is a maritime fueling hub for a range of vessel types essential to trade, tourism, and commerce. Washington’s maritime industry generates over $45.9 billion in total revenue, supports 174,300 jobs and $14.4 billion in labor income.

In 2019, international bunker fuels sold in Washington resulted in approximately 6.8 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, an amount equivalent to 16% of total Washington transportation sector emissions.

In 2019, an estimated 538 million gallons of maritime fuels were supplied in Washington.

Pollution from fossil maritime fuels like diesel, heavy fuel oil, and marine gas oil is concentrated around ports and contributes to health disparities in near-port communities which rank among the highest in diesel pollution and disproportionate impact by the Department of Health’s Environmental Health Disparities Map.

The Sustainable Maritime Fuels Collaborative will deliver policy recommendations and a framework to accelerate maritime innovation projects and sustainable maritime fuel use in Washington.
THE ASK:
BUILDING MARITIME CAPACITY FOR THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

The Port of Seattle and founding partners are requesting $250,000 in State funding for fiscal year 2024 to support the development of the Sustainable Maritime Fuels Collaborative.

An appropriation would provide for the State to contract with a non-profit entity representing the maritime industry to publish a strategic framework regarding the production, supply and use of sustainable maritime fuels and deployment of low and zero-emissions vessel technologies in Washington. Funding would be used for activities to include convening stakeholders and building organizational capacity. Stakeholder engagement would include, at a minimum, engagement with federal and state agencies, ports, industry, labor, research institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and relevant federally recognized tribes. A copy of the strategic framework and findings would be provided to the Legislature and Governor by June 30, 2025.

Work on the Sustainable Maritime Fuels Collaborative is starting now and investment is required to support foundational planning and organizational capacity building to help achieve the transition to a sustainable maritime future in Washington.

EARLY ACTION

- **September 2023**: Non-profit RMI, with funding from Breakthrough Energy, in collaboration with founding partners and the Washington State Department of Commerce launched a Sustainable Marine Fuels Roadmap study to assess the maritime fuels landscape and pathways for zero emissions fuel supply in the Pacific Northwest.

- **October 2023**: Washington Maritime Blue, the Port of Seattle, and the Pacific Northwest National Lab led an “author’s convening” bringing together national labs, Washington Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Maersk McKinney Moeller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, RMI, the Northwest Seaport Alliance, and other experts to share and coordinate maritime decarbonization studies underway in the Pacific Northwest.

- **December 2023**: Sustainable Marine Fuels Roadmap study partners convened a workshop with over 50 representatives from maritime, fuel, technology, environmental, research, federal agency and others to provide input into the fuel pathway study and related supply constraints.

FOUNDING PARTNERS

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