

# PORT CURRENTS

ACCELERATING CLEAN OPERATIONS AT THE PORT OF VIRGINIA

Issue #7 | December 2025

## Clean Ports Grant | Driving a Zero-Emission Future

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Ports Grant is helping us take a major step toward zero-emission operations. By replacing diesel equipment with battery-electric units, we're reducing emissions and delivering cleaner air for our communities.

### About the Clean Ports Program

The Clean Ports Program is a major step toward cleaner, more sustainable port operations nationwide.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 allocated \$3 billion to the EPA to fund zero-emission port equipment, infrastructure, as well as climate and air quality planning at U.S. ports. This program builds on EPA's Ports Initiative, which helps ports reduce public health and environmental impacts.

#### Clean Ports Program Goals:

- Position ports as leaders in air quality improvements
- Reduce diesel pollution in and around ports
- Make stakeholder engagement and emissions reduction planning standard practice

### Impact on Our Community

The Port of Virginia has been awarded \$313 million through the Clean Ports Program – and we are contributing an additional \$78 million to fund our project, GO-Zero Now. This project accelerates our commitment to achieve Net-Zero emissions by 2040—the earliest pledge on the U.S. East Coast.

GO-Zero Now will:

- Replace diesel-powered equipment with zero-emission alternatives
- Build infrastructure to support clean energy
- Deliver cleaner air for neighborhoods near our ports

GO-Zero Now is part of our long-standing commitment to sustainability. Since 2008, we've worked to reduce emissions by replacing aging diesel equipment with cleaner equipment. The EPA Clean Ports investment in Go-Zero Now will accelerate emissions reductions at The Port of Virginia, creating near immediate fuel savings and community health benefits.

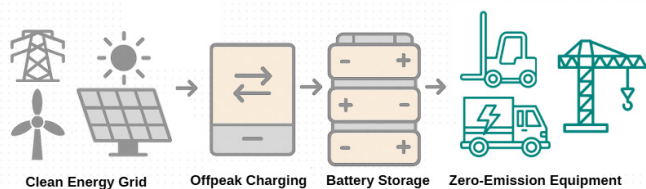
### Did You Know?

#### Tech Spotlight: Battery Storage Basics for Port Equipment

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are essential for achieving zero-emission port operations. These systems enable the port to manage power consumption as defined by the electric utility.

Here's why it matters:

- What is battery storage? Systems that store electricity for later use, powering electric cranes, trucks, and other equipment – even during peak demand.
- Why is it important? Ports rely on heavy-duty equipment that needs consistent power. Battery storage ensures reliable clean energy for zero-emission operations.
- How does it work? Large-scale batteries are able to charge from clean energy sources during off-peak hours and discharge when equipment needs it most – keeping operations smooth and efficient.
- Port benefits: Safer operations, improved efficiency, and competitive sustainability
- Community benefits: Cleaner air, quieter operations, and progress toward sustainable freight movement.



**Community Spotlight:**  
Highlighting efforts that create lasting benefits.

### Cleaner Waterways

Beyond clean energy and zero-emission equipment, we're committed to the health of Virginia's waterways. In partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and like-minded businesses, we've:

- Planted over 1,000 native wetland plants to create a 158-foot living shoreline
- Built 260 reef balls for oyster restoration in the James River.

These efforts improve water quality, protect wildlife, and strengthen coastal ecosystems — supporting healthier communities across the Commonwealth.

[Find out how to get involved with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.](#)



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## Stay Connected

Our Go-Zero Now project marks a transformative moment for The Port of Virginia and our surrounding communities. With \$313 million in grant funding, we're accelerating our path to Net-Zero by 2040—replacing diesel equipment, building clean energy infrastructure, and delivering cleaner air for our communities. This is more than an investment in technology; it's an investment in health, sustainability, and the future of freight movement.

We're excited to share our progress with you. Stay tuned for quarterly updates as we continue building a cleaner, greener future for our port team, partners, and communities.

## Read More

[EPA Clean Ports Program](#)

[How Does a Battery Energy Storage System Work?](#)

[Port of Virginia Current News](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

## Progress Toward Net-Zero

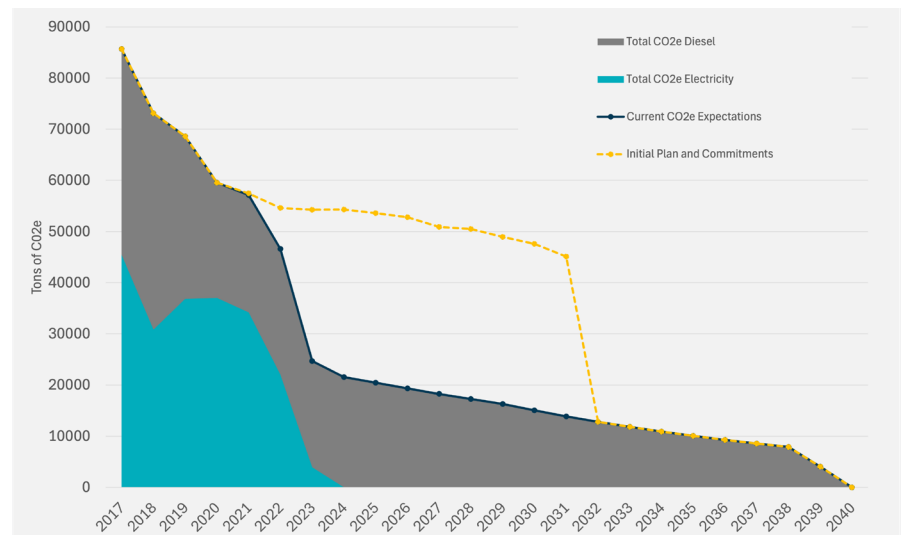
The Port of Virginia is committed to Net-Zero by 2040. Even as cargo volumes have grown since 2017, our carbon emissions have decreased thanks to electrification and clean energy integration.

### Powered by 100% Clean Energy

On January 1, 2024, we began meeting all electric energy requirements with 100% clean energy through agreements with Dominion Energy and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative – eight years ahead of schedule.

### By The Numbers:

- 75% reduction in total carbon emissions since 2017
- 3.5M TEUs handled in 2024 while powering all terminals with clean energy



In 2024, we handled more than 3.5M TEUS while powering all our terminals with 100% clean energy. Because of this transition and the electrification of our operations fleet to hybrid or electric equipment, the port has achieved a 75% reduction in total carbon emissions from our 2017 baseline.