THE PORT OF VIRGINIA
AMERICA'S MOST MODERN GATEWAY

PORT CURRENTS

ACCELERATING CLEAN OPERATIONS AT THE PORT OF VIRGINIA

Issue #9 | June 2026

Clean Ports Grant — Driving A Zero-Emission Future

At The Port of Virginia, our commitment to building a cleaner, healthier future is taking shape through bold investments in electrification. By transitioning equipment to battery-electric power, we're reducing emissions, improving air quality, and strengthening the well being of the communities we serve. These efforts deliver real, measurable benefits for our neighbors across Hampton Roads and beyond.

Clean Ports Grant Supports New Top Loaders and Reach Stackers

As part of our continued commitment to cleaner, more efficient operations, The Port of Virginia is advancing the next phase of its sustainability efforts through the EPA's Clean Ports Program. With support from this federal grant, the port is moving forward with the procurement of new battery-electric top loaders and reach stackers that will further reduce air pollution and strengthen the environmental performance of our day to day operations. These new units will go into service at Norfolk International Terminals and Richmond Marine Terminal over the next several years.

The Virginia Port Authority's Board of Commissioners recently approved the acquisition of this equipment, marking another important step in our long term strategy to modernize our fleet and reduce emissions across our terminals.

Did You Know?

Improvements to air quality from the electrification of equipment directly improves local air quality, delivering meaningful benefits to the communities surrounding The Port of Virginia. As more of our equipment transitions to cleaner battery-electric power, emissions continue to drop – creating healthier air for our neighbors and a stronger environmental foundation for the region.

By replacing diesel-powered equipment with zero-emission electric models, the port is eliminating on-site emissions of key air pollutants including CO2, NOx, SOx, and particulate matter (PM). Because electric equipment does not burn diesel fuel, these pollutants are removed entirely from day-to-day operations. While CO2 is often the most recognized measure of air pollution, NOx, SOx, and PM are closely linked to respiratory conditions and asthma. Reducing these emissions supports the port's net-zero commitment and helps protect the health of our colleagues and the surrounding communities.

In addition, through a Power Purchase Agreement with Dominion Energy, the port purchases 100% clean electricity to power this equipment, ensuring that the benefits of electrification extend well beyond the terminal gates.

Clean The Bay Day

The Port of Virginia once again participated in the Chesapeake Bay Foundations annual Clean the Bay Day, continuing a long-standing commitment to protecting our waterways. This year, port colleagues partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard to clean an area of Portsmouth Marine Terminal (PMT) near the Midtown Tunnel. Together, the team removed 35 cubic yards (equivalent to 500 standard bags of store bought mulch) of plastics, large wood debris, and other trash and marine debris from the site.

For several years, port colleagues have returned to this location, where fall and winter weather patterns often push debris from the Elizabeth River into the area. Community members can help by ensuring trash is properly collected around homes and businesses. Stormwater drains throughout Hampton Roads flow directly into local waterways, adversely impacting water quality and habitat.

Due to these ongoing cleanup efforts, the port has seen a voluntary return of native tidal grasses along the PMT shoreline over the past four years, a promising sign of improving ecological health.

Sarah McCoy Named New CEO & Executive of The Port of Virginia

The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) Board of Commissioners selected Sarah J. McCoy as the next chief executive officer of The Port of Virginia®. She has been serving as interim CEO and executive director since January 2026.

McCoy, 40, joined the VPA 12 years ago. Before assuming the role of interim CEO, she was the VPA's general counsel from 2017 to 2022 and subsequently served as chief administrative officer. In those roles she oversaw legal strategy, human resources, risk management, procurement, contracts and enterprise governance.

"I am honored to serve as the CEO of one of the Commonwealth's leading economic engines," McCoy said. "We have the infrastructure, people and performance to continue defining the future of American trade, and that's exactly what we're going to do. I look forward to putting these advantages to work to attract business to Virginia and continue delivering for our customers and communities across Virginia."

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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 are 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 are 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. If you have questions or would like to share feedback, please reach out to us at: publicaffairs@portofvirginia.com

Read More

EPA Clean Ports Program

Port of Virginia Current News

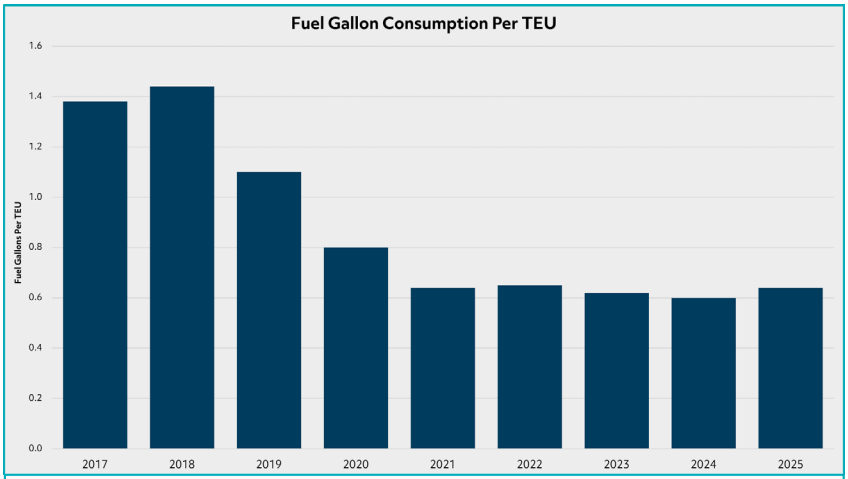
Progress Toward Net-Zero

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.

Sustainability Highlights

The port has developed a new Sustainability Dashboard, which can be found on our website at https://www.portofvirginia.com/gateway/sustainability-dashboard/.

Through our ongoing efforts to replace aging diesel equipment with lower emission alternatives, the Port has achieved a 75% reduction in total carbon emissions from its 2017 baseline. This progress reflects a more than 45% decrease in overall diesel consumption and a more than 50% reduction in fuel use per TEU.



A twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) is a unit of volume equal to one standard 20-foot shipping container. Used to measure cargo volume, this allows the port to measure its efficiency in terms of fuel used or carbon emitted against cargo moved.

The Port continues to advance its emission reduction goals by moving toward implementation of the Clean Ports grant, with related infrastructure improvements currently in the design phase.