

# SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES IN CANADIAN PORTS



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***Acknowledging that ports are intrinsically linked to Canadian social and economic growth as well as global sustainability, this paper evaluates the sustainability mechanisms and environmental performances of 18 major Canadian ports.***

## **APPROACH:**

Twenty-five pre-defined indicators were used to identify operational trends linked to port sustainability. Data was collected through desktop review by examining annual performance reports (over eight years) published by Green Marine (GM) to assess trends in environmental performance amongst Canadian port authorities.

## **MAIN FINDINGS:**

- All Canadian ports will need to integrate sustainability and participate in GM to improve environmental performance and remain competitive in the global maritime supply chain.
- While all Canadian port participate in GM programs, only 7 of the 18 proactively integrated sustainability initiatives into their operations.
  - In order to meet global sustainability requirements, all Canadian ports need to move beyond compliance and fully integrate sustainability into daily operations.
  - It is recommended that relevant federal and provincial governments and organizations assist ports in moving forward.
- The ports of Halifax, Montreal, Vancouver, Quebec, and Prince Rupert were found to be the most proactive at taking strategic initiatives to improve environmental performance compared to their Canadian peers.
- The paper also provides insights on local community outreach, the prevalence of environmental effect monitoring and other detailed insights on trends in sustainability trends in Canadian ports.
- The majority of Candian ports acknowledge the benefit of GM certifiability for displaying environmental stewardship
- Sustainability initiatives included environmental policy development, environmental monitoring, proactive energy management, stakeholder engagement, incentivizing sustainability for port users, enhanced environmental reporting, and on-going research and development.