

ROLE OF SUSTAINABILITY IN GLOBAL SEAPORTS



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This study provides an overview of global port sustainability initiatives and their rate of adoption.

APPROACH:

Data was collected through publicly available web-based resources comparing 36 global ports in North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific. The authors evaluate the environmental sustainability of each port by evaluating their usage of 25 environmental indicators and whether or not they had been adopted by the port.

MAIN FINDINGS:

- EU ports generally have stronger sustainability practices than their North American or Asian Pacific counterparts. Evidence suggests this is likely due to the strong influence of EU directives and the European Sea Ports Organization.
- Ports with higher sustainability ratings were also found to be involved with inter-agency collaboration and shared knowledge networks.
- Many ports were found to progress on research and development, stakeholder participation, wildlife protection, environmental performance disclosure, and providing incentives to port users for better environmental performance.
- Many ports are still lagging behind in taking initiatives related to energy management, certification, sustainability reporting, and climate change adaptation.