

Evaluating the Efficacy of Sustainability Initiatives in the Canadian Port Sector



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Canadian Port Authorities (CPAs) rely on the Green Marine Environmental Program (GMEP) to assess the success of their environmental programs. Given the prevalence of the program as a tool for defining the sustainability of CPAs, this study examines the GMEP criteria to determine whether it is an effective criteria for sustainability.

APPROACH:

This study identifies links between the GMEP Performance Indicators (PIs) and the relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UN SDG) targets. The presence or absence of these links is used to determine whether the GMEP is an effective tool for CPAs to assess sustainability in its broader context

MAIN FINDINGS:

- Results indicate that there are significant gaps in the GMEP, with only 14 of 36 relevant SDG targets being directly linked to the program. This suggests either an expansion of the role of GMEP to incorporate broader sustainability goals, or the development and implementation of a new framework for CPAs to incorporate the full range of relevant SDGs to the port sector.
- Updates to the GMEP should include:
 - Address the absence of increasing the use of renewable energy and building capacity for climate change adaptation and resilient infrastructure.
 - A focus on reporting all scopes for emissions and air pollutants, as well as improving green procurement across all operations (not just administrative) of the CPA.
 - Shifting to include social dimensions of sustainability like partnerships with local communities and Indigenous communities.