



I2S2

International Institute of  
Sustainable Seaports

### ***What is the International Institute for Sustainable Seaports (I2S2)?***

The I2S2 is the *Institute for Sustainable Seaports*. It is a non-profit **Center of Excellence** specifically designed to support port authorities, their tenants and members of the maritime community implement sustainable practices - ensuring economic vitality, while protecting environmental quality and community integrity.

### ***Why an International Institute for Sustainable Seaports?***

In this climate of economic downturn, seaport trade and commerce is competing with increased pressure on the environment and the communities surrounding ports. *Increasing* regulatory oversight; *increasing* challenges to development; *increasing* labor and fuel costs are just some of the issues facing seaports communities today. These factors have made it a necessity to change the traditional way of doing business. The port and maritime sector require a “sustainable” course of action that allows for economic benefits without impacting the integrity of the environment and its communities.

The I2S2 supplies port-specific, sustainability-related tools, information, data exchange, networks, best practices and innovative technology information that members of the maritime industry can integrate into their strategic planning and business operations. The I2S2 helps ports determine what works and what do not work to leverage successes and avoid problems.

### ***What is the Mission of the I2S2?***

The mission of the *International Institute for Sustainable Seaports* is to promote the understanding and adoption of sustainable practices by seaports and members of the maritime industry in order to achieve long-term environmental health, economic growth and vitality, and community responsibility.

### ***How does Sustainability Support Successful Port Management?***

The impact of climate change and the global economic downturn are daily reminders to ports of the need to change “business as usual”. The pressures to integrate the global supply chain; the need for greater port expansion; and the immediate requirement to preserve natural resources require strong leadership and innovative techniques. Operating sustainably offers ports the opportunity to implement state-of-the-art best practices and approaches that heighten operational efficiencies and increase cost savings. Members of the maritime industry must assure lawmakers, communities and other stakeholders that the best available technologies and approaches are being applied and integrated within their strategic planning process in order to maintain their “license to operate”. Using a sustainability-based, life-cycle approach, ports can enhance their economic viability while existing responsibly within their larger community. Implementing sustainable practices helps ports:

- ✓ Reduce environmental impacts
- ✓ Minimize operational inefficiencies
- ✓ Reduce costs
- ✓ Recognize resource scarcity
- ✓ Address increased community concerns
- ✓ Identify and communicate their positive contributions
- ✓ Develop time-tested solutions – not quick fixes
- ✓ Ensure prosperity and livability for the port community as a whole

### ***What Services and Resources does the I2S2 Provide?***

The *International Institute for Sustainable Seaports* provides experienced resources and a peer to peer network for ports and their partners to exchange keys to success, lessons learned and cost effective approaches for implementing sustainable practices. The *I2S2* provides a policy level platform for ports to work collaboratively together on developing best practices. The *I2S2* helps ports to define sustainable solutions that proactively address long-range issues and demonstrates leadership.

The *I2S2* is a resource for sustainability training and facilitation. *I2S2* staff have real-world experience in implementing and applying sustainable practices within the port and maritime industry. The *I2S2* provides expertise, resources and tools to help ports answer questions such as:

- How can a port define its sustainability vision and integrate it into the strategic planning process?
- How can a port address social impacts, challenges, and future expectations while ensuring economic vitality?
- What initiatives should a port pursue to meet its sustainability objectives?
- What resources are needed?
- How can a port integrate programs and policies to be consistent?
- What are the tools a port can employ to meet its sustainability objectives?
- How can a port measure its success?
- How does a port engage stakeholders?

The *I2S2* houses a website dedicated solely to providing sustainable practices information, field test-tools and materials to support implementation by ports and members of the maritime community. The site contains case studies, white papers, sample documents, presentations, templates, indicators and metrics. The data within the clearinghouse is dynamic – real-time information on best practices and approaches that is easily accessible, cost effective and port industry focused. A robust, electronic clearinghouse allows for the rapid exchange of information by and between port users. The private password protected portion of the site allows ports a secure environment for information exchange, document posting and sharing, and communication by and among the members.

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