



PRESS RELEASE

Kitsap Transit bases meet global standard for sustainability

September 14, 2018

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BREMERTON, Wash. – Effective today, Kitsap Transit’s Charleston and North Viking bases are certified under a globally recognized, rigorous standard for environmental sustainability.

The ISO 14001:2015 certification of the environmental management system at the two bases is a rarity: Kitsap Transit is one of only a handful of transits on the West Coast and one of 3,032 organizations in the United States that meet an international gold standard for managing, measuring and reducing impact on the environment.

“We are proud to be part of the vanguard that is applying a sustainability lens to business decisions,” said John Clauson, the agency’s Executive Director. “This is a huge accomplishment for Kitsap Transit.”

The certification covers public transit vehicle staging, fueling, lubrication, washing, maintenance, dispatch, and administrative support activities. It indicates the agency is meeting or exceeding federal recommendations for environmental sustainability.

This is the first time the North Viking base in Poulsbo, opened in December 2016, has been certified to ISO 14001. The Charleston base was certified in 2015 under the ISO’s 2004 standard. Under the new 2015 standard, organizations must demonstrate that top leadership has a commitment to environmental sustainability in business decisions and include interested stakeholders in their decision-making processes. Kitsap Transit met this standard by, among other things, surveying the community about its priorities for protecting the environment.

The independent review by SAI Global of Kitsap Transit’s environmental management practices took place in July. While the certification covers only the Charleston and North Viking bases, Kitsap Transit is expanding efforts to embed the same approaches throughout the agency, most recently focusing on ferry fueling operations, said Vici McDonald, Kitsap Transit’s ESMS coordinator.



Since 2013, Kitsap Transit has made operational changes that have reduced our carbon-dioxide footprint by more than 5.8 million cubic feet (a 4 percent decrease overall). The agency achieved this reduction over time with a number of strategies:

- Idle time: In 2014 the agency implemented a policy of limit engine idling during the startup of Worker/Driver buses to no more than 10 minutes.
- Propane: The agency introduced propane-fueled vehicles to its fleet in 2015. Kitsap Transit has 25 propane buses and 4 support vehicles so far and has placed orders for additional ones.
- Electric: In 2018 the agency put into service its first fully electric bus and anticipates operating the first hybrid-electric ferry on the Puget Sound in 2019.
- Newer buses: Replacing older 35-foot diesel coaches with 29-foot ones with more efficient engines.

To learn more about Kitsap Transit's environmental sustainability efforts, visit <http://kitsaptransit.com/environment>.

About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.59 million riders in 2017 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

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