



LIVABLE CITY YEAR 2017-2018
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CITY OF TACOMA

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the City of Tacoma for providing this opportunity for students of UW Tacoma’s Urban Studies Program to work on important questions related to planning for urban industry in Tacoma. This is a pivotal moment for urban industry in the city and the students in this class are grateful for the opportunity to become meaningfully involved. In particular, we would like to thank Stephen Atkinson for his time, attention, and guidance. Stephen helped shape this project from conception through completion; none of this work would have been possible without his thoughtful leadership. Lauren Flemister, Pat Beard, and others representing other departments of the City also deserve thanks for their support and feedback on student presentations. This has been a tremendous learning experience and we thank all who helped bring the project to fruition.

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ABOUT LIVABLE CITY YEAR

The University of Washington's Livable City Year (LCY) initiative enables local governments to engage UW faculty and students for one academic year to work on city-defined projects that promote local sustainability and livability goals. The program engages hundreds of students each year in high-priority projects, creating momentum on real-world challenges while enabling the students to serve and learn from communities. Partner cities benefit directly from bold and applied ideas that propel fresh thinking, improve livability for residents and invigorate city staff. Focus areas include environmental sustainability; economic viability; population health; and social equity, inclusion, and access. The program's 2017–2018 partner is the City of Tacoma; this follows a partnership with the City of Auburn in 2016–2017.

The LCY program is led by faculty directors Branden Born (Department of Urban Design and Planning), Jennifer Otten (School of Public Health) and Anne Taufen (Urban Studies Program, UW Tacoma), with support from Program Manager Teri Thomson Randall. The program was launched in 2016 in collaboration with UW Sustainability and Urban@UW, with foundational support from the Association of Washington Cities, the College of Built Environments, the Department of Urban Design and Planning, and Undergraduate Academic Affairs.

LCY is modeled after the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program, and is a member of the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N), the collection of institutions that have successfully adopted this new model for community innovation and change.

For more information, contact the program at uwlcy@uw.edu.



ABOUT TACOMA

The third largest city in the state of Washington, Tacoma is a diverse, progressive, international gateway to the Pacific Rim. The port city of nearly 210,000 people has evolved considerably over the last two decades, propelled by significant development including the University of Washington Tacoma, the Tacoma Link light rail system, the restored urban waterfront of the Thea Foss Waterway, the expansions of both the MultiCare and CHI Franciscan health systems, and a significant influx of foreign direct investment in its downtown core.

Washington State's highest density of art and history museums are found in Tacoma, which is home to a flourishing creative community of writers, artists, musicians, photographers, filmmakers, chefs, entrepreneurs, and business owners who each add their unique flair to the city's vibrant commercial landscape. The iconic Tacoma Dome has endured as a high-demand venue for some of the largest names in the entertainment industry.

A magnet for families looking for affordable single-family homes in the Puget Sound area, Tacoma also draws those seeking a more urban downtown setting with competitively priced condos and apartments that feature panoramic

TACOMA 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

The *Thea Foss Peninsula Manufacturing and Industrial Futures Study* project supports the Economy and Workforce goal of the Tacoma 2025 Strategic Plan and was sponsored by the City's Planning and Development Services Department and Community and Economic Development Services Department.

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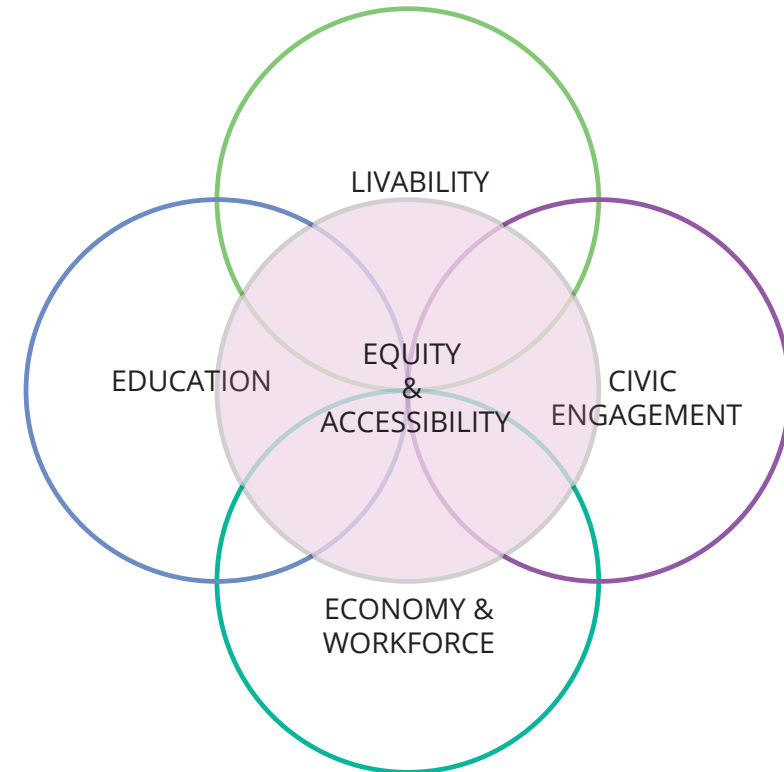
Goal #1 Livability
The City of Tacoma will be a city of choice in the region known for connected neighborhoods, accessible and efficient transportation transit options, and vibrant arts and culture. Residents will be healthy and have access to services and community amenities while maintaining affordability.
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Goal #2 Economy and Workforce
By 2025, Tacoma will be a growing economy where Tacoma residents can find livable wage jobs in key industry areas. Tacoma will be a place of choice for employers, professionals, and new graduates.
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Goal #3 Education
Tacoma will lead the region in educational attainment amongst youth and adults. In addition to producing more graduates from high school and college, more college graduates will find employment in the region. Lifelong learning and access to education will be prioritized and valued.
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Goal #4 Civic Engagement
Tacoma residents will be engaged participants in making Tacoma a well-run city. The leadership of the city, both elected and volunteer, will reflect the diversity of the city and residents and will fully participate in community decision-making.
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Goal #5 Equity and Accessibility
Tacoma will ensure that all residents are treated equitably and have access to services, facilities, and financial stability. Disaggregated data will be used to make decisions, direct funding, and develop strategies to address disparate outcomes.



RESOURCES

- Tacoma 2025 Strategic Plan:** https://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacoma_2025
- Planning and Development Services Department:**
[https://](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/planning_and_development_services)

HISTORY OF TACOMA’S URBAN INDUSTRY



1873: Northern Pacific Railroad comes to Tacoma



1880s: Lumber industry causes an economic boom



1940s: Tacoma’s port supports WWII efforts



1983: EPA designates Port of Tacoma part of the Commencement Bay Superfund site



2006: Site cleanup efforts conclude

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Many assume the future of industry will look like the past, but technological innovations can reduce the environmental impacts of industry.

Sustainability

Many assume the future of industry will look like the past, but technological innovations can reduce the environmental impacts of industry. For example, many industries increasingly use environmental sustainability as an opportunity to compete. In addition, moving industry elsewhere does not necessarily improve sustainability—it only pushes pollution to other places. Planners should focus on using existing technology to create sustainable urban industry in Tacoma, which will allow us to manage environmental impacts and reap the benefits that industry can bring.

Negative Perceptions

Negative perceptions persist around urban industry and often draw from negative outcomes of the past. These perceptions can make it challenging to effectively plan for urban industry. In order to successfully confront negative perceptions, improved communication and knowledge-sharing around the viability, creativity, and sustainability potentials of urban industry is critical.

Later in this report, we highlight public comments regarding urban industry in Tacoma. These comments reveal that many residents have a negative perception of industry due to the city's industrial past and are opposed to fossil fuel industries at the tideflats. Public uncertainty adds to the opposition to urban industry and tideflat development, and this uncertainty is heightened when planning proposals trigger past industrial images and experiences.

In the remainder of the report, we present an analysis of perceptions of urban industry in Tacoma, case studies from other cities, and opportunities for Tacoma to address these challenges. Below, we present current trends in port planning that can also help to confront these challenges and influence better perceptions of desirability, feasibility and viability of urban industry.

EMERGING TRENDS

Sustainable manufacturing, green ports, and industrial advocacy and collaboration are three important emerging trends in industry.

Green Ports

To combat the all-too familiar criticism that ports and port infrastructure are environmentally unfriendly, the idea of sustainable “green ports” has emerged. Green ports “form their policies and establish an efficient system for monitoring energy and water consumption, including indicators of urban environment quality (air quality, water, energy, and water use).” (Pavlic, Cepak, Sucic, Peckaj, Kandus 2014). This is a process that comes from the top down, meaning that there is a fundamental shift that needs to happen within current management and planning practices of ports if we want to fundamentally transform existing ports.

Partnerships/Advocacy

Globalization has created significant pressure from larger firms whose capital is more mobile than smaller, local firms. The exit of larger firms can have negative impacts on the smaller firms left behind. Organizations and incubators—including city-, regional, and state- government, nonprofit, or for-profit—can step in to help them maintain and facilitate growth.

These efforts on the behalf of planners and individual entities alike help to ensure retention and expansion for local industrial businesses. Incubators can assist these businesses in supplying affordable production space, investment capital, and help to transition these incubators into startups. Through collaboration and community support partnerships stabilize urban industry in their city and organize like thoughts and ideas to meet a shared goal so that companies and the city can thrive together.

The availability of a pre-existing skilled workforce can also be critical in ensuring that industries are viable. With the advancement of technology, there has been a rise in demand for STEM workers within the industrial workforce, which presents both a challenge and an opportunity. While most STEM-related jobs do not require a four-year degree, many do require some training. This training is especially important in low-income communities where the

public’s views on urban industry and identify common themes, tensions, concerns, and expectations.

METHODOLOGY

Documents were gathered from several different forums, including oral and written correspondence pertaining to the proposed methanol, LNG facility, Tideflats Interim Regulations, and multiple Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) meetings of the proposals. Of 452 comments gathered over the last two years, we opted to randomly generate a representative sample of 136 comments, which we then organized and sorted. While the comments are complex and do not easily fall into strict categories, this categorization allowed us to graph the data and analyze patterns throughout the comments.

Though the 162 analyzed comments are a representative sample, in future a comprehensive analysis could provide researchers with more specific insight and action plans. While this was not feasible in the time allotted, we documented our process with great detail, and—should the City choose to continue this process—there is a strong foundation to build from.

RECENT PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS

Public comments were submitted in response to three planning events connected with urban industry in the tideflats. Here, we provide a brief background of these events:

Methanol Plant Proposal

In 2013, Northwest Innovation Works proposed to build the world’s largest Methanol production plant at the Port of Tacoma. In a 45-day scoping period, residents could attend public meetings, held on January 21, February 10, and February 24, and also submit written comments by March 4, 2016. Northwest Innovation Works requested the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental review be put on hold, and the last scoping meeting was canceled, resulting in the project application process to be halted.

Data reflects
a significant
disconnect
between the
planning process
and the public.

Put another way, a critical incentive to maintain safe operations has been undermined and rendered largely useless” (comment 85 2/10/16 EIS). “Specifically, I am a strong supporter of maintaining an industrial base called the tideflats here, from the Foss Waterway over to the Hylebos. We need to preserve that as heavy industrial area. If you look at what is happening in Seattle, has happened to SODO, Georgetown, those areas, that light manufacturing, heavy industry is being pushed out by urbanization and gentrification.” (comment 47 2/10/16 EIS).

Opposition to Fossil Fuel Industry

“Please work quickly to immediately implement interim regulations to pause new fossil fuel projects now. With this protection in place, we can then take the necessary time to address other issues and long-term solutions.” (comment 170 Tideflats Interim Regulations - part one).

“Since the citizen opposition to a methanol plant in Tacoma, it is very obvious to me that the Tacoma community, my community, wants their city’s economic future to look different than the past. We want a cleaner and sustainable future where the inherent value of the environment is recognized, protected and leveraged. ” (comment 144 Tideflats Interim Regulations - part one).

Pro-Fossil Fuel Industry

“I strongly believe that LNG is going to serve an important role in our transportation systems here and across the country in the future, due to its unique physical characteristics and transport advantages, cost-benefit advantages, and environmental benefits compared to other fuels.” (comment 9 LNG EIS)

“When

INTRODUCTION

Because of its potential to contribute to local economic development, local industrial job creation is a priority for many economic development planners. A well-trained manufacturing workforce can have a significant economic impact due to its utilization of other sectors, and manufacturing is often at the forefront of innovation, research, and development (Leigh n.d.). In addition, these employment opportunities are often high paying, and the completion of a short-term certification program is often sufficient to access employment in the sector, promoting equitable community development for residents without a college degree (Wiederwohl 2016). However, the notion that manufacturing and vocational training are no longer applicable in today's society has led to a disinterest in the sector, resulting in a shortage of high-skilled workers that manufacturers are seeking (Means 2018).

This is where local partnerships between cities, regional organizations, educational institutions, and local enterprises can fill the gap. By prioritizing workforce development, particularly in advanced manufacturing, cities have the potential to act as innovative leaders while establishing themselves as global competitors. In the two following cases, cities developed partnerships with outside organizations and institutions to promote and provide workforce training for manufacturing. In presenting these two cases, we emphasize the benefits of implementing training programs to build a stable and innovative workforce.

By prioritizing workforce development, particularly in advanced manufacturing, cities have the potential to simultaneously act as innovative leaders and establish themselves as global competitors.

CASE STUDY: PORT SAN ANTONIO

Port San Antonio is a multi-use industrial complex. The Port “collaborate[s] with an array of nationally-renowned educational partners to help customers identify and recruit new talent, as

LOUISVILLE CITY

CASE STUDY: LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

According to Kotkin (2017), Louisville-Jefferson County is the number one manufacturing city in the United States. Therefore, in order to remain globally competitive, workforce development is a major priority for the city, particularly in advanced manufacturing (Wiederwohl 2016). Currently, about 12% of the city's workforce is employed in the manufacturing sector (Selko 2017). Primary players in Louisville's manufacturing workforce development includes KentuckianaWorks, the parent organization of the Kentucky Manufacturing Career Center, (KMCC) and the Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (KY FAME). Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) has also made extended efforts at the high school level to train and promote manufacturing as a possible career path, as has Louisville Forward, the city's economic and community development department.

KentuckianaWorks

KentuckianaWorks defines itself as “the workforce development board for the Louisville Region” with a mission to “engage employers, educators, and job seekers with resources to build a stronger community through the dignity of work” (KentuckianaWorks, n.d.). Louisville is one of the regional cities within the state of Kentucky that uses KentuckianaWorks to address local workforce development goals. It is funded at the federal, state and local levels, including from the Louisville Metro Government. The organization is the founder of the Kentucky Manufacturing Career Center (KMCC), which according to KMCC (2017), is the organization's “first industry focused career center.” Programs offered include:

- Manufacturing Training and Employment Connection: A 2-week program that allows potential employees to earn valued certificates such as an OSHA 10 Card, certification in forklift driving or lean manufacturing, with the potential to connect with area employers.
- Certified Production Technician: This month-long program focuses on the safety and quality of manufacturing process and maintenance.
-

INTRODUCTION

Green ports originated in Europe in the 1990s, and the concept has become increasingly popular in the United States (Mayet 2017). Typically, the greening of ports includes both a process and ongoing evaluation to ensure that environmentally-friendly standards are created and maintained. In addition to promoting sustainable development, green ports also highlight economic efficiency (Thermal Science 2014). Usually, this process requires major players to come together and agree on the green port concept and how to implement it. In addition, several cities that have worked to green their ports have been more successful in gaining community support for port projects.

This section discusses two sustainability certifications that may be relevant for the Port of Tacoma: Green Ports and the Leadership in Energy and Environment (LEED) program.

BACKGROUND

In 1992, the European Commission adopted the Habitats Directive, which was the first step that Europe made towards creating a green port. In 1994, the European Sea Port Organization (ESPO) went further to create standards and management systems to decide when a port is to be declared as a green port.

During this time, a Self-Diagnosis Method (SDM) was proposed to help ports to assess their environmental situations and plan for the future. The SDM checklist helps to measure a port to declare whether or not it meets green port standards, or Environmental Management System (EMS) and from this test certifications were created. International standards, called the Port Environmental Review System (PERS) were also set. Ports that want to be certified as green ports now can attain these certifications and standards. After ports are certified, they are formally recognized on the website of the independent, neutral nonprofit ECOSLC and become part of the global Eco Ports network.

Brooklyn Navy Yard also invests in the local community. They advance economic opportunity at the Yard by “reaching out to and partnering with the local community to create meaningful connections with the residents and the jobs.” They collaborate with stakeholders to expand the types and quality of opportunities available by ensuring that local, minority, and women-owned businesses have access to the development and construction opportunities the Yard presents.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard continues to expand its manufacturing offerings, including a recent emphasis on wind and solar powered energy manufacturing, which led to their support of Duggal Eco-Solutions, a tenant that helped to create the multi-tenanted green industrial building. In 2011, the Brooklyn Navy Yard rehabilitated Building 92, turning it into a LEED-platinum exhibition, visitor, and employment center, which provides enhanced job placement services. The historic landmark achieves their community engagement goals, teaching visitors and residents about the history of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and their efforts.

By serving as a multi-purpose facilitator and incubator, the Brooklyn Navy Yard has successfully promoted manufacturing and urban industrial opportunities in New York City.

Lessons Learned

Community Driven: These case studies illustrate the importance of focusing on benefits to existing residents and communities through workforce development and employment opportunities.

Intermediaries: These organizations bring nonprofits, communities, and firms together to enable manufacturers to flourish. They also organize common ideas shared between companies and city organizations to meet a common goal.

Collaboration: Strong connections between people and resources is the only way to enact change. Being able to have partners who can provide goods and services is necessary to promote more change.

APPENDIX D: BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION

Methods

This analysis only includes brownfields with soil-based contamination, because remediation of ground or running water is more costly and often challenging to viably finance. Based on the research that we conducted on remediation techniques and financing, in the GIS analysis: the presence of key contaminants,1 access to a major road, size in acres, and land use. To conduct the analysis, we joined multiple sets of data to analyze these factors at the parcel level. In total, 48 brownfield parcels were analyzed based on the following points:

- We classified if each brownfield contains petroleum, metals, arsenic, lead, or other contaminants, in addition to counting how many types of contamination they have.
- The acreage of each brownfield was classified using natural breaks and putting the brownfields into five different classes.
- Each brownfield was classified on if it is within 0.5 miles of a major road, such as Interstate 5 or Highway 509.
- Each brownfield was listed with the most recent land use.

Next, we created a scoring method based on these categories. A numerically lower scored brownfield may have fewer contaminant types, better road access, and a preferred land use. A numerically higher scored brownfield may have a higher number of contaminant types, less access to major roads, and a non-preferred land use.