

**2026 IAPH SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS
PORT OF LONG BEACH
GREEN PORT HERO AWARDS**

BACKGROUND

Presentation of the Green Port Hero Awards in December 2025 was the final event of the Port of Long Beach’s yearlong celebration marking the 20th anniversary of its Green Port Policy, the landmark commitment to improve air and water quality, protect marine wildlife and implement sustainable practices while engaging and educating the community. Adopted in 2005, it still serves as the guide for decision-making and environmentally friendly Port operations.

The Green Port Hero Awards element of the yearlong celebration was created to recognize and celebrate Port-related businesses, nonprofits and individuals who have made significant contributions advancing environmental sustainability in the spirit of the Green Port Policy over the last 20 years.

Since adopting the Green Port Policy in 2005, the Port’s environmental initiatives have made dramatic and documented gains in cutting air pollution, restoring water quality in the harbor, protecting wildlife and natural habitats, recycling and reusing construction materials, incorporating green building practices, and nurturing groundbreaking new clean technologies. The Policy has been nationally recognized and become a model for ports worldwide. All this has been accomplished by working closely with industry, community and labor stakeholders, resulting in the most dramatic and substantial environmental progress ever seen in the goods movement industry.

Today the Port moves cargo valued at \$300 billion a year and generates 2.7 million jobs across the U.S., as it continues to lead the world on sustainability programs and plans to double those benefits by doubling volume.

Building the Port of the Future, the Port is guided by its bold new 2050 vision – a plan to double current annual container volumes to 20 million TEUs by 2050. By strategically modernizing the Port’s infrastructure with \$3.3 billion in capital investments over the next decade and developing digital systems to dramatically enhance efficiency and visibility, the Port is, indeed, becoming the world’s first zero-emissions port.

In late 2024, as Port organizers prepared for the annual State of the Port event set for January 2025, the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Green Port Policy presented the perfect opportunity to celebrate the Port’s environmental achievements and engage the Port’s diverse audiences and stakeholders, while highlighting the Port’s long-term zero-emissions goals.

To showcase the Port's environmental efforts for the anniversary year, a campaign was created to be implemented throughout 2025 titled 20 Years Leading Green, culminating with the presentation of the Green Port Hero Awards.

The primary objective of the Green Port Hero Awards was to reach out to community members, customers and Port stakeholders to engage them and make them part of the 20 Years Leading Green celebration, acknowledging their accomplishments.

Other objectives included:

- Engaging them, along with Port staff, in the process of setting up the program and seeking nominations in five categories including Supply Chain, Industry, Nonprofit, Youth and Neighborhood;
- Maximizing the use of web-based and social media, in addition to traditional news media, to promote the program;
- Utilizing universal 20 Years Leading Green campaign materials, limit incremental cost for the awards program to \$50,000;
- Evaluating the success of the Green Port Hero Awards based on response, media coverage and cost.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Port's Communications and Community Relations Division collaborated with Environmental Planning, the division most responsible for overseeing implementation of the Green Port Policy, to develop program elements and a project timeline, establish a budget (not to exceed \$50,000 for the award event), select award categories, solicit nominations, coordinate judging panels and plan the closing celebration to announce the winners. Communications also developed a brand and created collateral materials, ads, news releases and a comprehensive social media campaign to solicit nominations, celebrate the achievements of nominees and announce the winners.

Introduced in January as an element of the yearlong 20 Years Leading Green campaign at the Port's annual State of the Port event, nominee solicitation began in early April to coincide with Earth Month activities, followed by judging and culminating with the awards presentation in December.

The Communications Division's Graphics team created a Green Port Hero brand/logo that was used in all materials related to the program, including advertising and social media graphics, promotional flyers, the event invitation and program, award trophies and the display boards at the event; even the cake served following dinner bore the logo.

Communications set up self-nomination forms for each category; the Port's Environmental Planning and Business Development divisions emailed and requested participation in the Supply Chain, Industry and Nonprofit categories. Organizations then completed the forms that were returned for judging. Nominees were featured in individual September-through-December social media posts.

For the Youth award, Communications worked with the Long Beach Unified School District and high school principals to select nominees. To ensure that the award was received before students possibly departed for college, this award was presented to the winner in May, with the winner again receiving recognition at the awards ceremony in December.

For the Neighborhood award, which was open to nominations from the public, Communications launched a social media campaign to encourage residents to nominate their friends, family and coworkers and promoted the nomination via ads, news releases, newsletters and community/city list services. They also created postcards to hand out at community events and promoted Green Port Hero nominations aboard Port harbor tours.

The awards were presented at a networking/dinner event Dec. 10 aboard the historic Queen Mary adjacent to the Port in Long Beach. One hundred nominees and guests attended, enjoying the unique opportunity to bring together community and business to celebrate their varied accomplishments as Green Port Heroes. The program emcee was the Port's Director of Environmental Planning, and, clearly indicating the importance of the occasion, the awards were presented by top Port officials including the CEO, COO, Managing Director of Strategic Advocacy, Managing Director of Planning and Environmental Affairs, Managing Director of the Engineering Services Bureau and Director of the Communications and Community Relations Division.

RESULTS/METRICS

The Port received a total of 46 nominations and recognized heroes in five categories: Supply Chain (5 nominations), Industry (4 nominations) and Nonprofit (7 nominations), whose candidates were nominated by Port staff; Youth (17 nominations), chosen from students attending Long Beach-area schools and nominated by Long Beach teachers; and Neighborhood (13 nominations), based on nominations from the community. Each nominee received a trophy, with one nominee per category named a Green Port Hero. Youth award nominees each received a \$500 scholarship and the Youth Hero winner received \$2,000.

The Green Port Hero Awards program accomplished the goal of honoring individuals and organizations who have made great strides in the spirit of the Port's Green Port Policy. Importance was placed on the quality of nominations, not quantity; however, the response in all categories was excellent. There was 90% participation by the Supply Chain/Industry/Nonprofit organizations nominated by Environmental Planning and Business

Development, 100% participation by Long Beach area high schools, and the goal of 10 nominees in the Neighborhood category was exceeded by three.

The Green Port Heroes recognized in the five categories were:

- The **Supply Chain** award went to trucking company IMC Logistics for its leadership in creating cleaner, more efficient drayage operations, reducing emissions through innovative practices and engaging in partnerships that advance a more sustainable supply chain for the Port of Long Beach.
- In the **Industry** category, ocean shipping line Pasha Hawaii was selected for its bold leadership in decarbonizing maritime shipping, investing in cutting-edge clean-fuel vessels and significantly reducing emissions through operational best practices. The company's commitment to sustainable shipping exemplifies the spirit of the Green Port Policy and advances a cleaner, more resilient supply chain for the port community.
- The **Nonprofit** award went to the Coalition for Clean Air. The environmental organization has worked extensively with the Port of Long Beach and Southern California communities to ensure clean air for all residents. By pairing policy action with community empowerment, the organization continues to lead the charge toward a healthier, sustainable future.
- The Green Port Hero **Youth** award went to Emily Molina, a 2025 Lakewood High School graduate and now a freshman at USC. Since middle school, Emily has participated in and led student environmental programs, including the Green Schools Campaign. Through her example, she has demonstrated the Green Port spirit and encouraged her peers to fight climate change.
- The winner of the **Neighborhood** award was Long Beach resident and McBride High School senior Jackson Thomas. Nominated by his world language teacher, Esmerelda Solano, Jackson founded the nonprofit H.E.L.P. of Long Beach to support sustainable landscaping in disadvantaged communities. In 2025, he worked as a summer intern with the Port of Long Beach's Environmental Planning Division and represented the City at an international environmental summit in Yokkaichi, Japan. His dedication, humility and impact show what one young leader can achieve for the future of Long Beach.

The 441 social media posts featuring the 20 Years Leading Green theme made just over 1 million total impressions, with 124,844 impressions for 111 posts focusing on the Green Port Hero campaign. Distribution of two news releases and the YourPort Community Newsletter distributed via email to an audience of approximately 12,000 also increased visibility of the campaign.

Hard costs of the Green Port Hero program were limited to \$10,000 for Youth scholarships (included in a separate Education Outreach budget) and the Dec. 10 event, which exceeded the

planned budget of \$50,000 by \$277. Event costs including printing, trophies, facility rental, catering and decor, A/V, video production and event photography.

Soft costs included staff time that varied throughout the year from one staffer spending 2-3 hours per week on social media as nominations were solicited and up to 3-10 staff members spending 10-15 hours a week during the days leading up to the Dec. 10 event and during judging periods. Other than this approximation, staff time was not tracked specifically for this project.

In the short term, all elements of the 20 Years Leading Green campaign drew attention to the Port's commitment to the Green Port Policy as well as the many ways in which the Policy has been implemented successfully throughout the Port. The Green Port Hero Awards highlighted and paid tribute to neighbors and stakeholders who have also made important contributions to cleaning and protecting the environment in the spirit of the Green Port Policy.

Long term, although this was a one-time program as part of the Port's 20 Years Leading Green campaign, a Green Port Hero Scholarship is being established to be awarded annually to a deserving student nominated by their high school and selected by the Port's scholarship panel.

CONCLUSION

The Green Port Hero Awards program – launching during Earth Month and culminating with an awards ceremony aboard the historic Queen Mary in Long Beach Harbor in December – was an important element of the Port of Long Beach's yearlong celebration of the 20th anniversary of its landmark Green Port Policy.

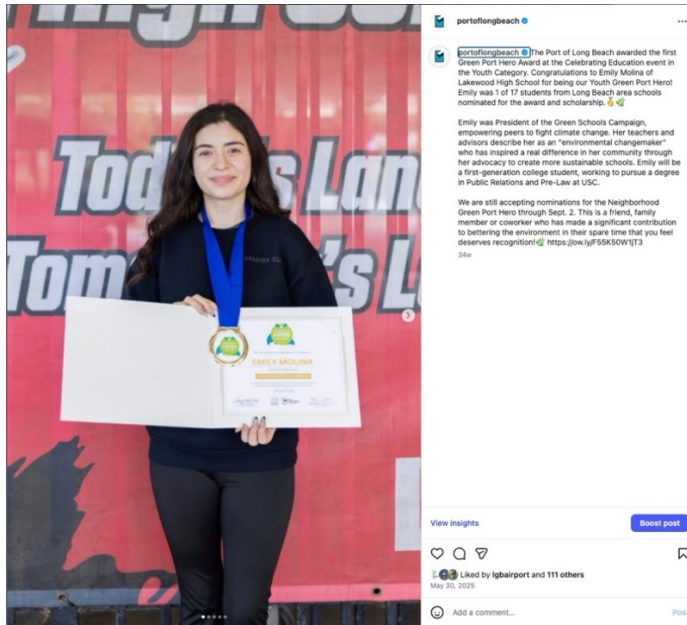
The Port of Long Beach Communications and Community Relations and Environmental Planning Divisions worked together to create the program, designed to recognize and celebrate Port-related businesses, nonprofits and individuals who have made significant contributions advancing environmental sustainability in the spirit of the Green Port Policy over the last 20 years. Then they collaborated with customers, neighbors, education partners and other stakeholders to seek nominations in five categories: Supply Chain, Industry, Nonprofit, Youth and Neighborhood. A Green Port Hero was selected in each category and announced at the December event.

The program was well received by all categories, successfully promoted and reported, completed as budgeted, and quality nominations exceeded expectations.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL

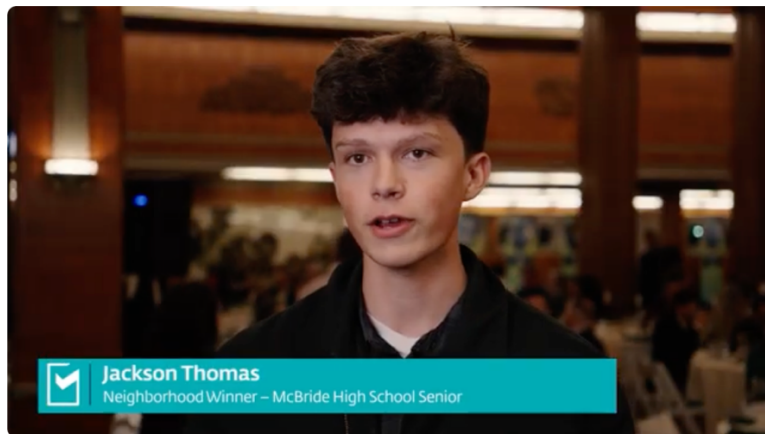
Emily Molina Youth Winner IG post

https://www.instagram.com/p/DKSID9NzgW9/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODB iNWFIZA==



Green Port Hero Award ceremony recap video

<https://youtu.be/nyQVgchPBVs?si=mTQrXUnoiWm3Ko2U>



Green Port Hero Awards

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Quotes from Award Ceremony

"You have to clean up the air because lives depend on it. That's the thing that's important." – Joe Lyou, Ph.D., President & CEO, Coalition for Clean Air, Nonprofit Winner

"I'm very grateful for this opportunity, being a Green Port Hero. I was able to see my impact I made in my local community and I see everyone else that was also able to make such a great impact." – Jackson Thomas, McBride High School Senior, Neighborhood Winner

"What I like about these awards is that the true spirit of collaboration and teamwork. It's a community coming together of like-minded individuals that really want the same result, which is clean air for the San Pedro Bay port complex." – Jim Gillis, President, IMC Logistics, Supply Chain Winner

"These individuals and organizations have all proven time and time again that partnership moves us forward towards a shared goal. The winners and nominees deserve congratulations for their hard work and dedication to environmental sustainability." – Frank Colonna, President, Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners

"Our achievements gained through the Green Port Policy could not have happened without the industry, nonprofit, supply chain, youth and neighborhood partners who make the Port of Long Beach the most efficient and sustainable gateway for trans-Pacific trade. Congratulations to the winners of the Green Port Hero Awards, and thank you to every nominee for your ongoing work and commitment to create a healthier future." – Mario Cordero, then-CEO of the Port of Long Beach.



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🏆 **Supply Chain Award Winner: IMC Logistics**
Congratulations to **IMC Logistics**, recipient of the Supply Chain Award, for its leadership in creating cleaner and more efficient drayage operations. Through innovative practices, emissions reductions, and strong partnerships, IMC is helping advance a more sustainable supply chain at the Port of Long Beach. 🌱



See insights and ads [Boost post]

👍 10



Port of Long Beach Honors 'Green Port Heroes'
Residents, businesses, nonprofits, students recognized

Dec. 16, 2025

Winners were announced last week for the Green Port Hero Awards recognizing and celebrating businesses, nonprofits and individuals who have made significant contributions to environmental sustainability in the spirit of the Green Port Policy.



The award ceremony is the final event of the Port of Long Beach's year-long celebration marking the 20th anniversary of its Green Port Policy, the landmark commitment to improve air and water quality, protect marine wildlife and implement sustainable practices while engaging and educating the community. Adopted in 2005, it still serves as the guide for decision-making and environmentally friendly Port operations.

Green Port Heroes were recognized in five categories:

The Supply Chain award went to trucking company DMC Logistics for its leadership in creating cleaner, more efficient drayage operations, reducing emissions through innovative practices and engaging in partnerships that advance a more sustainable supply chain for the Port of Long Beach.

In the Industry category, ocean shipping line Pasha Hawaii was selected for its bold leadership in decarbonizing maritime shipping, investing in cutting-edge clean-fuel vessels and significantly reducing emissions through operational best practices. The company's commitment to sustainable shipping exemplifies the spirit of the Green Port Policy and advances a cleaner, more resilient supply chain for the port community.

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The winner of the Neighborhood award was Long Beach resident and McBride High School senior Jackson Thomas. Nominated by his world language teacher, Esmeralda Solano, Jackson founded the nonprofit H.E.L.P. of Long Beach to support sustainable landscaping in disadvantaged communities. In 2025, he worked as a summer intern with the Port of Long Beach's Environmental Planning Division and represented the City at an international environmental summit in Yokohama, Japan. His dedication, humility and impact show what one young leader can achieve for the future of Long Beach.

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"Our achievements gained through the Green Port Policy could not have happened without the industry, nonprofit, supply chain, youth and neighborhood partners who make the Port of Long Beach the most efficient and sustainable gateway for trans-Pacific trade," said Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero. "Congratulations to the winners of the Green Port Hero Awards, and thank you to every nominee for your ongoing work and commitment to create a healthier future."

The Port of Long Beach is a global leader in green port initiatives and top-notch customer service, moving cargo with reliability, speed and efficiency. As the premier U.S. gateway for trans-Pacific trade, the Port handles trade valued at more than \$300 billion annually and supports 2.7 million jobs across the United States, including 600,000 in Southern California. It is one of 18 commercial strategic seaports in the United States, with a duty to support force deployment during contingencies and other national defense emergencies. Industry leaders named Long Beach "The Best West Coast Seaport in North America" for a seventh consecutive year and "The Best Green Seaport" in 2025. During the next 10 years, the Port is planning \$3.2 billion in capital improvements aimed at enhancing capacity, competitiveness and sustainability.

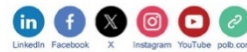
Media Contact: Eric Bradley, Port of Long Beach Media Specialist, eric.bradley@polb.com

Photo caption: Winners with their trophies and a ceremonial cake at the Green Port Hero Awards. From left: Supply Chain winners DMC Logistics – Drayage/Trainer Khan Burton, Executive VP Mike Stanley, Senior VP of Business Development Ken Lutz, President Jim Gillis; Nonprofit winner Coalition for Clean Air – President and CEO Joe Lopez; Neighborhood winner Jackson Thomas; Industry winner Pasha Hawaii – VP of Commercial and External Affairs Jack Hedpe, Operations Manager Kenny Tribbletti.

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Port to Spotlight Long Beach's 'Green Port Heroes'

Residents, businesses, nonprofits, students honored for environmental leadership

March 31, 2025

The Port of Long Beach is launching the "Green Port Hero Awards" to recognize and celebrate businesses, nonprofits and individuals who have made significant contributions to environmental sustainability in the spirit of the Green Port Policy over the last 20 years.

The Port is now accepting nominations for the Neighborhood Leader Green Port Hero. This is a person in your community who has committed a significant part of their life to making Long Beach a cleaner, greener place to live, truly embodying the spirit of the Green Port Policy. Achievements might include starting and tending a community garden, leading or organizing beach, park or neighborhood cleanups, or spending time volunteering for an environmental organization.

The awards will recognize leaders in five categories: supply chain, industry, nonprofits, youth and neighborhood. Supply chain, industry and nonprofit leaders will be nominated by Port staff. These organizations will have shown a commitment to environmental stewardship through their work and operations over the last 20 years. The youth category will highlight students from Long Beach-area schools and will be nominated by Long Beach teachers, administrators and staff. The neighborhood leader will be nominated by community members. One winner from each category will be chosen by an independent panel of environmental and supply chain industry leaders to be honored at an awards ceremony later this year.

The program is part of the Port's marking of the 20th anniversary of its Green Port Policy, the landmark commitment to aggressively pursue environmental sustainability. The Green Port Policy set the framework for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to reduce the negative impacts of Port operations. Adopted in 2005, it continues to serve as the guide for decision-making and environmentally friendly Port operations.

Nominate your Neighborhood Leader Green Port Hero – they could be your neighbor, your aunt, your best friend from high school, or your son, daughter, niece or nephew. Nominations are now open and will be accepted until Sept. 2. [Nominations can be submitted on our website.](#)

"We are pleased to honor our industry and community partners for their commitment to making the Port and the City of Long Beach as environmentally friendly as possible," said Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero. "The Port could not be a leader in environmental sustainability for the last 20 years without the help of these green heroes."

"We are proud of our green legacy and are grateful for our businesses and neighbors who share our vision for a greener future," said Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners President Bonnie Lernerthal. "The Green Port Hero Awards is a way for the Port to show its appreciation for our partners' dedication over the last 20 years and into the future."



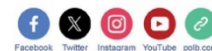
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Media Contact: Lee Peterson, Port of Long Beach Content Manager, lee.peterson@polb.com

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