

# People of Faith are Standing Up to Fossil Fuels

## Make a difference for the health of Tacoma and Puget Sound

Water plays an essential role in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. Throughout the Torah, Bible, and Qur'an, water is seen as a scarce and treasured substance for both secular and religious purposes. As a central foundation in all three Abrahamic traditions, the sacredness of water provides common ground for a shared ethic of protection – yet proposed fossil fuel projects in Puget Sound put water quality and the health of our communities at risk.

Current fossil fuel contaminant levels in Puget Sound are near those found to have effects on water quality and marine life in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez. Additional projects will only have a compounding effect on Commencement Bay and the people and creatures that depend on a healthy marine ecosystem.

Religious leaders around the state are opposed to fossil fuel terminals that are built on unstable land in populated areas. The ongoing threat of spills, the frustration of traffic tie-ups, the expense to local businesses, the terrible risk of derailments, leaks, and explosions, and the devastating impact on the climate and Puget Sound water quality means that these projects are not good stewardship of our communities, land, and water. We know we can do better.

Letting the Tidelands be sacrificed for short-term profit will leave us much poorer in the long run. It is far better to develop sustainable industries that will protect intact ecosystems and create a more robust economy. Basing an economy on oil and petrochemicals is not taking care of God's creation nor good for long-term prosperity.

### Religious Leaders Say "We Can Do Better"

People of faith are coming together to build a healthier Tacoma. Faith leaders advocated to the City Council for the pause on fossil fuel development during the Subarea Plan and nearly 100 clergy members signed a letter to the Governor in support of the Puyallup's request for a stop work order on the LNG facility. The voice of religious communities is strong and growing.

We're standing up because we have a moral obligation to care for our communities and creation. As one religious leader shared, "My faith teaches me to be trustworthy, and so I believe we must honor the Puyallup Tribe's treaty rights. My faith teaches me to love neighbors, and so I believe we must protect the health of all people who live in the Tacoma area. My faith teaches me to care for creation, and so I believe we must find alternatives to dirty fossil fuels."

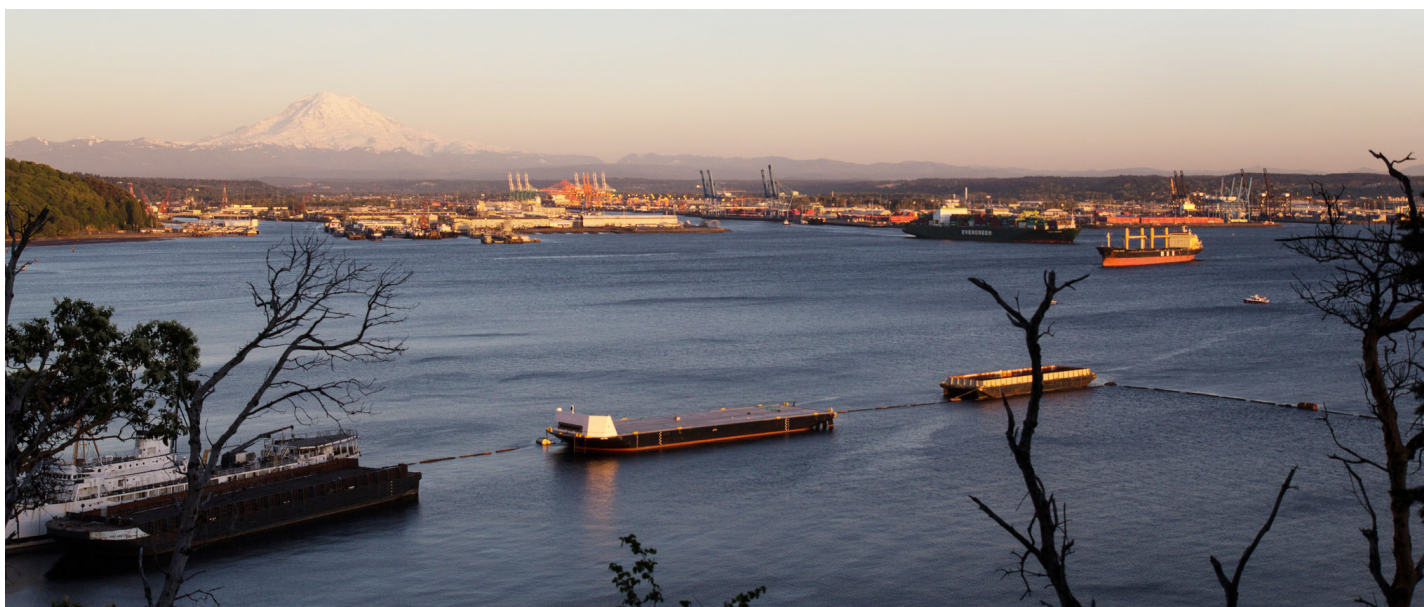


# Protecting Tacoma's Tideflats

Tacoma is particularly vulnerable to fossil fuel expansion due to its existing infrastructure and deep water port on Commencement Bay. The industrial Tideflats area is seen by fossil fuel companies as prime real estate for their toxic projects, such as Puget Sound Energy's LNG terminal (more below). But big industry doesn't get the final word. Tacoma is rising up to discuss the future of the Tideflats.

In 2017, the Tacoma City Council adopted a resolution initiating a subarea plan, a comprehensive process that will determine what type of industry may be located in the port. Thanks to community input, the City Council passed an interim regulation to pause new fossil fuel and heavy industrial use on the Tideflats while the subarea planning process is underway.

This important interim regulation on fossil fuels will expire unless extended by the City Council every six months. We need your help to tell the City Council why it is crucial to extend and strengthen these regulations until the city has a long-term plan!



Port of Tacoma by Atomic Taco

## Halting LNG in Tacoma

Puget Sound Energy is building a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant on the Tideflats adjacent to the land and waters of the Puyallup Tribe. The social justice and ecological risks of this project are egregious - both the Tribal Council and Native Water Warriors have raised significant concerns about tribal sovereignty and consultation, safety dangers, Puget Sound water quality, and the health of the Sound's ecosystems.

This 8 million gallon plant would store and distribute highly volatile fuel on an existing Superfund site. In addition to the Puyallup Reservation, the blast zone would include the NW Immigrant Detention Center and residential neighborhoods with schools and daycares. In a time when clean energy is growing, PSE is trying to lock our region into another polluting fossil fuel for at least 40 years.

The LNG facility does not have to go online. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is completing a supplemental environmental review on greenhouse gas emissions before deciding on whether to grant a necessary clean air permit. People of faith are bringing their values to the conversation. Join us!