

Destination: climate issues

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The Baltic Ports Organization (BPO) acknowledges the increasing and negative impact of climate change on the Earth's ecosystem and human society. Its Members strongly believe that combating climate change is the responsibility of all, including the businesses forming the transport, shipping, and port sectors. For these reasons, the Organization has been focusing more on climate topics since last year, having launched several initiatives in this area.



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Last September, the Baltic Ports Organization signed the **BPO Ystad Climate Declaration**, expressing the willingness of the regional seaports to combat climate change and also communicating the need for solid cooperation with a broader range of stakeholders to reach progress in this matter.

Another initiative, Baltic Ports for Climate, is connected with onshore power supply (OPS) development, the aim of which is to intensify collaboration between ports and other stakeholders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Baltic Sea. The main idea behind the project is to promote the development and construction of OPS facilities in the

Baltic Sea Region (BSR) ports, expanding the already existing cold ironing network for different vessel types (ferries, cruisers, and container ships).

The BPO recently submitted a call under the transport envelope to the EU Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The project foremost concerns OPS pre-investment studies in seven TEN-T Core Ports (Gdynia, Gdańsk, Hamburg, Klaipėda, Riga, Stockholm, and Tallinn), but it'll also set up a stakeholder platform, among others, for sharing the findings. The pre-investment studies, performed by each project partner, will focus on installations dedicated to ferries, cruise ships and container carriers and

will provide the necessary background for investments in OPS infrastructure and other zero-emission solutions.

Next, there is the BPO Work Plan 2024, consisting of several climate-related events, including the BPO Offshore Wind Conference at Transport Week 2024, the Ports 4.0 Conference in Riga, the annual Baltic Ports Conference in Klaipėda, and the BPO Climate Conference in Tallinn.

The Organization has also introduced Climate News by BPO into its communication, a round-up that addresses current environmental issues and pro-ecological activities in the BSR. Selected news bits are shared on the Organization's website, in its newsletter, and via BPO's LinkedIn profile. ■