

Video Script - Climate Change

Hello. I'm Tom Albro and am running for Seattle Port Commissioner. As an environmentalist, I believe the Port plays a critical role in combating climate change and protecting habitat.

In another video, I talk about protecting the natural habitat that so enriches the Northwest. Here I want to discuss how I'll work as a commissioner to combat global climate change and reduce our region's carbon footprint.

There is a natural temptation when dealing with things like carbon output to look for a silver bullet - that one thing or project that solves the problem. That's understandable, but over time it won't get us where we need to go. Simply put, to reduce carbon output we need to use less fossil fuel. So let's get started right away and reduce our carbon footprint by working smarter.

I'm sure you've heard the term "dead heading" - that's not a musical reference, but describes when a taxi cab goes in one direction without a load. Like driving to SeaTac Airport empty to pick up a passenger. We've structured things so this the norm and happens all the time. Not only does it waste gas, it clogs the roads with empty cabs, and lowers driver earnings. By reforming our taxi policies, we can reduce taxi cab carbon output by almost 50%. A no-brainer.

We can work smarter on the waterfront too. Since 9/11 we force tug operators to often do the same thing. Instead of staging tugs between jobs, we often require the tug to return to its home mooring. That creates dead-heading, increases costs for tug operators, and unnecessarily pumps out carbon.

Air travel has a huge carbon footprint. By adopting modern air traffic control technologies at SeaTac, we can make airplane landing approaches tremendously more efficient. Not only would doing so reduce total fuel consumption of flights into SeaTac by almost 5%, it would serve to greatly shrink the area impacted by airplane noise. We can do this. The technology is there and the airlines want it. We just need political leadership and to roll up our sleeves and get the job done.

As a Seattle Port Commissioner, I'll make sure that the Port leads now in combating global climate change by working smarter and investing in building projects that make sense. Won't you help me? I'm eager to get to work and with your support, I'll be able to.