# **Short-term future vision of the port**

The last three years have been fruitful for new EU regulations and frameworks, which will affect the port's day-to-day activities and especially its energy and environmental profile. There are already many hopes and visions describing the port image of the future in such documents as the [EU Green Deal](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0003.02/DOC_1&format=PDF), [EU’s Fit for 55 package](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FI/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0550&from=EN) and [ESPO Green Guide 2021](https://www.espo.be/media/ESPO%20Green%20Guide%202021%20-%20FINAL.pdf). Altogether there are about 99 pages of reading material. However, to save you time and energy, here are our 12 bullet points with keywords from those publications: answering the following three questions.

## What is the port authority of the near future?

* it is a logistical hub, a centre of the industrial supply chain (production, distribution), which plays important role in avoiding unnecessary transport;
* it has a green image:
* monitors noise, is silent at night, switches to electric equipment and machinery, applies differentiated dues to reward quitter vessels;
* manages own wastes and receives waste from vessels, applies indirect waste fee paid by vessels;
* ready for upcoming changes in climate, resilient to flooding and storms with its structures,
* carbon-free, monitors and has an inventory of emissions by port and port actors, knows its carbon footprint, aims at no emissions and no pollution concepts;
* addresses unfamiliar and novel issues as part of the transition to a greener future, the frontrunner of Europe’s sustainable transition, supports a blue economy (preserves sea and land for food, energy, raw materials and tourism use; carbon capture and storage) as well as the circular economy (waste to resources, recycling, reusing);
* a hub of clean renewable energy (offshore wind and wave energy as well as onshore solar, wind, and bioenergy), provides onshore power supply to vessels and bunkering of LNG as an alternative fuel (to avoid emissions), produces hydrogen and/or hydrogen derived fuels (ammonia), applies Power-to-X solutions to use electricity for the production of hydrogen, methane and ammonia;
* a hub of innovative and digital technologies: sensors, meters, intelligent traffic lights, efficient buildings, and operational and environmental efficiency achieved via digitalization.

## What does port authority do with/for port actors and other ports?

* it acts as a coordinator, catalyst and promoter of decarbonisation and greening for port actors;
* provides green discounts, differentiated port fees and advantageous treatment in ports,
* introduces port norms/rules for (sustainable) infrastructure investments, gives prizes for environmental performance, organizing/hosting webinars and conferences;
* collaborates with other ports and stakeholders on sustainability matters.

## How does the port authority build its communication with locals?

* it actively takes part in projects, cooperates on strategic green investment decisions and promotes innovations in port;
* provides opportunities for green businesses, provides areas/locations for them, supplies energy for them, is involved in synergies between industries and port, and there is a growing port ecosystem;
* builds green areas and parks for citizens in the port area, cleans coastlines and preserves sea and land nature as well as encourages repopulation of endangered species (biodiversity) – e.g. building underwater infra where fish, mussels and plants thrive;
* transparent with its activities and green policies (shows how you deliver goods for internet shoppers, produce energy, disseminate good environmental practices, port’s policy available on the website), active on social media and offline (reaching out to youth at schools, and families - open port days), target groups: general public, port workers, potential port workers, local community; themes for improvement: find it on Page 40 in [ESPO Green Guide](https://www.espo.be/media/ESPO%20Green%20Guide%202021%20-%20FINAL.pdf).