

Shore Power in Alaska: Powering Innovation

Alaska: A Proven Leader, Building for the Future

Alaska's cruise industry, ports, utilities, and local communities have helped make the state a leader in shore power adoption in North America. **Today, that leadership is accelerating:**

- Alaska's representatives in Washington helped secure EPA's [Clean Ports Program](#) \$48 million investment in expanding shore power infrastructure across Alaska
- The City of Seward has secured a [\\$45.7 million grant](#) to bring shore power to its port.

Juneau: A National Shore Power Pioneer, Still Expanding Capacity

Juneau is home to one of the most significant early shore power installations in the world. In 2001, the Franklin Street Dock [became the first cruise ship shore power system in Alaska](#) and is widely cited as the first of its kind globally. Developed through a partnership between Princess Cruises and the local utility, the system allows vessels to plug into [hydroelectric power and shut off onboard engines while docked](#). It remains in operation today.



At present –

- [Shore power capability in Juneau is limited](#) to the Franklin Street Dock, meaning most cruise berths in the port do not yet have shore power access.
- This makes Franklin Street a critical proof point for both the technical and operational viability of shore power in Alaska conditions.

Looking ahead, Juneau has long planned for broader expansion.

- Its municipal cruise docks were originally designed with infrastructure to support future shore power connections.
- [Current efforts](#) focus on securing federal funding, upgrading substations and grid capacity, and enabling ships to connect across multiple berths as infrastructure is completed.
- Additional terminal developments, including [Huna Totem's Áak'w Landing](#) project and [Goldbelt's new cruise ship port on the backside of Douglas Island](#), are being designed with [shore power capability from the outset](#), reflecting continued investment in expanding access across the port over time.

A West Coast Standard

Shore power availability is growing across the Alaska cruise corridor:

- [The Port of Seattle](#) is moving toward requiring all homeported cruise ships to use shore power and is on track for fully shore-powered cruise seasons.
- The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority has enabled widespread shore power use, with a [majority of cruise ships already equipped to plug in](#). Additional investments from [Transport Canada](#) and projects spearheaded by the [Greater Victoria Harbour Authority](#) are scaling infrastructure across the Canadian West Coast.
- Comparative analyses from organizations like [Oceans North](#) show that ports investing in shore power are emerging as global leaders in sustainable maritime operations.

Why Shore Power Matters



Cleaner Air for Communities

Where the local grid draws on lower-carbon sources, connecting to shore power can also reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared with running onboard engines at berth, supporting broader sustainability goals. In Juneau, for example, vessels connect to hydroelectric power and shut off their engines entirely while docked.

Economic & Community Benefits

Investing in shore power supports construction, electrical, utility, and maritime jobs while strengthening long-term port infrastructure. Across North America, ports increasingly view shore power as part of broader economic modernization efforts that drive tourism, commerce, and local employment.

Commitment to Innovation & Partnership

Shore power reflects the shared commitment of utilities, ports, local governments, and the cruise industry to innovation, collaboration, and responsible growth. Alaska's progress reflects how strong partnerships among these stakeholders can advance cleaner and more sustainable port operations across the state.

By continuing to invest in shore power, Alaska is:

- Protecting the health and air quality of its communities
- Supporting a resilient and sustainable tourism economy
- Leading by example in maritime innovation

Cruise Lines & Ports Are Transitioning Together

- The transition to shore power is not happening in isolation. Ports, utilities, and cruise operators are investing together to support cleaner maritime operations across Alaska and the broader West Coast corridor.
- The number of cruise ships capable of [connecting to shore power has more than doubled in recent years](#), reflecting growing industry investment in cleaner technologies and compatibility with port infrastructure.
- This collaborative transition allows cruise lines and ports to reduce emissions in waterfront communities while supporting tourism and maritime activity.
- Continued collaboration between ports, governments, and industry, as highlighted in [recent reporting on Alaska-bound cruise routes](#), demonstrates how shared investment in shore power drives both environmental progress and economic resilience.

