



### **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

This report highlights ACBL's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance and progress for the 2024 calendar year. It reflects the company's continued commitment to safety, sustainability, operational integrity, and long-term value creation.

This report is more than a summary of the past year—it's a look at the impact ACBL is making today, and the future we're helping to shape. From investments in people and safety to environmental innovation and policy leadership, it reflects our work to move America more responsibly, efficiently, and sustainably.

The report follows the Marine Transportation industry standards set by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) and includes a Climate Transition Plan outlining ACBL's approach to decarbonization and resilience.

Unless otherwise noted, all data and initiatives reflect the period from January 1 through December 31, 2024. This report is intended for Team Members, customers, investors, partners, and stakeholders who share a vested interest in the future of inland marine transportation—and in how we help shape it.



### **IMPACT IN ACTION: 2024 HIGHLIGHTS**

A snapshot of how ACBL delivered results, strengthened safety, and made a meaningful impact for our people, our customers, and the communities we serve.





### **INVESTING IN OUR TEAM**

Supporting growth, safety, and success through training, development, and care for our Team Members



### **BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**

Expanding our fleet, strengthening our infrastructure, and leading the way for a more resilient industry



### **SAFETY & OPERATIONAL INTEGRITY**

Protecting our people and reinforcing the systems that keep our vessels, crews, and customers safe



### **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

Reducing emissions, modernizing our fleet, and protecting the waterways that power our business



### **INVESTING IN OUR TEAM**

Supporting growth, safety, and success through training, development, and care for our Team Members.

### **A Culture That Supports Growth**

ACBL believes strong operations and long-term success begin with an empowered team. In 2024, we continued to make meaningful progress in building a stable, skilled, and supported workforce—one that reflects the strength of our company and the future of inland marine transportation.

This year, our Human Resources function was strategically transformed into a **Center of Excellence**, with a dedicated Talent Acquisition team. These improvements helped increase staffing levels from **86.5% to 95.6%** and improved **deck crew retention by 18%**.



### **Training for Today and Tomorrow**

In 2024, we expanded technical and leadership development across the company:

- 59 company-led programs were completed
- 850+ participants were trained
- 479 graduates completed River Seamanship 1 (RS1)

#### Additional programs included:

- River Seamanship 2 (RS2)
- Advanced Engineering Development
- Tankerman Leadership
- Impact Leadership (supporting Deck-to-Wheelhouse career paths)

These efforts led to meaningful career growth across ACBL, including hundreds of internal promotions and 190 milestone service anniversaries, with 21 Team Members who reached 30 to 45 years of service.

### **Supporting Our Team Through Mutual Care**

The Mutual Care Fund remained a powerful example of Team Members looking out for one another. In 2024, ACBL awarded **\$125,500** in grants to support colleagues facing unexpected hardships such as natural disasters, serious illnesses, and family emergencies.

Funded through both company and employee contributions, the Mutual Care Fund reflects the strength of our culture and our commitment to caring for each other:

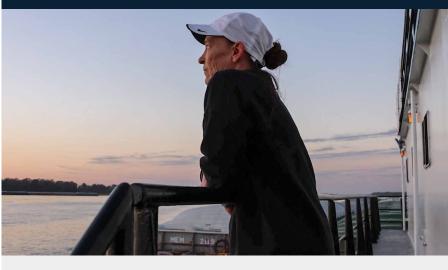
- \$105,377 contributed by ACBL Team Members
- \$31,701 contributed by ACBL

Together, these contributions provided timely financial support for those in need and reinforced the shared values that unite our team.

### Mutual Care Fund

### **Support When It Matters Most**

One of the many Team Members impacted by the Mutual Care Fund is Saundra Alley, a cook aboard an ACBL vessel. While working a hitch, Saundra faced an unthinkable loss—the sudden passing of her daughter. In the midst of heartbreak and far from home, her crew rallied around her and connected her with the Mutual Care Fund. The assistance she received helped cover funeral expenses and made it possible for her to be with her family during a time of immense need.



"That was a big help for me... I'm very grateful."

Saundra Alley, ACBL Team Member (Cook)
 and Mutual Care Fund Recipient



### **Prioritizing Well-Being**

ACBL provides a comprehensive range of benefits to support the health, financial security, and overall wellbeing of Team Members and their families.

#### These benefits include:

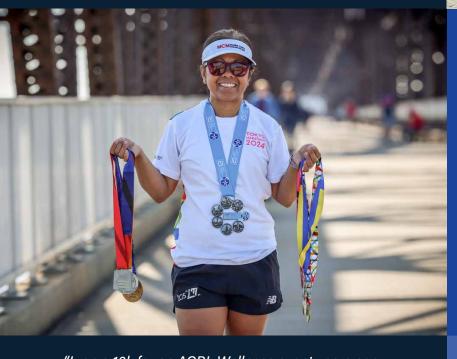
- Comprehensive medical, dental, and vision coverage
- Retirement planning and 401(k) matching
- Paid time off and leave benefits
- Access to wellness programs and mental health resources

### **ACBL 10K to Tokyo: Imelda's Six Star Journey**

What began with an ACBL-sponsored 10k run turned into a global wellness journey for Senior Capital Accountant Imelda Ponsford.

On March 3, 2024, Imelda completed the Tokyo Marathon, becoming one of only 12,000 people to earn the prestigious Six Star Medal for completing all six major world marathons.

Imelda continues to pace local races and inspire others with her resilience and determination—living proof of how small moments of encouragement can lead to incredible achievement.



"I ran a 10k for an ACBL Wellness event years ago. I just never stopped running"

Imelda Ponsford, Senior Capital Accountant



### A Healthier Life, One Step at a Time

Nicky Alford, Senior Port Captain, made a bold decision in late 2022 to take control of his health. Since then, he has lost 180 pounds, completed three triathlons, and transformed his lifephysically and mentally.

ACBL's wellness program played a supporting role by helping him track goals, stay motivated, and earn insurance discounts through wellness incentives. His story is a powerful example of what's possible when determination meets the right tools and support.

"I think the biggest reward is just being healthy... not just number of years, it's quality years."

- Nicky Alford, ACBL Team Member (Senior Port Captain)



**INVESTING IN OUR TEAM** 



### 2024 Workforce Snapshot

ACBL's commitment to building a resilient and diverse workforce continued in 2024. With **2,659 total employees**, the company made progress in representation through targeted recruiting, inclusive hiring practices, and team engagement efforts.

### **Workforce by Ethnicity**



- White: 1,567 employees (58%)
- Black or African American: 937 employees (35%)
- Hispanic or Latino: 63 employees (2%)
- Two or more races: 46 employees (1%)
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 18 employees
- Asian: 9 employees
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 2 employees
- Not Specified: 17 employees

This data reinforces ACBL's belief that **empowering people at every level** is key to operational excellence and to building a more inclusive and sustainable future for the inland marine industry.

### **ACBL** leadership

Our Board of Directors are elected each year by our shareholders during our annual shareholder meeting. Our board currently consists of nine (9) members who each bring unique capabilities and valuable leadership and experience to our organization.

### **Board of Directors**

Board of Directors	Maritime, Transportation, or Logistics Industry Experience	Diversity
20% Independent Nine (9) total Directors, including two (2) independent Directors	Chairman: 50+ years Director: 20+ years Director: 20+ years CEO: 40+ years	Race/Ethnicity Three (3) Directors

### **Executive Leadership Team**

Our Executive Leadership Team is comprised of dedicated leaders with strong backgrounds and significant experience in the marine industry.

### **Chief Executive Officer and eight (8) Direct Reports**

- Chief Financial Officer
- · Chief Operating Officer
- Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel
- Chief Commercial Officer
- SVP and Chief Information Officer
- SVP of Liquid Cargo
- SVP of Business Development and Planning
- SVP Network Operations and Planning





### **BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**

Expanding our fleet, strengthening infrastructure, and leading the way for a more resilient industry

### **A Culture That Supports Growth**

At ACBL, we know that progress requires more than performance—it demands vision, discipline, and action. In 2024, we made strategic investments to modernize our fleet, improve operational execution, and lead industry conversations about the future of inland marine transportation. From capital upgrades to national advocacy, every effort this year reflected our commitment to long-term strength and sustainability.

### **Modernizing Our Fleet**

This year marked ACBL's largest fleet investment in more than a decade with the acquisition of **235 newer hopper barges**, enhancing both service capacity and reliability. We also launched the **M/V ACBL Mariner**, the most powerful towboat ever delivered to the inland river system—built for strength, safety, and next-generation performance. Other major vessel additions in 2024 included:

- The M/V Michael J. Kennelly, ACBL's first Mitsubishi-powered Tier
   4 vessel
- The M/V Cairo Integrity, a versatile support vessel equipped with enhanced safety features, bright lighting, a powerful onboard crane, and advanced navigation systems
- 100+ dry cargo barges and 13 liquid barges, further reinforcing fleet sustainability and operational readiness

### **Optimizing Operations**

ACBL launched its new MOST system (Marine Operations & Scheduling Tool) in 2024, enabling improved network planning, asset utilization, and execution transparency. This system supports real-time visibility, better decision-making, and improved service delivery for our customers.

We also realigned support teams, including HR, procurement, and finance, closer to frontline operations, increasing speed, accountability, and focus.

### **Leading Advocacy for Inland Waterways**

In 2024, ACBL played a leading role in advocating for policies that strengthen the inland waterway system and support the future of marine transportation.

Through direct engagement with lawmakers, industry coalitions, and regulatory partners, ACBL helped secure several significant legislative wins:

- A permanent 75/25 cost-share adjustment for inland waterway construction projects, reducing the financial burden on the Inland Waterways Trust Fund
- \$456 million in funding for key lock and dam projects, including Chickamauga, Three Rivers, and the Lower Monongahela
- \$175 million for the U.S. Coast Guard to modernize Waterways Commerce Cutters, improving buoy management and emergency response
- Continued support for a \$10 billion FY2025 budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including \$423 million earmarked for inland waterway construction and rehabilitation



In February 2024, ACBL Team Members met with more than 100 federal lawmakers on Capitol Hill, advocating for smarter investment, faster permitting, and long-term support for the marine transportation system that keeps America moving.

These efforts reflect ACBL's ongoing leadership in shaping policies that strengthen safety, resilience, and the future of inland marine transportation.

### **Industry Leadership in Action**

In 2024, ACBL Team Members continued to serve in key leadership roles across the inland marine industry:

- Patrick Sutton
   Chairman, American Waterways Operators (AWO)
- Patrick Cheramie
   Inter-region Vice Chair, AWO Safety Leadership Advisory Panel
- Alex Pucheu
   Board Member, Blue Sky Maritime Coalition, GICA Board Member
- Will Tucker
   Vice Lead, Technology, Infrastructure & Fuels Workstream,
   Blue Sky Maritime Coalition
- Randy Chamness Co-Chairman, Lower Mississippi River Committee (LOMARC)
- Ben White Ohio Valley Region Alternate at AWO



### WIM@s

Ludy Brinck, ACBL Liquid Sales **Director and National Treasurer** for WIMOs, earned Marine Log's inaugural Top Women in Maritime award, honoring her role in empowering women and supporting their successes in the industry.



Ludy Brinck is celebrated for her industry leadership



Students in the Egyptian Middle School Student Council



Team Members joined forces with WCI to hold over 100 meetings with Federal Legislators on Capitol Hill.

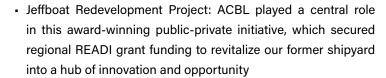


ACBL Team presents Jazz & Heritage Foundation with charitable donation

### **Strengthening Our Industry** and Our Communities

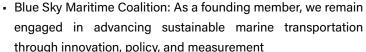
Our impact extends beyond the river. In 2024, ACBL Team Members took part in major efforts to uplift communities, champion innovation, and shape the future of our industry:



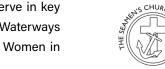




• Fête-Dieu du Mississippi: Our participation in this historic cultural and maritime event reflected our enduring connection to river communities



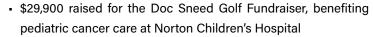
through innovation, policy, and measurement

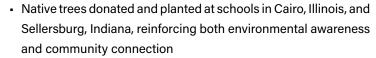


 Leadership in Action: ACBL leaders continued to serve in key roles across organizations such as the American Waterways Operators (AWO), Seamen's Church Institute (SCI), Women in Maritime Operations (WIMOs), and others

In addition to our industry involvement, ACBL remained committed to giving back to the communities we serve:



















### SAFETY & OPERATIONAL INTEGRITY

Protecting our people and reinforcing the systems that keep our vessels, crews, and customers safe.

At ACBL, safety is more than a standard—it's a shared responsibility and a way of life. Our safety, health, and compliance programs reflect our Core Value of Mutual Care and are designed to protect our people, the environment, and our customers' cargo across every part of our network.

Our shared goal is clear: Zero Harm. Achieving it requires active engagement at every level of the organization—from the shoreside to the wheelhouse. Our approach blends strong leadership direction with frontline ownership, creating a culture of accountability and continuous improvement. In 2024, we continued to raise the bar through operational discipline, updated systems, and meaningful crew engagement.

### **Strengthening Systems and Culture**

A key milestone in 2024 was the full rewrite of ACBL's **Safety Management System (SMS)**. We reduced 706 pages across 12 manuals to a single, fully searchable manual with 12 chapters and under 250 pages. The modernized SMS includes live links to policies, regulatory guidance, and internal procedures, and is now fully integrated with our MOST system to ensure alignment across planning, execution, and compliance.

We also completed over **1,000 vessel visits by members of leadership**, reinforcing expectations, providing real-time support, and deepening relationships between shoreside leaders and onboard crews.

This year saw the continued rollout of behavior-based safety strategies, enhanced training and competency development, and deeper frontline involvement in safety ownership. The **Heat Illness Prevention Plan** (**HIPP**) was implemented fleetwide, introducing cooling strategies, hydration stations, and awareness tools—helping ACBL achieve **zero heat-related injuries** in 2024, a first in recent history.

We also introduced **AI-powered training modules**, streamlining how we deliver vessel-specific and position-specific safety instruction. These updates improved learning retention and ensured faster access to targeted compliance content.

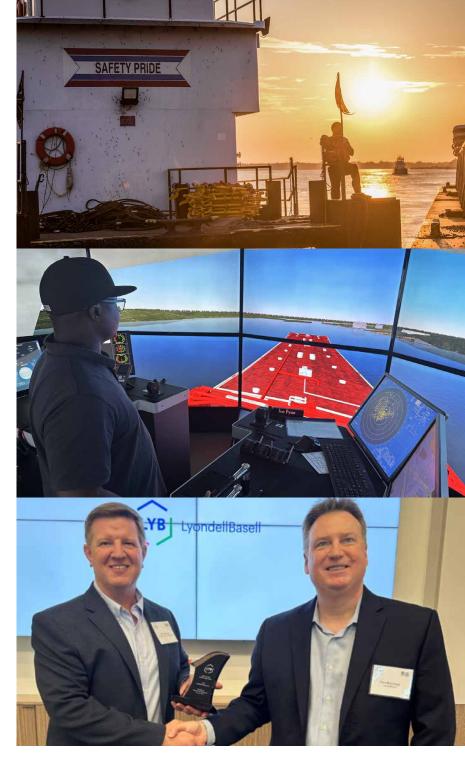
### **Recognizing Excellence**

ACBL's safety record continues to outperform industry benchmarks:

- Total Recordable Injury Rate (TRIR): 0.80
- Lost Time Injury Rate (LTIR): 0.57
- 69 vessels recognized through the Jones F. Devlin Awards
- Zero recordable injuries in the Liquids Division
- Zero heat-related injuries company-wide
- 18 years incident and injury free at ACBL's Memphis Terminal

ACBL was also honored with the **LyondellBasell GoalZERO Award** for the second consecutive year, recognizing our commitment to operational safety and incident prevention.







### Safety Recognitions: Real Heroes on the River

In 2024, two ACBL vessel crews were honored with the **AWO American**Waterways HERO Awards and Seamen's Church Institute Lifesaving
Awards for extraordinary, life-saving actions on the river.

The crews of the M/V Lori Blocker and M/V David Evans responded with courage, professionalism, and care in moments where seconds mattered. Their actions demonstrate not only individual bravery, but the strength of ACBL's safety training, preparedness, and culture of Mutual Care.

### Safety as a Shared Responsibility

To ensure consistent execution, we aligned our safety, vetting, and compliance functions directly with Operations. This integration allows for faster feedback loops, streamlined communication, and stronger ownership of safety outcomes at every level.

We continue to emphasize leading and lagging safety indicators, nearmiss reporting, incident investigation, and root cause analysis to drive continuous improvement. By engaging our crews through hands-on training, boots-on-steel discussions, and leadership visibility, we're reinforcing the belief that **every Team Member is a safety leader**.

ACBL remains committed to protecting the people who power this company—and to making sure that safety is not only something we talk about, but something we live every day.



### Deckhand Gabrielle "Gee" Brandley made history.

While working aboard the M/V Michael W. Draughn, she witnessed a fellow Team Member fall overboard. In a moment of instinct and composure, Gee immediately alerted her crew and rushed to the rescue—reaching the Team Member within seconds.

In recognition of her life-saving response, ACBL awarded Gee the very first **IMPACT Coin**, honoring her as a model of quick thinking, preparedness, and selfless care.

"Gee's selflessness is the greatest expression of Mutual Care that any Team Member can show."

— Shea Melton, Marine Safety Supervisor

Hero and lifesaving awards were given to two entire crews:

M/V Lori Blocker M/V David Evans





HERO AWARD



### **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

Reducing emissions, modernizing our fleet, and protecting the waterways that power our business

As the inland marine network continues to face environmental pressures—from increasingly volatile water levels to growing regulatory demands-ACBL remains committed to leading with action. In 2024, we took measurable steps to reduce emissions, modernize our equipment, and reinforce our responsibility to protect the river system we depend on.

### **Advancing Fuel Efficiency and Our Low-Carbon Commitment**

In 2024, ACBL set an ambitious target to offset 1.5 million gallons of fuel consumption through a combination of increased operational efficiencies and enhanced vessel shutdown practices. Through the dedication and engagement of both our vessel crews and shoreside teams, we exceeded this goal-achieving 2.05 million gallons of fuel savings for the year.

2024 Fuel Management & Vessel Efficiency Initiatives			
Vessel Shutdown Vessel Optimization			
539,704 Gallons Saved 630,342 Gallons Saved			
20,935 MT CO2e Mitigated			
Equivalent annual emissions of 4,551 passenger vehicles avoided in 2024			

This success reflects the continued expansion and optimization of ACBL's Proprietary Fuel Management System, now installed on 59 vessels and representing 71% of our fleetwide fuel consumption. Operating our vessels as safely and efficiently as possible remains a key priority, building upon momentum from 2022 and 2023 initiatives.

In 2024, we also enhanced our Sustainability Management System, integrating new digital tools to streamline Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions tracking, improving transparency and accuracy.

As a founding member of the Blue Sky Maritime Coalition, ACBL continued leading at the industry level. Our team actively participates in executive and workstream leadership, helping shape solutions that advance the transition toward net-zero GHG emissions in waterborne transport.

These actions—and our multi-year momentum—reflect ACBL's growing commitment to emissions reduction and our pursuit of a commercially viable low-carbon future, aligned with our Climate Transition Plan.

### Why Barging is the Greenest Way to Move Cargo



When it comes to efficiency and environmental impact, inland barge transportation leads the way.

Lowest Emissions per Ton-Mile	Fewer Trucks. Less Congestion.	Safest Mode of Freight Transport
Barge: 15.1 tons of CO <sub>2</sub> Rail: 21.6 tons of CO <sub>2</sub> Truck: 140.7 tons of CO <sub>2</sub>	One 15-barge tow carries the same load as:  • 225 rail cars and 3 locomotives  • Or 1,050 semi-trucks  Barge transportation eliminates an estimated 58 million truck trips per year	Barging has the <b>lowest injury rate</b> of any freight mode:  1 injury by barge  96 by rail  1,145 by truck

Sources: Texas Transportation Institute; National Waterways Foundation



These advantages reinforce ACBL's role in supporting a safer, more efficient, and environmentally responsible supply chain one that moves America with fewer emissions, less congestion, and greater impact.











#### Fleet Modernization for a Cleaner Future

#### In 2024, we added:

- 100+ dry cargo barges
- 13 new liquid barges
- The M/V ACBL Mariner, the most powerful inland towboat ever delivered in the U.S.

Each addition is part of a broader fleet renewal strategy focused on replacing aging assets with more efficient, lower-emission equipment. These investments not only improve reliability and performance, but also contribute to measurable environmental benefits across our network.

These efforts helped ACBL reduce more than **20,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e** in 2024—**equivalent to removing over 4,500 passenger vehicles** from the road.

### **Adapting to Climate and River Conditions**

The 2024 operating year was again shaped by extreme river conditions, including periods of prolonged low water. ACBL worked closely with industry partners, engineers, and federal stakeholders to advocate for smarter water management, proactive dredging strategies, and increased infrastructure funding.

By leveraging our experience and working through coalitions, we continue to help shape an inland river system that is more resilient in the face of climate change and better prepared for the future of freight movement in North America.

Our environmental responsibility extends beyond emissions and equipment. Through partnerships with conservation groups and local schools, ACBL continues to invest in the protection and preservation of the river system we rely on.

### Pollution Prevention, Water Stewardship, and Waste Management

Protecting the waterways we depend on requires more than compliance—it demands foresight, discipline, and everyday action. At ACBL, we are committed to reducing pollution risk, improving water conservation, and managing waste responsibly across both vessel and shoreside operations.

### **Preventing Spills and Managing Risk**

ACBL maintains a Goal Zero mindset when it comes to spills and environmental incidents. Our Safety Management System (SMS) includes stringent procedures for cargo handling, product storage, and equipment maintenance to reduce the risk of spills at every step.

- All vessels operate under the U.S. EPA's Vessel General Permit (VGP) program for inland towing vessels.
- Crew members receive annual training on spill prevention and emergency response protocols as part of SMS onboarding and compliance modules.
- Equipment and product storage procedures are regularly reviewed to meet or exceed VGP standards for discharge management.
- ACBL trains critical personnel in the Incident Command System (ICS), a standardized, flexible, and comprehensive approach to managing incidents. This training and preparation through spill drills ensures our team is prepared to respond to spills and emergencies quickly and efficiently, minimizing potential environmental impacts.

2024 Shoreside Environmental Metrics				
Hazardous Waste	2.82	Tons		
Non-Hazardous Waste	2,991.03	Tons		
Universal Waste	0.81	Tons		
Recycling	14,510.80	Tons		
Potable Water Consumption	4,299,742.37	Gallons		
Well Water Consumption	21,130.00	Gallons		
River/Canal Intake	350,248,880.00	Gallons		

### 2024 Vessel Waste & **Recycling Metrics** TONS MATERIAL 3 Hazardous Waste 2 Universal Waste 10 Recycling 18 Non-hazardous Waste General Trash 1631 Slop Oil Recycled 2024 Shoreside Annual Emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e MT) TONS MATERIAL 2528 Scope 1 Scope 2 4648 1.3 Scope 3 (Waste Disposal) **2024 Marine Transportation Fleet Scope 1 Emissions** MATERIAL CH4 Emissions 21,851 35,243 N2O Emissions MATERIAL CO2e Emissions



### **Responsible Vessel Recycling and End-of-Life Asset Management**

When a vessel reaches the end of its useful life, ACBL follows a structured recycling and retirement process to ensure safe, responsible dismantling in full compliance with federal environmental and worker safety standards.

We work exclusively with certified marine salvage and ship recycling partners who demonstrate:

- Strong environmental track records
- Regulatory compliance with OSHA and EPA guidelines
- Safe handling and disposal practices for hazardous materials

This approach ensures that even at the end of their service, our vessels support the long-term sustainability goals outlined in ACBL's Code of Fthics.

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiatives**

In 2024, ACBL took additional steps to reduce paper waste, hazardous materials, and unnecessary energy consumption:

- TowWorks Integration: Our compliance and maintenance modules reduced the burden of manual recordkeeping on vessels and improved operational efficiency—cutting paper use across the fleet.
- Energy-efficient printing: All major offices transitioned to modern printers with duplex, low-power, and pull-print capabilities to cut energy use and reduce unnecessary waste.
- Hazardous waste reduction: Through improved inventory coordination and coating standardization, we avoided an estimated

**15,000 pounds** of hazardous waste. Excess marine coating material was redirected to maintenance projects and employee donation initiatives.

### **Shoreside Water Management** and Pollution Control

ACBL's fleeting, repair, and terminal locations maintain required NPDES permits and stormwater pollution prevention plans. In 2024, we continued to implement best management practices (BMPs) designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution and protect nearby waterways.

- River water reuse: Dry cargo barges are cleaned using river water rather than potable water, reducing strain on local utilities and avoiding unnecessary chemical treatment. In 2024, this initiative saved 154.7M gallons of potable water consumption, the equivalent of 1,625 metric tons of CO2 (approx. 10.5 kg of CO2 per 1000 gallons).
- Stormwater runoff control: Each shoreside site maintains structured BMPs including retention basins, perimeter controls, and routine inspections.
- Chemical and fuel handling: All hazardous materials are stored and managed per EPA SPCC (Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure) guidelines.

### **Ballast Water Reporting and Compliance**

In 2024, ACBL enhanced its ballast water reporting process through the continued implementation of TowWorks. The updated digital system simplifies onboard recordkeeping for mariners and improves visibility for shoreside compliance teams. This upgrade supports annual equivalent reporting and ensures adherence to evolving regulatory requirements.



#### **Freshwater Use and Conservation**

As we modernize our fleet, ACBL integrates freshwater-efficient plumbing—including low-flow fixtures and conservation valves—into vessel design and upgrades. In 2024, we expanded crew awareness efforts around freshwater use and introduced signage and reminders across our fleet to discourage unnecessary consumption.

- When deck washing is required, crews are instructed to limit water use and choose only non-caustic, biodegradable, phosphate-free cleaners.
- Our SMS includes preventative maintenance schedules and tracking through TowWorks to ensure water treatment systems operate at optimal efficiency.
- Onboard awareness training reinforces that no chemicals or prohibited materials should be disposed of in vessel sinks, toilets, or drains.

### **Reusable Water Programs**



Building on the 2023 installation of water bottle filling stations, ACBL continued to expand this effort in 2024. Refillable stations are now standard across shoreside locations, and Team Members are encouraged to bring reusable bottles during shifts. As of July 2025, the ACBL headquarters alone has prevented over 65,000 single-use plastic bottles from entering the waste stream.







107 VESSELS AWARDED THE CSA ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### **Environmental Partnerships that Make an Impact**

ACBL continued its longstanding partnership with Living Lands & Waters, supporting environmental education, tree distribution, and waterway cleanup events across the system.

#### In 2024:

- 6,598 native trees were distributed to schools and communities
- ACBL Team Members participated in river cleanups, including one in Louisville that removed more than 4,700 pounds of debris from the Ohio River

We also partnered with schools in Cairo, Illinois, to plant native tree species on school grounds—reinforcing both environmental awareness and our commitment to the river communities where we live and work.

ACBL's environmental progress is not just about compliance—it's about commitment. Every investment in cleaner engines, more efficient vessels, or smarter operations is part of our larger mission: to lead the inland marine industry toward a more sustainable future, one decision at a time.





- \$500K invested in expanding the proprietary fuel management system
- 59 vessels covered (71% of total fleet fuel use)
- 3 consecutive years of reduced CO<sub>2</sub> grams per ton-mile (mainline fleet)
- Replaced seven Tier 0 or Tier 1 vessels with Tier 3 models
- Upgraded onboard fuel displays for real-time efficiency tracking
- Integrated shoreside/vessel fuel data platform
- Biweekly Fuel Management Team calls
- Ongoing feedback loop between vessel and shoreside teams



### **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS**

Upholding integrity, transparency, and accountability across our operations.

At ACBL, we believe that how we operate is just as important as what we achieve. Our governance framework is designed to reinforce our company's direction and values-keeping us focused on what matters most: Our Customers. Our People. Our Assets. Every decision we make, from corporate strategy to daily operations, is rooted in these three pillars.

Our Board of Directors provides oversight and accountability to ensure that our actions reflect the highest standards of ethical conduct, regulatory compliance, and long-term sustainability. Together with our Executive Leadership Team, the Board guides the company's strategic direction and monitors risk, compliance, ESG performance, and stakeholder engagement.

### **Governance in Practice**

ACBL's governance structure supports our operational priorities across every corner of the business:

- For Our Customers: We prioritize reliable service and value creation, supported by governance policies that emphasize transparency and accountability.
- For Our People: We ensure crews and shoreside teams are trained, equipped, and supported—while keeping their well-being and families in mind.
- For Our Assets: We proactively manage our fleet and facilities to minimize downtime, prevent incidents, and protect the environment.

We also recognize the broader group of stakeholders who count on us to operate responsibly—regulators, investors, vendors, and the public. Our governance practices, including oversight by the Board and its committees, ensure we meet those expectations with consistency and integrity.

### **Ethics and Compliance**

Ethics and compliance are core to how ACBL operates. In 2024, we updated and reinforced our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct. which applies to all employees, leaders, and Board members. All Team Members are required to complete annual ethics training and affirm their understanding of the standards we uphold.

Training covers essential topics including:

- Ethical business practices (anti-bribery, anti-corruption)
- Fair competition and antitrust
- Financial integrity and fraud prevention
- Equal employment opportunity, discrimination, and harassment
- Environmental health and safety
- Sustainability and regulatory compliance

To support an open culture, ACBL provides a confidential reporting channel that allows employees to raise concerns without fear of retaliation. Concerns are reviewed and addressed in alignment with company policy and ethical expectations.

### **Vendor Code of Conduct**

Our commitment to ethics extends beyond our walls. All third-party partners and suppliers are expected to follow ACBL's Vendor Code of Conduct, which prohibits:

- Forced or child labor
- Slavery and human trafficking
- Discrimination, harassment, and unsafe working conditions. It also requires ethical business practices, respect for freedom of association, environmental responsibility, and full compliance with labor and safety laws. This alignment ensures that our values extend across our full operating network.

### **Regulatory Compliance**

ACBL is committed to maintaining full compliance with all laws and regulations that govern our operations. This includes oversight from agencies such as the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Department of Transportation (DOT), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as applicable state and local authorities.

Our Safety and Compliance Teams work closely with operational leaders to ensure that policies are effectively implemented and continuously improved. Compliance at ACBL is not viewed as a static checklist—it's a proactive culture that supports safety, transparency, and accountability across all operations.

#### **Our Commitment**

ACBL's commitment to governance and ethics is not a checkbox it's an important part of who we are. As we pursue our vision of becoming the trusted leader in marine transportation, we do so with integrity, transparency, and respect for every person and partner we serve.









### SASB Index 2024



The SASB Standards is a set of standards designed by the investment community in order to facilitate communication of financially material ESG information to investors by reporting companies. Below is a mapping of how our 2024 Sustainability Report aligns with SASB Standards. This index reflects our alignment with the recommended topics of the "Marine Transportation" Industry Standard from the SASB framework. We provide disclosures against those metrics most relevant to our business. We are using one additional Human Capital accounting metric (SV-PS-330a.3) from the SASB "Professional & Commercial Services" Standard to guide the disclosure of our Team Member engagement. For the topics where we currently do not provide adequate disclosure, we will continue to evaluate developments and evolve our future disclosures.

### **Table 1. Sustainability Disclosure Topic and Accounting Standards**

SASB Topic	Accounting Metric	SASB Code	Category	Unit of Measure	Disclosure Location/Response
	Gross Global Scope 1 emissions	TR-MT-110a.1	Quantitative	Metric tons (t) CO2-e	2024 Sustainability Report, page 12
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Discussion of long-term and short-term strategy or plan to manage Scope 1 emissions, emissions reduction targets, and an analysis of performance against those targets	TR-MT-110a.2	Discussion and Analysis	n/a	Not applicable
	Average Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) for new ships	TR-MT-110a.4	Quantitative	Grams of CO2 per ton-nautical mile	2024 Sustainability Report, Appendix: Climate Transition Plan
Air Quality	Air emissions of the following pollutants: (1) NOx (excluding N2O), (2) SOX, and (3) particulate matter (PM10)	TR-MT-120a.1	Quantitative	Metric tons (t)	2024 Sustainability Report, page 12
	Shipping duration in marine protected areas or areas of protected conservation status	TR-MT-160a.1	Quantitative	Number of travel days	Vessels remain in compliance with all navigational and environmental restrictions, including during transiting of marine protected areas
Ecological Impacts	Percentage of fleet implementing ballast water (1) exchange and (2) treatment	TR-MT-160a.2	Quantitative	Percentage (%)	Not applicable; vessels utilize potable water for ballasting
	(1) Number and (2) aggregate volume of spills and releases to the environment	TR-MT-160a.3	Quantitative	Number, Cubic meters (m³)	3 spills totaling 1.1 gallons (Zero cargo releases)
Employee Health & Safety	Lost time incident rate (LTIR)	TR-MT-320a.1	Quantitative	Rate	0.39
	Number of calls at ports in countries that have the 20 lowest rankings in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index	TR-MT-510a.1	Quantitative	Number	Not applicable
	Total amount of monetary losses as a result of legal proceedings associated with bribery or corruption	TR-MT-510a.2	Quantitative	Reporting currency	None
Business Ethics	Total amount of monetary losses as a result of legal proceedings associated with fraud, insider trading, antitrust, anti-competitive behaviour, market manipulation, malpractice, or other related financial industry laws or regulations	FN-IB-510a.1	Quantitative	Presentation currency	Zero
	Description of whistleblower policies and procedures	FN-IB-510a.2	Discussion and Analysis	n/a	2024 Sustainability Report, page 15
Accident Safety & Management	Number of marine casualties, percentage classified as very serious	TR-MT-540a.1	Quantitative	Number, Percentage (%)	Zero (0)
	Number of Conditions of Class or Recommendations	TR-MT-540a.2	Quantitative	Number	Not applicable
	Number of port state control (1) deficiencies and (2) detentions	TR-MT-540a.3	Quantitative	Number	Not applicable
Workforce Diversity & Engagement	Team Member engagement as a percentage	SV-PS-330a.1	Quantitative	Percentage (%)	2024 Sustainability Report, Section Investing in Our Team, page 4

**APPENDIX** 



For more than a century, American Commercial Barge Line (ACBL) has provided the safest, most cost-effective and environmentally friendly barge transportation solutions while evolving to meet the ever-changing demands of the marketplace.

As a leader in inland barge transportation, ACBL moves the grain, dry bulk and liquid commodities relied upon by consumers, businesses and industries every day.

We provide a wide array of barging solutions to meet your transportation needs and the flexibility required to support your business. With one of the nation's largest and newest inland river barge fleets, ACBL operates the safest, most reliable and efficient equipment for transporting cargoes along 7,200 miles of U.S. inland waterways. With a fully integrated network, we provide transloading, warehousing, storage and fleeting services to support barge transportation throughout the Mississippi River System and its tributaries.

#### CONTACT:

### **American Commercial Barge Line**

1701 E Market St, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 +1 800-457-6377 | <u>bargeacbl.com</u>

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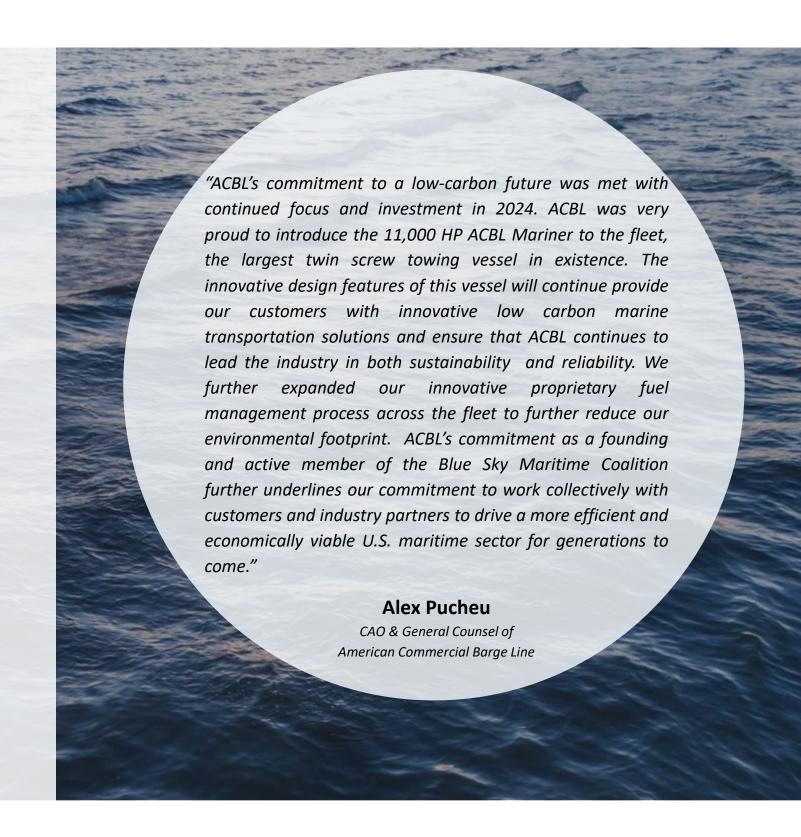




### Introduction

Our Climate Transition Plan outlines our ever-evolving strategic roadmap towards a low-carbon future. Our roadmap embraces continuous improvement of our highly efficient vessel operations while continuing to evaluate and implementing other innovative technologies as they become commercially viable.

This Climate Transition Plan lays out our strategy and includes a current overview of our 2024 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, commitments, key reduction strategies and roadmap to achieve these commitments.





### **Vessel Operations Profile**



		Fleet Boat Operational Pro	Barges Towed (1)	
	Emissions	Towwork and interchange.	Fleetwork and dock spots.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	CO2e*	0.16 MT / Op Hr.	0.12 MT / Op Hr.	
Unit Boat Operational Profile (2K HP)			Barges Towed (3)	
رگائے	Emissions	Short Haul Unit Tow (1 to 3-day trip)	Long Haul Unit Tow (7 to 10-day trip)	1
	CO2e*	0.27 MT / Op Hr.	0.34 MT / Op Hr.	-11
1	С	anal Boat Operational Profile (	Barges Towed (6)	
	Emissions	Houston to Baton Rouge (1 to 3-day trip)	Baton Rouge to Houston (7 to 10-day trip)	
	CO2e*	0.48 MT / Op Hr.	0.48 MT / Op Hr.	
I <del></del>	Shuttle Boat Operational Profile (4K HP – 16 Barges)			Barges Towed (16)
	Emissions	Gulf Shuttle Lower Mississippi (1 day trip)	Locking Rivers – Ohio, Upper Miss & Illinois (7-day trip)	
	CO2e*	0.71 MT / Op Hr.	0.91 MT / Op Hr.	
	Main	line Vessel Operational Profile	Barges Towed (56)	
	Emissions	Transiting Southbound (Cairo to Baton Rouge) 4-day trip	Transiting Northbound (Baton Rouge to Cairo) 7-day trip	
	CO2e*	4 days / 195 MT 2.03 MT / Op. Hr.	7 days / 747.58 MT 4.44 MT / Op. Hr.	

\*Note these are estimated CO2e values based on fleet data for visualization purposes

Though ACBL exclusively operates in the U.S. inland water system, our fleet of vessels is diverse in size and service type. Our vessel fleet spans from fleeting operations to our mainline operations, moving large tows on the Mississippi River. Due to the diversity and variance of operation, it is imperative that the company utilizes a multi-faceted approach for fuel management and emission reduction strategies.

### **Mainline Towing Vessels**

ACBL mainline towing vessels boast the largest vessels in the fleet, ranging anywhere from 6,000 to 11,000+ HP. ACBL's mainline vessels primarily operate on the lower Mississippi River from Cairo, IL, on the locking rivers from Chicago to Pittsburg, and in the Gulf from Baton Rouge to New Orleans, carrying anywhere from 15 barges up to 56 barges, depending upon the size and horsepower of the vessel. Mainline vessels stay in a state of continuous operation, with limited downtime for exchanging tows at fleeting locations.

### **Unit Towing Vessels**

Unit boats operate on dedicated contracts in the liquid towing business and service varying industries. Boats in this service can range from 2,000 to 3,000 HP and operate under highly variable conditions affected by facility production schedules and needs, which often include periods of not being underway. Based upon the varied operating cycles, boats in this service have the greatest potential for diesel electric and other hybrid technologies.

### **Canal & Shuttle Vessels**

Within the vessel fleet, ACBL also has towboats that operate in the canal and shuttle boat service. Boats in these two services can range anywhere from 2,600 to 4,000 HP. Canal boats are primarily moving 6 barge tows and shuttle boats could move up to 16 barges. These vessels operate in varying segments of the inland river and canal systems and may also be moved into mainline service based upon business and market needs.

#### **Fleet Vessels**

Fleeting locations play a role in supporting ACBLs vessel operations, interchange and logistics and vessel efficiency. These strategic locations hold barges that are not currently being towed, in addition to providing key services like barge cleaning and repair activities. ACBL's fleet vessels perform various tasks including but not limited to making and breaking barge tows, transiting barges to local docks for loading and unloading, conducting fleet maintenance and supporting facility operations.



### **Current & Historical Emissions Profile**

A detailed assessment of GHG emissions is critical for establishing our baseline year and guiding our emission reduction efforts under this Climate Transition Plan:

**Baseline Years**: ACBL established 2022 as our baseline GHG emission year for marine operations and 2024 as the baseline GHG year for Shoreside Operations.

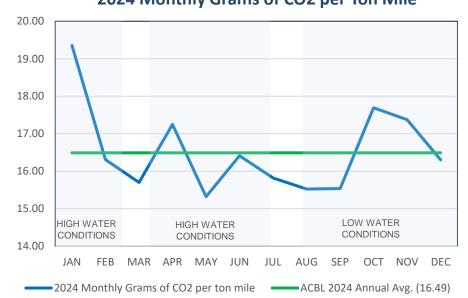
2024 Shoreside Annual Emissions (CO2e MT)				
Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3 (Waste Disposal)		
2,527.6	4,647.8	1.3		

2023 - 2024 Marine Transportation Fleet Emissions Profile					
Total Annual Fleetwide Scope 1 GHG Emissions*	2023	2024			
	693,900.2 CO2e MT	719,659.7 CO2e MT			
Grams (gm) of CO2 Per Ton Mile:					
Mainline 40+-Barge Towing Vessels	15.09 gm of CO2/Ton Mile	14.99 gm of CO2/Ton Mile			
25 Barge Towing Vessels	15.76 gm of CO2/Ton Mile	15.24 gm of CO2/Ton Mile			
Overall Average	16.17 gm of CO2/Ton Mile	16.49 gm of CO2/Ton Mile			

In 2024, 99.7% of ACBL's overall Scope 1 GHG Emissions resulted from our Marine Transportation Fleet, which continues to be our focus area for emissions reductions.

- ACBL **mitigated 20,935 metric Tons of CO2e** through vessel optimization and fuel management, exceeding the target reduction goal set for the year.
- **Customer Reporting**: Upon request, ACBL customers can receive carbon intensity reporting on a per voyage & per ton mile basis for their cargo.





## 2024 Climate Change Impacts& Operating Conditions

# Mainline towing Vessel's average 14.99 grams of CO2 per-ton-mile in 2024, versus 15.09 grams of CO2 per-ton-mile in 2023. 2024 Grams of CO2 per Ton Mile

**Mainline Advantage** 

ACBL continues to consistently operate one of the largest number

industry relative to the amount of cargo that is moved. A previous study revealed that ACBL's 40+ Barge Mainline Vessels were 20% more cost efficient per ton mile to operate and can move 69%

Further expansion of our proprietary fuel management system resulted in increased efficiency in both our 25 and 40+ Barge towing vessel classes. Customers moving on our 40+ Barge

of 40+ barge tows in the inland towing industry. This class of vessels are the most carbon efficient in the transportation

more volume than an industry average 25-barge boat.

15.50
15.00
14.50
14.00

ACBL Mainline (40+ Barge)

ACBL Mainline (25 Barge)

River conditions continued to impact company carbon efficiency throughout the year, with 88% of the operating year being impacted by either low or high water. ACBL worked proactively minimize these impacts through continued advocacy and congressional engagement, company leadership at LOMRC, RIETF, IWUB, and MRC partnerships the Army Corp and USCG in 2024. Our Operating Condition Index allows us to plan and adjust our operations to ensure optimization of the efficiency of our marine operations based on river system conditions. This in combination with our proprietary fuel management system ensures company vessels operate as efficiently as possible under restricted conditions.

\*GHG emission calculations are aligned with GHG Protocol standards (GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard) the best in practice standard for corporate GHG emissions managed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Resource Institute (WRI). ACBL "Marine Transportation Fleet" and "Shoreside Annual Emissions" includes ACBL and its' affiliates.



### **Current & Short-Term Reduction Initiatives**

### **Fleet Modernization and Emission Reductions**



In 2024, ACBL commissioned the M/V ACBL Mariner, the most powerful towboat to date deployed on the inland river system. Engineered for high-horsepower performance, enhanced safety features, and optimized fuel efficiency, the vessel represents a significant advancement in low-emission marine transport technology. Its deployment underscores the superior carbon intensity profile of inland marine transportation relative to rail and trucking alternatives.

In 2024, ACBL further enhanced its fleet by replacing seven Tier 0 and Tier 1 vessels with more efficient vessels powered by Tier 3 engines. This initiative builds on the emissions reductions achieved by the Tier 4 M/V Michael J. Kennelly, which joined the fleet in October 2023 through ACBL's partnership with Mitsubishi to introduce their first Tier 4 marine engines to the industry. Looking ahead, ACBL remains committed to working with key industry partners to bring more efficient equipment into our fleet while continuing to deliver innovative

marine transportation solutions to our customers.

In 2024, the U.S. Coast Guard granted a Design Basis Agreement to Maritime Partners for the M/V Hydrogen One, marking a key regulatory milestone for the first methanol-to-hydrogen towboat on the inland waterways. Construction of the vessel is scheduled to commence in 2025. Utilizing methanol reformer technology, the vessel

is designed to significantly reduce carbon emissions compared to conventional marine propulsion systems. ACBL is proud to serve as the vessel operator and to continue our strategic partnership with Maritime Partners in advancing low-emission technologies across the U.S. inland marine sector.

In 2024, we continued expanding our proprietary fuel management system to additional vessels, covering 71% of the company's total fuel consumption for the year. Additional improvements included upgrades to our onboard fuel management wheelhouse display and the integration of a Power BI data platform, enabling real-time feedback to the wheelhouse on vessel-specific efficiency targets. These enhancements—combined with the ongoing operational commitment of our mariners and shoreside support staff—have contributed to three consecutive years of reductions in grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per ton-mile across ACBL's mainline fleet. ACBL also maintains a policy requiring all vessels stopped at port or in a safe location to shut down at least one engine on a two-hour rotating schedule, resulting in a 50% reduction in Scope 1 emissions during these periods.





Since 2014, ACBL has replaced 39 Tier 0 and Tier 1 main engines with more fuel efficient lower emission Tier 3 engines



Installed at the ACBL
Headquarters office
in 2022, the company
continues to provide
EV charging
capabilities to
employees at no cost.







### **Decarbonization Headwinds & Combating the Impacts of Climate Change**

Our commitment to sustainable shipping and reducing emissions across our inland waterway operations, particularly on the Mississippi River, faces several complex challenges that require a concerted and collaborative approach. These challenges can be broadly categorized into funding and supply chain constraints, as well as the dynamic and climate change-influenced operating conditions of the river itself.

### **Funding & Supply Chain Challenges**

- Reduction in federal agency budgets and historically used federal grant programs that support emission reduction technologies and projects.
- Inland vessel operators face challenges with the availability, cost, and inadequate supply of lower and zero-carbon fuel sources and technologies, including access to currently viable lower-carbon drop-in fuels like renewable and biodiesel.
- Despite increasing cargo owner interest in sustainable shipping and reduced emissions, the readiness to accept the higher costs required for vessel operators and owners to make the transition remains a significant hurdle.

### Dynamics of the Mississippi River & Climate Change Impacts and Impacts on Air Emissions:

Barge transportation remains the most carbon-efficient mode in the U.S. transportation sector due to its ability to move massive amounts of cargo at lower fuel consumption rates, though everchanging river conditions and declining infrastructure threaten this advantage.

- In 2024, operating conditions were impacted by low or high-water conditions 88% of the time, Historic high-water conditions impacted operations during the first part of the year, moving quickly into low water conditions during the second half.
- The dynamic nature of the Mississippi River, amplified by climate change, creates conditions that prevent barges from reaching maximum cargo capacities and limit the deployment of the largest, most carbon-efficient vessels, consequently impacting the industry's ability to minimize emissions.
- USCG navigational restrictions that restrict allowable tow size, further reducing cargo capacities
- Creating congestion and delays leading to reduced efficiency.
- Risks to Federal funding for dredging and inland waterway infrastructure maintenance and improvements.









Blue Sky Maritime Coalition continues to recognize and work to address the challenge in reducing GHG emissions of water-borne transportation in Canada and U.S. <u>BlueSky Accelerating Transition</u> 2022.08.30 / BlueSky Roadmap to Net Zero Emissions, 2023.11.30

The fourth International Maritime Organization (IMO) GHG Study demonstrates that "whilst further improvement of the carbon intensity of shipping can be achieved, it will be difficult to achieve IMO's 2050 GHG reduction ambition only through energy-saving technologies and speed reduction of ships. Therefore, under all projected scenarios, in 2050, a large share of the total amount of CO2 reduction will have to come from the use of low-carbon alternative fuel" See full report

In a report published by ABS, they note "With the exception of some attention from the European Union, there has been little focus on decarbonization pathways in the shallow draft inland navigation sector. While inland river navigation shares some similarities with trans-ocean shipping, there are important challenges and opportunities unique to the inland sector that are primarily attributable to the development of the physical infrastructure in each geographical river area and the outlook for the markets served." See full report

In February 2024 **S&P Global** notes that "the process of decarbonizing maritime, as for all other sectors, comes with significant costs. It is unclear who will bear that cost, as pricing for such things as zero-carbon fuels is set by the market, not by regulation." Decarbonization and development: Logistics network investments (S&P Global)



### **Our Carbon Transition Roadmap to 2050**

The initiatives and roadmap outlined in this Climate Transition Plan will be continually reviewed, updated and implemented by our Sustainability, Vessel Efficiency and Fuel Management Task Force(s) working collaboratively to meet our goals.

#### **Current & Short-Term Initiatives Medium-Term Initiatives Long-Term Initiatives** Tier 4 M/V Mike Kennelly delivered in 2023 • Key levers in our decarbonization journey are Our approach to reducing operational emissions continues through highly efficient operations, technical upgrades and future fuels under Proprietary fuel management system renewable fuels use and continued evaluation development implementation and implementation of low and zero emissions Proprietary fuel management system expansion • Our efforts to reduce operational and supply technologies as they become commercially across the fleet chain emission continue through collaboration viable. with our customers, supply chain members and **Continued investment in emission reduction** Through our strategic partnerships, ACBL strategic partners related equipment improvements (over \$400M invested since 2010) continues to explore the viability of hybrid Exploring carbon offsets, as necessary vessel systems and alternative propulsion ACBL to operate the world's 1st hydrogen-fueled technologies (hydrogen, diesel-electric, and towboat utilizing the e1 Marine Methanol electric) implementation for vessel retrofits and **Reformer Technology** new vessels. Key company partnerships advancing technology and emission reduction improvements and Continued collaboration with key industry projects. stakeholders and regulators to make low and zero emission technology more readily available Collaboration with key industry stakeholders and regulators to make low and zero emission and commercially viable. technology more readily available and commercially viable. 2025-2030 2030-2040 2040-2050

Disclosures/Forward Looking Statements: Certain information included in this 2024 Sustainability Report may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of applicable securities laws, including, but not limited to, statements regarding ACBL's plans to: move forward with identified climate change opportunities and plans to seek opportunities to further integrate sustainability into our business strategy. These statements reflect ACBL management's reasonable judgment with respect to future events. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements as they are subject to a number of assumptions and known and unknown risks and uncertainties that may cause the actual results, performance, or achievements of our company to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements contained herein are based on currently available information and are made as of the date of this document. ACBL assumes no obligation to update or otherwise revise these forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.