

The blue economy in New Orleans, United States

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)



FACTS AND FIGURES

Fact box

- **Population:** 376 971 [1]
- **GDP:** USD 20.4 billion [2]
- **Area:** 437 km² [3]

Drivers for the blue economy



Create jobs



Reduce GHG emissions



National laws, regulations and initiatives

Blue economy sectors

New Orleans, a delta city on the Mississippi River connected to Lake Borgne and Lake Pontchartrain, is home to all blue economy sectors below. [According to the US Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#), the Port of New Orleans is the fifth port in terms of total tons of domestic and foreign waterborne trade in the US in 2020. Water-based renewable energy is also gaining traction as a result of the New Orleans [Climate Action Plan](#) launched in 2017 and renewed in 2022.



Seafood



Water-based renewable energy



Shipping



Port activities



Shipbuilding and repair



Water passenger transport and related services



Water-related tourism



Blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education

BLUE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

The main environmental impacts of blue economy sectors in New Orleans are related to greenhouse gas emissions and water pollution. Biodiversity loss, air pollution, depletion of natural resources and waste generation are other moderate impacts. Due to maritime traffic, the industrial corridor along the Mississippi River represents a hotspot of air pollution. In addition, activities such as oil exploration and the cutting of channels for shipping and pipelines intensify the loss of coastal areas. New Orleans is a delta city where climate hazards have already caused the loss of approximately 25% of the coastal area. In 2017, the [Coastal Master Plan](#) of the state of Louisiana was launched with the goal of protecting and restoring wetlands. However, it recognised the impossibility of maintaining "no net loss" in ecosystems due to sea level rise and intensity of weather events.

Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in New Orleans



Sea level rise



Coastal erosion



Subsidence

[1] Census Bureau (2021), www.census.gov/quickfacts/neworleanscitylouisiana (accessed 14 March 2023)

[2] BEA (2022), www.bea.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/lagdp1222.pdf (accessed 14 March 2023)

[3] Census Bureau (2021), www.census.gov/quickfacts/neworleanscitylouisiana (accessed 14 March 2023)

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GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

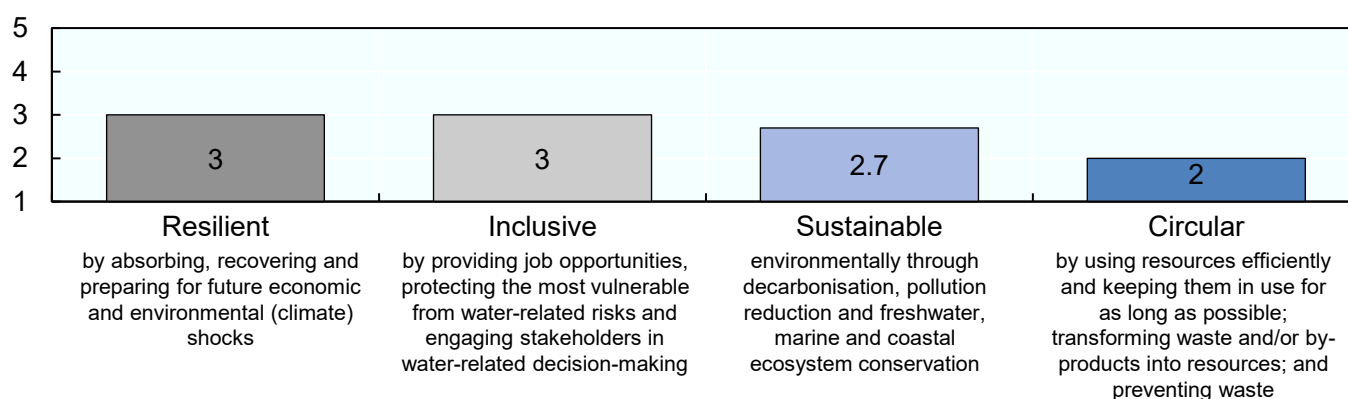
The City of New Orleans collaborate with the Port of New Orleans to seek federal grant programmes for infrastructure funding. In addition, the Office of Workforce Development cooperate with local colleges and universities, as well as with businesses, to ensure that education programmes are tailored to the needs of the local blue economy (e.g. Naval Engineering and Architecture Program at the University of New Orleans). Finally, the City of New Orleans collaborates with partners at city and federal government level to seek to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Funding mechanisms

- Federal government transfers of funds
- Local funds
- Central government loans and loan guarantees
- Blended finance
- Private funding

THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY

(*)



(*) Survey respondents were invited to define their level of agreement (with 5 "Agree" and 1 "Disagree") for statements for each of the RISC dimensions (from question 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 of the OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)).

TOP CHALLENGES

- Regulatory barriers
- Cultural barriers

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Foster decarbonisation
- Promote material efficiency and circularity
- Adapt and enhance the resilience to climate change
- Preserve and enhance local culture and traditions
- Foster collaboration
- Improve the regulatory environment
- Create new jobs and business opportunities
- Protect the most vulnerable