



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
2 October 2018

Global climate action by airports up 25% in the past year

- 246 airports now actively engaged in addressing their impact on Climate change
- Collective reduction of more than 347,000 tonnes of CO2 achieved in the past year
- 48 airports are now carbon neutral (Level 3+) - having worked to reduce their emissions and engaged other companies on the airport site to do so as well, they offset their remaining residual emissions. 44 airports offset 672,000 tonnes of CO2 during Year 9.

2 October 2018: At the Global Sustainable Aviation Summit in Geneva today, Airports Council International provided an update on the latest developments among the community of **246 airports currently** in the global carbon management standard, *Airport Carbon Accreditation*.

Angela Gittens, Director General, ACI World said “Airports around the world recognize that climate resilience* and climate action are two sides of the same challenge. With 48 new airports in the programme this past year, the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme has never seen such annual momentum. The 246 airports now accredited across the four levels of the programme welcomed 3.3 billion passengers last year which represents 44.2% of global passenger traffic. All of those airports engaged in climate action voluntarily.”

She added “This collective effort is based on the airports industry making environmental stewardship a priority and it is making a difference. From May 2017 to May 2018, accredited airports succeeded in collectively reducing the CO2 emissions under their direct control by **347,026 tonnes**. To put that achievement in perspective, it would take **more than eight million trees planted over 10 years** to absorb the equivalent amount of CO2.”

Niclas Svenningsen, who heads the Climate Neutral Now initiative at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat in Bonn, Germany commented “Climate action by industry is critical to addressing the escalating threat of Climate change – everyone has their part to play. The airport industry’s work through the Airport Carbon Accreditation provides an example of an industry that is actively engaged in climate action, through independent certification, but also through the knowledge that airports gain from each other, as they try new solutions and technology to lower their carbon emissions.”



Dr. Fang Liu, Secretary General of ICAO said *“Our efforts to empower aviation to address its carbon emissions rely on the participation of as many actors in the sector as possible. ICAO follows the progress of ACI’s programme with keen interest. The growing success of Airport Carbon Accreditation – with emissions under the airports’ direct control being reduced by 5.3% in the past year – is worthy of heartfelt congratulations to all involved.”*

With **4 different levels of accreditation** covering all stages of carbon management (*Mapping, Reduction, Optimisation and Neutrality*), *Airport Carbon Accreditation* is independently administered, institutionally-endorsed¹ and has the support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), US Federal Aviation Administration and the European Commission (EC).

To reduce their carbon emissions, airport operators need to consider the full extent of the emissions sources under their direct control. Investment in more energy efficient lighting, heating, switching to hybrid or electric ground vehicles, onsite renewables, energy management tools and employee behavioural change all have a part to play. The possibilities become even more diverse when airport operators engage other stakeholders on the airport site as well (Level 3 of the programme), with initiatives such as Airport-Collaborative Decision-Making (A-CDM), Continuous Descent Operations and Time-Based Separation lowering airline-associated carbon emissions and better intermodal access and electric or hybrid taxis offering passengers cleaner transport solutions to/from the airport.

Carbon neutral airports at Level 3+ of the programme have to provide evidence of undertaking all the actions required by the programme (mapping their emissions, reducing them and engaging others on the airport site), before investing in responsible carbon offsets. The 44 carbon neutral airports during Year 9 of the programme (May 2017 to May 2018) offset 672,000 tonnes of CO₂ in residual emissions.

For all the latest key figures, including details of the accredited airports in each world region, their actions and the difference the programme is making, check out the interactive maps, case studies & programme results on www.AirportCO2.org.

Full details of Year 9 (May 2017 to May 2018) are available in the Annual Report available to download here: <https://airportcarbonaccreditation.org/component/downloads/downloads/132.html>



ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has estimated that aviation's total CO₂ emissions account for 2% of global emissions' impact on climate change. Of that figure, airports' own operations only account for up to 5%, but airports are keen to tackle their greenhouse gas emissions - several individual airports operators having already committed to becoming carbon neutral in the past few years with some having already achieved this.

*ACI World will release a new Policy Brief publication on *Airports' Resilience & Adaptation to Climate Resilience* tomorrow.

°Find out more about CORSIA by visiting:

http://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Pages/A39_CORSIA_FAQ2.aspx

Originally developed and launched by [ACI Europe](#) in June 2009, *Airport Carbon Accreditation* was extended to airports in Asia-Pacific, in November 2011 (in partnership with [ACI Asia-Pacific](#)) and to African airports in June 2013, (in partnership with [ACI Africa](#)), North American airports in September 2014 (in partnership with [ACI-NA](#)) and airports in Latin America & Caribbean in December 2014 (in partnership with [ACI-LAC](#)).

¹The programme is administered by leading consultancy WSP. It accredits the airports under the programme, provides administrative and secretariat services and advises applicant airports through the accreditation process.

WSP is one of the world's leading engineering professional services firms. WSP are technical experts and strategic advisors, and provide services to transform the built environment and restore the natural one, in areas including environmental and climate remediation, urban and transport planning, sustainable transport networks and strategies, airport sustainability, carbon management and energy planning and management.

<http://www.wsp.com/>

The *Airport Carbon Accreditation* programme is overseen by an independent Advisory Board including representatives from the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change), ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation), UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme), the European Commission, ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference), EUROCONTROL and Manchester Metropolitan University.

To find out which airports are certified & their level of certification, visit:

<https://airportcarbonaccreditation.org/airport/participants.html>

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