



long beach airport

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Date: April 28, 2021
To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T.M.*
From: Cynthia Guidry, Director, Long Beach Airport *C.G.*
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: **Long Beach Airport Sustainability Update – Airport Carbon Accreditation**

On August 14, 2018, the City Council unanimously approved an item, sponsored by Mayor Robert Garcia and Councilwoman Stacy Mungo, requesting that the City develop a plan to lead the nation on sustainability for airports and to work with airlines and other partners to become an incubator of clean technology in aviation, with the goal of becoming a carbon-neutral facility. This memorandum provides a brief update on Long Beach Airport's (Airport) progress toward these efforts.

In 2019, the Airport undertook a comprehensive evaluation of operations, considering current and emerging sustainability practices and technologies. A consultant was engaged to prepare a Sustainability Plan Outline that included a baseline assessment and presented planning and strategy ideas for focus areas. Based on these focus areas, a team of expert sustainability and environmental consultants was retained to assist and support Airport staff and the Airport Advisory Commission's Sustainability Committee initiatives, and to present progress updates at the City's Energy Leadership Partnership meetings and the City's Sustainability Commission meetings.

The Airport is taking aggressive steps toward becoming carbon-neutral. In early 2020, the Airport completed the installation of new high-capacity charging stations for electric ground support equipment (GSE) at all 11 commercial gates, incentivizing airlines to replace older GSE with electric GSE to reduce carbon emissions. Later in the year, the Airport began the process of applying for Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA).

The ACA program is administered by Airports Council International (ACI) and helps airports identify, manage, and reduce their carbon emissions. The ACA currently has six levels of accreditation:

- Level 1: Mapping
- Level 2: Reduction
- Level 3: Optimization
- Level 3+: Neutrality
- Level 4: Transformation
- Level 4+: Transition

The Airport considered the current status of ongoing emissions reduction measures, the associated cost, and the impact of voluntary Air Quality Improvement Program measures when deciding to enter the ACA program. Level 2 was selected as an ambitious yet achievable goal for entry into the ACA program.

The Airport and its consultants prepared an emissions inventory using collected data from 2016-2019 and ran calculations that included:

- Scope 1 Emissions: Airport-owned or controlled sources such as airport vehicles, onsite waste management, and power generation.
- Scope 2 Emissions: Indirect emissions, e.g., consumption of purchased energy, such as electricity and heat.

With this inventory complete and using 2016 as the baseline year, the Airport prepared a draft Carbon Management Plan, developed proposed emissions reduction targets, and contracted with a third-party verifier as required per the ACA process.

The Airport will submit reduction targets for Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on a per passenger, intensity basis at the following levels. These targets are based on the Airport's review of current emissions and were chosen with an understanding of how renewable energy use by utility providers will impact Airport emissions.

- 20 percent below 2016 baseline by 2025
- 40 percent below 2016 baseline by 2030

Reaching these aggressive targets will require innovation and investment, and the Airport has identified potential projects that would help meet reduction targets. ACI allows applicants to modify these targets, if necessary. Dates can be changed based on feasibility, goals, technology, clean energy, etc.

The Airport's emission targets align with the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), confirmed by the City Council on January 5, 2021. As the City adopts policies to meet CAAP goals, the Airport will incorporate measures that support progress toward meeting the emissions reduction targets.

The Airport's next steps for the ACA process include completing third-party verification, followed by application submittal in early June 2021. ACI plans to announce approved accreditations later this year. Level 2 accreditation is a significant milestone, with only a small number of airports achieving ACA across the nation. Ultimately, the Airport is working toward Level 3+ neutrality ACA accreditation and looks forward to submitting its application to ACI.

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (562) 570-2605.

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