

MESSAGE FROM ANGELA GITTENS

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Airports play a unique role in addressing adverse environmental impacts of aviation at a local level. Their experience in engaging with their communities is a successful example of cooperation in dealing with environmental issues. Airports are also the interface between aviation stakeholders and ground equipment operations, and therefore, they can work to improve not only their own environmental footprint, but also can contribute to the work being done by other stakeholders in this endeavor.

This engagement at the international level is performed through Airports Council International (ACI), the international organization representing the world's airports and the communities they serve. ACI has been actively cooperating with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) environmental initiatives by creating synergies on several fronts:

- At the ACI 2015 World Annual General Assembly in Panama, the membership expressly supports ICAO's State Action Plans, Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU), the aircraft CO₂ emission standard, the development of sustainable alternative aircraft fuels and a global market-based measure.
- ACI's 2013 joint statement under the ATAG umbrella, together with ICAO, supports the need to cooperate to promote sustainable approaches to global aviation emissions reduction.
- ACI actively supports the industry's goal of becoming carbon neutral from 2020 and reducing aviation carbon emissions by 50% by 2050, and recognizes the leadership of ICAO in this process.
- ACI works through CAEP as an observer representing airport views at ICAO and contributing expertise on topics such as aircraft noise and community engagement, local air quality, airport planning, adaptation to climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) management.
- ACI World and Regional Environment Standing Committees work independently on environmental and policy issues considered a priority for airports.
- ACI supports airport operator efforts to manage GHG emissions and other environmental impacts through training, conferences, workshops and the following specific initiatives:
 1. ACI published the *Airport Greenhouse Gas Management Guidance Manual* in 2009 to assist airports in managing their carbon footprint.
 2. ACI created the Airport Carbon and Emissions Reporting Tool (ACERT), an Excel spreadsheet enabling airports to calculate their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory. Moreover, the tool can be used without emissions or environmental expertise. ACERT was initially developed by Transport Canada and is widely distributed for free by ACI with the technical support of Zurich Airport. ACI has recently launched ACERT version 3.2, which includes new information on sewage and waste disposal.
 3. *Airport Carbon Accreditation*, a four level accreditation program developed by ACI EUROPE, has now spread to all regions of the world. To date, 156 airports are accredited at one of the programme's four levels:
 - Level 1: Mapping
 - Level 2: Reduction
 - Level 3: Optimization
 - Level 3+: NeutralityThe program has been a huge success, with participating airports across 51 countries representing 32.6% of worldwide passenger, or 2 billion passengers. Level 3 consists of engaging third parties to reduce their emissions, and reaching Level 3+ means that airports have offset their emissions and reached neutrality. ACI has signed an agreement with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at COP21 in Paris to further promote climate action through *Airport Carbon Accreditation*. ICAO is an official member of *Airport Carbon Accreditation's* independent Advisory Board.
 4. In cooperation with CANSO, ACI recently published the *Guide to Managing the Impacts of Aviation Noise*. The publication is designed to assist both airport operators and air navigation service providers manage the impacts of noise while taking into consideration recent changes in airspace procedures.

As a global sector, aviation stakeholders necessarily have to combine efforts to address environmental impacts for the long-term sustainability of the industry. ACI is looking forward to identifying new areas of collaboration with ICAO to strengthen our already strong cooperation on common environmental objectives.