



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
14 March 2023

Airports globally beat records in carbon management programme, delivering best carbon savings and engagement growth yet

- *More than half a million tonnes of CO₂ reduced by the global community of airports certified by Airport Carbon Accreditation between May '21 and May '22*
- *30% growth in participation with 395 accredited airports worldwide in 79 countries*
- *89 airports achieved advanced levels of carbon management*

14 March 2023 – Airports Council International (ACI) today released the annual airport climate action results for *Airport Carbon Accreditation*, the global carbon standard for airports founded and managed by ACI EUROPE on behalf of airports worldwide.

The past reporting year, running from May 2021 to May 2022, ended with 395 airports spanning 79 countries engaging in carbon management and reduction at one of the six programme levels. The 91 new accreditations reported this year represent the highest growth since *Airport Carbon Accreditation's* inception in 2009. Airports have also made great strides in progressing to more stringent levels of accreditation – 86 airports upgraded to a higher level of the programme during the year, with 89 having now achieved advanced levels of carbon management.

Highlighted amongst the programme's achievements is the sheer diversity of airports now certified. They include airports of all sizes: top global hubs such as London-Heathrow, Istanbul, Doha Hamad International, Singapore-Changi and Dallas Fort Worth are amongst the accredited rollcall, along with capital gateways in all continents such as Abidjan, Athens, Amman, Phnom Penh, Quito and San Jose. Equally, smaller airports serving remote areas, island nations and popular tourism destinations as diverse as Galapagos, Kelowna, Puerto Vallarta, Enfidha Hammamet, Trondheim and Sunshine Coast are proudly counted in their number.

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The reporting period covers a timeframe when many airports were facing the profound impact of sluggish and fragile post-Covid traffic recovery on airports' financial and operational health. In this context, the results achieved serve to reconfirm the unwavering determination of the airport industry to mitigate its impact on the climate.

Delivering tangible carbon savings

The latest carbon reduction and compensation results achieved are equally record-breaking. In the period covered, accredited airports succeeded in collectively reducing the CO₂ emissions under their control by 549,643 tonnes, a reduction of -8.1%. This is the largest reduction ever achieved through the programme. In addition, 898,821 tonnes of CO_{2e} were compensated with high quality carbon credits, in line with ACI EUROPE's Offsetting Guidance¹ based on a qualitative assessment of the compensation mechanisms and offset types available on the market.

Niclas Svenningsen, Manager for Programmes Coordination at the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) said: *"The results announced today speak volumes of the global airport industry's commitment to fighting climate change. Against the backdrop of worsening climate impacts and the window of opportunity to keep the warming below 1.5°C rapidly closing, we need all parts of our global economy to act now. Airports have clearly understood this message and are on the front line of climate mitigation within their spheres of influence and lending their impetus to other industry actors. I commend each and every airport engaged in this collective effort to advance the decarbonisation of the airport industry globally."*

Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI EUROPE, said: *"The Airport Carbon Accreditation programme is at the heart of what decarbonising an industry like aviation must be about: aspirational yet deeply practical and actionable, charting not only achievements today but the way forwards for tomorrow. Airports know well the role they play in their communities and the expectations that air passengers have with regard to our shared responsibility for the climate and*

¹ <https://www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org/component/attachments/?task=download&id=189>

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environment. The Airport Carbon Accreditation programme provides a framework for measurable progress and demonstrable results. We are intensely proud of the achievements to date, and the appetite for continued change."

Alignment with the Paris Agreement

The latest addition to the programme framework, Levels 4 (Transition) and 4+ (Transformation), require airports to align their carbon management and reduction trajectory with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, according to which global warming should be limited to below 2°C and ideally 1.5°C. Their launch back in July 2019 marked a step-change in the programme's ambition level, laying the ground to accompany airports of all sizes and locations to reach Net Zero CO₂.

The number of airports accredited at these levels reached 32² in the reporting period, pointing to the airport community's readiness to pursue full decarbonisation in line with, or in some cases even more rapidly than the timelines enshrined in the global climate goals.

The 2021-2022 *Airport Carbon Accreditation* Annual Report can be downloaded [here](#).

ENDS.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Airport Carbon Accreditation is the only institutionally-endorsed, global carbon management certification programme for airports. It independently assesses and recognises the efforts of airports to manage and reduce their carbon emissions through 6 levels of certification: 'Mapping', 'Reduction', 'Optimisation', 'Neutrality', 'Transformation' and 'Transition'.

Through its 6 levels of certification, *Airport Carbon Accreditation* acknowledges that airports are at different stages in their journey towards comprehensive carbon management. It is a programme for airports of all sizes,

² **Level 4 airports:** Christchurch International, EuroAirport Basel Mulhouse Freiburg, Faro, Flores, Horta, Kansai International, Kobe, Lisbon, Madeira, Marseille Provence, Osaka International, Ponta Delgada, Porto, Porto Santo, San Francisco International, Santa Maria
Level 4+ airports: Cannes-Mandelieu, Dallas-Fort Worth International, Eindhoven, Göteborg Landvetter, Heathrow, Indira Gandhi International, Milan-Linate, Milan-Malpensa, Nice Côte d'Azur, Queen Alia International, Rome-Ciampino, Rome-Fiumicino, Rotterdam The Hague, Saint-Tropez, Stockholm Arlanda, Venice

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extending beyond hubs and regional airports with scheduled passenger traffic, to include general aviation and freight-focused airports.

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