Roadmap towards net zero 2030

Brussels Airport in brief

In the heart of Europe

As a national airport located in the heart of Europe, Brussels Airport is the ideal gateway to Brussels, Belgium, and the rest of the world. Brussels Airport is simultaneously a city, bustling with activity, innovation and engagement. Our employees are passionate about the airport, and this zeal translates into an extremely customer-friendly service, infused with typical Belgian hospitality. Other businesses are keen to establish themselves here, attracted by the promotion of Belgian pride that Brussels Airport propagates at an international level. Brussels Airport is the ultimate experience for each and everyone!

The human touch

The numbers speak for themselves: Brussels Airport is one of the most important airports in Europe. Yet, alongside all those capacity expansions and infrastructure investments, we manage to keep things on an exceptionally intimate level. Indeed, we remain an airport with a decidedly human touch, with due regard for the needs of every individual. Regardless of whether it is a passenger, business, supplier, or partner: the customer always comes first.

More than an airport

We are constantly looking forward and consider more than the conventional services. Our role as an intermodal hub is an excellent example. By aligning all transport modes, we actively increase accessibility and attract foreign companies. Our Airport Business District is bustling with activity and opportunities for employment

Sustainability

The environment and well-being of local residents are central to our strategy. We strive to maintain a careful balance between economic growth and a controlled impact on our surroundings. This is evidenced by our CO_2 neutrality, own water purification station, solar panel parks, noise abatement efforts and biodiversity initiatives etc.

Shift 2027

Decarbonization

Circular Economy

Local Environmental Quality

Modal split

Diversity & inclusion

Our achievements to date

Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) has become the primary industry program for assessing an airport's efforts to manage and reduce emissions. In 2008, BAC started calculating and evaluating its carbon footprint. In 2010, Brussels Airport joined the Airport Carbon Accreditation scheme of Airports Council International Europe (ACI Europe).

Since 2010, carbon reduction has been on BAC's agenda, resulting in Carbon Neutrality in 2018 (ACA level 3+) for our own operations. Today, BAC can present a reduction of about 70% of scope 1&2 (2023 vs. baseline 2010). BAC offsets its remaining emissions by funding projects that reduce CO_2 emissions in developing countries.

In 2019, BAC signed the ACI Europe commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In 2022 BAC signed an even more ambitious ACI Europe target aiming at 2030.

End 2024 Brussels Airport achieved ACA level 4+ . Brussels Airport commits to reach Net Zero target by further reducing the absolute emissions from its own activities to the furthest extent possible (>90%) versus baseline year (2010) and address any remaining emissions through investment in carbon removal and storage (maximum 10%).

EV Car Fleet and Charging Infrastructure
Since 2022, only fully electric company cars may be ordered, and 150 charging points have been made available for staff use.

100% renewable energy
All purchased electricity is sourced from 100% renewable energy, a portion of the total demand is produced on-site.

Sustainable Airport Mobility Plan (SAMP)
Ensuring multimodal accessibility for passengers, commuters, visitors, and businesses.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)
Since 2023, Sustainable Aviation Fuel has been available through the CEPS pipeline. Brussels Airlines operated its first SAF-powered flight in January 2023.

Our ambition

Become Net Zero Carbon by end 2030

Net Zero

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) defines Net Zero emissions as the point at which anthropogenic (human-caused) CO_2 emissions are balanced globally by anthropogenic CO_2 removals over a specified period. This means that any CO_2 still being emitted must be counterbalanced by removing an equivalent amount from the atmosphere, typically through carbon capture technologies or nature-based solutions like afforestation or soil carbon sequestration.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries commit to long-term low-emission development strategies aimed at reaching global net zero GHG emissions in the second half of the century, with the goal of keeping temperature rise well below 2°C and ideally under 1.5°C.

Brussels Airports Net Zero Transition pathway includes 5 building blocks with concrete action plans to enable a successful transition.

1. Fossil free heating

The two main fossil fuel-based heating plants will be replaced by a zero-emission installation utilizing heat pump technology.

All new buildings will be heated using renewable energy sources and, where feasible, integrated with seasonal thermal energy storage (STES). These buildings will also be designed and insulated to maximize energy efficiency, with the aim of achieving a BREEAM certification of “Excellent” for logistics facilities and “Outstanding” for hotels and office buildings.

In parallel, the renovation of existing buildings will be accelerated to align with these sustainability objectives.

2. Electric equipment & vehicles

The entire fleet of company cars will be transitioned to 100% battery electric vehicles by the end of 2026, supported by the installation of sufficient electric charging infrastructure.

Service vehicles will also be replaced with 100% electric alternatives by 2030. Where feasible, heavy-duty vehicles and emergency power units will operate on biofuel to further reduce carbon emissions.

Become Net Zero Carbon by end 2030

3. Local green electricity

The airport remains committed to environmental sustainability by continuing to purchase 100% green electricity. Furthermore, efforts will be intensified to expand on-site renewable energy production, with a particular focus on solar energy.

4. Robust electricity system

The organization is actively exploring the integration of its private electricity distribution network with intelligent digital solutions, aiming to establish the foundation for a future-oriented energy power system. This includes synchronizing the local solar energy production with flexible energy demands, such as those from heat pumps and electric vehicles.

In addition, investments will be made to increase the capacity of the electricity network, thereby supporting the continued electrification of the airport and its partners.

5. Connected community

The airport will encourage airport partners to transition to electric Ground Support Equipment, supporting the shift toward more sustainable operations.

To further facilitate and accelerate net zero mobility, sufficient electric charging infrastructure will be established both landside and airside.

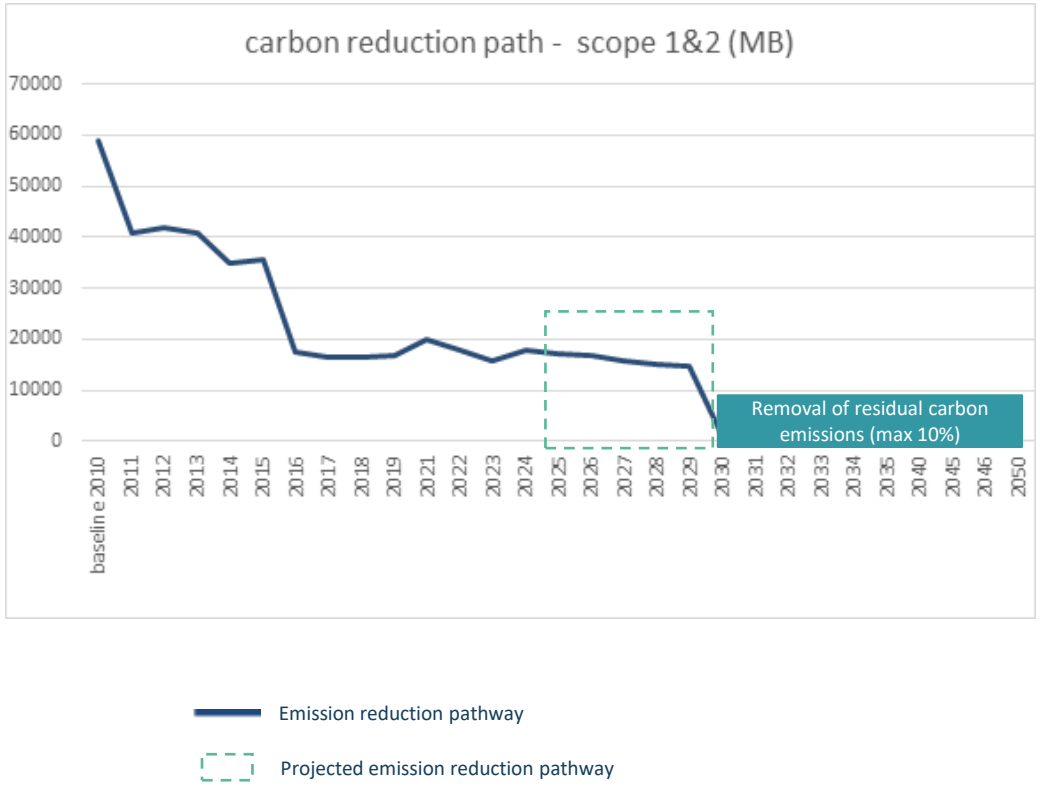
Additionally, airport partners will be offered the opportunity to purchase solar energy produced on-site, reinforcing collaborative efforts towards a greener energy ecosystem.

Carbon reduction pathway

Historical emissions
& projected emission reduction pathway

Through the work initiated in 2008 and efforts to improve energy saving and reduction of CO_2 emissions, Brussels Airport Company has been able to cut CO_2 emissions from 59.000 tons in 2010 to 16.326 tons in 2023.

The figure shows BAC's historic CO_2 emissions since 2010 from the main sources (electricity, thermal energy, vehicle fuels, emergency generators) and forecasted emissions.



Carbon reduction pathway

Leading role

Since 2018, we have been a carbon-neutral airport, which means that we take all measures to maximally reduce our emissions and offset any remaining emissions. This approach aligns with the required ambition in the entire aviation sector. As the latter is responsible for 3 to 4% of all greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, it must aim to reduce its CO2 emissions.

Brussels Airport Company wants to be carbon-free by 2030, twenty years sooner than planned.

Brussels Airport Company is preparing for the installation of a state of-the-art fossil-free heating system using heat pumps. This will replace the current heating installation of the airport terminal zone. The new installation will heat all connected buildings with green energy by end 2030 at the latest, reducing CO_2 emissions by 70%. These large-scale investments are fully in line with our climate ambitions.

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