Raleigh–Durham Airport Authority

SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

2023

Background

The Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority has developed its first Sustainability Management Plan (Plan). Founded on the Federal Aviation Administration's four pillars of airport sustainability, the Plan will ensure a holistic and comprehensive approach for managing ongoing activities and future growth in a way that ensures operational efficiency, environmental stewardship, economic viability and social responsibility.

Staff developed the Plan with a multi-phased approach to receive and consider stakeholder feedback from an established Internal Advisory Committee and External Advisory Committee, as well as state and local government staff and members of the public. The stakeholder process helped inform the Plan's framework and priorities.

Future Sustainable Practices

RDU's Sustainability Management Plan identifies nine focus areas or sustainable categories, each with specific goals and targets to meet. Each goal includes multiple specific sustainable actions the Authority will implement. The focus areas and their descriptions as well as the goals for each focus area are summarized on the next page.

The Authority communicates Sustainability Management Plan progress and results to the public in an annual report, and continues to engage stakeholders for feedback and potential sustainability partnerships.

Sustainability at RDU

RDU's Sustainability Policy commits the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority to act in a sustainable manner by considering its long-term impacts. The Policy guides the implementation of our Sustainability Management Plan into airport planning, design, construction, operations, maintenance and business processes. This effort ultimately supports RDU's sustainability practices across the airport's operational and business functions.

Existing Sustainable Practices

The airport has several examples of sustainable practices already in place. These include:

- Four electric buses in operation, four more coming soon
- Building Management System (HVAC, lighting, temperature controls) in Terminals, Authority Building and Airport Operations Center
- Daylight utilization and occupancy sensors in Terminals
- Terminal 1 LEED® certified in 2014
- Low flow water fixtures in Terminals, Authority buildings and General Aviation Terminal
- Use of ecofriendly cleaning products in airport buildings
- Rain sensors on airport grounds irrigation systems
- Use of recycled materials during airfield construction projects
- Terminal recycling programs

Focus Area	Description	Goal
Business Continuity & Resiliency	Business continuity and resiliency is the ability to withstand and recover from a range of events that could disrupt airport operations and threaten human health and safety. This focus area addresses energy resilience and the ability to protect against extreme weather events.	• Enhance RDU's energy resiliency and adaptability to extreme weather events.
Sustainable Buildings & Infrastructure	Sustainable buildings and infrastructure are sited and designed with sensitivity to the social and national environments, promote the efficient use of energy, water and other resources during construction and operation, incorporate renewable energy initiatives, support waste and pollution reduction, enable the reuse and recycling of materials and waste, and improve the health and well-being of the facility's occupants. This focus area addresses planning, design, construction and operation of the Authority's facilities and infrastructure to improve sustainability performance.	• Consistently adopt sustainability in all phases of Authority project development and maintenance activities.
Energy	Electricity, natural gas, and other fossil fuels like diesel, and gasoline, are consumed at RDU to power the airport's facilities and vehicles. This focus area addresses opportunities to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency, and identifies opportunities to incorporate renewables into RDU's energy portfolio.	• Develop a comprehensive energy management program and reduce energy consumption in Authority-controlled facilities. • Incorporate renewable energy options into the Authority's energy portfolio.
Sustainable Transportation	Transportation is a primary source of GHG emissions. Working towards a sustainable transportation system at RDU helps reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality, traffic congestion, and safety on airport roads. This focus area addresses the operation of vehicles and mobile equipment at RDU as well as aspects of transportation infrastructure and policies that enhance mobility and connectivity, and reduce traffic congestion, fuel consumption, and GHG emissions.	• Advance sustainable mobility options for airport users, tenants, and employees and reduce GHG emissions from the Authority's vehicle fleet.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	Gases commonly known as GHGs absorb and radiate heat in the atmosphere. Increased concentration of these gases resulting from human activity is contributing to increases in the number and intensity of extreme weather events. This focus area addresses opportunities to reduce GHG emissions and for RDU to become a net zero airport by 2050.	• Reduce GHG Emissions, setting the foundation to become a net zero airport.
Community, Customers, & Employees	With approximately 5,000 employees working at RDU, millions of annual passengers, and a wealth of restaurants, vendors, and stores, the airport serves as an economic and community hub for the Research Triangle region. This focus area addresses RDU's plan for engaging the community, customers, and employees to drive positive social impact in the region while also allowing RDU to leverage regional resources and innovative practices to improve its own sustainability initiatives.	• Strengthen connections with customers, tenants, employees, and the community to enhance RDU's sustainability program. • Incorporate sustainability into the airport experience and educate employees, customers and community on how they can contribute to a more sustainable airport.
Land Use & Natural Resources	Environmental stewardship and the conservation of natural resources such as trees and vegetation, wildlife, surface water and wetlands is important to the Authority's efforts to protect water quality, preserve biological diversity and protect wildlife habitat. This focus area addresses the management of land use and natural resources while balancing RDU's business and operational needs to ensure long-term economic, social and ecological function.	• Protect the environment while meeting the airport's operational and business needs. • Ensure surrounding land use and zoning requirements are compatible with the current and future operation of RDU.
Materials & Waste	Sustainability for materials and waste is primarily focused on reducing the amount of waste destined for landfills. Landfills represent the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions, which is categorized as a greenhouse gas. Reducing waste to landfills also conserves land resources. This focus area addresses the waste management hierarchy - reduce, reuse, recycle and compost - to use materials more responsibly over their lifecycle, with an emphasis on consuming and using less.	• Enhance the Authority's waste management program to increase waste diversion and reduce costs.
Water & Stormwater	A secure long-term potable (drinking water) supply is essential to RDU's operations, while sustainable stormwater management protects water quality, minimizes erosion, and prevents flooding and damage to RDU's facilities and infrastructure. This focus area addresses opportunities to reduce potable water consumption and implement best practices in stormwater management to minimize flooding and erosion while protecting regional water quality.	• Reduce potable water usage. • Develop and maintain a best-in-class stormwater management program.