



PRESS RELEASE

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Global carbon accreditation programme reports solid growth in airport climate action in its 10th year

- **288 airports now actively engaged in addressing their impact on Climate Change**
- **Collective CO₂ reduction of more than 320,000 tonnes (-4.9%) achieved in the past year**
- **61 airports are now carbon neutral (Level 3+)**

27 November 2019: As the 13th edition of ACI Airport Exchange, the global meeting of airport leaders, key industry suppliers and aviation stakeholders unrolls in Abu Dhabi, *Airport Carbon Accreditation* released the annual results of the collective carbon management delivered by accredited airports in its 10th consecutive year.

The past reporting year, running from May 2018 to May 2019, marked a round decade since the programme's inception. The year ended with **274 accredited airports worldwide**, an increase of **+16%** over the previous year, proving the stronger than ever drive of the airport industry to deliver on its commitment to lower its own CO₂ emissions, made in 2007.

Since last May, 14 more airports have joined the programme and became certified at one of its 4 levels of accreditation (*Mapping, Reduction, Optimisation & Neutrality*) – rounding up the total number of accredited airports to **288 as of today**. Out of these, **147** are in **Europe**, **53** in **Asia-Pacific**, **47** in **North America**, **27** in **Latin America & the Caribbean** and **14** in **Africa**.

Angela Gittens, Director General, ACI World said: *“Airports have been hard at work to deliver tangible CO₂ reductions through Airport Carbon Accreditation. It has been a decade since the launch of the programme and it keeps on growing - both in the number of airports coming on board and in the level of ambition for carbon management. In its tenth year, 49 participating airports upgraded to a more demanding level of accreditation, the highest ever reported.”*

She added: *“From May 2018 to May 2019, accredited airports succeeded in collectively reducing the CO₂ emissions under their control by **-322,297 tonnes¹**, a reduction of **-4.9%**. Additionally, the fifty airports at the highest level of Airport Carbon Accreditation contributed to a further reduction of **-710,673 tonnes** of CO₂ in other sectors through offsets aimed at balancing out their residual emissions. Their choices in terms of offsetting were framed by our recently developed *Offsetting Guidance Document²*, which sets new requirements and recommendations to help*



them procure offsets of the highest quality.”

A dedicated section on carbon offsetting has been added to this year's *Airport Carbon Accreditation* Annual Report in a bid to offer more detailed information on the particular projects supported by the accredited airports. It is important to note that prior to any CO₂ offsetting, airport operators need to pursue every possible path of reducing emissions under their operational control. Investment in renewable energy, more energy efficient lighting & heating, switching to hybrid or electric ground vehicles & support equipment as well as spurring employee behavioural change are some examples of initiatives put in place by the certified airports.

Niclas Svenningsen, who heads the Climate Neutral Now initiative at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat commented *“Air connectivity is an essential part of modern society, enabling people, business and communities to function together for the benefit of all. However, this mobility also poses some serious challenges, in particular in terms of climate change. By continuing their sterling work to address their emissions through Airport Carbon Accreditation, airports worldwide are showing that mobility and sustainability do not necessarily imply trade-offs. In the wake of the Climate Emergency, the need for non-State climate action has never been more burning. It is encouraging to witness the airport industry’s push for ambitious carbon management from within, which this year delivered a -4.9% reduction in CO₂ emissions under their control. There is much that other industries can learn from this and even emulate.”*

The *Airport Carbon Accreditation* Annual Report 2018-2019 is available to download under [the following link](#). For the latest key figures, including details of the accredited airports in each world region, their actions and the difference the programme is making, visit www.airportco2.org.

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¹ Last year the global airport community reduced -322,297 tonnes of CO₂. Those emissions are equivalent to the carbon footprint that would be attributed to 767 million hours of video streaming in HD. Enough for every household in Minnesota to watch TV online for 1 hour a day for an entire year.

² Download the *Airport Carbon Accreditation* Offsetting Guidance Document [here](#).

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Originally developed and launched by [ACI EUROPE](#) in June 2009, *Airport Carbon Accreditation* was extended to airports in Asia-Pacific, in November 2011 (in partnership with [ACI Asia-Pacific](#)) and to African airports in June 2013, (in partnership with [ACI Africa](#)), North American airports in September 2014 (in partnership with [ACI-NA](#)) and airports in Latin America & Caribbean in December 2014 (in partnership with [ACI-LAC](#)).

Airport Carbon Accreditation is institutionally endorsed/supported by the UNFCCC, ICAO, the European Commission (DG CLIMA & DG MOVE), EUROCONTROL, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference). These institutions are all members of the programme's Advisory Board, along with the Manchester Metropolitan University.



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