



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**John Whitmire**

Mayor



Jim Szczesniak  
Director of Aviation

Houston Airports  
16930 John F. Kennedy Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77032  
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March 5, 2024

Airport Carbon Accreditation  
Airports Council International

Subject: Houston Airport System Emissions Reduction Policy for George Bush Intercontinental, William P. Hobby and Ellington Airports

The Houston Airport System (HAS) has long prioritized improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions. In 2018 we implemented a Sustainable Management Plan for our airports. The Sustainable Management Plan promoted economic, social, and environmental excellence through actions that enhance our mission of connecting the people, businesses, cultures, and economies of the world to Houston. Within the SMP, HAS defined multiple initiatives to meet goals in four categories of sustainability: Solid Waste/Recycling, Energy, Water, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Sustainable Design, Sustainable Assets and Infrastructure, and Sustainable Procurement. A baseline for each sustainability category was also established to provide a foundation for goal setting.

HAS engaged with its airline partners for over two decades, working on projects such as electric ground support equipment, minimizing engine run time on jets by using ground power, and simply turning off equipment when not in use. Now we are furthering carbon management and emissions reductions at HAS by seeking accreditation in the Airports Council International's (ACI's) Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) process. The ACA process will benchmark or map our current carbon footprint and provide a framework for reducing our carbon footprint to meet our initial goal of becoming carbon neutral. HAS will continue to implement energy efficiency as a priority at the airports, purchase and utilize electric vehicles and add renewable energy production, to cite a few of the measures we are working on. We will also continue to work with our airport partners to reduce their carbon footprint.

The first requirement of the ACA process is to make a policy commitment to emissions reduction. With this statement we have committed to calculate an annual greenhouse gas inventory for all three airports per the ACA guidelines. HAS will use the initial baseline inventory to determine the best methods to manage and reduce carbon emissions, with subsequent efforts to reach our ultimate goal of neutral carbon emissions for HAS by 2030. The ACA target for the Houston airports is also cited in the [City of Houston Municipal Building Decarbonization and Benchmarking Policy](#) approved on May 26, 2022, by the City of Houston.

We look forward to continuing the path toward decarbonizing the airports in Houston and serving our customers in an environmentally responsible manner.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Jim Szczesniak  
Director of Aviation

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