

Austrian Airports to Reduce Their CO₂ Emissions to Zero by 2050

Vienna, December 11, 2019. The airports in Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg and Vienna are striving to achieve CO₂ emission-free operations starting in 2050. The CO₂ emissions generated by the airports should be reduced to zero by that time. A corresponding decision to implement a “CO₂ Zero Emissions 2050 Programme” was adopted recently. Accordingly, the Austrian commercial airports represented in the Austrian Airports Association (AOEV) will make a sustainable contribution to climate protection. Since 2010, the airports have already succeeded in cutting their CO₂ emissions by more than 60%.

More than four billion passengers were registered worldwide in the year 2018. CO₂ emissions generated by global air traffic are relatively low. In fact, aviation is only responsible for about 2.7% of the world’s CO₂ emissions. This figure equals a mere 0.52% in Europe. Flight traffic in Austria even only accounts for 0.16% of total emissions. Nevertheless, the country’s airports are implementing numerous measures to reduce the level of CO₂ emissions.

In the years 2010 to 2018, the airports in Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg and Wien cut down on their total CO₂ emissions by 60.5%. A further reduction of 50% is planned by 2030, and the Austrian commercial airports want to completely eliminate their CO₂ emissions by the year 2050. The corresponding resolution was passed by the Executive Committee of the Austrian Airports Association (AOEV) consisting of the managing directors and management board members of the member airports.

For Julian Jäger, President of AOEV and Member of the Management Board of the Vienna Airport operating company Flughafen Wien AG, this objective comprises a strong and voluntary commitment on the part of Austria’s commercial airports to make a sustainable contribution to environmental protection in addition to many other environmental protection requirements. “Aviation is mobility on a global scale. Only joint efforts will lead to success with respect to climate issues. Aviation is the only economic sector in the world which has agreed to implement joint CO₂ reduction programmes. Austrian airports are even going one step further and are taking specific measures to reduce their CO₂ emissions to zero within the context of the CO₂ Zero Emissions 2020 Programme”.

“Austrian airports not only see themselves as the gateway to this world but as an integral part of it, including all its global challenges. For this reason, we have already been jointly pursuing a CO₂ reduction strategy for years. The Zero Emissions Programme represents a new dimension in our efforts. The CO₂ savings generated since 2010 show that we are on the right path”, states Gerhard Widmann, Vice-President of AOEV and Managing Director of Graz Airport.

Four areas of action and specific measures

Within the context of the CO₂ Zero Emissions 2050 Programme, we have jointly defined four main areas of action as well as specific measures designed to reduce the level of CO₂ emissions:

With respect to the **energy supply**, the airports will increasingly rely on regional sources in the future to ensure a climate-friendly energy supply as well as energy production. This will be achieved by making use of renewable energies (e.g. solar and wind power). In terms of **building services**, the airports will mainly focus on an optimal climate and energy management in existing and new buildings as well as sustainability and energy efficiency in planning new construction projects. The conversion of the airports' own vehicles to alternative drive systems alongside the expansion and enhanced use of electromobility and alternative fuels are designed to reduce CO₂ emissions in the field of **vehicle fleet/mobility**. Finally, when it comes to **airport-specific facilities**, the objective is to convert the lighting on runways to LED technology as well as to optimise passenger boarding bridges and baggage handling systems.

The Austrian Airports Association

The Austrian Airports Association (AOEV) was established in 1956 and serves as the interest group for the regional commercial airports in Austria. Its members are the airports in Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg and Vienna, which cooperate on a management and operational level. The objective of the AOEV is to promote cross-company cooperation among Austria's commercial airports, the regular exchange of know-how on operational processes and to represent their common interests and concerns with respect to national and international decisions impacting the aviation and airport sectors. The Austrian Airports Association is engaged in an intensive exchange of views with its sister associations in Germany (German Airports Association - ADV) and Switzerland (Swiss International Airports Association - SIAA).

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