

ACI World launches sustainable recovery guidance for airports

Airports Council International (ACI) World has published comprehensive guidance to help airport executives incorporate sustainability into their strategies as they work towards long-term recovery.

The ACI World Sustainable Recovery Best Practice highlights the advantages of incorporating sustainability in recovery plans, including access to funding through government relief packages, as well as further developing a more balanced business model that incorporates social, environmental and economic sustainability.

The publication provides a table of best practices and examples of action under three pillars of sustainability and governance. A step-by-step approach to building such a plan is also included.

“As the industry seeks to ‘build back better’, airports have been recognizing the advantages of a sustainability-centric recovery strategy,” ACI World Director General Luis Felipe de Oliveira said. “While health and evolving passenger expectations remain central to airports and the industry’s sustained recovery, climate change and other related externalities remain the major risk we face as a sector and as humanity.

“We believe that aviation’s role in serving a post-pandemic, decarbonizing global society and economy is critical, but continued efforts will require support from government and other stakeholders. Aviation and non-aviation players will need to further collaborate to identify solutions that realize the positive transformation that sustainability can bring to the sector, the overall economy, and in achieving each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.”

In June 2021, ACI member airports committed to Net Zero Carbon by 2050. To date, 352 airports have been accredited under the ACI Airport Carbon Accreditation program, the only institutionally endorsed, carbon management certification standard for airports.

As a companion to the Best Practice guidance, the ACI World Sustainable Recovery Case Studies provides successful examples from six airports under the three pillars of sustainability.

The sustainable recovery guidance comes ahead of the ACI-LAC/World Annual General Assembly, Conference and Exhibition to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from November 21-24, 2021. This year’s event will be under the theme “Runway to Recovery: Reconnecting Aviation for a Sustainable Future”.