

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT COMMUNITY UPDATE





In this issue



01	Welcome	2
02	Progress towards Net Zero	
	New solar panels	4
	Reducing our Greenhouse Gas Emissions	5
	Spreading the word	6
03	Investing in our Communities	
	More Community Trust Fund grants	7
	New 'Headspace Garden'	8
	Supporting our Charity Partner	9
04	Environment News	
	Noise Monitor replacement project	10
	Introducing Web Trak	11
	New waste contract	12

01 - Welcome

Welcome to our Community Update for January 2024.

We know that operating a busy airport in our densely populated region means that we will inevitably have an impact on large numbers of people. This can be negative, of course - aircraft noise is the obvious example here - but we can also make a positive difference to the lives of those who live close by.

In these updates we aim to bring you up to speed with what we're doing to limit those negative impacts and how we're making a positive contribution to local community life - in short, how we're delivering on our promise to be a good neighbour.

In this issue, we look at some of the steps we're taking to achieve our ambitious target of becoming a net zero carbon airport by 2033 by investing in renewable energy and other initiatives to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

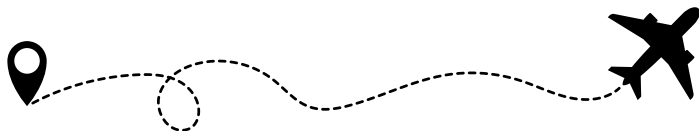
We also highlight our community investment programmes, including our flagship Birmingham Airport Community Trust Fund, which could provide financial assistance to your voluntary, community or charitable group.

And on the issue of aircraft noise we have news of investment in monitoring equipment and a brand new system to enable residents to track aircraft in their vicinity.

As always, I and my team would welcome your comments. Please contact us at sustainability@birminghamairport.co.uk

Nick Barton

CEO



02 - Progress towards Net Zero

We've been taking more steps towards our ambitious target of becoming a net zero carbon airport by 2033. We're investing in projects to directly reduce our carbon emissions, rather than relying on offsetting – paying for an equivalent reduction to be made elsewhere.

New solar panels will provide 20% of our electricity by May 2024

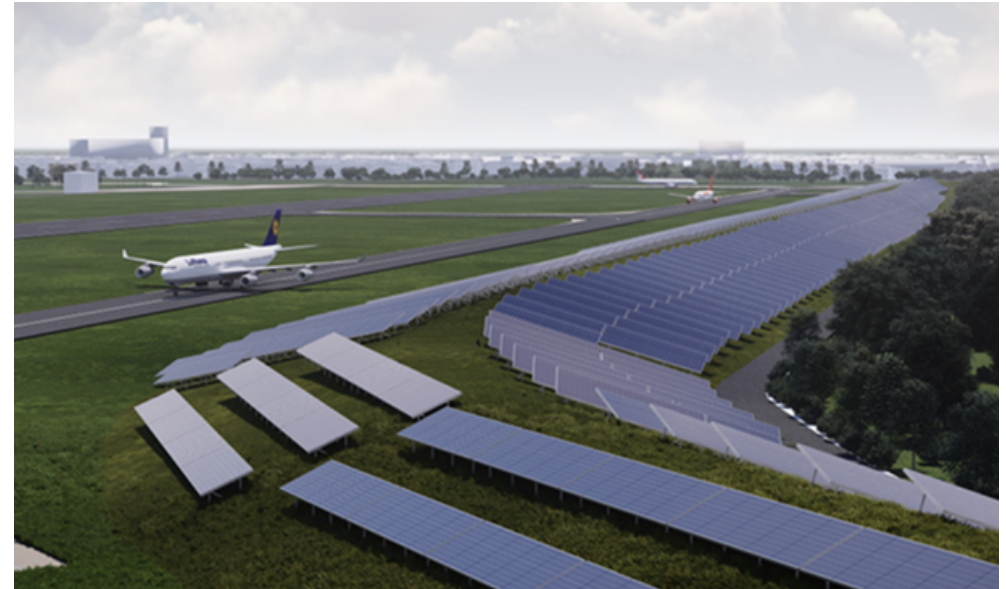
Between now and May 2024, we're planning to install 12,804 photovoltaic panels on the 1.5km-long embankment known as the 'Alpha Bund', which provides residents of Marston Green with protection from ground noise on the airfield.

The 6.8-megawatt configuration of solar panels will provide at least 20% of our on-site electrical power. This will reduce our reliance on the power grid, mean we are less exposed to fluctuations in the market price of electricity and move us closer to our goal of becoming a net zero carbon airport by 2033.

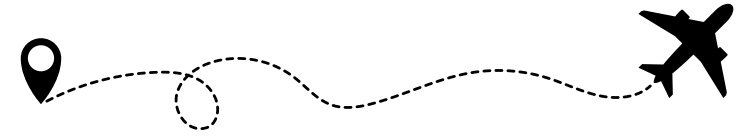
Simon Richards, chief finance and sustainability officer at BHX, said: "Installing our own green energy sources on our airfield is one of many things we are doing to reduce our carbon footprint and become a net zero operation by 2033.

"In the next decade we will see many transformational steps forward in the aviation sector, including the game-changing prospect of hydrogen-powered, zero-emission passenger flights. With the impacts of climate change all too real, steps like this represent us doing our bit to help protect our planet's future for generations to come."

Work began in mid-October and is expected to be complete in May 2024. Working hours will be 0800 to 1800 Monday to Friday and any noisy work will not take place until after 0900 to minimise impacts on our neighbours.



02 - Progress towards Net Zero



Reducing our Greenhouse Gas Emissions

If we are to achieve our goal of becoming a net zero carbon airport by 2033, we need to reduce emissions rapidly.

These fall into two categories, the first of which is Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, which are direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the airport. They include emissions from burning gas for heating, diesel fuel used in our vehicles and from the use of electricity for our own activities.

Although we have seen a bounce back in passenger numbers to pre-pandemic levels, we have managed to retain the majority of the energy and carbon emission reductions we made at that time. We've achieved this through measures such as upgrading to LED light fittings, switching to a 100% green tariff for electricity provided throughout the airport site and improving the monitoring of our energy use to reduce wastage. We've also appointed a full time Energy and Carbon Manager and published our Net Zero Carbon Plan detailing future actions to drive this agenda forward.

The second category is Scope 3 emissions – those which are a consequence of our operation, but where we don't directly control their source, for example, aircraft operations, third-party operations onsite and passenger travel to and from the airport. They account for 95% of our emissions, so we need to work closely with our partners to reduce them.

We are supporting airlines to reduce emissions during flight through the use of more direct air traffic routings, procedures for lower-carbon take-off and landings and by providing electricity for use by aircraft when on the ground at the airport. Looking to the future, we have partnered with ZeroAvia, who are working on the world's first zero-emission engines for commercial aviation, to develop the technological, operational and commercial aspects of hydrogen powered flights to and from the airport.



02 - Progress towards Net Zero

Spreading the word

Back in the summer, the Sustainability team hosted the airport's first ever 'Sustainability week'

The aim was to raise awareness of the work of the team among colleagues and partner organisations and to help build a culture of sustainability in the airport's day-to-day operations.

A busy week of activities included a smoothie bike challenge, litter picking and the opportunity to drive a hydrogen-fuelled car. Colleagues also undertook a charity abseil and maintenance of our Headspace Garden (see page 8)

We had a great turnout, lots of positive feedback and were able to talk to colleagues about everything from community engagement to energy management.

We plan to run a similar event this year.



Airport Carbon Accreditation

Our efforts to decarbonise have been recognised by the European arm of international aviation body Airports Council International (ACI), by achieving its Level 3 (Optimisation) Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA).

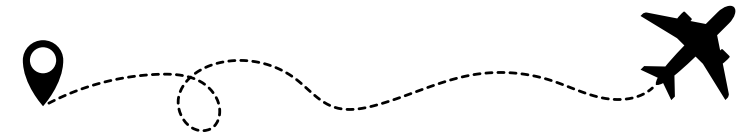
ACA is the only voluntary global carbon management standard for airports and exists to encourage airports to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by implementing best practice energy and carbon management. To achieve the required standard, we had to show that we produce an annual carbon footprint calculation, have a net zero carbon target and a decarbonisation plan and that we are actively reducing our emissions. We also had to demonstrate that we are engaging with our industry partners to influence them to do the same.

Achieving Level 3 brings our decarbonising activities under ACI Europe's framework of scrutiny and means we can assess how we're doing in comparison with over 500 airports worldwide. In the UK 14 airports, now including Birmingham, have achieved Level 3 or above.



03 - Investing in our Communities

More grants awarded through our Community Trust Fund



Our Community Trust Fund makes grants to community organisations in those areas most affected by our operations. Each year we contribute an index-linked sum to the fund (£95,498.00 in 2023), which is topped up by any fines we levy on airlines which breach our noise limits. A board of independent trustees meets twice-yearly to consider applications to the fund and during 2023 they awarded a total of £80,482.59 to 29 projects.

These included £5,000 for a kitchen refurbishment at Marston Green Free Baptist Church, £1,700 for equipment to support pupils at Lyndon School through their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and £1,000 for new uniform items for the North Solihull Singers, based in Chelmsley Wood. Another group to benefit was Saheli Hub Cycling Club, which was awarded £3,000 to buy new cycles. The charity has been running women-only cycling sessions from Ward End Park for over 12 years and has taught over 2,500 women how to ride a bike, boosting their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Shaafia Bi, Cycling Activity Coordinator, of Saheli Cycling Club, said: “The cultural change towards cycling in the area has been amazing. Alongside teaching them how to ride, we have also supported locals to volunteer and train as Ride Leaders and Instructors for the club. The funds Birmingham Airport has provided are going on new equipment, including two new trikes.



“At Saheli Cycling Club we want to continue to remove barriers to women participating in cycling. We really are a social club and have helped many through isolation coming out of Covid-19. The new trikes will ensure everyone can participate regardless of ability.”

Andy Holding, our Corporate Responsibility Manager said: “The trustees decided to award this funding to Saheli Hub because they could see the huge benefits they deliver for women in the community. “They provide innovative and culturally sensitive services to help individuals improve their physical and mental health and reduce social isolation - a cause we are thrilled to support.”

If you're involved with a community group which might benefit from a grant of up to £5,000, then visit our [website](#) to check eligibility criteria, or contact andy.holding@birminghamairport for more information.

03 - Investing in our Communities

'Headspace' Garden provides a place to stop and unwind

Visiting or working in a busy 24-hour environment such as the airport can be a stressful experience at times, and in recent years we've been keen to make sure we're thinking about the health and wellbeing of both our passengers and the staff who look after them.

One of the easiest ways for all of us to manage our stress levels is to take time to step away from the hubbub of everyday life and take just a few minutes to stop and unwind. Our Headspace Garden has been designed to provide a space to do just that.

Located just a two-minute walk from the terminal building, the garden is hidden behind established hedges and is shaded by mature trees, providing a relaxing haven where people can sit and be surrounded by nature.

When deciding on the planting, we had to take the particular circumstances of the airport into consideration and could not choose flowering plants which would attract insects and, in turn, birds which may pose a hazard to aircraft. Instead, ferns, other foliage plants and herbs provide a mix of textures and sensory experiences in a secluded environment.

We're grateful to our charity partner Oasis Mental Health Support (formerly Solihull Mind), who helped with the design and build of the garden, based on their experience of running a successful horticulture and conservation project from their premises in Knowle.



03 - Investing in our Communities

Supporting our Charity Partner

Our Corporate Charity Partner is Oasis Mental Health Support, formerly known as Solihull Mind, which provides mental health services and support for people across the Borough of Solihull. Many of our staff have been touched by issues surrounding mental health and are passionate about raising both money and awareness to help address them. We have been busy collecting money and staging events to support their work. Over the summer we staged an abseil, where more than thirty intrepid members of staff from partners across the Airport, including Jet2, Swissport, OCS, W H Smith and World Duty Free, as well as Birmingham Airport Ltd, volunteered to descend more than 100 feet from the roof of our headquarters office building, Diamond House. In doing so they raised a collective total of nearly £5,000 to support the charity's work.



We are also lucky enough to have the fantastic support of our passengers who generously donate foreign currency and Sterling through a series of coin and note collecting pots located at Central Search (security), in the departure lounge and in baggage reclaim. We then use a currency collection service to process these donations and pass the resulting funds on to the charity. After the most recent collection, we were able to pass on £4,700.

More recently, we've installed a contactless donation point in the departure lounge, where passengers can use a card or their phones to donate directly to the charity. In an increasingly cashless society, we hope this innovation can boost the funds we're able to raise.

04 - Environment News

Tackling Aircraft Noise

We know that aircraft noise is, for many of our neighbours, their number one concern about living close to the airport. That's why we are determined to take all practical steps to reduce its impact.

Noise Monitor Replacement Project

We measure aircraft noise constantly at seven fixed noise monitors. Six of these are located in the local community, with one located on the airfield and all record noise events in decibels.

Our original fixed noise monitors had been in place for many years and were due for replacement, so we've now upgraded to new, state-of-the-art noise monitors. These feed into the Airport Noise and Operations Monitoring System (ANOMS), allowing us to monitor aircraft noise and track-keeping accurately, to investigate community complaints, identify causes of disturbance and carry out noise monitoring studies. The positioning of fixed noise monitors is overseen by the Civil Aviation Authority and is standard at every airport. The requirement is for monitors to be sited in an arc as near as practicable to 6.5 km from the aircraft's start of roll, with three at each runway end – one on the extended centreline and two others located 1 km to either side. The At Birmingham, they are located as follows:

1 (North - Centreline)	Bucklands End, Shard End
2 (South - Centreline)	Eastcote Lane, Eastcote
3 (North)	Bradley Road, Shard End
4 (South)	The Crescent, Hampton in Arden
5 (Airfield)	Fire Station
6 (North)	Manor Road, Stechford
7 (South)	Friday Lane, Catherine de Barnes

The new monitors have been installed at a cost of over £80,000, and reflect our ongoing commitment to investing in measuring, mitigating and engaging on the subject of aircraft noise.

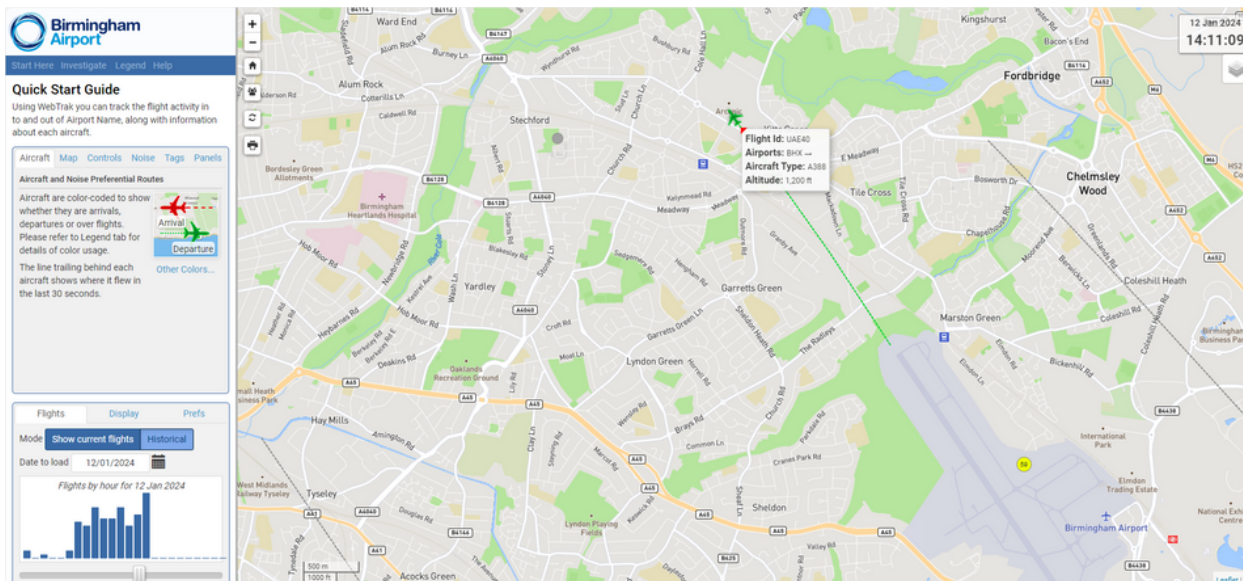


Web Trak

We have an extensive programme of noise monitoring, including the use of the ANOMS 9 Noise and Track Keeping System, which combines secondary radar data with noise data from our community noise monitors. The system is also used to log and investigate community complaints relating to aircraft noise. We've recently given the system a big upgrade with the launch of Web Trak.

WebTrak is a complaints tool which allows anyone to view - see the screen shot below - and track flights in their area, providing detailed information on the aircraft type, altitude, flight number and speed, as well as access to historical trends and patterns. It also allows residents to submit complaints based on the specific movement they have identified and the associated noise monitor reading.

You can find Web Trak at our [website](#).



New Noise Action Plan submitted

Our Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 sets out a series of actions and targets to assess, manage and where possible improve the noise climate around the Airport.

We've now submitted a final draft of a new Noise Action Plan to Defra, the Government department responsible for this area of policy. In line with Defra's guidance, we ran a formal consultation process with the Airport Consultative Committee over a seven-week period, which raised a number of points that we were able to incorporate into the final draft submitted to Defra. You can read about the key themes arising from the consultation and view the Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 on our [website](#), along with the full Defra data-pack.



04 - Environment News

New waste contract promises recycling uplift

With waste being an inevitable consequence of operating the Airport, it is important that we take active steps to minimise the amount of waste we produce and to optimise opportunities to recycle.

Although we have made good progress in recent years, with 100% of our waste diverted from landfill and non-recyclable waste being sent to an Energy from Waste facility, our intention is to broaden activity to reduce waste generation and increase the use of more sustainable materials. We took an important step forward in December when a new contractor, Bidvest Noonan, was appointed to run our Waste Management operation.

One of the ways we're planning to improve performance is through the introduction of a Mobile Segregation Unit, or MSU, which has been installed in our North Service Yard. It's one of those areas the passenger never sees but which is vitally important to the sustainability of the operation. The MSU will deliver a highly efficient waste segregation process that should raise recycling rates from our current 65% to as high as 95% by the end of the contract.

and finally.....

...a lovely story from our colleagues at Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, who brought us up to date on the land we own surrounding the old Castle Hills Farm site. This sits at the end of the runway, south of the A45, and is managed under what is known as the Historic Environment, Ecology and Land Management Plan (HEELMP).

A series of nesting and roosting boxes for bats and raptors have been installed on site, one of which last year produced three barn owl chicks. The rough grassland, hedgerows and scrub habitat provides the perfect hunting ground for these beautiful birds.

We have a team of volunteers heading out to the area in the next few weeks to carry out work to maintain its special character and wildlife value and we look forward to reporting further progress soon.





Birmingham Airport Limited

Diamond House
Birmingham Airport
Birmingham B26 3QJ

Telephone **+44 (0)871 222 0072**

www.birminghamAirport.co.uk

Registered at the above address. Registered in England & Wales no. 2078273.
© Copyright Birmingham Airport Limited - Published July 2023

Proud of **every journey**