

CAA's environmental sustainability strategy



Executive summary

OUR STRATEGIC INTENT:

Working together to improve environmental performance across the aviation and aerospace system.

Aviation delivers significant connectivity, economic and cultural benefits both nationally and internationally. At the same time, aviation has a significant environmental impact which contributes to the threat to our planet from climate change. The whole industry must rise to the challenge to play a full part in mitigating this threat, while retaining its vital role connecting people and businesses around the world.

For the sector to continue to provide accessible, competitive and sustainable services to consumers, significant and sustained progress will be needed to improve its environmental performance in relation to emissions, noise, air quality and other adverse impacts. It will also need to continue to focus on safety and security, whilst delivering affordable and high-quality services to its customers.

The whole aviation system, both domestically and globally, needs to work together to address environmental performance.

The aviation and aerospace industry sectors understand the challenge and many aerospace engineering companies, airlines and airports are already investing in new, more sustainable fuels, quieter aircraft and more efficient operating procedures that offer the most immediate prospects for mitigating aviation's carbon and noise impact. Longer term investment – in new forms of propulsion will improve carbon performance on short to medium distance commercial aircraft.

Governments globally are setting targets and introducing taxation and other market policies to create the conditions for industry to deliver the required improvements.



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Aviation regulators have a distinct role to play in achieving the targets.

The CAA will focus its expertise and leadership in the following areas:

1. Enabling development of low and zero-emission novel technologies
2. Co-leading the modernisation of airspace
3. Reporting on the sustainability performance of industry, including noise, and providing information to consumers on the environmental impact of aviation
4. Advising and supporting the UK government on domestic and international policy
5. Reducing the impact of our corporate activities and operations
6. Assessing how relevant regulated activities impact the local environment
7. Using our powers and duties to take account of the impact on the environment in our regulation and oversight

To achieve this, we are putting in place:

- A new sustainability team to drive and coordinate work across the CAA;
- A new Environmental Sustainability Panel to advise and challenge us; and
- Specialist resource both in our innovation hub to enable novel technology, and in airworthiness, for safety certification of new aircraft and fuels.

But, our work will also depend on:

- Government to set out objectives and targets for decarbonisation
- Government and industry to support upscaling of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production to meet the 10% blending ambition for 2030, and on setting out appropriate mechanisms to encourage both investment and uptake
- Industry to continue to make progress in delivering new technology

