



King County International Airport Work Plan for Certification in the Airport Carbon Accreditation Program

Climate change is predicted to have long-term consequences for the economy, the environment, and public health and safety in King County. **King County International Airport is pursuing accreditation through the Airport Carbon Accreditation Program as one of many actions to fight climate change and support King County's Strategic Climate Action Plan. Acting as responsible stewards, KCIA is the first General Aviation airport in Washington State to join the global effort.** This accreditation is the only airport-specific, internationally recognized carbon management standard.

By becoming Airport Carbon Accredited, the airport will benefit in many ways including:

- Achievement of real, verified emissions' reductions
- Tackle climate change risks for both the airport and the community
- Increased shareholder value, brand reputation and stakeholder support
- Improved emissions' performance and operational/cost efficiencies for airline partners and airport tenants
- Raise the profile and credibility of KCIA in the public domain

There are six levels of certification within the Airport Carbon Accreditation Program with more stringent requirements at each level. The estimated schedule to achieve each certification level is listed below.



By becoming certified, King County International Airport (KCIA) can impact climate change on a community and global scale by becoming certified in the Airport Carbon Accreditation Program (ACAP). The ACAP is the only internationally recognized airport-specific carbon management standard. The ACAP is overseen by an advisory board that consists of representatives from the following:

- International Civil Aviation Organization
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- United Nations Environment Program
- European Commission
- US Federal Aviation Administration

Airports across the globe are pursuing the ACAP to improve carbon management practices and to reduce their carbon uses, with the goal of eventually becoming carbon neutral. KCIA has developed a work plan to achieve all four levels of the ACAP, and this document provides a summary of the work plan. Certification in the ACAP would support the airport's initiatives to fulfill the 2015 King County Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) targets.

The ACAP has four levels of certification, and KCIA's work plan describes all elements required to pursue certification through each level. KCIA's efforts to meet the ACAP requirements would include the continuous improvement of emissions-reduction practices. Every certification achieved by KCIA would increase the airport's ability to mitigate climate change impacts.

Additionally, the ACAP possesses the capabilities to provide residual benefits to communities near participating airports. Residual benefits occur through a variety of avenues, including setting internal and external benchmarks for staff and third parties. The goals presented in the ACAP have the potential to simultaneously support both airport and countywide targets for community engagement presented in the SCAP, including promotion of King County accomplishments and results through community outreach.

The ACAP provides a framework for participating airports to achieve four levels of certification, as follows, including the various milestones illustrated in the timeline on the first page:

- **Level 1: Mapping** requires the development of a carbon footprint measurement.
 - **Major and Key Milestones:**
 - ◆ Develop GHG Inventory Data Management Plan establishing methods and responsibilities.
 - ◆ Submit a Base Year Emissions and Carbon Footprint Report for Level 1 certification.
 - Update carbon footprint measurement to international standard.
- **Level 2: Reduction** requires emissions management and progress toward a reduced carbon footprint.
 - **Major and Key Milestones:**
 - ◆ Conduct a feasibility analysis of emissions reduction opportunities to finalize commitments.
 - Apply emissions management practices to reduce the carbon footprint.
 - ◆ Submit an Emissions Reduction Report for Level 2 certification.

- **Level 3: Optimization** requires third-party engagement in carbon footprint reductions.
 - **Major and Key Milestones:**
 - ◆ Update carbon footprint measurement to include indirect GHG emissions.
 - ◆ Conduct a feasibility analysis of additional emissions reduction opportunities to finalize commitments from third parties.
 - Engage third parties and collaborate with airline partners for additional reductions.
 - ◆ Submit updated Emissions Reduction Report for Level 3 certification.
- **Level 3+: Neutrality** requires neutralizing remaining direct carbon emissions by offsetting.
 - **Major and Key Milestones:**
 - ◆ Compile all annual carbon footprint calculations and isolate remaining emissions.
 - ◆ Determine Green Power Purchase options based on quantity of remaining emissions.
 - Initiate Green Power Purchase to offset remaining emissions - achieve carbon neutrality.

The ACAP requirements for each accreditation level involve different efforts to enable participating airports to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including developing emissions tracking metrics, achieving reduction targets, and reporting GHG emissions reductions. KCIA’s goals and objectives include achieving all four levels of the ACAP, eventually offsetting all carbon emissions to achieve carbon neutrality.

A detailed work plan has been developed to be used as a roadmap for KCIA to enter the ACAP and understand the data needs, costs, timing, and other information to successfully obtain the desired accreditation levels in the program. The required ACAP documentation and reporting components would be delivered through a combination of internal efforts and external efforts.

Program Implementation and Options - The ACAP levels build upon themselves. For example, once the requirements for level 1 are fulfilled, the participating airport applies for certification and moves on to level 2 while continuing to fulfill level 1 requirements on an annual basis. By level 3, the airport is continuing to fulfill level 2 and level 1 requirements on an annual basis. The ACAP requirements are structured with the sequential implementation of best practices, and airports are free to move at their own pace. Airports may remain at any level for as long as they would like and possess the flexibility to skip levels in specific circumstances.

Program Schedule and Cost – The overall estimated program cost includes estimates for KCIA costs, consultant fees, third-party verification fees, ACAP fees, and other fees. The schedule to obtain certification assumes all the necessary resources and documentation requirements are available and the airport pursues the certification at a reasonable pace.

	Estimated Certification Process Duration	Estimated Program Cost
Level 1: Mapping	9 months	\$102,000-\$158,000
Level 2: Reduction	20 months	\$82,000-\$138,000
Level 3: Optimization	25 months	\$127,000-\$198,000
Level 3+: Neutrality	8 months	\$82,000-\$138,000

KCIA's plan includes an implementation strategy for each accreditation level, provides an overview of the requirements, and outlines the various tasks with the steps that should be taken at each level. All application data that is provided to the ACAP remains confidential, and airports participating in the ACAP receive a certificate indicating the accreditation level(s) they have achieved.

The ACAP presents KCIA with many opportunities to act directly on climate solutions and fulfill the countywide SCAP goals of reducing the emissions of their operations. KCIA has developed an internal SCAP actions draft in the areas of emissions reduction, climate preparedness, and sustainable and resilient communities. As one of the many tools to support SCAP targets and achieve carbon neutrality, participation in the ACAP is listed in the internal SCAP actions draft and demonstrates the ACAP's alignment with KCIA's framework for long-term carbon emissions reduction strategies.