



Los Angeles World Airports

LAX VNY

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Fact Sheet

Environmental Overview

Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), a proprietary department of the City of Los Angeles, owns and operates Los Angeles International (LAX) and Van Nuys (VNY) general aviation airports. It receives no funding from the City's general fund.

In 2007, the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners unanimously adopted a Sustainability Vision and Principles Policy that committed LAWA to efficient and environmentally sound operations. The commitment includes setting airport standards for environmental performance, customer satisfaction, security, regional economic leadership and organizational performance. Specifically, the principles call for LAWA to:

- Become an innovative and national model in implementing environmental solutions
- Take responsibility for improving national operational sustainability
- Increase its business value through improved sustainable performance
- Engage stakeholders in order to better understand and address their concerns
- Incorporate sustainability design and construction practices in the development of its airport system
- Monitor and measure progress through its sustainability performance improvement management system

By building on its core business model and values, LAWA engages its employees, tenants, customers and communities in an effort to continually improve its environmental, economic and social performance. The policy acknowledges LAWA's significance as an important economic engine in the Southern California region. It also recognizes the need for LAWA to mitigate its impact on its surrounding neighbors and the environment.

The Board also adopted a policy requiring new remodeling and tenant improvement construction projects at all LAWA facilities to include design and construction elements that comply with or are substantially consistent with the highest possible Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, or their practical equivalents, as established by the U.S. Green Building Council.

LAWA continues to devote considerable efforts and resources to developing and maintaining programs that lessen the environmental impacts of operations at its airports, while also creating a healthier environment for neighboring communities, as well as throughout Southern California. Here is an overview on a number of these programs:

Green Building Standards

LAWA developed the "Sustainable Airport Planning, Design, and Construction Guidelines," which are similar to the LEED guidelines, but applicable to all types of LAWA projects, not just buildings.

LAWA's commitment to "green" building is demonstrated in the design and construction of new facilities, as well as renovation of existing ones, including:

- In 2010, the \$723.5-million Tom Bradley International Terminal Renovation Project at LAX achieved LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, the first-ever for a renovation project at a U.S. airport.
- The design and construction of the \$1.545-billion New Tom Bradley International Terminal Project is expected to achieve Silver-level or higher certification.

- The Los Angeles Fire Department's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Station 80 at LAX achieved LEED Gold certification, the first ever for a fire-fighting facility at an international airport. Construction of \$13.5-million LAX/LAFD ARFF Station 80 was completed November 2010.
- A \$238-million renovation of Terminal 6 at LAX, undertaken by Alaska Airlines and completed in March 2012, incorporated many sustainable practices and energy efficiency in lighting, cooling and heating. Alaska's "Airport of the Future" Board Room was LEED-designed with numerous energy-efficient and environmental features, including low-flow water fixtures that reduce consumption 30 percent compared to traditional fixtures, energy-efficient lighting systems, and Energy Star-certified appliances.
- Currently underway, a \$438-million project to replace the existing 50-year-old Central Utility Plant (CUP) located in the middle of the Central Terminal Area will result in a more modern and more efficient facility that will increase capacity for air conditioning, heating and lighting all nine of the airport's passenger terminals, the iconic Theme Building, the airport administration building, and other airport facilities. This will enhance passenger comfort and improve the reliability of utility service and safety. The new CUP, which is designed to achieve LEED Silver certification, will be approximately 25 percent more energy efficient than the current one and will meet all current air quality regulations. This project is scheduled to be completed August 2014.
- Completed May 2010, the \$88-million Crossfield Taxiway Project at LAX utilized several "green" strategies, including the use of pervious concrete. For that effort, LAWA was recognized by the Southern California Chapter of the American Concrete Institute with its *Excellence in Environmental Usage of Concrete Award*, and also by the Southern California Concrete Producers with its *Cornerstone Concrete Excellence Award*.
- LAWA developed its own sustainability plan, the "Sustainability Performance Improvement Management System (SPIMS)," and publishes annual sustainability reports. The SPIMS integrates all sustainability initiatives into LAWA's operations and ensures continual evaluations of LAWA's sustainability performance.

Air Quality

- LAWA selects vehicles with clean emissions to meet its fleet and equipment needs. As of 2012, more than 72 percent of the LAX vehicle fleet use alternative fuels, making it the largest alternative-fuel fleet at any U.S. airport. At VNY, 59 percent of the fleet uses alternative fuels.
- LAX construction projects follow stringent environmental mitigation measures. For example, the South Airfield Improvement Project, completed June 2008, substantially reduced air toxic emissions: 4.5 tons of particulate matter; 4,848 tons of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide; 4.1 tons of reactive organic gases; 48.1 tons of oxides of nitrogen; and 0.052 tons of sulfur dioxide.
- As of 2010, 24 percent of LAWA employees voluntarily commute to work using shared-ride options, resulting in seven million fewer vehicle miles and reducing air pollutants by nearly eight billion pounds annually. LAWA's Rideshare program has received 15 consecutive Rideshare Diamond Awards in 13 years for having one of the best employee transportation programs in Southern California. The regional awards are sponsored by the Los Angeles County

- Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Ventura County Transportation Commission, and the Orange County Transportation Authority.
- In spring 2013, the landmark LAX Air Quality and Source Apportionment Study report was released. The study found that the levels of all major air pollutants (carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and fine particulate matter) do not exceed national and California air quality standards. This study is the first of its kind in the nation to comprehensively assess a major airport's contribution to ambient air quality levels in nearby communities. The study also found that concentrations of all major as well as other pollutants measured were comparable or lower than concentrations in other similar areas of Los Angeles.

Energy Conservation

- LAWA purchases approximately 13 percent of its power from renewable energy resources, and is committed to expanding its purchase of green power from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to 25 percent.
- Using newer technologies to retrofit existing heating and cooling units, LAWA is reducing the amount of energy consumed on a per-passenger basis in the terminals and on a per-ton basis in cargo facilities. LAWA has achieved a seven percent reduction (from its 2007 baseline), saving \$150,000 in energy costs in 2009.
- LAWA has replaced its incandescent lighting system with energy-efficient, compact fluorescent lighting and installed light sensors in buildings at LAX. Where feasible, LAWA is continuing this effort outside by installing light-emitting diode (LED) lights on runways, signs and other outdoor lighting.

Water Conservation

- LAWA has reduced potable water use by using reclaimed water for landscaping needs. Currently, LAWA irrigates 35 percent of the landscape at LAX with reclaimed water, conserving 123 acre feet (40.2 million gallons) of water annually.

Source Reduction and Recycling

- LAX has achieved a waste diversion rate of 67 percent, or 21,000 tons. More than 75 percent of all construction-related waste is recycled. For some projects, almost 98 percent of the construction debris was recycled.
- LAWA established an enhanced contract for custodial supplies that will comply with the Green Seal standards for all paper projects and for most cleaning chemicals, including a requirement for 100 percent recovered materials for paper products.

Noise Management and Mitigation

- LAWA's Aircraft Noise and Operations Monitoring Systems at each of its airports were replaced in 2009 with state-of-the-art technology.
- The Van Nuys Airport Noisier Aircraft Phase-out Ordinance was completed in 2010, following certification of the Environmental Impact Report.
- LAWA continues its LAX Residential Soundproofing Program with more than 6,500 units soundproofed by 2011, at a total project value to date of \$132 million.
- In March 2012, Van Nuys Airport achieved a significant milestone with the airport's designation as a "zero noise impact area" – meaning that within the current VNY noise impact boundary, there are no "incompatible land uses" (single- and multi-family homes) that remain unaddressed by the airport's sound-insulation program.

Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Program

- The endangered El Segundo Blue Butterfly has certainly found a refuge in the 200-acre Dunes Habitat Preserve at LAX. The 2015 seasonal field study and analysis of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly now estimates the population at over 24,000.

The present count has increased remarkably from the fewer than 500 El Segundo Blue Butterflies that existed in 1976, when they became first insects to be listed as a Federal Endangered Species. To encourage the butterfly's comeback, and after careful study and consultation with environmental experts, LAWA created the Dunes Habitat Restoration Project in 1986 to focus on reintroducing and protecting the coastal buckwheat plant, the butterfly's sole food source and near which it spends its entire life cycle.

After expanding the butterfly's habitat to its present 200 acres, LAWA then established ongoing recovery programs. Because of these efforts, the El Segundo Blue Butterfly population is flourishing.

Today, the preserve is home again to more than 1,000 species of plants and animals, in addition to the El Segundo Blue Butterfly. The active flight season of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly is only a couple of months, beginning in mid-June. By August, their pupae lie dormant until the following June when the cycle begins again.

- Under LAWA's stewardship, two lizards classified by the State of California as Species of Concern – the San Diego Horned Lizard and the silvery legless lizard – also are prospering in the LAX Dunes.
- Certain plants, including the California Spineflower, also depend on the dunes for their existence. When it was discovered in 1987, only 299 of the plants existed. Due to the clearance of non-native vegetation, the spineflower population has soared. Many other varieties of plants also now blossom in the preserved dunes.

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