

Sustainable Aviation Fuel Users Group

Our Commitment to Sustainable Options

As aviation leaders, our business is to bring people, cultures, and economies together. We recognize the need for dynamic, new innovation to help reduce aircraft greenhouse gas emissions beyond existing advances, while continuing to increase the socio-economic good that air transport provides to the world.

Whilst we recognize the need to drive further efficiency gains through technological solutions and operational efficiencies, we also have an opportunity to deliver significant environmental and social benefits as we seek to lower the carbon intensity of our fuels overall by supporting the development, certification, and commercial use of lower carbon renewable fuels, derived from environmentally and socially sustainable sources.

Therefore, we, the undersigned air carriers and other aviation industry organizations declare our commitment to advance the development, certification, and commercial use of drop-in sustainable aviation fuels. Collectively, we represent, approximately 15% of commercial aviation fuel demand, and in assessing the sustainability and commercial use of a bio-derived aviation fuel, the following considerations at a minimum should be addressed by verifiable means:

1. Jet fuel plant sources should be developed in a manner which is non-competitive with food and where biodiversity impacts are minimized; in addition, the cultivation of those plant sources should not jeopardize drinking water supplies.
2. Total lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from plant growth, harvesting, processing, and end-use should be significantly reduced compared to those associated with jet fuels from fossil sources.
3. In developing economies, development projects should include provisions or outcomes that improve socio-economic conditions for small-scale farmers who rely on agriculture to feed them and their families, and that do not require the involuntary displacement of local populations.
4. High conservation value areas and native eco-systems should not be cleared and converted for jet fuel plant source development.

These criteria should be consistent with, and complementary to emerging internationally-recognized standards such as those being developed by the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels.

We agree to work with leading organizations and individuals in the biofuels arena, not limited to the aviation industry, to develop a world-leading fact base on sustainable aviation fuels, which will:

1. Provide a body of peer-reviewed research and best practices, including fuel lifecycle emissions assessments, which will support the practical application of common sustainability criteria to the development, certification, and commercial use of sustainable aviation fuels
2. We will work in conjunction with the Version Zero report of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels as a basis for sustainability research and certification efforts. The Working Group will identify and research feedstock-specific sustainability indicators and criteria to contribute to the Roundtable.
3. Support the development of government policies which promote the development, certification, and commercial use of sustainable, lower carbon aviation fuels.

We are committed to working in partnership where appropriate with governments, other industries and representatives of civil society on credible and feasible actions in response to global climate change concerns and other socio-economic challenges.

We strongly encourage other aviation industry participants to join us in working together to help accelerate the development, certification, and commercial use of environmentally and socially sustainable aviation fuel.

