

**Sustainable Business Awards for the South East 2006**

**Case Study - Southampton Airport**

BUSINESS TYPE

**Airport**

**Key achievements**

- ✓ Received the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Gold Award for the prevention of accidents
- ✓ £86 million economic contribution to the wealth of the region
- ✓ 13% of employees are car sharing
- ✓ Investors in People accredited since 1998

**Company Background**

Part of the BAA Group, Southampton Airport is a regional airport serving 40 destinations in Europe and beyond. The airport generates employment for 1,004 people, accounting for 37% of all employment in the transport and communications sector within the Eastleigh Borough Council area.

**Overcoming challenges**

**X Barriers/Constraints:**

A constraint we have faced in the past is a lack of understanding among the local community about what happens at the airport, particularly in relation to sustainability issues.



















































**✓ Overcome by:**

To resolve this, we decided to hold a Community and Stakeholder Conference twice a year, and invite all of the democratically elected representatives in the area to attend. We felt that each conference should be an opportunity to update and inform the community on a wide range of issues relating to our activities, but also to provide a forum for answering any questions that delegates may have either personally or on behalf of their constituents. We also invite external speakers to provide talks on topics of relevance – for example, our last conference on 13th September 2005 featured a talk from aircraft manufacturer Embraer about the improved performance of its new Embraer 195 aircraft in relation to noise and the environment. We ask delegates at each conference for suggestions for future speakers, to ensure that the content remains relevant to the interests of our stakeholders. We have also produced accompanying literature in response to some of the questions we have received at this forum. These have included aircraft identification sheets, and a Community Guide with full information on aircraft routings and our noise management measures.



• Solar panel on the airport roundabout

**Factors that have influenced our activities**

	Low	SIGNIFICANCE								High
Senior management driven										
Corporate culture										
Cost savings										
Customer demand										
Community driven										

### Sustainability Initiatives

- Strive to influence not only its own impacts, but those of its airline partners too
- Put sustainable development at the top of the agenda

### Contribution to a Sustainable Economy

**Staff and services are sourced locally where possible**  
One third of staff live within a 5km radius, and local suppliers are used wherever possible.

**Suppliers are driven to meet environmental criteria**  
Suppliers are screened to ensure that they have strict environmental policies in place, and **environmental targets** are set to ensure they operate responsibly. In addition, a Sustainability Consultant is employed to advise on supply chain strategy.

With 20% of Southampton's passengers travelling from overseas, the airport attracts inbound tourism, business and leisure to the region. It also enables UK residents to travel to Europe and beyond.

### Enhancing Environmental Quality

**The noise impacts of the airports operation are tackled through of approaches**

As the number of routes flown to and from the airport increases, **noise is becoming an increasingly important issue**. Strict operating guidelines are laid-down in a Flying Controls Agreement with Eastleigh Borough Council, in order to restrict flight times. Other control measures include:

- Encouraging quieter aircraft to use the airport
- Banning certain noisier aircraft
- Noise preferential routings, where possible

**The airport is undertaking several energy efficiency and energy security** initiatives, including:

- Its short-term car park has one of the most energy efficient lighting systems in Europe, with light detecting sensors.
- A fully solar powered panel feeding a 24v long-life battery is installed on the roundabout near the airport entrance. This in turn lights up the signage using LED lighting technology and is self sufficient.
- The airport use 100% renewable energy, and continue to receive the Powergen Renewable Energy Award.

- The feasibility of using geothermal energy is being researched

### Reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill

The airport has made several achievements towards reducing the amount of waste that is sent to landfill:

- A 10% reduction in waste to landfill per passenger (through educating catering companies for example) was achieved in 2004.
- Extended waste management procedures to its business partners.
- Cardboard recycling compactors have recently been installed.
- All terminal waste, except culinary waste, is handled under contract by SITA, which focuses on recycling and energy generation.
- Office waste, mobile phones and printer ink cartridges are recycled, with recycled paper and duplex printing as standard.
- The foam used for fire training is re-captured and put through a fluid filtering system which separates the content and enables safe disposal through a specialist company.

An air quality survey was undertaken through liaison with Eastleigh Borough Council and ENTEC air quality consultants. The results show that the **emissions from Southampton Airport are less than from the surrounding road network**.

**The airport has committed air emissions reductions targets**. These are:

- To **reduce CO2 by 15% by March 2010**, compared to 1990
- To **reduce NOx emissions by 80% by 2020**, as required by the Sustainable Aviation Policy to which it has signed.

It is already part way towards achieving these targets through efficient heating and ventilation systems, car sharing schemes and improved aircraft design.

**The airport is tackling the impacts of staff transport to work**

In 2004/05 the airport **exceeded its target of getting 10% of staff to car share**. Incentives such as priority parking, free emergency taxi rides home, and discounts on services such as the AA, have helped to drive this initiative. BAA encourages bicycle and motorbike use with loan plans, a **Dr Bike Repair Scheme**, a free t-shirt, free fluorescent tabard, free cycle rack and free emergency ride home. Public transport links are good, and the airport offer interest free loans towards this.

### Company Contact

Clare Cole, Communications Manager, Southampton Airport, Wide Lane, Southampton, Hampshire, SO18 2NL  
T: 023 8062 7263 E: clare\_cole@baa.com

### Water efficiency measures are implemented

Water consumed is monitored, and water control devices are installed in all toilets. Special measures are in place to ensure pollutants do not enter the River Itchen when de-icing takes place, and **groundwater samples are monitored monthly** from 13 bore holes around the airport's perimeter.

**Ecological surveys are undertaken** at the adjacent Itchen Navigation Canal Bank, Northern Business Park and the land along the eastern boundary of the airport. Several non-harmful measures are implemented to keep birds away from the airfield for their safety:

- Planting of shrubs with berries to act as natural deterrents for birds
- Use of a hawk at regular intervals
- Bird-scaring sirens on airfield jeeps

As a result of the above measures, the airport collaborated with Oxford University to introduce bees to the airfield to observe how they were able to exist in an environment without predators.

### Improving the Social Wellbeing of Stakeholders

**The airport interact with the local community through a number of initiatives**

**50% of airport staff are active volunteers** in the local community, with six days paid leave per annum for volunteering duties and an annual awards event.

The airport donate 0.15% of pre-tax profits to community charities annually. Projects have included:

- Sponsoring places for local people with physical disabilities on a voyage with the **Jubilee Sailing Trust** – a charity which enables disabled and able-bodied people to work together to crew tall ships;
- Sponsoring the production of **10,000 education leaflets** for visitors to the Itchen Valley Country Park describing the wildlife found there.

A strategic partnership with **Bitterne Park School** is in place, whereby the airport offers students a mentoring scheme, work experience placements and help with CV writing, filling in job application forms and interview techniques. Representatives from the airport deliver **master classes** on topics relating to pupils' studies. The partnership also enables senior members of both organisations to share skills, for example, an airport Director and Deputy Head Master have participated in a **work shadowing** initiative.

The partnership is now being rolled out to another school, the Quilley School of Engineering, with a view to attracting future employees. Both schools are in economically deprived areas.

**The airport implement a variety of methods to share its best practice:**

- A bi-annual 'Community and Stakeholder Conference' is held.
- An annual Corporate Sustainability Report can be viewed online, and has been verified externally by ERM.
- A half-day Environmental Management System awareness training course is extended to all on-airport business partners.
- A 'Managing Responsibly Board' meets monthly to address sustainability concerns across the airport.
- The airport is a key member of various partnerships, including Hampshire Economic Partnership, the Technical Working Group and the Air Transport Forum.

**Invest in staff development, with an number of measures in place:**

- An **online corporate university**, 'Uni', offering a variety of courses.
- A Staff Recognition Programme that rewards performance.
- **'Back to the Floor'** days for Directors to increase their understanding of the challenges faced by front-line staff.
- Sponsorship for staff to travel on the Jubilee Sailing Trust, to enhance their disabled customer skills.

**'Wellbeing' initiatives are in place for the benefit of the staff**

Senior managers and fire service personnel receive health care benefits and other staff may contribute towards a discounted Simply Health scheme. Other **wellbeing initiatives** include:

- Occupational health advisors
- Free use of the airport gym
- Discounted membership rates at local health centres
- A free and confidential telephone advisory service, 'ICAS', for emotional, financial and legal matters
- Flexible hours
- A 'Smoking Awareness Day'

### Company Contact

Clare Cole, Communications Manager, Southampton Airport, Wide Lane, Southampton, Hampshire, SO18 2NL  
T: 023 8062 7263 E: clare\_cole@baa.com