



National Air Transportation Association

SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD FOR AVIATION BUSINESSES



NATA Sustainability Standard for Aviation Businesses

1. Purpose

It is the goal of the NATA Environmental Committee to develop a free industry standard for environmental sustainability for FBOs and other aviation businesses. The NATA Sustainability Standard for Aviation Businesses (the “Standard”) allows NATA member organizations to achieve a self-certification by taking steps that are designed to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions (including CO₂), increase use of more environmentally friendly energy sources, reduce waste, and encourage sustainability. The Standard also offers those organizations that complete a self-certification process to highlight their conformance to this standard by displaying the corresponding logo.

2. Environmental Issues and Best Practices

The Standard aims to provide organizations with flexible, cost-effective options to pursue practices in their operations that are sustainable and can serve as a foundation for future enhancements. The FAA defines¹ airport sustainable actions as those that achieve these three goals:

- 1) Reduce environmental impacts
- 2) Help maintain high, stable levels of economic growth
- 3) Help achieve “social progress”, a broad set of actions that ensure organizational goals are achieved in a way that’s consistent with the needs and values of the local community

The Standard provides a targeted list of actions that aviation businesses can make *today* to reduce their carbon footprint and support overall sustainability in their operations and community, while also providing options for future enhancements and/or adoption of other third-party certifications, if desired. Appendix B of this document provides links to some examples of these options for those organizations interested in pursuing them.

3. Self-Certification Process:

Organizations interested in participating in this program can achieve certification through these steps:

1. Complete the self-certification checklist found in Appendix A.
 - o Mandatory requirements must be met to achieve self-certification.
 - o Optional actions are voluntary but implementing them will result in being identified as reaching higher-tier status. All applicable items in a Tier level must be completed in order to achieve self-certification of that level.
2. Submit the completed and signed checklist to sustainability@nata.aero.
3. Renew annually to maintain self-certification.
 - o Self-certifications expire at the end of each calendar year.
 - o New checklists will be released each year in the fourth quarter for each subsequent calendar year.

1 www.faa.gov/airports/environmental/sustainability



4. Self-Certification Levels

FBOs that return Appendix A will achieve the following levels by completing:

- ☒ All Required items Green Aviation Business
- ☒ All Required items + Tier 1 items Green Aviation Business – Tier 1
- ☒ All Required items + Tiers 1 and 2 items Green Aviation Business – Tier 2
- ☒ All Required Items + Tiers 1, 2, and 3 items Green Aviation Business – Tier 3

5. Implementation Notes

- ☒ The basic hierarchy of sustainability is to measure one’s carbon foot print, then consider ways to:
 1. Reduce: Can we be more efficient and use less?
 2. Replace: Can we use sustainable fuels instead of fossil?
 3. Offset: Can offsets be a bridge to carbon neutrality?
- ☒ Participation is limited to NATA member organizations only.
- ☒ The self-certification checklist must be signed by the Accountable Executive (e.g., owner, general manager, president, or other equivalent title).
- ☒ Any previously achieved items in the checklist can be applied toward self-certification. For example, if an aviation business has already replaced some lights with LEDs, that action “counts” for the corresponding requirement.
- ☒ The first requirement for self-certification is to calculate a carbon footprint as a baseline for future comparison. Since this baseline is not normalized for operations, facility size, or other measure of business activity, a business has the option of re-calculating its baseline in future years if it encounters significant growth or reduction in operations or facility size. It may be beneficial to consider using the same carbon footprint calculator for the baseline as well for subsequent reporting periods as the carbon footprint scoring methodology can vary.
- ☒ Although the checklist requires that the applicant calculate its carbon footprint, the actual score does not need to be disclosed to NATA for the purposes for obtaining this self-certification.
- ☒ Organizations are not required to submit or disclose any confidential materials.
- ☒ Upon receipt of the required documents, NATA will evaluate the submission prior to providing confirmation that the organization is permitted to utilize the Standard’s logo.
- ☒ NATA reserves the right to request verification of any items and serves as sole adjudicator of completed checklists and applicability to receive the NATA Sustainability Standard for Aviation Businesses certification.

ONLY ORGANIZATIONS THAT COMPLETE ALL COMPONENTS OF THIS OPTIONAL SELF-CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND RECEIVE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION FROM NATA, HAVE PERMISSION TO USE AND DISPLAY THE NATA SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD FOR AVIATION BUSINESSES LOGO DURING APPROVED TIMEFRAMES.

Enclosures

- Appendix A: Self-Certification Checklist and Application
- Appendix B: Resources and Tools

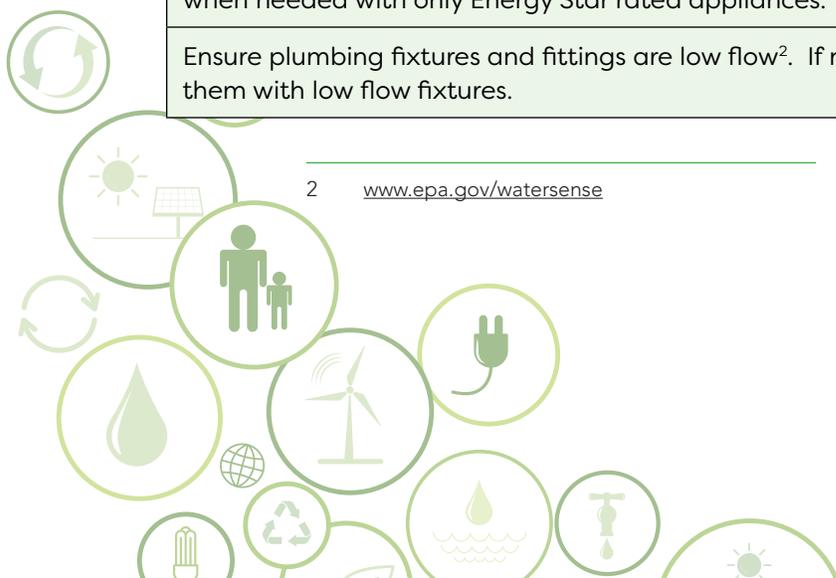


Appendix A: NATA Sustainability Standard for Aviation Businesses Self-Certification Checklist and Application

Organization Name	
Location or Address	
Phone	
Email	
Accountable Executive (Name)	
Title	

Sustainability Standard Requirement	Required / Tier	Y/N/NA
<i>Note: For facilities-related items, any new construction must meet or exceed the facility's current tier in order maintain tier level.</i>		
Establish a baseline carbon footprint. Example tools are provided in Appendix B.	Required	
Develop an Environmental Policy Statement, have Accountable Executive sign it, and place it in public-facing area. Example templates are provided in Appendix B.	Required	
Make recycling receptacles available in employee and customer areas (applicable only if recycling is available in the aviation facility's geographical area); receptacles must be clearly labelled (trash, recycling, compost, etc.).	Required	
Implement paperless systems where feasible (e.g., fuel slips, receipts, survey forms, etc.).	Required	
Install *some* LED interior and exterior lighting.	Required	
Offer filtered water fill station or water fountain to reduce plastic water bottle usage.	Required	
Phase out single use plastic items such as straws, coffee stirrs, etc. If water containers are provided, offer non-plastic options (in addition to plastic option, if desired).	Tier 1	
Install motion-sensor lighting in storage areas, restrooms, and offices.	Tier 1	
Ensure kitchen appliances are Energy Star rated. If not, replace them when needed with only Energy Star rated appliances.	Tier 1	
Ensure plumbing fixtures and fittings are low flow ² . If not, replace them with low flow fixtures.	Tier 1	

² www.epa.gov/watersense

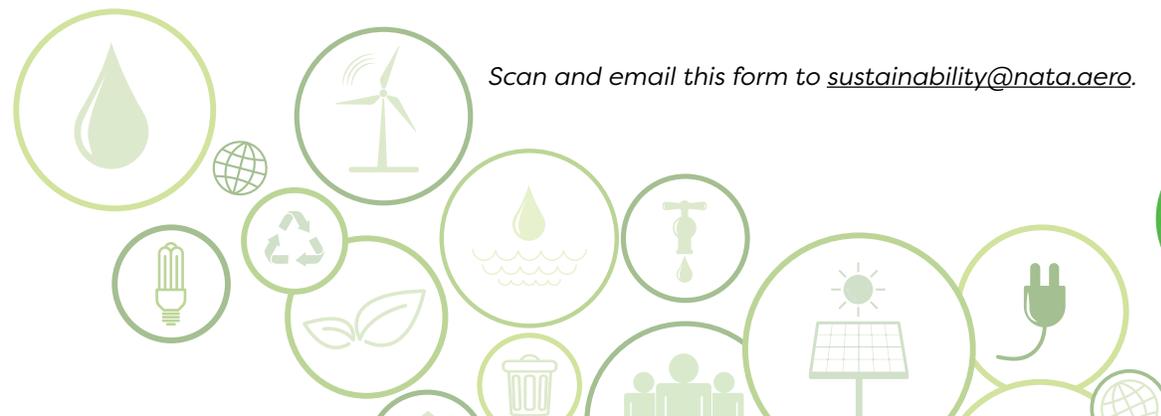


Develop and implement a sustainable sourcing/procurement policy. Example policies are provided in Appendix B.	Tier 2	
For FBO break area snack offerings, include at least one seasonal, locally sourced product. Mark "NA" if snacks are not offered, vending machine only are used, or if such products are not reasonably available locally.	Tier 2	
At least one or more GSE or base vehicles (e.g., ramp vehicles or crew cars) are electric-only.	Tier 2	
Achieve a reduction in baseline carbon footprint (applicable only after 1st year of participation and beyond).	Tier 2	
Promote either or both: 1) Ride sharing opportunities, by designating a (car)parking area for ride share vehicles and services and/or 2) Electric car usage, by providing charging station(s).	Tier 2	
Provide subsidy for employees using public transportation where available.	Tier 2	
Install electric car charging station(s) on land-side parking area.	Tier 3	
At least 50% of GSE (not including fuel trucks) is electric-only.	Tier 3	
Integrate renewable energy source (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal, etc.) or purchase green power/carbon offsets (where available).	Tier 3	
Install interlocks on hangar doors to turn off building conditioning (heat and/or cooling) when door(s) are open (with delay allowed per manufacturer settings).	Tier 3	
Replace *all* interior and exterior lighting with LEDs.	Tier 3	
Use renewable diesel in place of conventional diesel fuel for GSE, where available.	Tier 3	

Notes and Comments: _____

Signature of Accountable Executive: _____ **Date:** _____

Scan and email this form to sustainability@nata.aero.



Appendix B: Resources and Tools

Carbon Footprint Estimation Tools and Guidance

- 🔗 US EPA Simplified GHG Emissions Calculator:
www.epa.gov/climateleadership/simplified-ghg-emissions-calculator
- 🔗 Greenhouse Gas Protocol Calculation Tool:
www.ghgprotocol.org/calculation-tools
- 🔗 4 Air: Carbon Calculator
www.nata.aero/assets/Site_18/files/Marketing/4AIRNATAFBOFootprintCalc1.xlsx
- 🔗 Green House Gas (GHG) Emission Factors Hub
www.epa.gov/climateleadership/ghg-emission-factors-hub

Resources for Further Information

- 🔗 SAF Coalition:
www.futureofsustainablefuel.com
- 🔗 Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB):
www.rsb.org
- 🔗 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED):
www.usgbc.org
- 🔗 CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project):
www.cdp.net
- 🔗 Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure – ENVISION:
www.sustainableinfrastructure.org
- 🔗 ENERGY STAR:
www.energystar.gov
- 🔗 Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA):
www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSA
- 🔗 ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems Standard
www.iso.org
- 🔗 Gold Standard:
www.goldstandard.org
- 🔗 Verra Standards for a Sustainable Future
www.verra.org
- 🔗 Climate Action Reserve
www.climateactionreserve.org
- 🔗 American Carbon Registry:
www.americancarbonregistry.org
- 🔗 Air Transport Action Group (ATAG)
www.enviro.aero
- 🔗 Sample Environmental Policy Statement:
www.nata.aero/assets/Site_18/files/SAF/Sustainability%20Standard%20-%20Organizational%20Policy%20Template.docx
- 🔗 Sample Sourcing/Procurement Sustainability Policy:
www.nata.aero/assets/Site_18/files/SAF/Sustainability%20Standard%20-%20Supplier%20Policy%20Template.docx

If you need assistance,
please contact
Megan Eisenstein at
meisenstein@nata.aero.