

A good night's sleep for our neighbours

Umeå City Airport lies uniquely close to the city centre, just four kilometres away. This means that air traffic must follow strict regulations and a special programme to minimise disturbing noise. One way the airport ensures this is through a system where the runway charge is higher the more noise and emission a plane causes.

Our air traffic controllers guide planes away from population centres and make sure that take-off and landing primarily occur over the sea to the south-east. The airport has also installed an automatic system for flight path monitoring. In exceptional cases where a plane deviates from the planned flight path, we can find out the reason right away.

Certain population centres (such as Bergsboda and Storsand-skär) are very close to the airport. In these areas the airport has paid to replace windows, weather stripping and other noise-insulating measures on 75 houses at a total cost so far of SEK 9 million.

Chemicals and waste

Umeå City Airport works continuously to replace and minimize harmful chemicals. To know where we stand – literally as well as figuratively – we have conducted soil surveys that show no residual environmentally hazardous substances in the soil from earlier years. Naturally, the goal is to avoid emitting any harmful substances into the soil or water. We sort our hazardous waste just like household rubbish, for intermediate storage in a recycling station.

In winter, we de-ice the planes' wings with propylene glycol. Afterwards the de-icing fluid is collected and stored in tanks at the airport. The final station is in Luleå, where the fluid is purified for re-use. Similarly, chemical residues from fire exercises are stored in a sealed tank for further transport to destruction.

The runways are kept ice-free mainly through mechanical means: ploughing and sanding. We have a warning system for icy weather that alerts us well in advance so that we can largely avoid the use of synthetic urea, which can lead to eutrophication in the waterways.



We demand that our suppliers and partners adhere to the same strict environmental requirements that we follow, through the environmental directives that control our purchasing and contracting.

The work continues

The environmental certification of the airport in 1999 was not a goal – it was a starting point. Certification guarantees that we work for systematic improvements. We continuously formulate new goals and monitor our activities to ensure that we achieve them.

One keyword is collaboration. All employees at Umeå City Airport, and our tenants as well, are trained and involved in our environmental efforts. We conduct our own inspection and testing programmes and maintain a fruitful dialogue with the local authorities of Umeå and other supervisory authorities.

Our successes to date motivate us to keep aiming even higher.

Umeå City Airport - naturally

Environmental data in brief

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Umeå City
Airport

A greener airport



We head development

Air travel make business, meetings and experiences possible. This is particularly significant for those of us who live and work in the north of Sweden. Our city's growth and visitor industry would not be as great as they are today without access to fast transport.

More and more people are choosing to travel to and from Umeå City Airport. At the same time, the number of take-offs and landings has decreased. This is what we call a higher cabin factor, more passengers per flight. One important result is that emissions per person and kilometre are lower.

Because of course we cannot ignore the negative environmental impact of air travel, primarily through carbon emissions. Air travel is responsible for 2-3% the world's carbon emissions and about 5% of the total carbon emissions in Sweden (including international flights). This percentage is rising, but airports are working with the airline industry to turn that trend around. As a part of LFV (previously the Swedish Civil Aviation Administration), we support the EU proposal that air travel should be included in the emissions trading scheme. We also encourage the development of greener aircraft. In collaboration with the airlines, we are also continuing to make air travel more efficient with straighter and therefore shorter flights.

On the ground, Umeå City Airport wants to spearhead development. Our proximity to Umeå is convenient for travellers, but it also requires extra ambitious environmental measures on our part to limit aspects such as noise pollution, chemical use and emissions.

An important milestone was that the airport, as the first in the Nordic countries, received environmental certification in December 1999. Since then, a lot has happened. Emissions of fossil greenhouse gases from our own operations have continuously decreased, with the goal of zero emissions. In the meantime we have not yet reached that goal, our operations are climate-neutral because we compensate for our emissions by supporting projects elsewhere in the world.

This folder shows how far Umeå City Airport has come on its green journey.

Karin Larsson-Tängdén
Airport manager



You can breathe easy - this is a climate-neutral airport

One of our most important goals is to reduce emissions of carbon from fossil fuels in our own operations. LFV's interim target is to halve carbon dioxide by 2010 compared to 2005, with the ultimate goal of completely eliminating fossil carbon emissions by 2020.

For us at Umeå City Airport, we need only to continue on our current path. From 2000 to 2008 our carbon emissions dropped by as much as 27%.

Despite all our hard work, the airport is still contributing to the world's collective emissions of fossil carbon. To counteract this, we participate in projects around the world to achieve a corresponding reduction in emissions. This makes our operations climate neutral.

Since 2005 all heating at the airport comes from green district heating, which means that the energy is produced using renewable resources. Our electricity is equally green and is purchased centrally through an LFV collaboration.

A special energy savings project at the airport includes electricity, heating, ventilation and lighting. Some of the measures include utilising excess heat from the boiler room and using low-energy lighting, efficient heat pumps and renewable energy sources.

To a large degree, our environmental measures are about changing old habits. The outlook for this is particularly good at Umeå City Airport, where the staff are highly aware and environmentally trained.

Planes "rolling downhill"

One way to reduce noise on the ground and fuel consumption in the air is with "green approaches". This means that the plane stays at cruising altitude as long as possible and then descends continuously, which requires less engine thrust and therefore less fuel. It can be compared with a car rolling downhill.

Green approaches are a method we offer pilots. It requires planning at an early stage of a flight. The goal is for at least 80% of all approaches with commuter flights at Umeå City Airport to be green by autumn 2009.



New vehicles with a new way of driving

At airports, a great deal of traffic also occurs on the ground: for example, there are snow ploughs, baggage loaders, fuel tankers and de-icers. We follow an investment plan to replace these with green vehicles wherever possible and as rapidly as is practical.

In addition, our vehicle operators are "light on their feet". Trained in eco-driving, they have learned fuel-saving techniques for start-up, shifting and braking. Their results have spurred our operators on to new deeds. Since the course we have noted a long-term reduction of our fuel consumption by nearly 20%.