NET ZERO CARBON ROADMAP

BRUSSELS AIRPORTS COMMITMENT TO NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

Brussels Airport in brief

In the heart of Europe

As a national airport located in the heart of Europe, Brussels Airport is the ideal gateway to Brussels, Belgium, and the rest of the world. Brussels Airport is simultaneously a city, bustling with activity, innovation and engagement. Our employees are passionate about the airport, and this zeal translates into an extremely customer-friendly service, infused with typical Belgian hospitality. Other businesses are keen to establish themselves here, attracted by the promotion of Belgian pride that Brussels Airport propagates at an international level. Brussels Airport is the ultimate experience for each and everyone!

The human touch

The numbers speak for themselves: Brussels Airport is one of the most important airports in Europe. Yet, alongside all those capacity expansions and infrastructure investments, we manage to keep things on an exceptionally intimate level. Indeed, we remain an airport with a decidedly human touch, with due regard for the needs of every individual. Regardless of whether it is a passenger, business, supplier, or partner: the customer always comes first.

More than an airport

We are constantly looking forward and consider more than the conventional services. Our role as an intermodal hub is an excellent example. By aligning all transport modes, we actively increase accessibility and attract foreign companies. Our Airport Business District is bustling with activity and opportunities for employment

National growth engine

The National Bank of Belgium regards the airport industry as ‘an essential sector that plays a key role in the Belgian economy’. We are the second most important growth pool in our nation and have a responsibility for general prosperity and well-being. As an indication: the airport accounts for 64,000 direct and indirect jobs, by virtue of both its commercial flights and leading international cargo operations.

Sustainability

The environment and well-being of local residents are central to our strategy. We strive to maintain a careful balance between economic growth and a controlled impact on our surroundings. This is evidenced by our CO_2 neutrality, own water purification station, solar panel parks, noise abatement efforts and biodiversity initiatives etc.

Activities

In 2023, Brussels Airport took essential steps to shape its future. We directly connected Belgium to 220 destinations worldwide, welcomed no less than 22.2 million passengers to our airport and transported 701,000 tons of goods. We want to continue strengthening our position as a central European hub today and tomorrow. Thanks to our central location in Europe, we are an important gateway to the world, and our expertise in the transport of pharmaceuticals, perishables, e-commerce, and live animals positions us as one of the most attractive freight platforms in the region.

The trust that travelers and businesses place in us is essential not only for the future of Brussels Airport but for all of Belgium. Our airport delivers an annual total economic impact of €8.8 billion, about 2% of gross domestic product, maintaining our position as Belgium's second economic engine. With over 350 companies operating at the airport, Brussels Airport is also a key center for investment, innovation, and dynamism. This is reflected in the 64,000 direct and indirect jobs generated by the various activities in our constantly evolving ecosystem.

To keep our engine running and maintain our position as an economic growth pole, we made many investments in various areas last year, always with an eye on sustainability and innovation. For example, we focused on modernizing and reorganizing our cargo zone and entered new partnerships with groundbreaking companies that support Brussels Airport's agility and growth, such as DronePort in Sint-Truiden or Jetpack, a data science company. We also announced our participation in Flanders Technology & Innovation, where we can offer substantial added value as an incubator and testing ground for innovative solutions.

We invest in the future and choose to be even more sustainable in everything we undertake. In 2023, our major milestone was the decision to become Net Zero Carbon for our own activities as an airport operator by 2030 at the latest, accelerating our 2050 target by twenty years.

We actively contribute to the transition towards a more sustainable aviation and take on our role as a responsible local player. For example, we will replace our natural gas-powered central heating system with heat pumps, which will be the largest of their kind in Belgium. Moreover, additional solar panels will be installed on the airport grounds, and we will keep investing in the production of green energy to be used for the increased electrification of our and our partners activities.

Our achievements to date

Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) has become the primary industry program for assessing an airport's efforts to manage and reduce emissions.

In 2008, BAC started calculating and evaluating its carbon footprint. In 2010, Brussels Airport joined the Airport Carbon Accreditation scheme of Airports Council International Europe (ACI Europe).

Since 2010, carbon reduction has been on BAC's agenda, resulting in Carbon Neutrality in 2018 (ACA level 3+) for our own operations. Today, BAC can present a reduction of about 70% of scope 1&2 (2023 vs. baseline 2010).

BAC offsets its remaining emissions by funding ACA - compliant projects that reduce CO_2 emissions in developing countries.

In 2019, BAC signed the ACI Europe commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In 2022 BAC signed an even more ambitious ACI Europe target aiming at 2030.

Brussels Airport commits to reach Net Zero target by further reducing the absolute emissions from its own activities to the furthest extent possible (>90%) versus baseline year (2010) and address any remaining emissions through investment in carbon removal and storage (maximum 10%).

EV car fleet and infrastructure Since 2022 only electric company car orders are possible and 150 charging points available for staff.

100% Renewable Energy part of our electricity is produced on-site; all purchased electricity is green.

Sustainable Airport Mobility Plan (SAMP) Multimodal accessibility for passengers, commuters, visitors, and businesses.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Since 2023 available via the CEPs-pipeline. Brussels Airlines operates first SAF flight (Jan. '23).

Become Net Zero Carbon by 2030

BAC's 2030 Net Zero Transition pathway includes 5 building blocks with concrete action plans to enable a successful transition.

Fossil free heating

- Replacement of the two main fossil heating plants by a zero-emission installation based on heat pumps technology.
- All new buildings will be heated on renewable energy and combined with seasonal thermal energy storage (STES) where possible. They will as well be designed and insulated as energy efficient as possible targeting the BREEAM certification "Excellent" (logistic buildings) or "Outstanding" (hotel & offices).
- Accelerated renovation of existing buildings.

Electric equipment & vehicles

- Substitution of the entire fleet company cars towards 100% battery electric vehicles by 2027 (and provide sufficient electric charging facilities).
- Service vehicles will be replaced by 100% battery electric ones by 2030.
- Heavy duty vehicles and emergency power groups will ake use of biofuel (HVO100) by 2027.

Local green electricity

- Continue to purchase 100% green electricity based on guarantees of origin.
- On-site development of renewable energy (solar) production. Expand our capacity of local green energy from 3 MWp to 10 MWp (by May 2024) – aiming for 27 MWp by 2027.

Robust electricity system

- Exploring how to combine the private electricity distribution network with intelligent digital solutions to lay the foundation for a new energy power system. Synchronize the local production capacity of our solar panels with the flexible energy demand, including for our heat pumps and electric vehicles.
- Invest in increased capacity of the electricity network, enabling further electrification of the airport and its partners.

Net zero?

According to scientific evidence by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global warming of 1.5°C should not be exceeded. This is also the target of the Paris agreement under the UN Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Net Zero Carbon is the state our global civilization needs to reach by 2050 at the latest to avoid the most acute repercussions of Climate Change. Net Zero in the definition proposed by IPCC is explained as the state when anthropogenic CO_2 emissions are balanced.

Connected community

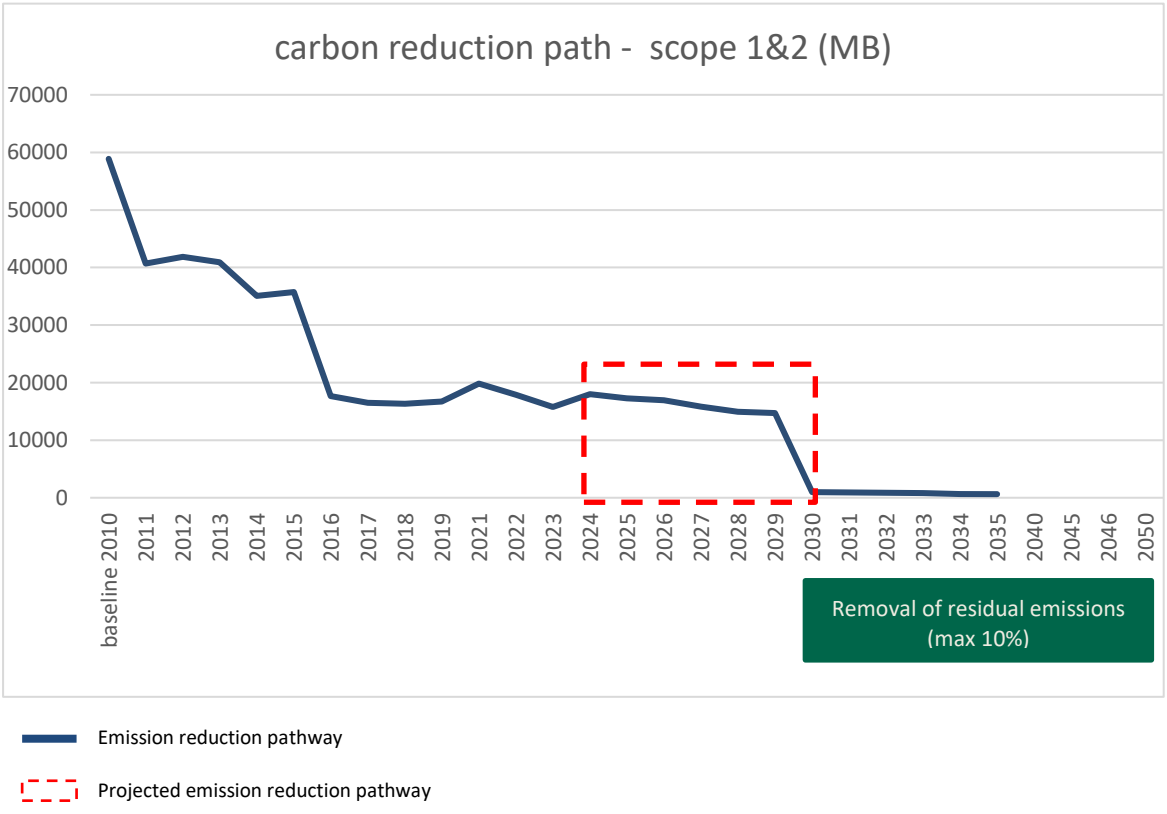
- Stimulate airport partners to use electric Group Support Equipment.
- Establish sufficient electric charging points landside and airside to facilitate and accelerate net zero mobility.
- Offer airport partners the possibility to purchase on site produced solar energy.

For the residual emissions, we intend to acquire carbon removal credits from projects fulfilling the criteria of the ACA guidance.

Historical emissions & projected emission reduction pathway

Through the work initiated in 2008 and efforts to improve energy saving and reduction of CO_2 emissions, Brussels Airport Company has been able to cut CO_2 emissions from 59.000 tons in 2010 to 16.326 tons in 2023.

Below figure shows BAC's historic CO_2 emissions since 2010 from the main sources (electricity, thermal energy, vehicle fuels, emergency generators) and forecasted emissions.



Leading role

Since 2018, we have been a carbon-neutral airport, which means that we take all measures to maximally reduce our emissions and offset any remaining emissions. This approach aligns with the required ambition in the entire aviation sector. As the latter is responsible for 3 to 4% of all greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, it must aim to reduce its CO_2 emissions.

Brussels Airport Company wants to be carbon-free by 2030, twenty years sooner than planned.

Brussels Airport Company is preparing for the installation of a state of-the-art fossil-free heating system using heat pumps. This will replace the current heating installation of the airport terminal. The new installation will heat buildings with green electricity by 2030 at the latest, reducing CO_2 emissions by 70%. These large-scale investments are fully in line with our climate ambitions. More than ever, we want to play a leading role in sustainable aviation in Europe.

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Zaventem, Belgium



Arnaud Feist

CEO Brussels Airport Company