



## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release  
24 March 2026

# Global carbon standard releases latest results of airport climate action worldwide

**Brussels, 24 March 2026:** Airports Council International has today published the annual results on carbon performance and participation trends for its global carbon management standard for airports, *Airport Carbon Accreditation*.

The newly released report covers the period from May 2024 to May 2025, with headline results highlighting:

- A total of **590 airports across 91 countries and territories** were accredited under the programme, with **104 new airports** joining for the first time, during the reporting period;
- Together, these airports **welcomed 53.6%<sup>1</sup>** of global passenger traffic, meaning that more than half of the world's passengers travelled through an airport actively managing and reducing its carbon emissions;
- Accredited airports collectively reduced their Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by **542,559 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e**, (-8.1%);
- By the end of the reporting period, **21 airports had reached Level 5**, achieving **net zero for emissions under their direct control** and committing to reach net zero for Scope 3 emissions by 2050.

The report also highlighted improvements in emissions efficiency. Average emissions per passenger fell to **1.54 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e**, while emissions per traffic unit declined to **1.34 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e**. These represent reductions of 30.6% and 26.8% respectively compared with the three-year rolling average, showing that airports are continuing to improve their carbon performance despite growth in traffic.

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**Olivier Jankovec, Chair of the Airport Carbon Accreditation Board and Director General at ACI EUROPE** said: *“These headline figures and the detailed content of this report are both reassuring and encouraging, given the new reality of the “contested transition” – which is seeing political pushback against climate action gaining ground. Indeed, airports are well aware that no matter what, their license to operate and grow will remain conditional on the decarbonisation of aviation. Crucially, this means that for them climate action is not just about driving efficiencies, but also about future proofing their business and air connectivity. In this context, as we look back on Year 16 of Airport Carbon Accreditation, the proactive work of the airport community in managing and reducing carbon emissions comes across as stronger than ever. Airports worldwide are walking the talk on climate action, providing a much-sought-after beacon of hope.”*

The report is available for download [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Reference year for passenger traffic figures: 2024

## ENDS ##

### NOTES FOR EDITORS:

*Airport Carbon Accreditation* is the only institutionally endorsed global carbon management certification programme for airports. It independently assesses and recognises efforts to manage and reduce carbon emissions through seven levels of certification: Level 1 to Level 5, including intermediary levels 3+ and 4+. The programme accommodates airports of all sizes, from hubs and regional airports to general aviation and freight-focused sites.

Relying on internationally recognised methodologies, it provides a common, site-specific framework with measurable milestones, allowing flexibility for national or local legal requirements

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while ensuring robust carbon management. *Airport Carbon Accreditation* is governed and owned by ACI EUROPE.

Find out more on the programme website [www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org](http://www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org)

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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