

# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA)

The GTAA holds the responsibility to operate, manage and develop Toronto Pearson, under terms set out in the December 1996 ground lease with the federal government. We are authorized to operate on a commercial basis, to set fees, and to develop and improve facilities.

The GTAA has embarked on the next phase of our corporate development. As a result, a new vision for the organization was established; one that speaks directly to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Our vision: To be "A leading airport company championing sustainable global access for the Greater Toronto Area." To achieve this vision, a new five-year strategic plan was established, which focuses on global competitiveness, corporate sustainability and gateway traffic development.



For further information about Toronto Pearson International Airport contact:

**Greater Toronto Airports Authority  
Toronto Pearson International Airport**

P.O. Box 6031, 3111 Convaire Drive

Toronto AMF, Ontario

Canada L5P 1B2

T: (416) 776-9892

F: (416) 776-3555

E-mail: [customer\\_service@GTAA.com](mailto:customer_service@GTAA.com)

Website: [www.GTAA.com](http://www.GTAA.com)

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## **Committed to green operations**

The GTAA has made environmental management a cornerstone of our approach to the development and operation of Toronto Pearson International Airport.

Conscious of the airport's potential impact on nearby communities, the GTAA endeavours to be a good neighbour. Our wide range of environmentally focussed programs show our commitment to strive toward environmental excellence. We seek new ways to improve our environmental record and encourage others to join us.

## **Turning policy into action**

The GTAA utilizes an Environmental Management System (EMS) which meets the specifications of the ISO 14001 international standards.

The airport achieved ISO 14001 certification on April 26, 1999, making it the first airport in North America to become certified. Through our all-encompassing EMS, the GTAA identifies significant environmental aspects, sets performance targets and strives for continual improvement, prevention of pollution and regulatory compliance.

ISO 14001 is an international environmental management standard that specifies:

- the requirement for an environmental policy
- environmental impact assessment of products, activities and services
- planning objectives and measurements
- implementation and operation of an EMS that includes programs to meet objectives and targets.

The standard establishes an organized approach to systematically reduce any and all environmental impacts within an organization's control. We have made significant strides over the years in key areas and will continually work on improving our progress.



## **The Policy**

The GTAA is committed to developing and operating airports in a responsible manner, in compliance with relevant environmental legislation, and within an overall framework which is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. Our commitment to continual improvement and the prevention of pollution is reflected in our day-to-day operations to minimize impacts on the natural environment and local community.

It is our policy to set environmental objectives and targets and implement action plans for significant environmental aspects identified at the airport. It is also our policy to monitor progress, utilize best management practices and apply cost-effective technology to strive to improve environmental performance.

The full GTAA environmental policy can be found on our website at [www.GTAA.com](http://www.GTAA.com).

## **Stormwater Management**

After adopting the Stormwater Management Master Plan that was prepared by Transport Canada for Toronto Pearson, the GTAA was eager to continue with it as an important component of our EMS.

- We have spent approximately \$150 million over the past 10 years building stormwater facilities which has greatly improved the quality of stormwater leaving the airport.
- An extensive water sampling program allows us to investigate potential problems and continually improve performance.
- The Central Deicing Facility, fully operational since 1999, allows for comprehensive collection of glycol-contaminated runoff.
- A glycol blending system was established
- Waste glycol is concentrated for sale to secondary markets.

## Resource Use

Toronto Pearson is a major consumer of electricity. The airport never closes and to maintain a safe environment, many electrical based systems are continuously operating. We have set a number of targets to ensure the improvement of energy and water efficiency at the airport:

- The GTAA Energy Management Program began in 2004 with the establishment of an Energy Management Committee.
- Energy savings have been realized by extensive use of motion sensors, temperature adjustments, reduced lighting levels in specified areas and changing to compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Toronto Pearson was the only airport in North America to participate in Earth Hour in 2008, reducing energy consumption by 10 per cent or three megawatts (MW).

## Waste Management

Through the GTAA's Waste Management program, significant improvements have been made in the amount of waste we produce and recycle.

- Recycling programs are operated throughout the airport, including an organics stream.
- Our logistics program manages the reuse or recycling of retail packaging and waste from the terminals. In 2007, 1,396 tonnes of waste material were diverted – the equivalent to 34 Boeing 737-800 jets.
- Construction and demolition waste reuse and recycling targets are written into applicable contracts.
- Specialty items are reused or recycled in an environmentally friendly way, including batteries, computers, tires and fluorescent lamps

## Air Quality

Toronto Pearson is conscious of the air quality from traffic coming in and out of the airport. Greenhouse gas reduction initiatives are in place in order to improve the air quality at the airport:

- The GTAA currently has a fleet of 21 hybrid vehicles.
- An anti-idling program is being developed for all groundside and airside vehicles.
- Use of electric vehicles.
- LINK Train eliminated the need for inter-terminal bussing.
- Pre-conditioned air and 400 Hz power at terminal gates prevents aircraft from having to power up engines while on gate, thus reducing consumption and air emissions.

## Partners in Project Green

The GTAA is a major sponsor of Partners in Project Green, an initiative to coordinate the largest eco-industrial zone in North America. Spearheaded by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the initiative brings businesses together to create an integrated, internationally competitive, sustainable business zone. Some highlights of the Pearson Eco-Business Zone are:

- Over 12,000 hectares of industrial and commercial land.
- Canada's largest employment area – home to 12,500 businesses and more than 355,000 employees.

In the short-term, Partners in Project Green will focus on working with existing businesses to realize the financial benefits of addressing environmental issues. In the long-term, the Pearson Eco-Business Zone is envisioned to be an internationally recognized community known for its competitive, high performance and eco-friendly business climate.



## **Ecology**

A major holistic restoration of Etobicoke Creek and its tributary, Spring Creek is ongoing. The intention of this restoration is to achieve a relative stability to allow the creeks to shift while maintaining a balance between form and the flow of water.

Completed work includes the rebuilding of eroding stream banks, the removal of fish migration barriers, the creation of in-stream habitat structures and the planting of seedling trees throughout the Spring Creek Valley.

## **Green Buildings**

Our first Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) silver-certified building came into operation in 2007. The Fire and Emergency Services Training Institute (FESTI) is a state-of-the-art facility that features many technologies to minimize its environmental footprint, such as a solar wall, green roof, recycled building materials and water-saving systems.

In 2000, a sustainable design section was added to our Airport Construction Code. We are currently working on two more LEED projects, one at the design stage and one at the planning stage.

## **Noise**

The GTAA recognizes that noise from arriving and departing aircraft has the potential to affect those within close proximity of the airport. To address this issue, we ensure the continual monitoring of aircraft noise, influence airlines and air traffic control to minimize noise and service public concerns and inquiries regarding noise. Ongoing targets are:

- To mitigate aircraft noise by creating more predictable departure ground tracks over the surrounding communities.
- Review noise abatement procedures with respect to achieving a balance between noise and air emissions.

*Green roof of the FESTI building*



## **Wildlife Control**

Approximately one third of Toronto Pearson is unavailable for airport specific applications. These parts of the airport property are comprised of short mowed grass, flood plains and land leased for agricultural purposes. The Etobicoke Creek provides an undisturbed stretch for bird habitat and acts as a wildlife corridor for numerous species of mammals.

Aviation safety concerns dictate that birds and other wildlife must be controlled. The GTAA has developed a fully integrated Wildlife Management System which undertakes several unique activities that support the natural environment and uphold safety around the airport. The main objective is to reduce wildlife strikes and to maintain the vegetation plan. Contracted wildlife control officers use habitat manipulation, trapping and removal as part of one of the most comprehensive programs of its kind in Canada.

## **Targeting improvement**

The GTAA is continually looking for ways to minimize our impact and, in doing so, are continuously setting goals for self improvement. We are always looking to improve on the significant objectives and aspects of the EMS, which can be seen by the targets we've already set and achieved.

For more information about the GTAA's commitment to the environment and to view annual reports online, please visit us at [www.GTAA.com](http://www.GTAA.com).