

Waste

Background

Reducing waste and recycling reduces landfill costs, minimises consumption of non-renewable resources and limits carbon emissions. Hazardous waste must be disposed of appropriately, to avoid damage to the environment.

Our approach

Over half of the 51,929 tonnes of waste produced at our airports each year is generated at Heathrow. Approximately 90% of the total is generated by the companies and passengers using our airports. Around 10% is generated by our own activities.

Our two-yearly action plan is published on www.baa.com

Read about our approach to managing construction waste on page 15.

Influencing our business partners

At Heathrow we encourage good waste management practices among airport waste producers by requiring internal waste transfer notes, setting performance standards and conducting daily compliance inspections.

Food waste from aircraft has to be disposed of according to Government regulations which restrict recycling. We require airlines to separate food waste from the aircraft cabin waste stream so that we can recycle cabin waste. We currently recycle approximately 60% of aircraft cabin waste.

Our performance

BAA performance

Total waste produced decreased for the third consecutive year, from 55,615 tonnes in 2007 to 51,929 tonnes in 2008. Waste per passenger fell from 0.37 kg to 0.36 kg.¹



In 2008, recycling rates increased to 36.8%, compared with 29.4% in 2007.

¹ Per passenger data is being reviewed for consistency across reporting years.

Heathrow performance 2008 target

Increase recycling for general waste handled by the airport waste contract from 37.35% in 2007 to 38% by 31 December 2008.

Our recycling rate increased to 44% from 37%, with T5 achieving 63%. The new building has facilities for recycling passenger waste, 25 bin rooms for segregating retail and catering waste, and two dedicated airside facilities for aircraft cabin waste. The remaining 56% of waste was sent to landfill. Other Heathrow waste management activities:

- We composted and re-used 1,200 tonnes of green landscaping waste.
- We introduced passenger recycling bins in all terminals.
- We introduced a process to collect cooking oil from all retailers, which is converted into biofuel.

Our plans

Heathrow targets for 2009

- Increase recycling for the general waste handled by the airport waste contract to 45% by 31 December 2009.

BAA targets for 2010

- Recycle 40% of waste.
- Zero growth in waste produced per passenger, against a baseline of average waste per passenger between 2005 and 2009.

BAA targets for 2020

- Zero waste to landfill.
- Recycle 70% of BAA waste.
- Reduce BAA waste per passenger, against a 2010 baseline.
- Reduce BAA hazardous waste per passenger against a 2010 baseline.



Read more about our approach to waste in our individual airport corporate responsibility reports available at www.baa.com

Figure 22: Waste production and recycling



Other environment continued

Water and land quality

Background

Airport operations and developments increase pressure on local water supplies and require infrastructure and processes to prevent chemical pollution of water systems.

Our approach

We manage water quality, water consumption, flood risk and land quality through our environmental management systems, water quality strategy and water action plan. We closely monitor the presence of chemicals and other substances in water and at our larger airports we collect and treat the surface run-off water which is not suitable for direct discharge.

We charge the companies that operate at our airports according to the amount of water they use. We monitor our own water consumption and investigate any exceptional use.

Our performance

BAA performance

We received no enforcement notices or prosecutions relating to our water quality performance during 2008.



As illustrated in Figures 23 and 24 water use at all our airports decreased from 4,646,859m³ in 2007 to 4,496,204m³ in 2008. This is the third consecutive year in which total water consumption has decreased. While water per passenger has reduced over the past three years, there was a slight increase between 2007 and 2008.

In 2008, we began implementing the 11 water and land quality environmental performance standards developed in 2007.

Heathrow performance

In 2008, total water consumption decreased by 8% compared with 2007, to 2,260,154 tonnes. Water use per passenger fell from 36.06 litres to 33.79 litres.² A project to update Heathrow's older toilet facilities, including introducing water-efficient taps, contributed to the reduction.

² Per passenger data is being reviewed for consistency across reporting years.

2008 target

Develop and publish the Heathrow Water Resources Action Plan for 2009-2013.

In 2008, we developed a 2009-2010 action plan (in order to align with other waste and water management timeframes). This sets out the actions we will take over the next two years to deliver our water objectives. In 2010, we will develop a five-year action plan for 2011-2015.

Additional activity

We are investigating new technologies to reduce the impact of de-icing runways, taxiways and aircraft and in 2008 we commissioned a study looking into processes for capturing de-iceant run-off for recycling.

Our plans

BAA targets

In 2009 we will develop a long-term water strategy for Heathrow, including KPIs that will help identify long-term goals. The strategy will be shared with other BAA airports.

Heathrow targets Water quality

- BAA Asset Stewardship performance standards implemented for all BAA-owned surface water critical assets (infrastructure necessary to manage surface water flows and prevent pollution) by 31 December 2008.

Water use

- Reduce water consumption by 4% against the business-as-usual forecast between January and December 2009 through improvements in water conservation.



Read more about our approach to improving water and land quality and reducing water use in our individual airport corporate responsibility reports available at www.baa.com

Figure 23: Total water consumption across all BAA airports (1,000m³)

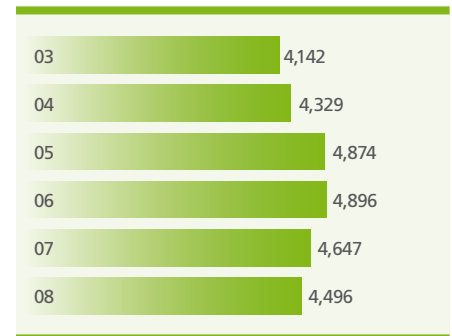
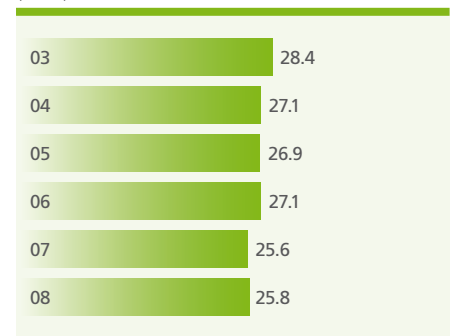


Figure 24: Water consumption per passenger across all BAA airports (litres)



Biodiversity

Background

Preventing habitat loss and pollution around an airport helps support the diversity of plant and animal species in the local area. However, as birds endanger aircraft safety through bird-strike, they must be deterred from the airfield by controlling insects and small mammals on which they feed.

Our approach

We aim to use land efficiently, minimising the impacts of our operations and developments on local wildlife and habitats. We set aside over 220 hectares of BAA-owned land to conserve or enhance biodiversity.

Each of our airports manages biodiversity according to local needs. For example, at Heathrow, where our land is in urban surroundings, we manage several sites to enhance biodiversity and to create natural recreational spaces for local communities.

Our performance

BAA performance

We share our plans for managing sites with significant ecological or recreational value

with residents, local authorities and conservation groups.

In 2008, we created new biodiversity performance standards which set out the minimum performance required for managing the impacts of developments and operations on biodiversity.

Heathrow performance 2008 target

Achieve the Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Benchmark award

In 2008, the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts awarded Heathrow the Biodiversity Benchmark for land management in relation to nine off-airport conservation sites. The Biodiversity Benchmark is a rigorous certification scheme that requires companies to manage their landholdings for the benefit of biodiversity.

We also focused on increasing understanding and widening involvement in our biodiversity management activities. Our conservation ecologist co-ordinated four local community walk and talk events at Heathrow's Two Bridges Farm and Oaks Road recreational sites. Community members learned about the flora and fauna of the sites, including habitats for breeding toads, butterflies, dragonflies and birds.

Other Heathrow biodiversity management highlights in 2008:

- Recording new species for the first time at four of our sites and rare species at two others.
- Reinstating coppicing at the Causeway Nature Reserve.
- Building two stag-beetle nests.
- Increasing surveying and monitoring at all sites.
- New fencing and pathways at Oaks Road site.

Our plans

Heathrow

In 2009 we plan to:

- Publish Heathrow's 2009-2010 biodiversity action plan.
- Review and publish Heathrow's biodiversity strategy.
- Develop a working partnership with Hounslow Council in the management of wet woodland and reed beds for rare species.
- Establish a Heathrow conservation volunteer group with The Green Corridor.



Read more about our approach to improving biodiversity in our individual airport corporate responsibility reports available at www.baa.com

→ Case study 5 Planting for the community

Our Two Bridges Farm conservation site, set amongst urban landscapes around Heathrow, provides habitat for wildlife and a recreational area for the local community.

In 2008, 20 employees from the Heathrow logistics team took action to restore woodland which was damaged by fire. The team volunteered to plant 600 native whips – young trees grown from seeds collected from local ancient woodland – including oak, willow, field maple, hornbeam and hazel.

The plantation will encourage insect diversity, providing an ideal food source for native species. This will attract birds and bats and other animals that feed on insects. The plantation will connect isolated woodland areas across the site, providing a corridor and secure habitat for wildlife and a basking site for reptiles.

As well as benefiting the environment, our employees learned new skills and made a difference in their local community.

"These plantations are a legacy which will benefit the local community and wildlife for generations to come."

James Webster, Heathrow's Conservation Ecologist

