



Chapter 7 Sustainability Initiatives and Airport Recycling, Reuse and Waste Reduction

Per the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, master plans for airports receiving Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding for eligible projects must ensure that updated master plans address issues related to solid waste recycling at the Airport.

In accordance with the FAA's Memorandum of Guidance of Airport Recycling, Reuse and Waste Reduction Plans dated September 30, 2014, this chapter summarizes the related efforts underway at RSW as part of the Airport's sustainability planning initiatives. As part of the overall sustainability planning effort, a more focused set of objectives has been established to address certain aspects of recycling, reuse and waste reduction as summarized below.

7.1 Sustainability Plan

The Port Authority began the process of developing a Sustainability Plan (Plan) for RSW in 2019. The framework for the Plan is based on the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Airport Sustainability Guidebook (2017), and the development of the mission statement, goals, objectives, and performance metrics are tailored to meet the conditions and needs of RSW. The Port Authority has a Green Team comprised of employees who engage in the development and continuation of sustainability initiatives.

The Green Team and consultant are developing the Sustainability Plan in four phases. The Phase 1 organizational aspects are complete, and the following sustainability categories for the focus of the RSW Sustainability Plan have been identified:

- Economic Resiliency
- Energy
- Waste and Recycling
- Water Quality and Quantity
- Sustainable Business, Planning, Design, Construction, and Operations
- Community Outreach and Employee Engagement

The Phase 2 baseline assessment is also complete. The facility description and background are contained in the *LCPA Sustainability Plan – RSW Sustainability Baseline Assessment* dated 12/8/2020. Data was collected to establish baseline conditions as of 2020. Goals, Objectives, and Performances Metrics are established to determine success at achieving sustainability goals listed below, based on the performance metrics listed below each goal:

- Goal 1. Protect and enhance water quality and quantity
 - Stormwater runoff rate
 - Levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended solids
 - Gallons potable water use per passenger
 - Irrigation - gallons per year
- Goal 2. Use energy resources efficiently
 - Total electricity use kilowatt hours (KwH) per passenger
 - Percent energy use intensity (EUI) reduction
 - Total energy saved (KwH)
- Goal 3. Reduce waste to landfill
 - Waste diversion rate (per passenger)
 - Total solid waste (tons/pounds) diverted from landfill
 - Percent of total construction & demolition waste diverted from landfill (tons/cubic yards)
- Goal 4. Incorporate sustainable business, planning, design, construction, and operational practices
 - Percent of vendor, concession, contractors, and tenant contracts that incorporate sustainable requirements
 - Dollar value of projects utilizing sustainable design and construction guidelines
 - Percent of sustainable goods and products purchased. Sustainable products refer to products that contain or are certified by: recycled content, Forest Stewardship Council wood products, bio-based materials, reused materials, GreenScreen v1.2 Benchmark, Cradle to Cradle Certified, REACH Optimization, Product Manufacturer Supply Chain Optimization, Low Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds.
 - Roadway congestion during peak travel periods
- Goal 5. Enhance the economic resiliency of RSW

- Aeronautical vs. Non-aeronautical revenue (terminal vs. landside)
 - Acres of developed land vs total developable land in Skyplex
 - Revenue per square foot for food & beverage vs. retail vendors usage space within the terminal
- Goal 6. Continue effective community outreach and employee engagement
- Number of community events held at and/or sponsored by LCPA
 - Number of employee engagement opportunities and activities
 - Dollars raised for United Way and other charities or non-profits

The Green Team is currently working on different concepts to further RSW's work in achieving the established goals, and development of a formal sustainability plan is under consideration.

7.2 Waste Audit

Lee County Solid Waste Division provides solid waste collection service through franchised hauling contractors. Disposal for RSW's solid waste is accomplished at the Lee County Resource Recovery Facility and the Lee-Hendry Regional Landfill.

Solid waste data is collected at 19 facilities at RSW. Five (5) of these locations are off-site tenants that are not operated by the Authority, and one (1) facility is dedicated for collecting international (regulated) waste, which is hauled off-site and destroyed by Lee County Solid Waste. The available waste data has been analyzed for 13 facilities at RSW that are owned and/or operated by the LCPA as part of the *LCPA Sustainability Plan - RSW Sustainability Baseline Assessment* dated 12/8/2020. Total solid waste at RSW increased 5 percent from FY 2017/2018 (78,433 tons) to FY 2018/2019 (82,671 tons), then a 22 percent decrease was observed from FY 2018/2019 to FY 2019/2020 (64,321 tons).

LCPA's waste and recycling initiatives throughout the RSW property include: implementation of recycling programs, installation of water bottle filling stations throughout the terminal, recycling bins provided in main terminal and LCPA offices and breakrooms, and recycling of IT electronics.

7.3 Review of Recycling Feasibility

The LCPA recycles paper, cardboard, wood, ferrous, nonferrous metals, glass, plastic, construction debris, and electronics. Recycling services are performed and tracked by service provider Waste Pro. Recycling data is comprised of single stream recycling, construction, and metal. Recycling at RSW increased by 60-percent from 2015/2016 to 2019/2020. In FY2021-22, LCPA and its tenants recycled 184.5 tons, an increase of 35 tons more than the prior year. LCPA utilizes *Stream Recycling* to conduct and certify the recycling of electronic equipment. Electronic equipment collected includes computers, printers, and monitors. Those that include hard drives or media are physically destroyed in accordance with the Department of Defense standards.

7.4 Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Requirements

Local regulations require recycling. The Lee County Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance 07-25, the Mandatory Business Recycling Program, which LCPA implements and mandates for all LCPA owned/operated buildings, tenants and construction crews.

Port Authority maintenance personnel are responsible for operating and maintaining the airport's recycling program. To promote recycling, notifications are distributed and flyers are provided to LCPA employees and tenants to advise of the requirements and the methods for recycling on airport property.

Containers are provided for in-office recyclables. Staff and tenants are required to deliver recyclables to large recycling dumpsters provided at a corral airside. Six (6) vertical compactors are located at the loading dock, available to all LCPA employees and tenants. A separate dumpster is provided for metals excluding aluminum located at the Chiller Building.

Construction contractors are also required to separate construction debris for recycling.

LCPA will continue to track recycling activity and performance on an annual basis and communicate results to employees, tenants and contractors to ensure compliance with recycling requirements.

7.5 Review of Waste Management Contracts, Potential for Cost Savings & Minimizing Solid Waste Generation

Recycling services are collected and tracked by service provider Waste Pro. LCPA utilizes *Stream Recycling* to conduct recycling of electronic equipment and contracts Diversity Facility Solutions (DFS) for collection.

LCPA incorporates sustainability language into contracts and the bidding process as new contracts arise. Evaluation of bids and contracts is also performed to capture opportunities for minimization of solid waste generation and potential for cost savings.

LCPA adopted Purchasing Guidelines in July 2017, including the following recycling, reuse and waste reduction considerations when purchasing products and materials (Lee County Port Authority - Purchasing Guidelines, Section 10, Green Policy Program):

- Reducing materials consumption
- Providing a useful outlet for collected recycled material
- Waste reductions, recycle, and compost
- Increasing the use of renewable products

As part of the program, the LCPA states that it is "committed to reducing any harmful effects on the environment and promoting the understanding of sustainability in its broadest context."