

Ambitious goals for aviation sustainability

By [Carin Smith](#)

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The aviation industry should find a balance between growth, which brings significant economic and social benefits, and acting in an environmentally responsible manner, according to Michael Gill, director of aviation environment at the International Air Transport Association (Iata).



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Currently the aviation industry contributes about 2% of all human carbon emissions in the world - about 700 million tonnes per year. He said the first goal of the aviation industry should be to improve fuel efficiency across fleets by an average of 1.5% per year until 2020. The industry is actually ahead of this goal, he said, with an average fuel efficiency improvement of 2.9% per year.

He pointed out that many countries are aiming to create carbon neutral aviation growth to ensure sustainable trade and tourism in the future.

Aviation industry's approach to sustainability

According to Gill, the aim of the aviation industry is to half its carbon emissions by 2050 compared to 2005 and, according to Iata, aviation partners are already working together to put in place the building blocks to achieve this goal.

Gill said there are four pillars that underpin the aviation industry's approach to sustainability. These are investing in new technology, using more efficient operational techniques to make individual flights more efficient, building and using more efficient infrastructure and using effective global market-based measures. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is, for instance, developing a certification standard for carbon emissions of aircraft.

"Our industry has set itself ambitious goals with the necessary strategy to achieve them," said Gill. "Any form of mandatory carbon offsetting should deliver environmental integrity, be simple and transparent and be cost effective to the industry."

* Carin Smith was a guest at Iata's global media day.

Source: Fin24

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