



## CLIMATE TAKE BACK CASE STUDY

# HEATHROW

### Bold leadership towards a sustainable aviation future

#### WHAT IS IT?

Heathrow's plan for Sustainable Growth – Heathrow 2.0 – sets out its ambition to lead the aviation industry towards a sustainable future. The strategy includes several bold commitments on carbon, including becoming a zero-carbon airport (run on renewable energy and creates zero waste) and aspiring to carbon neutral expansion by 2020.

#### HOW DID IT DEVELOP?

Heathrow has had a commitment to sustainability for many years, but its new strategy is a step-change in both approach and level of commitment. The airport describes it as a 'strategy fit for the future'. In part, the fresh focus on sustainability comes from

the UK Government's decision to award Heathrow permission for a third runway – and the emissions-reduction targets required for this development.

During 2016, the airport consulted with its stakeholders to understand their needs and expectations. Following this consultation phase and a materiality process, Heathrow developed the goals, targets and KPIs that underpin its strategy. The zero-carbon and carbon neutral commitments are in the fourth pillar of the strategy, 'A world worth travelling'.

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Heathrow has limited direct control over most of the carbon emissions in its carbon footprint, which come mainly from airlines. Its plan is therefore to use its leadership position to 'accelerate the era of sustainable flight'. This involves goals on funding and facilitating innovation,

large-scale offsetting schemes, incentivising lower carbon flights, and advocating for better carbon pricing.

Obviously, Heathrow has much more control over delivering its other carbon commitment: to become a Zero Carbon Airport. Its strategy for achieving this includes operating a zero-carbon infrastructure, using water sustainably, eliminating waste and supporting the circular economy.

#### HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

Very effective, if everything goes according to plan! The biggest achievement will be proving on a global stage that carbon neutral expansion is possible. A lot needs to go right for Heathrow to achieve this ambitious aspiration, but simply

naming it as a possibility advances the conversation around sustainable aviation.

### **WHAT ARE THE END PRODUCTS?**

Heathrow is well respected as a major international airport. Committing to these ambitious targets sends a strong message to other airports about the direction that aviation is heading.

The most exciting tangible short-term outcome is probably the 'Centre of Excellence' that Heathrow has committed to developing. The purpose of this is to fund and facilitate innovation to solve some of the greatest challenges facing aviation – including creating a sustainable aviation fuel and reducing noise pollution.

### **WHO BENEFITS?**

Airports, airlines, travellers, businesses, governments and – of course – our natural environment.

Each sector has its own challenges to overcome on the journey to a decarbonised economy, and aviation has some particularly tough ones. However, travelling by plane brings so much value to our world. A future without widely-affordable flight is hard to imagine but, because of carbon pricing, is becoming increasingly likely. Heathrow's proactive approach to tackling aviation's negative impact is framed within a keen desire to keep aviation fair and affordable.

### **HOW CREDIBLE IS THIS?**

Heathrow's new strategy is ambitious, comprehensive and detailed and has received praise from business leaders and climate influencers alike.

However key carbon commitments initially expressed as "aspirations" will need to be backed up by action to increase credibility.

### **WHY WE LOVE THIS**

Heathrow's zero carbon and carbon neutral expansion are big, bold and potentially transformative.

 [HTTPS://YOUR.HEATHROW.COM/SUSTAINABILITY/](https://your.heathrow.com/sustainability/)

# CLIMATE TAKE BACK

At Interface, we're convinced a fundamental change needs to happen in our global response to climate change. We need to stop thinking about how to merely limit the damage caused by climate change – and start thinking about how to create a climate fit for life.

**Our new mission is called Climate Take Back – and we invite you to join us.**

Find out more at our website [here](#)

**Interface®**

## LIVE ZERO

Aim for zero negative impact on the environment

## LEAD THE INDUSTRIAL RE-REVOLUTION

Transform industry into a force for the future we want

## LOVE CARBON

Stop seeing carbon as the enemy, and start using it as a resource

## LET NATURE COOL

Support our biosphere's ability to regulate the climate

