

Tourism for Tomorrow Awards

Global Tourism Business Award

WINNER: Air New Zealand

AIR NEW ZEALAND 

Air New Zealand has embarked on significant environmental management programmes that involve all areas of their operations, including airline engineering, marketing, staff, suppliers, customers, tourists and external partners. Over the past eight years, Air New Zealand has achieved a 15% reduction in carbon emissions during a period when their business was growing. These carbon reductions were achieved by investing in a young and fuel efficient fleet, as well as improved operating practices like reducing aircraft weight (i.e. installation of de-humidifiers which remove 400kg of water from an aircraft, saving \$460/yr per kg in fuel costs) and improved flight planning (using optimal routes, and enabling glide paths).

In addition to these efficiencies, Air New Zealand has been active in supporting the development of sustainable biofuel resources, and working with aircraft engine companies on optimising engine design to achieve greater efficiencies. In addition, all of their ground fleet is run on biodiesel. Of their more than 11,000 staff members, 3,500 participate in the company's Green Teams, contributing ideas and volunteer time to environmental activities.

Air New Zealand is also committed to protection and support for New Zealand's natural heritage. Working in partnership with New Zealand's Department for Conservation, the airline has invested in a project that supports the maintenance of the Great Walks network – a prime tourism initiative. It also provides air transport for the relocation of threatened species and is the first corporate partner to invest in the New Zealand Antarctic Research Institute. With the help of the Air New Zealand Trust, funds have been provided for conservation projects such as the restoration of the Okarito wetland complex and the reduction of feral invasive species to promote the reintroduction of endangered endemic New Zealand wildlife. Additionally, Air New Zealand collaborates with the Maori Tourism Council in an effort to promote Maori tourism and works with the Kids Restore programme – a nationwide environmental education initiative for school children.

