The Business of Sustainable Airports: Management and Operations Training Course

14 - 18 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #AIR3964_268464

Course Introduction / Overview:

Airports are at the forefront of the global movement towards sustainability, with an urgent need to reduce their environmental impact while maintaining operational efficiency. This training course is designed to equip aviation professionals with the knowledge and practical skills required to develop and implement sustainable initiatives. Participants will explore the key pillars of green airport operations, from energy conservation and waste management to noise reduction and biodiversity protection. As highlighted by academic author Robert M. Stroub in his book "Sustainable Airport Management," the integration of environmental stewardship into core business strategies is no longer optional but is a strategic imperative for long-term viability. BIG BEN Training Center is proud to offer a program that moves beyond high-level concepts and provides a detailed roadmap for creating an environmentally responsible and economically sound airport. This course will enable you to lead sustainable changes within your organization, ensuring compliance with evolving regulations while enhancing your airport's reputation. You will learn to measure your environmental footprint, identify opportunities for improvement, and create a strong business case for sustainable investments, making a tangible difference in the future of air travel.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Airport managers and directors.
- Environmental and sustainability officers.
- Operations and facilities managers.
- Civil engineers and planners.
- Regulatory compliance specialists.
- Airline and ground handling managers.
- Government and civil aviation officials.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Commercial airports and airport authorities.
- Aviation and aerospace companies.
- Government agencies and ministries of transport.
- Infrastructure and construction firms.
- Aviation consulting services.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focused on sustainability.
- Urban planning and development.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Operations and airside management.
- Facilities and maintenance departments.
- Environmental, health, and safety (EHS) departments.
- Strategic planning and business development.
- Public relations and corporate social responsibility.
- Engineering and infrastructure.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop a comprehensive sustainability strategy for airport operations.
- Identify and implement energy and water conservation measures.
- Manage waste streams and promote recycling within the airport ecosystem.
- Assess and reduce an airport's carbon footprint.
- Comply with international and national environmental regulations.
- Integrate sustainable practices into daily operational procedures.
- Communicate the business case for green airport initiatives to stakeholders.

Course Methodology:

This training course uses a mix of interactive and practical learning methods. The program includes case studies of successful sustainable airport initiatives from around the world. Participants will work in groups to solve real-world problems and develop practical solutions. There will be hands-on workshops on how to conduct a baseline environmental assessment and create an implementation plan for a green project. Our instructors, who are experts in sustainable airport management, will guide participants through these exercises, providing a practical framework for turning ideas into action. BIG BEN Training Center believes that active participation is key to mastering these concepts. The course is designed to be a collaborative experience where you can share your challenges and learn from your peers. You will leave this program with a toolkit of practical methods and a clear understanding of how to lead your organization toward a more sustainable future.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: The Foundation of Sustainable Airports.

- Defining sustainability in the aviation context.
- The business case for green airports.
- Key international standards and frameworks.
- Challenges and opportunities in sustainable operations.
- The role of technology in environmental management.
- Stakeholder engagement for sustainability.
- Case study: a global leader in green airport practices.

Unit Two: Energy and Carbon Management.

- Airport energy consumption and efficiency.
- Strategies for reducing carbon emissions.
- Implementing renewable energy sources on airport property.
- Sustainable lighting and building management systems.
- Monitoring and reporting on carbon footprint.
- Navigating carbon offsetting programs.
- Workshop: a carbon reduction plan for airport ground vehicles.

Unit Three: Waste, Water, and Noise Management.

- Developing a comprehensive airport waste management plan.
- Strategies for minimizing waste and maximizing recycling.
- Water conservation and management techniques.
- Noise abatement procedures and community relations.
- Managing chemical and hazardous materials.
- Biodiversity and land use management.
- Field study simulation: identifying waste streams.

Unit Four: Sustainable Infrastructure and Planning.

- Green building principles for terminals and hangars.
- Sustainable materials and construction practices.
- Infrastructure for electric and alternative fuel vehicles.
- Runway and taxiway sustainability.
- Master planning for long-term environmental goals.
- Stormwater management and pollution control.
- Group project: designing a sustainable terminal.

Unit Five: Implementation and Reporting.

- Creating a sustainability management system.
- Developing key performance indicators (KPIs) for environmental goals.
- Communicating with internal and external stakeholders.
- The role of leadership in driving sustainable change.
- Compliance with environmental regulations.
- Preparing for and achieving green airport certifications.
- Final presentation: a sustainable airport action plan.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

To what extent should an airport prioritize environmental sustainability measures over immediate financial returns, and what is the ideal long-term balance between the two?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This training course is unique because it combines theoretical knowledge with practical, hands-on application focused entirely on the business of sustainable airport operations. It is not just about environmental policies. We provide a deep dive into the strategic and operational aspects of green airport management. Participants will learn how to make a compelling business case for sustainability initiatives, focusing on return on investment and long-term value. The curriculum is built on real-world case studies and guided by expert instructors who have direct experience in the field. This program's value comes from its focus on tangible outcomes, such as developing a carbon reduction strategy or a comprehensive waste management plan. We also cover emerging topics like the integration of new technologies and adapting to future regulations. We provide participants with a clear roadmap to implement sustainable changes that benefit both the environment and their organization's bottom line.