



## **Appendix C**

# **Airport Recycling, Reuse, and Waste Reduction Plan**



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## C. APPENDIX C, AIRPORT RECYCLING, REUSE, AND WASTE REDUCTION PLAN

### C.1 Introduction

The FAA Modernization and Reform Act (FMRA) of 2012 was signed into law, which amended Title 49 of the United States Code. The law included a number of changes to the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), two of which relate to recycling, reuse, and waste reduction at airports. Section 132(b) of the FMRA expanded the definition of airport planning to include, “developing a plan for recycling and minimizing the generation of airport solid waste, consistent with applicable State and local recycling laws, including the cost of a waste audit.” Section 133 of the FMRA added a provision requiring airports that have or plan to prepare a master plan, and that receive AIP funding for an eligible project, ensure that the new or updated master plan addresses issues relating to solid waste recycling at the Airport. This includes:

- The feasibility of solid waste recycling at the Airport.
- Minimizing the generation of solid waste at the Airport
- Operation and maintenance requirements.
- Review of waste management contracts.
- The potential for cost savings or the generation of revenue.

As defined by Congress, “recycling” refers to any program, practice, or opportunity to reduce the amount of waste disposed in a landfill. This includes reuse and waste reduction as well as the recycling of materials.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a memorandum on September 30, 2014, to provide guidance on preparing airport recycling, reuse, and waste reduction plans as an element of airport master plans, as well as within a sustainability document, or as a standalone document. The guidance is mandatory when preparing an airport master plan.

The purpose of this chapter is to review the Town of Akron’s current recycling, reuse, and waste program, and to provide guidance on ways to reduce waste and improve recycling and reuse at the Airport, in compliance with the FAA’s guidance.

### C.2 Airport Description and Background

Colorado Plains Regional Airport (AKO or the Airport) is a general aviation airport located in Washington County in northeast Colorado. The Airport is owned by the Town of Akron and is managed on a day-to-day basis by Hayes Aviation, in coordination with Town departments. Additional facility information is presented in **Chapter 1, Introduction** and **Chapter 2, Inventory**.

As noted in **Chapter 3, Forecasts of Aviation Activity**, the number of operations and based aircraft at AKO have fluctuated over the past ten years. The forecasts anticipate growth in activity in the future. AKO accommodates a variety of users, including an emergency medical services, corporate, business, and private operators.

### C.3 Existing Waste Sources

The identification and evaluation of sources of waste at an airport can be complicated. There are numerous groups, agreements, operational styles, and collection/disposal processes that play into the overall generation of waste at a given airport. The three primary sources of waste at AKO are the airfield, the terminal building,



and hangars/tenants. The sources of waste, per the FAA’s September 30, 2014 memo, can be further broken down by how much control the Airport has on the generation and disposal of waste. The three levels of control are:

1. Areas where the Airport has direct control of waste management (public space, office space, terminal building, airfield). These areas are controlled by the Airport and they are able to introduce recycling, reuse, and waste reduction programs directly.
2. Areas where the Airport has no direct control but can influence waste management (tenants). These are areas owned by the airport; however, they are leased out to tenants. The Airport can recommend that recycling, reuse, and waste reduction programs be used and can include language in the tenant contracts, but realistically can’t control what is done.
3. Areas where the Airport has no control or influence over waste management. These are areas the Airport neither owns or leases (none of which are included in this chapter).

**Table C-1** shows the identified areas of waste generation, what waste is generated, and the Airport's level of control.

TABLE C-1: WASTE GENERATION

Area	Waste Generated	Control
Area 1: Airfield	General debris found on airfield. Construction material (asphalt, concrete, wood, metal)	Direct Control
Area 2: Terminal Building	Plastic, glass, aluminum, oil, batteries, trash	Direct Control
Area 3: Hangars/Tenants	Plastic, glass, aluminum, oil, batteries, trash	No Direct Control but can Influence

Source: Airport Management

#### C.4 Local Recycling and Waste Management Programs

Akron residents have access to two programs:

1. The Town has a local landfill<sup>1</sup> for trash; this landfill is available to all residents of Washington County.
2. In addition to the landfill, Waste Management, offers trash and recycling services in Akron. Waste Management opened a facility in 2013 in Sterling, Colorado (approximately 35 miles from Akron). They “offer curbside single stream, commercial single stream and drop-off recycling... With Single Stream Recycling, sorted items are compacted, bailed and put on pallets for use in making new products, such as plastics, bottles, paper, cardboard boxes and cans.”<sup>2</sup>.

#### C.5 Overview of Airport Recycling, Reuse, and Waste Management

Airports throughout the United States are “greening” their operations. The FAA and the U.S. Congress have directed airports to develop reuse, recycling, and waste management programs. Airports, other government agencies, and private companies have seen financial as well as environmental benefits from adopting environmentally sustainable practices, including recycling, reuse, and waste management programs. In

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/washingtoncounty/landfill-0>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.journal-advocate.com/sterling-local\\_news/ci\\_24533108/waste-management-celebrates-grand-opening-new-recycling-center](http://www.journal-advocate.com/sterling-local_news/ci_24533108/waste-management-celebrates-grand-opening-new-recycling-center)

response, airports have installed solar panels and energy efficient light fixtures, use low-emission vehicles in their fleets, constructed LEED<sup>3</sup> certified buildings, and have changed their waste management programs.

As one agency within a larger government entity (county, municipality, state), airports typically use the recycling, reuse, and waste management programs that are in place throughout the larger government entity, as is the case at AKO. A number of commercial service and general aviation airports have adopted their own individual reuse, recycling, and waste management programs, in part because of their financial benefits, and also because they reduce waste and energy usage.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a guide titled *Developing and Implementing an Airport Recycling Program* to help airport managers who want to create a more environmentally-friendly waste operation. The EPA hierarchy of waste management prioritizes source reduction, then reuse, recycling and finally disposal in landfills. However, the EPA's guide focuses on recycling as a positive first step for airports to take as they conquer their waste issues.

### **C.6 Recycling at AKO**

According to Airport Management, there is not currently a program written for the Airport's recycling.

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<sup>3</sup> LEED = Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design



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