

Welcome!

2011 promises to be another challenging year for our industry and for SA. The Government consultation on a new aviation policy framework will run through the summer months and Labour, too, is reviewing its aviation policy so this is an important time for SA to help inform the debate.

This month, we look at one of SA's major pieces of work on recycling, seek your support for the launch of the new Progress Report and preview our second Members Event to follow the hugely successful inaugural event last year. We hope to see many who came last year – and hopefully some new faces, too.

The SA Comms Group includes BATA, AOA, A|D|S, BAA, Virgin Atlantic, Airbus, Rolls-Royce and NATS. If you would like to get involved, or submit an article for a newsletter, please drop me a note.

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Fresh Approach to On-Board Waste

Not as cool as biofuels - but critical none the less, work continues across the country on smarter ways to deal with the waste leftover after a flight has touched down. Sustainable Aviation's Recycling Group – where airlines and airports have come together to tackle the problem – estimates that of the 30,000 tonnes of aircraft cleaning waste we produce each year, roughly half of it could be recycled.

That's good news for increasingly environmentally aware passengers, who are seeing greener operations reflected more-and-more in airport and airline company policies. While there's plenty to go at, there are plenty of challenges too. In an increasingly low-cost world, pressure on cabin crews and the need for quick turnarounds, means that time is a scarce commodity. And sorting and sifting on-board waste takes time.

Matters are complicated too by regulation. Though in reality the risks are low, all aircraft food waste, containing meat or fish, and coming in from outside the EU, is treated as "Cat 1" by DEFRA. This means that it has to be disposed of in a tightly controlled way. On top of all this, airport and airline service partners need to train cleaning staff well and make sure rigorous recycling procedures are followed, if wastes are to be properly sorted.



SA's Recycling Group has a three strand approach to improvement. First, it is continuing its work on sharing best practice and looking at ways that waste can be separated at source through on-board-recycling. Second, it's developing its protocol for the separation of food wastes and also looking to discuss with government officials ways of operating the "Cat 1" regulations to present less of a barrier to recycling, while still disposing of food safely. And third, like all processes for continuous improvement, the group is working hard to engage the airline and airport service partners, whose teams are often key to channelling waste to the right centres for recycling. The group's momentum looks set to ensure that in future our sector sends more of the things it uses back as useful raw materials, taking pressure of the county's landfill sites, and saving operators and passengers some money in the process.

Rob Siddall
Policy Director, AOA



SA Members Event

The second SA Members Event will take place on Friday 25 March at Broadway House in central London.

We already have a packed provisional agenda, not least because we will have published our third Progress Report the day before so it will be really hot off the press. Our Progress Reports are only published every two years so it presents us with a major opportunity to talk about the industry's achievements.

We will headline the 2011 Progress Report, answer your questions, and outline the new work packages that SA will be committing to deliver over the next two years. This will include a workstream looking at aviation's social and economic contribution, particularly appropriate as Government reviews aviation policy.

Chair Jill Brady, who stands down after three years, will be sharing her thoughts on SA's development over that time. She hands over the reins to Matt Gorman who will talk about future development and SA's role going forward.

The venue can accommodate up to 60 delegates and last year we were full! Invitations will go out soon, so please reply promptly so we can reserve you a place!

Progress Report 2011

Jill Brady, Chair of SA, is guest speaker at the next Aviation Club lunch at the Institute of Directors on Thursday 24 March.

It is a very exciting opportunity as Jill will be the first speaker from a cross-industry initiative like SA to address the Club, and she will use the opportunity to launch SA's new Progress Report covering the period 2009/11 – the culmination of two years' hard work on behalf of SA.

We would like to have as many SA members there as possible to support Jill. Please encourage your colleagues who are members of the Aviation Club to attend – and please ensure that they use their guest invitations to take your environmental experts along.

Jill will be referencing some of SA's work over the past two years and it will help enormously to have the relevant experts on hand to answer any questions that may come up.

If you are not sure who in your organisation is a member of the Aviation Club, contact Jane and she will do her best to find out for you.

If you would like to contribute an article for inclusion in a future issue, please contact the Editor.

Sustainable Aviation is a coalition of UK airlines, airports, aerospace manufacturers and air navigation service providers working together to address the future sustainability of the aviation industry.

Sustainable Aviation Signatories: A|D|S, Airbus UK, Airport Operators Association, BAA (Heathrow, Stansted, Aberdeen, Southampton, Glasgow and Edinburgh), BAE Systems, Belfast City Airport, Birmingham International Airport, bmi, Bombardier Aerospace, Bristol International Airport, British Air Transport Association, British Airways, Cobham, Doncasters, easyJet, Farnborough Aerospace Consortium, Flybe, London Gatwick Airport, GE Aviation, Glasgow Prestwick Airport, GKN, Goodrich, Leeds Bradford Airport, London City Airport, MAG (Manchester, Humberside, East Midlands, Bournemouth), Marshall Aerospace, Meggitt, Messier Dowty, Monarch, NATS, Newcastle International Airport, Peel Group (Liverpool John Lennon, Durham Tees Valley, Robin Hood Doncaster Sheffield), Qinetiq, Rolls-Royce, TBI Group (London Luton, Belfast International, Cardiff International), Thomas Cook, TUI Travel, Virgin Atlantic, West of England Aerospace Forum

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