Airports Going Green
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Background
- Airports serve an average of 40 million passengers yearly (1).
- Passenger traffic is growing exponentially with a demand for services provided by Airports (1).
- Locally at the San Diego International Airport (SDIA) the launching of the “Green Concessions” program was piloted to improve environmental stewardship amongst concessions to decrease their carbon footprint.

Questions
- Can Airports decrease operation environmental impact?
- What is the impact of implementing sustainable programs?
- Does sustainability increase efficiency?

Results

![Green Concessions Diagram]

Fig 2: A total of 8 different parent companies (A-H) participated in the Green Concessions Program. The number and types of storefronts (Retail or Food & Beverage) are represented with each company.

![Parent Company Actions Post Certification]

Fig 3: Company actions taken after implementation and certification of the Green Concessions Program. Retail storefronts and companies (A-D) took more actions after implementation. Energy actions were taken more frequently followed by waste, education, and pollution.

How This Study Has Impacted the Airport

![Energy Pie Chart]

Energy
- 8% switch to all LED light bulbs
- 92%

![Pollution Pie Chart]

Pollution
- low/toxic cleaning products
- 42%

![Waste Pie Chart]

Waste
- eliminate or use 40% PCW bags
- 25%

![Education Pie Chart]

Education
- train on green procedures/practices
- 42%

Discussion
- SDIA has certified approximately 20% of storefronts through the “Green Concessions” program.
- Other Airports like San Francisco have similar programs that have worked and have not affected business operations negatively (1).
- Despite differences in ownerships and available funds at other Airports, programs like these should still be implemented to curb climate change contributions (2).
- The Green Business Network has established that businesses partaking in these types of green practices are able conserve and save (Fig 5).

Future Work
- As the initial round of Green Concession certifications SDIA should collect information that will show the economic savings of storefronts to make the program more visible.
- SDIA should continue the Green Concessions Program certification process and look into the future.
- Airports around the world should start to evaluate if they are capable of piloting similar programs.

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References