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.

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

Methods

- Voluntary Interest
- Program Advertising
  - Provide Checklist
  - Schedule walk-through
  - Notice of certification
  - Certified
  - Not Certified
  - Marketing
  - Follow Up
- Questions or Research
- Resources

Fig 1: Green Concessions Program certification process outlined.

Results

Parent Company Actions Post Certification

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parent Company</th>
<th>Energy</th>
<th>Waste</th>
<th>Pollution</th>
<th>Education</th>
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</table>

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.

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
  - 8% switch to all LED light bulbs
  - 92%
- Waste
  - eliminate or use 40% PCW bags
  - 25%
  - 75%
- Education
  - train on green procedures/practices
  - 42%
  - 58%
- Pollution
  - low/non-toxic cleaning products
  - 42%
  - 58%

Fig 4: Percentages of the 12 retail storefronts participating in the Green Concessions Program within. PCW stands for post consumer waste.

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

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank: Paola Morreale, Chad Reese, Brendan Reed, and the Environmental Affairs Department at the San Diego Regional Airport Authority. Professor Zhi-Yong Yin, Professor Eric Cathcart, Professor Michel Boudrias, and Professor Nathalie Reyns

References