

Coeur d’Alene Airport Sustainability Plan

SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW, SUSTAINABILITY MISSION STATEMENT, AND FOCUS CATEGORIES

The Coeur d’Alene Airport (COE) is developing this Sustainability Plan with the intent of incorporating sustainable goals to run a more efficient and effective airport. Sustainability initiatives could help the Airport reduce costs and provide net financial, operational, environmental and social benefits. The Airport is committed to the philosophy of running a more sustainable airport that upholds high standards for cost effectiveness, community involvement, safety and environmental awareness, while providing economic benefit to the region.

The first step in the development of the Sustainability Plan was to discuss the overall vision specific to Coeur d’Alene Airport. This involved defining “sustainability” relative to the Airport’s priorities and needs, creating a Sustainability Mission Statement, and identifying the Sustainability Focus Categories that will be a primary focus of this plan.

It is important to note that the definition, Sustainability Mission Statement and Focus Categories outlined within this Plan are only a starting point for sustainability work at the Airport. Sustainability planning by definition evolves over time to meet changing conditions. Therefore, these elements will likely evolve as priorities, conditions and technologies change. However, the sustainability definition, mission statement, and categories provide a tangible starting point for developing sustainability goals and initiatives based on the priorities of the Airport at the present time.

Several terms will be used throughout this document. These include: “Definition of Sustainability,” “Sustainability Mission Statement,” and “Sustainability Focus Categories.” These terms, which capture the basic structure of the sustainability approach, are briefly defined in the bullet points below, and are discussed in more detail in the following sections:



- The **Definition of Sustainability** identifies what sustainability means specifically to the Airport, relative to commonly used industry definitions.
- The **Sustainability Mission Statement** identifies the overall vision of the Airport in terms of sustainability and how it relates to social, financial, operational and environmental factors. It highlights the broad vision of the Airport in general.
- The **Sustainability Focus Categories** are areas of interest for the Airport with regard to sustainability, in accordance with FAA’s scope of work for the sustainability pilot projects. These categories create the structure for developing sustainability goals, the initiatives that are developed to help meet the goals, and the metrics used to track the goals (see inset above).

1.1 Definition of Sustainability

There are several commonly used definitions of sustainability used in various industries. The applicability of a sustainability definition depends largely on the individual airport, environmental, and community factors. Because of this, in order to create a successful Sustainability Plan, the Airport must first determine how to describe sustainability on its terms, keeping in mind the existing mission statement and the individualized airport, community, and environmental characteristics.

Most parties that embark on sustainability planning use one of the more commonly cited sustainability definitions as a foundation, and then develop a Sustainability Mission Statement applicable to that organization to create an individualized sustainability policy. While there are several definitions of sustainability, one commonly used definition is the Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA) definition, which was developed to be specifically applicable to airports. The ACI-NA definition is:



“a holistic approach to managing an airport so as to ensure the integrity of the Economic viability, Operational efficiency, Natural Resource Conservation and Social responsibility (EONS) of the Airport.”

EONS is an acronym used to recognize: Economic/financial, Operational, Natural and environmental, and Social resources. While many definitions of sustainability refer to the triple bottom line (i.e., Social, Environment, and Economic), stewardship of EONS resources is well-rounded for airports because it also incorporates the importance of airport operational efficiency.



For the purposes of the Coeur d’Alene Airport Sustainability Plan, the Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA) definition of sustainability will be used because it best fits the Airport’s definition of sustainability due to the inclusion of operational efficiency paired with financial, social and environmental factors. This definition of sustainability speaks to the values and goals of the Airport and its stakeholders. It allows the Airport to more narrowly define and measure its progress in achieving greater sustainability for four key types of criteria: Economic/financial, Operational, Natural and environmental, and Social resources.

1.2 Sustainability Mission Statement

After cementing a sustainability definition for the Airport, the next step in the Sustainability Plan process was to consider how the sustainability values can be embraced by creating a Sustainability Mission Statement for Coeur d’Alene Airport. By determining what the objectives of the Airport are and how they might relate to sustainability, a series of initiatives can then be identified for how to meet the Sustainability Mission Statement. For a Sustainability Plan to be successful, the activities undertaken must balance the resources available, while meeting the definition of sustainability detailed above. In order for an initiative to be sustainable, it must not jeopardize the Airport’s ability to meet its fundamental responsibilities, and this is incorporated into the Sustainability Mission Statement.

When developing an airport’s Sustainability Mission Statement, it is important to take into account its existing goals and commitment to the community. The following statement is the existing mission statement (as opposed to the *Sustainability* Mission Statement) for Coeur d’Alene Airport:

“The Mission of the Coeur d’Alene Airport is to create and maintain an air transportation facility which is safe, efficient, economical, environmentally-acceptable, and responsive to the community it serves.”

This mission statement characterizes the purpose of the Airport and stresses the importance of several of the EONS criteria that were identified in the sustainability definition above.

Identification of the *Sustainability* Mission Statement for Coeur d’Alene Airport drew upon the Airport’s mission statement, incorporated comments from the COE Sustainability Stakeholder Committee, and factored in values and goals applicable to the Airport. Hence, the Sustainability Mission Statement created for the Coeur d’Alene Airport Sustainability Plan reflects the individual sustainability objectives of the Airport, takes into account stakeholder and community input, while also complementing the Airport’s core mission statement. Coeur d’Alene Airport adopted the following Sustainability Mission Statement:



The mission of the Coeur d’Alene Airport is to preserve and improve the Airport as an economically valuable, socially responsible, and environmentally sustainable facility from which to provide an efficient gateway to the region.

In the next phase of the Sustainability Plan process, goals will be considered relative to this Sustainability Mission Statement. The Sustainability Plan for Coeur d’Alene Airport must itself yield measures that the Airport is able to implement in a sustainable way, and therefore, the Plan must be tailored to balance financial and staff resources, local economic and community concerns, and environmental considerations. These factors will be taken into account when creating goals and initiatives to meet the Sustainability Mission Statement highlighted above.

1.3 Sustainability Focus Categories

The FAA’s Sustainability Program includes a template scope of services that participating airports can tailor to their local needs. The template scope discusses the term “categories,” and how airports can adapt that term to represent interest areas or study focus areas for sustainability. Categories help narrow the focus of a sustainability plan to those elements that are most important and applicable to a particular airport.

This section provides a list of Focus Categories identified for COE. For the purposes of this plan, a category is an area of focus that the Airport has identified as important for both the Airport and community. The Coeur d’Alene Airport, in coordination with the COE Sustainability Stakeholder Committee, contributed to selecting the Focus Categories included in this plan. The following categories will help to guide the sustainability planning process, and will focus the direction of the inventory, specific sustainability goals, and subsequent initiatives:

- 1) **AIRPORT FINANCE:** Airport financial stability is crucial to its long-term viability, along with the viability of tenant businesses. Airport finance includes all revenue and expenditures associated with the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the facility. This category also includes the economic value that the Airport provides to the entire region, which is an important factor when looking at sustainability. Airport finance goals will focus on development on Airport property, in order to generate increased revenue and increased financial self-sufficiency for the Airport. Finance goals will also focus on expanding the economic contribution that the Airport makes to the region in order to enhance cooperation between the Airport, governmental jurisdictions, and other stakeholders, and to further mutual benefits between those parties. To assist in evaluating the Airport’s finances, a Sustainable Business Plan will be developed as part of the Coeur d’Alene Airport Sustainability Plan to document financial assets and liabilities, project future revenue and expenses, and establish sustainable budget goals and objectives.



- 2) **PLANNED DEVELOPMENT:** The ways in which development projects at the Airport are planned and contracted can support and prioritize sustainability in a variety of ways. Facilities and infrastructure that are efficient and compatible in the long term help ensure the viability of the Airport into the future and contribute to all four aspects of sustainability, including the financial, operational, environmental, and community aspects. Sustainability-related recommendations or requirements can be integrated into the planning, design, and contracting processes in an effort to incorporate sustainable practices into major Airport plans and projects. (Note that Planned Development refers only to development on airport property.)

- 3) **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF AIRPORT FACILITIES:** The majority of Airport staff time and financial resources are dedicated to the continued maintenance and operation of the facilities. Considerable effort is expended to keep the facility running, while updating/enhancing conditions for users and stakeholders of the Airport and the community. Therefore, operations and maintenance activities represent a great opportunity for incorporation of sustainability into both the management and structure of the Airport. This category will look at ways to reduce time and money on maintenance over the long term and reduce overall stress on staff due to reoccurring maintenance constraints.

- 4) **ENERGY:** Energy is an important sustainability issue for the Airport. Reducing energy/fuel use can improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gases, all while increasing cost savings for the Airport. Implementing sustainability practices with regard to energy can result in benefits to a number of Focus Categories.

- 5) **COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** This category stresses the ability of the Airport to be a visible and valued member of the community. One of the main objectives of this Sustainability Plan is to bring together all stakeholders and interested parties through an inclusive and collaborative process. Social responsibility is a critical element of sustainability and it has been specifically highlighted in the Sustainability Mission Statement developed for this Plan. Goals for this category will support the Airport’s desire to strengthen its relationships with members of the community and the region as a whole.

- 6) **ADJACENT LAND USE COMPATIBILITY:** Potential impacts of airport activity on the surrounding community, as well as the potential impacts of growth of the surrounding community on the airport, are significant considerations for any airport, including COE. While the establishment of compatible land use planning around the airport helps to ensure the future viability of the airport, more importantly, it helps to protect the health, safety, and welfare of both airport users and airport neighbors. Goals for this category will include direct coordination with local stakeholders, including surrounding jurisdictions and



agencies, regarding land use compatibility planning. Hopeful outcomes of this coordination will be a better understanding by the airport and the stakeholders regarding current and future land use needs to accommodate both airport and community activities and growth. Armed with this knowledge, it is envisioned that an agreed upon path forward to establish a coordinated, cooperative, and proactive land use planning process between the airport and stakeholders will be developed.

- 7) **NATURAL RESOURCES:** The conservation of natural resources is an effective, impactful way to achieve greater sustainability. This category focuses on conserving, protecting, or improving native vegetation or wildlife near the Airport. Airports can reduce their impact on natural resource consumption by incorporating environmental concerns into decision-making.

These categories were selected to focus the inventory and tracking of baseline and future information. These Focus Categories reflect the Airport's highest priorities, and are not anticipated to overly tax airport resources in the planning process. Therefore, these categories will be the focus for the inventory, tracking, and eventually, for the development of prioritized initiatives. However, future expansions of the Sustainability Plan could include categories not addressed in this first round. Consideration of additional issues may be warranted in the future as conditions at the Airport evolve.

