

Reducing environmental impacts at airports through negotiation and incentives – an application to regional and medium airports

Summary

Regional and medium airports face financial restrictions, mainly because of high fixed costs resulting from low traffic volumes. This reduces dramatically the possibilities of operators towards environmental sustainability. Regional airports, with less than 2 million passengers yearly, constitute three quarters of airports in the EU, where EC regulations and policies apply. The problem of implementing sustainability practices at airports with limited economic possibilities and restricted budget then arises, the importance of which relies on the social and economic relevance of regional airports.

The majority of impacts, including the emissions of air pollutants, is produced by tenant agents, over which airport operators cannot apply direct decision control. As contributors to the carbon footprint of the aviation sector, and for not being the major responsible actors for airport carbon footprint, as opposed to third-party and tenant agents, airport operators shall play their role as supporters and drivers for change among other actors and towards further action in the field of environmental sustainability and carbon footprint reduction.

The thesis aims to tackle the scatteredness nature of responsibility over environmental impacts at airports, by contributing to conscious environmental decision-making in airport management through the provision of tools and a conceptual framework to unlock the full potential of negotiating the implementation of carbon reduction measures at regional and medium airports.

Drawing from the fields of negotiation, game, and incentive theories, the thesis will provide a full understanding and tool for the meaningful negotiation of airport operators with tenants and third-party agents towards the effective implementation of measures aimed at reducing the local emissions of sources that are not directly controlled by the airports themselves.

Keywords

Environment, sustainability, emissions, collaboration, negotiation, strategy, airport management.



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