NextGen: Better for the Environment

NextGen, the Next Generation Air Transportation System, is a set of programs being implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) over the next several years. It includes protecting the environment while allowing for growth in air travel.

EFFICIENCY IMPROVES AIR QUALITY

NextGen replaces ground-based radar data with satellite-based data from the U.S. Global Positioning Satellite System, or GPS. Because it is more precise than the systems that have been used for years, it improves the efficiency of the country's air transportation system, using less fuel and reducing emissions.

From gate to gate, fuel improvements are noticeable. Ground operations can be managed to reduce waiting on the tarmac. In flight, the routes enabled by GPS can mean shorter, more direct flights that use less fuel.

According to the FAA, "[a]irlines using NextGen procedures at Washington, D.C., airports are expected to save 2.3 million gallons of fuel per year and cut aircraft exhaust emissions by 7,300 metric tons." (Source: FAA Nextgen Update: 2014)

REDUCING NOISE

More precision brings tighter takeoff and landing patterns, which means a smaller area is impacted by airport noise. In Seattle, for example, the FAA, airlines, the Port of Seattle, and Boeing Corporation are collaborating on a project that has added 27 new procedures to reduce noise and emissions. Alaska Airlines estimates that the Greener Skies Over Seattle initiative, as the project is known, will cut fuel consumption by 2.1 million gallons annually and reduce carbon emissions by 22,000 metric tons. That's like taking 4,100 cars off the road every year. And it will reduce noise exposure for about 750,000 people living along the flight corridor.

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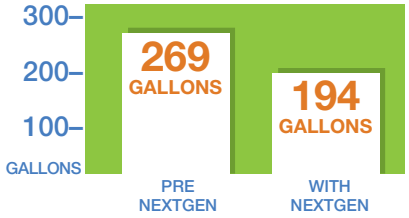
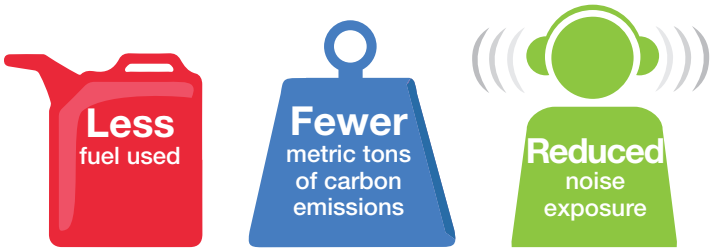
— FAA Nextgen Update: 2014

Example of NextGen Fuel Saving on Landing

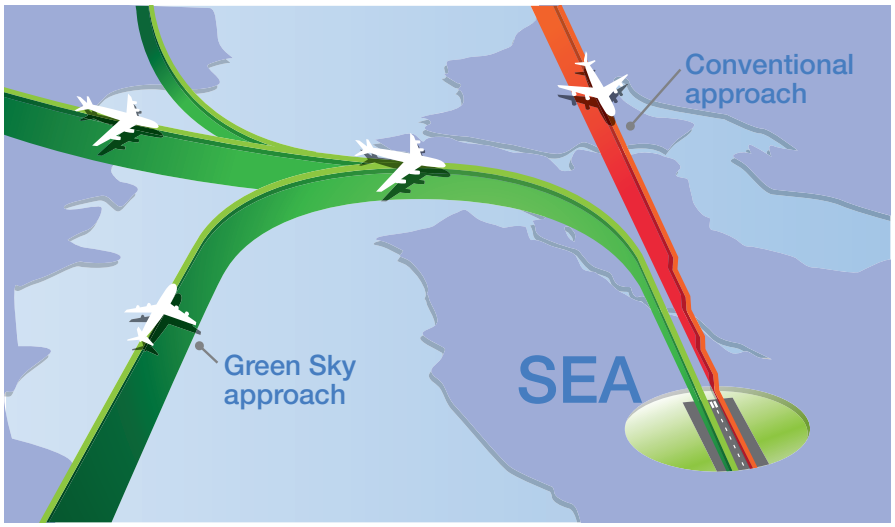


A flight from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport using NextGen technology demonstrates how fuel is saved. As US Airways Captain Brian Townsend pulled back the throttles to begin his descent from 37,000 feet, he had 1,493 gallons of fuel onboard. When he landed the Airbus A320 27 minutes later, he had only burned 194 gallons, less than the 269 gallons that had been the average.

In Seattle, NextGen Improved the Environment



Green Skies Over Seattle Initiative Flight Paths



The system isn't perfect. In order to make the entire system more environmentally positive, some individuals and communities will notice increased noise as air traffic is concentrated along a narrower path. Our airport will work closely with the FAA as they develop NextGen procedures for our airport to maximize the environmental benefit and avoid negative impacts.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit www.faa.gov/nextgen/ to learn more.

AIRPORT LOGO
CAN BE PLACED HERE

KNOWING
nextGen