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
In Seattle, NextGen Improved the Environment

- Less fuel used
- Fewer metric tons of carbon emissions
- Reduced noise exposure

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.