

2022

**Sustainable Aviation Grant Program for Airports Report to Legislative
Transportation Committees**

Washington State Department of Transportation

12/1/2022

Introduction

Per [SSB 5975](#) Sec. 204, page 6 (2022), the following report is provided to the Legislature identifying the recommended initial selection of sustainable aviation projects for funding by the Legislature from the Sustainable Aviation Grant Program for Airports and recommendations to modify and sustain the program.

I. Executive Summary

The primary purpose of this report is to address the assigned task from SSB 5975 for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to identify the initial selection of sustainable aviation projects for funding by the legislature and recommend any changes to modify and sustain the program.

The purpose of the grant program is to support the adoption of energy efficient and clean energy airport infrastructure to reduce harmful aviation-related emissions, and transition airports to more environmentally sustainable operations.

The department recommends funding the initial selection of six projects totaling \$1,476,000 and seeks clarification from the legislature on the level of funding that can be expected to sustain the program over the remainder of the Move Ahead Washington (MAW) legislation.

II. Sustainable Aviation Grant Program for Airports

In September 2022, WSDOT established an application process and evaluation criteria for the Sustainable Aviation Grants Program for Airports. Based on the criteria outlined in MAW, the process identified that eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Sustainable aviation fuel storage
- Electrification of ground support equipment
- Electric aircraft charging infrastructure
- Airport clean power production
- Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations or fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) stations (hydrogen) whose infrastructure may also support ground support equipment and/or electric aircraft charging

Projects are evaluated on their ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the modification of airport infrastructure to adopt clean forms of transportation, adoption of on airport clean power generation, and/or modification of existing infrastructure resulting in less dependence on fossil fuels.

WSDOT Aviation staff evaluated applications based on the following criteria:

- Project helps the airport become more environmentally sustainable -15
- Project supports future sustainable aviation technologies and/or Advanced Air Mobility -15
- Project reduces dependence on fossil fuels -15
- Project increases the airport's ability to produce sustainable energy or reduces reliance on grid infrastructure -15
- Demonstrated need for project -10

- Project reduces or offsets greenhouse gas emissions -10
- Local matching funds provided (No matching funds are required for the grant, however providing local matching funds will increase the overall points earned for the application) - 10
- Readiness to proceed - 10
- Total points possible -100

III. Initial Selection of Sustainable Aviation Projects

The department solicited funding applications from airport sponsors with an October 31 deadline. The solicitation was widely advertised to aviation stakeholders as a news release, posted on the WSDOT Aviation Division’s website, included in the monthly newsletter ‘Washington Skies’, and included in presentations at two separate stakeholder conferences. Additionally, the announcement was republished by the Washington Airport Management Associations bi-weekly ‘WAMA Waypoints’.

Applications were received from six airports requesting just over \$1.9 million in funding for ten separate projects that can be broken down into three categories: Solar, EV Charging, and Airport Equipment.

Sustainable Aviation Grant Program for Airports - Applications October 2022				
Airport	Project	Local Funds	Sustainable Aviation Grant Funds	Project Total
Arlington Municipal	Airport Administration Office Building Solar Project	135,500	250,000	385,500
Boeing Field / King County International	Electric Sweeper for Airport Operations	232,159	500,000	732,159
Friday Harbor	Solar Panel Procurement and Installation on Port Owned Hangar	5,000	95,000	100,000
Friday Harbor	Solar Panel Procurement and Ground Mount Installation	27,778	250,000	277,778
Friday Harbor	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	22,222	200,000	222,222
Harvey Field	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	11,500	218,500	230,000
Pearson Field	125.5KW Solar Panel System	12,500	237,500	250,000
Pearson Field	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	2,500	47,500	50,000
Pearson Field	Electric UTV for Airport Operations	2,250	42,750	45,000
Skagit Regional	Electric Truck for Airport Operations	7,610	70,000	77,610
Total		459,019	1,911,250	2,370,269

IV. Projects Recommended for Funding

Applications were independently reviewed and scored by three Aviation Division staff members based on the established scoring criteria. Generally, solar projects ranked highest, followed by EV charging stations, then electrification of airport equipment.

The department is recommending six projects for funding at a total amount of \$1,476,000. This recommendation diversifies the funding by selecting the highest scoring project from each of the three categories and then the second highest scoring project in each category except for the EV charging, where the third project (Friday Harbor) is recommended instead to provide funding for one project at each airport that applied.

Sustainable Aviation Grant Program for Airports - Projects Recommended for Funding FY2024				
Airport	Project	Local Funds	Sustainable Aviation Grant Funds	Project Total
Arlington Municipal	Airport Administration Office Building Solar Project	135,500	250,000	385,500
Boeing Field / King County International	Electric Sweeper for Airport Operations	232,159	500,000	732,159
Friday Harbor	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	22,222	200,000	222,222
Harvey Field	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	11,500	218,500	230,000
Pearson Field	125.5KW Solar Panel System	12,500	237,500	250,000
Skagit Regional	Electric Truck for Airport Operations	7,610	70,000	77,610
Total		421,491	1,476,000	1,897,491

V. Recommended Changes to Modify and Sustain the Program

WSDOT requests clarification on the intent of the legislature to fund the sustainable aviation grants for airport projects regarding the anticipated funding available per year and if a sunset to the program currently exists. Given the cost of aviation sustainability projects and the need to convert all of WA's public use airports to more sustainable operations, WSDOT recommends maintaining the program at a minimum of \$1.5M annually over the next 15 years.

Based on feedback from the 2022 grant submissions, WSDOT will make incremental changes to the scoring and online application process.

This program is currently combined with the airport aid grant program. Depending on the success of the sustainable aviation grant program, WSDOT will evaluate the need to increase FTE support.