



# The Environmental Progress American Airlines Has Made

by **Pranjal Pande** · October 28, 2021 ·  15 shares ·  2 minute read

ADVERTISEMENT

Today, American Airlines published its annual Environment, Social, and Governance report for 2020. After a year of limited flying and low passenger numbers, American met and exceeded its environmental goals, setting a good precedent. Let's find out more about American's progress and its plans for the future.



American Airlines made some impressive gains in terms of battling climate change, but can it sustain those? Photo: Vincenzo Pace | Simple Flying

## A good year

In its [ESG review](#) for last year, American Airlines had some good news about its impact on the environment. After travel plummeted in March 2020, the airline far exceeded its fuel-efficiency savings goal of a 1.5% average for 2014-2020. Instead, it notched an extraordinary 27% fuel efficiency decrease last year alone. This pushed up the cumulative improvement for 2014-2020 to 5.3%.

This progress will be challenging to maintain in 2021 as travel slowly but surely bounces back. However, American plans to stay on track using several other pandemic-era gains and additional investments to tackle climate change.

ADVERTISEMENT

"One Of The Best Decisions We Made": American On Widebody Redeployme...

NOW  
PLAYING



American is pledging to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, a bold claim for the world's biggest airline. Photo: Vincenzo Pace | Simple Flying

American's flagship goal is to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This will be a massive undertaking for the airline and hinges on several key factors. The biggest change will be [switching to sustainable aviation fuel \(SAF\)](#), accounting for 39% of CO2 reductions, followed closely by fleet renewal and next-generation aircraft,



The airline has set several short-term goals to begin the journey to neutrality. This will include using 10% SAF by 2030 and sourcing 2.5 million gigajoules of renewable energy by 2025. Once these goals are met, American is on track to meet its major targets.

**Get your boarding pass** to the flight of the year. The [Future Flying Forum](#) is taking off soon!

ADVERTISEMENT



## Pandemic changes

While the pandemic has disrupted travel majorly, it has been positive for aviation's footprint environment. The drop in passenger numbers meant American got rid of fuel-guzzling [aging aircraft ahead of schedule](#), vastly improving efficiency.

The carrier dropped its [A330s and 767s in favor](#) of the 787-8 and 787-9 in widebodies. Narrowbodies saw the 757, MD80, and E190s all leave and make room for the A321neo and 737 MAX 8. Finally, even regional jets made some improvements with the exit of the Dash 8s, CRJ200s, and E140s for the E175 and CRJ900s.

ADVERTISEMENT



American is now operating a fuel-efficient and streamlined fleet, helping its sustainability goals.

Photo: Getty Images

By 2026, American will have a 100 MAX 8s and 80 A321neo family jets, including the A321XLR. This will only help further reduce fuel burn, cost, and carbon emissions. It's a win-win all around.

## Balancing act

As the issue of climate change becomes more acute every day, airlines are quickly facing scrutiny for their part in the issue. For American, this will mean treading a fine path between making a full passenger recovery without being accused of negligent environmental behavior. While the two might seem to go hand-in-hand, American's goals could change that view quickly.

For now, American Airlines is happy with the small victories from 2020. However, the future remains pinned on many breakthroughs and tough choices for the airline.

**What do you think about American's environmental progress in 2020? Let us know in the comments!**



15



SHARE



TWEET



SHARE



SHARE

**Pranjal Pande**

Lead Journalist - India - Pranjal is an experienced journalist with a strong focus on Indian aviation. His background in political science and economics gives him unique insight into issues surrounding international travel and governmental regulations. Pranjal is enthusiastic about new aircraft types and has his stories regularly picked up by renowned publications including Forbes. Based in New Delhi, India.

**More great Simple Flying content:**



---

Laura Ash

## Wizz Will Exceed Pre Pandemic Operations This Summer

Joanna Bailey



## Delta CEO Ed Bastian On The Future Of The Airline

Sumit Singh

## American And United Will Both Now Fully Book Flights

Linnea Ahlgren





## Former Etihad CEO Under Fire For Violating UK Quarantine

Jake Hardiman

## 12 Air India Airbus Narrowbodies Grounded Over Lack Of Engines

Gaurav Joshi

AdChoices

Sponsored

Conversation

10 Comments

Your voice matters. Discussions are moderated for civility.

Commenting as **Guest**

Log In

What do you think?

Sort by **Newest** ▾

**Carlos** 40 Points • 20 hours ago

...

Major step in the right direction for AA, now it's United's idiot CEO's turn to wake up & follow suit in terms of retiring their gas guzzlers.

Reply

**JFP** 45.1K Points • 1 day ago

...

How about a "Fiduciary Stewardship Report"?

Reply

**SaintBroseph** 120 Points • 1 day ago

...

How about a "Treat customers as human beings" memo?

Reply

1 reply

Reply

1

Justme

• 1 day ago

...

but less efficient than the B787

Reply 

1

GEWhiz

3K Points • 1 day ago

...

Do they use biofuels like United?

Reply 

2

IceCat

5.8K Points • 1 day ago

...

Neste, the world's largest producer of renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) is providing fuel to AA at SFO..along with Alaska and jetBlue.

Reply 

1

Snow

• 1 day ago

...

They should order more Maxs to replace their 737Ngs. 100 is not enough.

Reply

Martyn

17.6K Points • 1 day ago

...

The average age of the 737ng fleet is 12 years old they are not going to replace them until they get their monies worth out of them.

Reply 

5

Enter your search topic

SEARCH

Latest Stories:

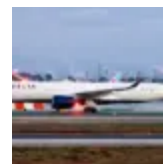
United Keen To Serve New Transatlantic Business Passenger Segments



Aeromexico Outlines Split Terminal Operations At Mexico City



## Delta And LATAM Joint Venture Approved In Chile



## The IndiGo Fleet In 2021



## Gift From The US President: How A DC-3 Inspired Saudia's Creation



ADVERTISEMENT



**Get More Involved:**

**Email Newsletters**

**Routes Newsletter**

**App Download**

**Podcast**

**Videos**

**Ad Free Subscription**

ADVERTISEMENT

**Latest Podcast Episode:**



## The Simple Flying Podcast Episode 90: BA1 Is Back, Dubai Airshow Planes

### Get In Touch

[Contact Us](#)

[Corrections](#)

[Submit Story Tip](#)

[Advertise](#)

### Features

[Email Newsletters](#)

[Routes Newsletter](#)

[App Download](#)

[Podcast](#)

[Videos](#)

[Ad Free Subscription](#)

### Simple Flying

[About Us](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Events](#)

[Future Flying Webinars](#)



## Policies

[Content Disclaimer](#)

[Advertising Policy](#)

[Cookie Policy](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms And Conditions](#)

## Follow Simple Flying:



© Copyright Simple Flying - 2018 - 2021